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SCOTTISH OFFICE  
WHITEHALL, LONDON SW1A 2AU

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The Right Hon Michael Jopling MP  
Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food  
Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food  
Whitehall Place  
LONDON  
SW1A 2HH

17 April 1986

Dear Michael,

EUROPEAN COMMUNITY: THE COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY

*will request if req.*

Thank you for sending me a copy of your letter of 14 April to Geoffrey Howe setting out proposals for a voluntary set-aside approach for taking land out of cereals production.

While I have some reservations about the details of the scheme which has been devised by your officials, and will expect my officials to be closely involved in the further consideration which will be given to the proposals, I agree with your view that something must be done to provide alternatives for those cereals producers who will be least able to cope with the effects of price cuts. I therefore strongly support your suggestion that the set-aside proposal should be put forward in outline at the forthcoming meeting of the High Level Group.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, members of OD(E) and Sir Robert Armstrong.

*Yours ever,*  
*Malcolm Rifkind*

MALCOLM RIFKIND



