

REPORT on a MEETING between  
representatives of STITA FARM TOURS  
and the SCOTTISH POTATO TRADE ASSOCIATION  
held at 25 South Methven Street, PERTH  
at 10.30 a.m. on Tuesday, 14th JUNE, 1983

PRESENT: STITA - Mr. Hugh Whittaker

SPTA - Mr. K.A. McKenzie with R. David Hunter, Secretary and  
D. Blackmore (Assistant) in attendance.

APOLOGY: Mr. Blackmore submitted an apology on behalf of Mr. P. Miller.

DISCUSSION: Arranged to consider a proposed Foreign Study Tour to Portugal in 1984, the meeting commenced with Mr. Whittaker's request for an idea of intended dates and whether North or South Portugal is preferred. He explained the dates would require to be provisional at this stage, until flight timetables have been studied and whether departure would be direct from Scotland or would have to be via London or Dublin. Northern Portugal, (the seed growing area) is more picturesque but has less developed road and hotel facilities. It is, of course, the main area of wine production. Further South is better developed and concerned with ware production.

Discussion revealed a preference for a (say) five-day visit (Wednesday - Monday?) to the Lisbon/Santarem area in late May/early June, principally to see growing, lifting, grading, packing and transportation of ware potato crops produced from Scottish seed. It was agreed STITA will contact the Commercial Attache at the British Embassy in Lisbon and SPTA will try to obtain programme planning assistance from trading contacts in the visit area. A minimum of 20-all-male participants is expected and it was agreed a Portuguese-speaking escort to accompany the party throughout will be essential.

It was felt to be immaterial whether departure is from Edinburgh or Glasgow but (hopefully) direct to Lisbon is "a must", diversion via London (and certainly via Dublin) was thought to be unacceptable. A road journey to London and/or back was not acceptable. 3 or 4-star standard hotel accommodation will be required throughout, with full board (including dinner on the first night) in the visit area.

The party would return to Lisbon on the Saturday afternoon, where hotel accommodation would be on a bed and (continental) breakfast basis only, leaving members free to sample the good and reasonably inexpensive catering and shopping facilities in the city. It was agreed a 2-hour sightseeing tour of Lisbon on the Sunday morning should be arranged for the party and a Monday afternoon flight home would be most preferred.

In the event that flight timings do not permit the Tour as envisaged, the SPTA representatives suggested Cyprus as a second choice alternative locus. It was agreed to be important to maintain the impetus of this early start to the arrangements and Mr. Whittaker undertook to report back to SPTA by 29th June, if possible including a rough estimation of possible costs per head.

The meeting then concluded.