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Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food  
Whitehall Place London SW1A 2HH

From the Minister's Private Office

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9 February 1984

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Best Tim

COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURE MINISTERS: 6 - 7 FEBRUARY 1984

I attach a copy of the statement which Mr Jopling hopes to make in ... the House today. I would be grateful for immediate clearance.

I am copying this letter to Bernard Ingham; David Heyhoe (Leader of the House's Office); Murdo Maclean (Whip's Office, Commons); David Beamish (Whip's Office, Lords); Richard Hatfield (Cabinet Office); Alex Galloway (Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster's Office) and to Private Secretaries of the other Agriculture Ministers, of members of OD(E) and of the Chief Secretary.

Yours Sincerely  
*C I Llewelyn*

C I LLEWELYN  
Private Secretary



COUNCIL OF MINISTERS (AGRICULTURE) : 6/7 FEBRUARY 1984  
DRAFT ORAL STATEMENT BY THE MINISTER

I represented the United Kingdom Government at the Council of Agriculture Ministers, together with my hon Friend the Minister of State.

The Council had<sup>a</sup>/first discussion of the Commission's proposals on agricultural prices for 1984. These were presented by the Commission with the earlier proposals for changes in the Common Agricultural Policy. The Council had a detailed exchange of views but no decisions were taken. Officials will be carrying forward the work between now and the next Council at the end of the month.

The Council reached agreement on an import quota for 1984 of 50,000 tonnes of beef and veal for the processing industry. This is an important source of raw material for the processing industry. Given the opposition of some member states to these imports, it was a very satisfactory outcome to have reached this agreement so early in the year.

Because of the continued opposition of some member states, there was no progress on new long-term arrangements for imports of New Zealand butter.

In a discussion of the Commission's new structure proposals, it was evident that a great deal more work is needed before decisions can be taken. No agreement was possible on the terms for a roll-over of the existing Directives.

My Agriculture colleagues and I recognise that — producers cannot be left in a continuing state of uncertainty about claims and applications under the schemes concerned. I am, therefore, delighted/able to inform the House that payments of the 1984 hill livestock compensatory allowances will begin immediately; and that we shall also begin approvals of outstanding and new applications under the Agriculture and Horticulture Development Scheme, the Farm and Horticulture Development Scheme, the Agriculture and Horticulture Co-operation Scheme (for forage groups) and the Farm Structure (Payment to Outgoers) Scheme.

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