

REPORT on a MEETING of the CHAIRMAN'S COMMITTEE
of the SCOTTISH POTATO TRADE ASSOCIATION in the
Wheel Inn Motor Hotel, SCONE at 11 a.m. on
Thursday, 22nd OCTOBER, 1987

PRESENT: Messrs. G.S. Brass, J.E. Cook, R. David Hunter (Secretary),
D.H. Lindsay, J.R. McArthur, K.A. McKenzie and J.O. Robertson with
D. Blackmore (Assistant Secretary) in attendance.

The President, Mr. K.A. McKenzie, took the Chair and welcomed those
present to the meeting.

APOLOGIES: The Secretary intimated apologies for absence on behalf of Messrs.
J.H. Barr, J.G.H. Fenton and J.M. Swinton.

ANNUAL
ACCOUNT: The Committee considered tabled copies of the draft Association
Account for the year to 31st October, 1987 it being explained that the
costs of today's meetings had still to be incorporated into the Account
when known. Each heading in turn was discussed and compared with its
corresponding Estimate for the year, explanations for differences being
provided where necessary. The Committee confirmed the balance of Messrs.
Arthur Young's fees (£130) was properly shown as an exceptional item.
Discussion of the deficit shown for the year took account of the tax
repayment receivable during the subsequent year. Albeit that Creditors
and Debtors are not incorporated in what is, in essence, a statement of
cash transactions, it was agreed to obtain the Auditor's views on showing
the estimated tax repayment due, to remove confusion over repeated
deficits each year.

Mr. McArthur then moved and Mr. Cook seconded approval for the draft
Account to be adjusted and finalised for submission to the Auditor for
presentation, in audited form, to Council at its meeting on 19th
November, 1987. The motion was carried without dissent.

SEED
SUPPORT
PROPOSALS: In preparation for this afternoon's meeting of Council, the
Chairman reported recent activities and amendments to the Seed Support
Proposals and outlined the envisaged immediate future timetable. In
preliminary discussion the Committee gave particular attention to mention
of a target area for seed. This concept met opposition from the
Committee but it was accepted that the wording "It might be appropriate
to consider" did not constitute a firm proposal but indicated to other
interests that the matter had not been overlooked.

In general discussion Mr. Cook felt that with Mr. Gummer known to be
anti-PMB, the PMB could be expected to seek all possible powers to
itself before the forthcoming Review. The Chairman also reported that
Mr. Hoyle (English NFU) is now more supportive of the proposals. In Mr.
Lindsay's view the proposals, as a package, are fair for farmer-growers
though less attractive for grower-merchants, but he accepted the
unanimous view of the Committee that establishment of the principle of
support for seed would provide an important precedent.

The meeting concluded with a Vote of Thanks to the Chair.