

CONFIDENTIAL

cc Mr Owen pcc

K01016

NOTE FOR THE RECORD

cc Mr Hatfield  
Mr Gregson  
Mr Watson  
Mrs Ransom  
✓ Mr Barclay (NO. 10)  
Mr Hickson

*Dub*  
*29/11*

AGRICULTURE AND CONSERVATION

The Secretary of State for the Environment is expected to circulate the further paper on compensation principles (commissioned by David Barclay's letter of 30 July) within the next few days. We (Secretariat and No. 10 Private Office) had provisionally agreed that, at least in the first instance, collective discussion might best take place in H Committee, not least because of the pressures at present on the Prime Minister's time.

DoE are resistant to this. Their view is that as the Prime Minister has strong views on the subject, as it is far from certain that H would be able to arrive at agreed conclusions, and as the urgency is now considerable, it would be far preferable to go straight to a Prime Minister's meeting.

Following further discussion with Mr Barclay, I have told DoE that their Secretary of State should send the new material forward to the Prime Minister as soon as possible (copied as before). The Prime Minister can then take a view on whether she wishes to chair a meeting, or discussion to take place in H, in the light of its content and perhaps, if it seems appropriate, advice from Sir Robert Armstrong.



C J S BREARLEY

28 November 1984