

LINE TO TAKE

1. The Prime Minister will wish to explain the current spending pressures on the Government and indicate the difficulties in making funds available to farmers at a time when other deserving cases cannot be aided. However representations from farming leaders are still being considered and the situation is being kept under review.
2. Farmers must not think that they can get results through street protest, illegal action or interference with the free movement of goods.
3. The Government does not believe that unlimited intervention is good either for farmers or for the Community. However the short-term plight of farmers in Northern Ireland is recognised and representations have been made to the Commission at the highest levels to seek to have a further round of intervention for Northern Ireland. Jack Cunningham raised this at his meeting with Commissioner Fischler yesterday.
4. Every possible effort is being made to secure a lifting of the export ban, initially in Northern Ireland. I have raised this matter personally with Santer on a number of occasions. We are still hopeful that the Export Certified Herds Scheme will be on the agenda for the meeting of the Standing Veterinary Committee.