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OF 161647Z JUNE 94
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FRAME AGRICULTURE

MIPT

SUBJECT: BSE

1. Our translation of Chancellor Kohl's letter to the Prime Minister dated 16 June is as follows:

BEGINS

Dear John,

Thank you very much for your congratulations on the outcome of the elections in Germany last weekend. Until recently, many people had not believed that we would be able to achieve the result in the European Parliament and local government elections in some Federal Laender which we have now achieved.

On the subject of BSE which you broached in your letter, I am also very concerned that this subject should not - as you write - assume even greater political dimensions. It was, therefore, always the aim of the Federal Government to agree common action within the European Union and especially with Great Britain.

In your letter, you accurately state that I am being pressed to take political decisions in this area. This is due to the fact that, in the opinion of experts, BSE may also pose a risk to humans, although the extent of this risk and the conclusions to be drawn are a matter of contention.

Great political pressure has built up here in Germany and I have to take account of it. This pressure comes from the field of scientific debate and the media, but above all from the Bundestag and the Bundesrat, which has a strong position in the legislative process in Germany.

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I should be grateful to you if we could discuss this topic in the margins of the European Council meeting in Corfu.

Till then, I remain

Yours sincerely

ENDS

2. FCO please advance to PS/No 10; PS/Secretary of State; PS/Minister of Agriculture; PS/Secretary of State for Health; PS/Perm Sec, MAFF; Capstick, MAFF; Heppell, DH; Haddon, MAFF; Meldrum, MAFF; Rossington, MAFF; Lister, DH; Wright (AUSS), FCO; Fitchew, Cabinet Office; Eddy, MAFF; Leech, Cabinet Office.

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