



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

DAVID AMESS MP
Member of Parliament for Basildon

1st July 1985

Dear Prime Minister,

I am currently corresponding with Michael Jopling with reference to a firm in my constituency, Meatal Ltd, about the length of time the Intervention Board is taking to pay refunds on exports.

During one of the exchanges of correspondence, my constituents brought to my attention the general subject of trade with Egypt. They feel that with the United Kingdom being the seventh largest exporter of beef in the world and with Egypt being the largest importer of beef, little is being done to encourage the expansion of trade with that country.

In view of the fact that you are to visit Egypt this year, I thought you might be interested in the company's comments and I enclose a copy of the relevant letter.

Yours ever,
David

D.A. AMESS MP
BASILDON

The Right Honourable Margaret Thatcher MP
The Prime Minister



MEATAL SUPPLIES
(WHOLESALE MEATS)
LTD



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MR. DAVID AMESS M.P.
HOUSE OF COMMONS,
LONDON SW1A 0AA.

18th June 1985.

Dear Mr. Amess,

We would be grateful to know if there has been any progress following our meeting, regarding the exceptional delays in payments of refunds due on beef exports from the Intervention Board for Agricultural Produce.

The situation of our company remains critical. We have almost completely ceased trading at our Teddington office, and production at our Basildon factory.

We live in hope that there will be a speedy solution to our cash flow problems and respectfully elaborate on the other subject mentioned at our meeting, that of beef exports to Egypt. It has come to our notice that France has recently obtained a contract of 30,000 tonnes of beef to be exported to Egypt over the next year. The significant factor being that finance for the Egyptian purchase has come from the French government, spread over four years and the guarantees required by their Intervention Board (offical) for payment of export refunds, have been guaranteed by the C.O.F.A.C.E (government supported Insurance company).

It was mentioned by Dr Shaalan, Chairman of the Egyptian company for meat at our recent Meat International Congress, that they were dissapointed not to have had visit from Mrs. Thatcher and in particular they felt that England was making little effort to sell into their market.

N.B. Egypt is currently the world's largest importer of beef and the United Kingdom is now the seventh largest world exporter of meat.

continued.

In view of the efforts made by other E.E.C. members, and noting Mrs Thatcher's reported visit to Egypt next September, we would be grateful if our comments could be made known to The Prime Minister.

The U.K. meat trade is currently endeavouring to form a consortium for the export of beef to Egypt, but finance is always a difficulty, especially in view of the current delays that the U.K. suffers in payment of refunds.

We would be delighted to elaborate on any of these points, should you feel it helpful.

Yours sincerely

Jenny Burt

JENNY BURT.
DIRECTOR.

BK // keep his journal
at time of briefing
for REgypt visit
CDP



CHARLES POWELL

10 DOWNING STREET

8th July 1985

Dear David,

I am writing on the Prime Minister's behalf to thank you for your letter of 1st July, together with its enclosure. It is most helpful of you to have sent this, and I will ensure that it is taken into account in briefing for the Prime Minister's proposed visit to Egypt.

Yours truly
Michael

MICHAEL ALISON

David Amess Esq MP