

REPORT ON MEETING BRITISH POTATO TRADE CONSORTIUM, 8th JUNE, 1981, LONDON.

Present:	Tom Login Chairman.	National Joint Council of British Potato & Veg. Merchants Asscn.
	Harold Aves	Northern Ireland Seed Potato Marketing Asscn.
	Bob Scorer	National Joint Council of British Potato & Veg. Merchants Asscn.
	Douglas Smith OBE	National Asscn. of Seed Potato Merchants
	John Pordage	National Federation of Fruit & Potato Trades Ltd.
	Hendry Lindsay	Scottish Potato Trade Asscn.
	Guthrie Fenton	Scottish Potato Asscn.

In attendance Mr J. E. Rackley, Secretary, British Potato Trades Consortium.

1. Harold Aves said there is to be a meeting on the 2nd July with NSDO and N.I. Seed Potato Marketing Asscn. and N.I. Department of Agriculture. He indicated that the N.I. D. of A. are trying to break the exclusive rights for state bred varieties for export. The reason being that the N.I. breeding programme is paid from N.I. taxes and therefore the NSDO do not have jurisdiction over their varieties.

Bob Scorer. Cadbury Smash factory at Catterick now closed down. Machinery has all been cleared and storage has been let to McCains; UBS and West Cumberland Farmers.

Harold Aves. Northern Ireland setting up a new Seed Potato Board without statutory powers to levy growers. Board to consist of four trade members 2 farmers, 1 scientific service member and others. The old Marketing Board - with statutory powers - to be dissolved.

2. Report on European Potato Union Annual Conference, 25/7th May 1981 Harold Aves attended. No developments on E.E.C. general regime but they may introduce a quality regime in near future. Mr. Kevin Burke of the Republic of Ireland was confirmed as Vice-President of the Association of European Wholesale Potato Merchants. The Dutch reported record seed exports for season 1980/81 of between 430,000 and 440,000 tonnes. Because of the big crop the growers return was very poor particularly for the free varieties. They indicated possible reduction in the seed area for 1981 of 4/5%

3. Seed Potato Prospects 1981 Crop. Hendry Lindsay - no figures available from DOAS but a small drop in area anticipated. Harold Aves. NI. area entered for inspection 1981 has dropped from 7,659 hac. to 6,500 hac. Principal varieties, Arran Banner 1,750 hac (1980 2,100 hac) Arran Consul, 500 hac (674 hac); Desiree 930 ha (696 ha); Ulster Sceptre 223 ha (418 ha); Ulster Prince 21 ha (32 ha); King Edward 950 ha (1068 ha) P.Dell 480 ha (680 ha) Up to Date 218 ha (184 ha); P.Crown 123 ha (263 ha); Record 112 ha (172 ha); and Home Guard 215 ha (272 ha). Harold Aves said that N.I. do not want to change the grade names from AA etc. to Elite etc.

4. Ware Prospects 1981 Crop. Douglas Smith. Indications are that the area of earlies being grown in the UK 1981 is 33,756 ha (this does not include the area of early varieties entered for seed in Scotland) and maincrop 131,528 ha = total 165,284 ha.

General feeling in England is that the yield prospects could be down between 2 and 3 tonnes per ha. which would give a total of 650,000 tonnes less than in 1980. There had also been blight warnings in the Eastern Counties of England which is very early.

5. London Potato Futures. The Consortium was against the L.P.F. Asscn. introducing a May 1982 position at this stage. They would not be against a May 1983 position being introduced providing this was done before November.

6. Secretary. Mr. Rackley has agreed to continue as Secretary to the Consortium until further notice.

End.
G.Fenton.

11.6.81