



MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FOOD  
WHITEHALL PLACE, LONDON SW1A 2HH

From the Minister

CONFIDENTIAL

PRIME MINISTER

VISIT BY MR ROY JENKINS

Roy Jenkins will be seeing you on 17 March. The lamb problem will of course be only one of a wide range of current Community problems to be discussed, but in view of the effect it is having on Community relations more widely I think it would be valuable if you were able to find time to put across to him the following general points:-

(a) We appreciate the difficulty for the Commission in exerting pressure on the French Government to comply with the Court ruling; their recent pronouncements have outlined their willingness to regard compliance with Community law as no more than a bargaining counter in negotiations. But we hope the Commission will do everything possible to bring home to the French the real harm they are doing to the Community.

(b) French insistence on intervention is the major obstacle to progress on a regime. It would be grossly uneconomic to freeze good fresh lamb for intervention stores in order to support market prices. Disposal of stocks would be costly and disrupt trade, endangering New Zealand exports.

(c) Lamb is a commodity in which we have the major producing and consuming interest in the Community; if we cannot get a regime to suit our interests there can be little hope of getting any improvement in the balance of CAP expenditure in our interest.

I am copying this minute to the Foreign Secretary and Sir Robert Armstrong.

*Peter Walker*  
*W*

PETER WALKER  
14 March 1980  
Approved by the Minister  
and signed in his absence

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE  
GENERAL STAFF

14 MAR 1980

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