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PS/ Secretary of State for Trade and Industry

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20 February 1984

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A.S.C. 20
/ 2.

Dear Roger,

UK POSITION IN THE NEGOTIATIONS ON THE STUTTGART DECLARATION

The Foreign Secretary copied to my Secretary of State his minute of 27 January to the Prime Minister.

See
Pt 22

2 We think that the aide memoire enclosed with that Minute is a very useful summary of our position on the main issues in the post-Stuttgart negotiations. There are two amendments we would like to suggest to cover nuances in the UK's position. First, Paragraph 6 should, we think, refer to "discussions in the context of Article XXVIII" rather than to "negotiations". We are anxious to avoid escalating the issue to a full scale confrontation in the GATT. In the same paragraph, the reference to citrus pellets has now been overtaken because the Commission are no longer proposing action on this product. We would also like the reference in Paragraph 8 to our wish to see adoption of the Common Commercial Policy Regulation modified slightly. As it stands at present the proposed decision making procedure in the Regulation is unacceptable. All that would be needed would be a reference in that section of Paragraph 8 to "on suitable terms".

3 I am copying this letter to the Private Secretaries to the Prime Minister, Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Minister for Agriculture and Sir Robert Armstrong.

Yours sincerely,
Ruth

RUTH THOMPSON
Private Secretary

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20 JAN 1983