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" PS
PS/Mr Riffkind
Sir C Tickell
Mr Honey

NEW ZEALAND HIGH COMMISSION

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From the High Commissioner
H.E. The Hon W. L. Young

6 April 1984

Handwritten initials and date: 26/4

Dear Sir Geoffrey,

The Hon. Warren Cooper MP, Minister of Foreign Affairs, has asked me to pass on to you immediately the attached message.

On a personal basis, I appreciate your continuing efforts on New Zealand's behalf.

*Yours sincerely
Bill Young*

Encl.

The Rt. Hon. Sir Geoffrey Howe, QC, MP
Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth
Affairs,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office,
Whitehall,
LONDON SW1.

6 April 1984

"Dear Geoffrey,

I understand that the Dutch will be raising New Zealand butter at next Monday's Foreign Affairs Council under "Other Business".

It is our assessment that the Irish are feeling more than a little isolated following the position they adopted at the last Agriculture Council and that it is important to keep up the pressure on them to drop their opposition to the five year access arrangement and the quantities put forward by the Commission. Certainly we have detected a strong feeling of irritation at Ireland's unreasonable attitude among the other member states, particularly so in view of the concessions that were made to Ireland with regard to the "super-levy". We would be pleased if at next Monday's meeting the Council issued a call to the Irish to accept the Commission's proposal as it stands at the next Agriculture Council on 7-8 May.

An obvious danger is that in the face of Irish intransigence Foreign Ministers might suggest a compromise that would settle only the early years of any access arrangement leaving the quantities for subsequent years to be decided at a later date. This gives us no guarantee of what might happen in the future and to all intents and purposes leaves us to argue again on the same basis as if we had to negotiate a new access arrangement.

Clearly the attitude taken by the French will be very important. We have been in touch with both Mr Rocard and Mr Cheysson and emphasised to them that we will only sign the sheepmeats SMA if an acceptable arrangement is agreed for butter. I think they are in little doubt that the biggest obstacle to France achieving what it wants on sheepmeats is the present Irish attitude on butter. We must hope that they will add their weight to the pressures on the Irish to drop their opposition.

I am proposing to visit the Community in the period before the May Agricultural Council and look forward to seeing you then.

With kindest personal regards.

Yours sincerely,

(Warren Cooper)

Minister of Foreign Affairs."