



Ref. A083/2783

PRIME MINISTER

Cabinet: Community Affairs

The Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food will report on the largely unproductive Agriculture and Fisheries Councils on 26/27 September and 3/4 October. Agriculture Ministers made a further vain attempt to complete the reform of certain Mediterranean regimes required to unblock the accession negotiations with Spain and Portugal. No decision was made on the United Kingdom proposal to extend our less favoured areas. The Council will return to both these subjects at its October meeting.

2. The Fisheries Council was again unable to reach agreement on North Sea herring or total allowable catches for 1983, but did agree technical conservation measures, quotas for Norway and aid for restructuring the Community's fishing fleets. Ministers will take up the unresolved issues on 19 October.

3. No decisions were made at the informal meetings of Energy Ministers on 23 September, Industry Ministers on 24 September, Development Ministers on 26/27 September, Employment Ministers on 29/30 September or Environment Ministers on 3 October. Energy Ministers made little progress with the solid fuel package, but will return to the subject on 5 November. Industry Ministers agreed on the importance of the further development of the internal market and on the need for the early resolution of the outstanding issues on the ESPRIT programme on new information technologies. The Industry Council will discuss ESPRIT, biotechnology and telecommunications on 4 November. Both Energy and Industry Ministers recognised that the funding of the proposals would depend on the outcome of the post-Stuttgart negotiations on the future financing of the Community. Development Ministers discussed the forthcoming negotiations for the third Lomé Convention. At the meeting of Employment Ministers the United Kingdom's reservations about Community action on part-time work and the reorganisation of working time attracted some support. The Environment Ministers prepared for the next formal Environment Council in November.





4. On 6/7 October the Secretary of State for Transport will attend an informal meeting of Transport Ministers in Athens and the Minister for Overseas Development will represent the United Kingdom at the EC/ACP Council in Luxembourg marking the start of negotiations on the third Lomé Convention.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'RA' with a stylized flourish.

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

5 October 1983