



From the Minister of State for Industry

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THE HON PETER MORRISON MP

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CDP  
20/11

20 November 1985

*Handwritten signature:* David Fisher

Thank you for your letter of 4 November about the proposed final set of non-quota regulations. I have since seen Richard Tracey's letter of 11 November.

The position now is that the French are maintaining in COREPER their request for the addition of Boulogne and Dunkergue, preferably with extra money, but if necessary without it. We have indicated that we are prepared to drop the requests for Clwyd and Fraserburgh but only if other countries also drop their requests for areas not already agreed. However it seems likely that we can get the border measure extended so as to cover all Northern Ireland except Belfast. Our main interest now therefore is to get the proposals agreed on a non-quota basis as soon as possible as prolonged discussion could lead to re-opening the non-quota basis of these regulations.

Allan Stewart in his letter of 22 October suggested that if the Commission were prepared to agree that Fraserburgh be added without extra money then we should accept this. However other colleagues who have written are opposed to this. The key point is that Grimsby and Hull are well aware of the amount of money envisaged for them in the Commission's published proposals and have lobbied long and hard to ensure that this is not reduced; they would rightly criticise us if we had taken action which had the effect of reducing it. I agree with Richard Tracey that there is no good reason to suppose that, in the competitive situation that now obtains, Hull and Grimbsy could in practice make up for any shortfall in non-quota money by increasing their allocations from the main Fund.

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It is unlikely that the Commission and the other members states will in fact be prepared to agree to add Fraserburgh without extra money, but in view of the French position we need to be prepared for this possibility. In the light of the views of colleagues I feel sure therefore that we should instruct our representatives that the case for Fraserburgh should not be pressed so as to reduce the money available for Hull and Grimsby.

I am copying this letter to the members of OD(E) and EA Committees and to Richard Tracey (Environment), Nicholas Edwards (Welsh Office), Allan Stewart (Scottish Office), Rhodes Boyson (MO), Michael Jopling (MAFF) and Sir Robert Armstrong.

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