EBERHARD SPIECKER

Fax: 0044 1712195979

The Lord Hylton Ammerdown Radstock Bath BA3 5SH Somerset D-47166 DUISBURG HAMBORN, DEN December, 1997
BURD: RATHAUSSTRASSE 2
PRIVAT: KAMPSTRASSE 63
TELEFON (0203) 557870
TELEFAX (0203) 557405

Re.: Beef export ban and special ruling for Northern Ireland

bear Ray word ,

I have learned, in confidence, that the technical questions (if necessary, I will send you the details later) have come to a stage that there will soon be a political decision on the European Commission level and then probably bater on the Council of Ministers level.

Concerning the political question, an aspect could be brought into play which has nothing to do with the technical side of the export ban but which, however, could be very effective:

namely, the advancement of the Northern Ireland peace process. It could be made clear and apparent that, by lifting the export ban, Europe would be actively supporting, according to its powers, the Northern Irish people and their peace efforts. This, in turn, could lead to the Unionist majority of the population in Northern Ireland, still standing somewhat aside, being brought nearer to the peace process.

Now - and I beg your understanding - the difficult question:
would it be possible for you to have the information sent to me directly or via a
private trusted person of the British Prime Minister, that the Prime Minister sees
this matter as described above and therefore would welcome EU advances in this
direction. With this in mind, I would than approach the German Federal
Chancellor to win him for a covered or open initiative, as appropriate
Unfortunately, this matter is very urgent, thus I would be very grateful for a
speedy reply.

b. to Enclose rejoil.

and best airles.

Yours ever.