

REPORT on MEETING between SCOTTISH POTATO
TRADE ASSOCIATION and the NATIONAL FARMERS
UNION in GROSVENOR CRESCENT, EDINBURGH, on
5th JANUARY, 1978.

PRESENT: N.F.U. Messrs. B. Forrest, W. Smith and P. Tait.

S.P.T.A.: Messrs. I. Barr, R. McArthur, H. Lindsay, I. Allan and
R.D. Hunter.

- (a) N.S.D.O. There was discussion with regard to tactics for that afternoon's meeting with N.S.D.O.
- (b) POTATO GUARANTEE. Mr. Forrest stated that the National Farmers Unions were in negotiation with the Ministry regarding the future of Potato Guarantees. Mr. Forrest indicated that the system to be operated as from 1st January, 1978 was likely to be made known by the end of January, 1978, although Guarantee Prices may not be announced at that time.

Mr. Forrest stated that there would be a fairly substantial "Deficiency Payment" due under the existing Guarantee Arrangements by the Government. His Union was pressing most strongly for that Deficiency Payment to be distributed amongst growers (possibly on an acreage basis) rather than to have it paid over to the P.M.B. to provide finance for their future activities. S.P.T.A. agreed to give support to the N.F.U. by approaching the P.M.B. and Ministry.

Under a possible future Guarantee Arrangement the N.F.U. believed that contribution toward the Guarantee Fund will require to be contributed equally by producers and the Government.

- (c) POTATO REGIME. Mr. Forrest indicated that a "light" regime would be likely to be announced in 1978 with a "full" regime not being in force until, say, 1985. He added that it appeared that the only country within the Common Market who was pressing for a regime was the United Kingdom.

Mr. Forrest undertook on behalf of his Union to keep S.P.T.A. informed of future negotiations regarding Potato Guarantee and Potato Regime.

- (d) SCOTTISH SEED PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION. Mr. Forrest informed the Meeting that at the time of the Meeting replies had been received from 35% of Scottish Potato Producers indicating their support for the new Association./

Association. He added that the support of a minimum of 60% would be required for the Association to get off the ground.

S.P.T.A. Members expressed the opinion that the circular letter sent out on behalf of the new Association to all Registered Producers did not contain nearly enough detail of its intentions. Mr. Forrest said this was not entirely accidental. It was, however, proposed that there would be, in the very near future, a further meeting of the Working Party at which a fresh approach to Registered Seed Producers would be considered.

Mr. Forrest asked S.P.T.A. if it was willing to canvas its Members to support the new Association. In reply S.P.T.A. delegates indicated that before they could do so they would have to be satisfied themselves that the proposals issued by the new Association were sufficiently specific.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman terminated the Meeting.