

REPORT of a MEETING of THE WARE POTATO
IMPORTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE held at
Hans Crescent, LONDON on TUESDAY, 17th
MARCH, 1987.

PRESENT:

P.M.B. - A.Q. Hitckcock, D.B. Sinclair, F.C. Newbold
S.P.T.A. - J.O. Robertson
B.P.T.C. - Messrs. Fox, Coulston, Scorer, Grief.
N.F.U. - J.A. Squier
Representatives from Germany, Belgium, Holland and E.E.C.
Improver Ltd. - J. Mas
Retailers Committee - J.R. Harris

Written reports on the table from U.K., Northern Ireland, Belgium, Ireland, France, Holland and West Germany. Verbal report from Spain. The gist of the reports was that prices had been satisfactory during the season and that there were adequate stocks to last until New Crop becomes available. There could be a possible tightening of the availability of the more popular and premium samples so that there could be a widening of differentials.

France, Belgium and Holland had all exported significant tonnages to Spain and a lively debate followed the Spanish Report about the prospects of Spain increasing both its exports of earlies and imports of Main Crop. The Spanish representative maintained that they could not compete with Cyprus, Egypt, and Brittany on cost or earliness and anyway did not have the acreage or water to increase plantings, however he also maintained that the Main Crop market required Bintje which they could not grow themselves so he saw continuing imports. The Dutch, Belgian, and German representatives were not convinced. The P.M.B. Chairman maintained that Spain and Portugal offered opportunities for the export of U.K. seed without the threat of resulting imports.

West Germany, Holland and Belgium all thought there would be increased planting in 1987 partly because of the better returns experienced this year and because of the pressure on margins of Cereals, Sugar Beet and Oil Seed Rape.

The P.M.B.'s experience is that their crop check weighing is the most accurate way to estimate stocks coupled with stock movements and are considering dropping stock censuses.

- P.M.B. View on potato regulation
- 1) Must be a single regulation new and maincrop.
 - 2) Must be an improvement on present system.

The meeting ended.

(sgd.) J.O. Robertson. 8.4.87.