

STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL

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CWM/D0172

cc: C. von Brockdorff
C. Hiernaux, *Brenner*

BSE - Visit to Carl Weiers, German Embassy

Dr. Weiers is of the opinion that there will be no major change in German consumer attitudes until there is a major watershed in knowledge of the disease which can be used as a reassurance to consumers. After a detailed discussion he has agreed to do the following.

1. Write to his Minister and Chief Veterinary Officer to say that I have been to see him to express concern that the issue will never be resolved whilst the scientists advising German Ministers keep changing their position.

I had illustrated how Professor Diringier had firstly written a summary paper for Seehofer in which he assumed the agent was a virus, secondly made a case for cumulative does build up (subsequently retracted) and had recently claimed at a press conference that the BSE and CJD agents were the same! Dr. Weiers seemed to take this point seriously.

2. He will make private contact with the Adenaur Foundation (Dr. Illing) to see if they felt that bringing together German and British Health and Agriculture Ministers in a social environment would help to find a solution. We both agreed that at present the issue is very confrontational and even letting the EU try to solve the problem left the consumer still concerned. He made the point that this method was used to solve the recent difference over the European fighter aircraft project. I said I would do nothing until I heard from him whether Illing thought that the exercise would be worthwhile.

Colin W. Maclean

94/6.15/5.1