



SCOTTISH OFFICE
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PRIME MINISTER

AGRICULTURAL AND FOOD POLICY

attached

I have seen Michael Jopling's letter to you of 28 September in which he attached the text of a passage which he is proposing to include in the speech he is making at the Farmers' Club on Wednesday, foreshadowing the publication of an agricultural policy document in the New Year.

I would support Michael in what he is proposing. There are indeed ample indications of a growing and quite widespread awareness throughout the agricultural industry of a change of direction in community and domestic agricultural and food policies. The Government must grasp the opportunity to influence these views and to be seen to be giving an early lead.

I think too that Michael is right to avoid a 'numerical' approach and to leave substantial detail for later discussion and evolution as more precise policies take shape. I suspect nevertheless that it will be necessary to be reasonably forthright in the document as to what we see as the broad objectives for the coming years.

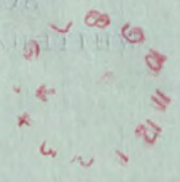
I am copying this minute to the Minister of Agriculture, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Secretary of State for Wales, the Secretary of State for the Environment, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, the Lord President of the Council, the Lord Privy Seal, the Chief Whip and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

SM

GEORGE YOUNGER
(Approved by the Secretary of State
and signed in his absence)

1 October 1984

SCOTTISH OFFICE
HAMILTON, FORT GEORGE ROAD



12 OCT 1984



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