

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

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ORAL QUESTION (O-40/79)

with debate pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure

by Mr BALFOUR, Mr FERGUSON, Mr TUCKMAN,
Mr Ingo FRIEDRICH, Mr COTTRELL, Mr von WOGAU,
Mr HORD, Mr BATTERSBY, Mr FORTH,
Mr von BISMARCK, Mr CURRY, Lord BETHELL,
Lord DOURO, Mr TURNER and Mr HABSBERG
to the Commission of the European Communities

Subject : Butter exports to Russia

In view of the strong feelings amongst Europeans that it is highly objectionable to subsidize the sale of EEC butter to the USSR, will the Commission:

1. Give a detailed explanation of the events which have given rise to recent reports of large-scale exports of butter to the Soviet Union at prices far below the retail price in the Community.
2. Give details of the manner in which it has honoured its previous undertakings to the European Parliament concerning such sales.

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3. Explain how it justifies to European taxpayers the expenditure of large sums on intervention purchasing of, and export refunds for, butter for the benefit of a state which is economically less deserving than others of our subsidized surplus products and which contributes less than the European Economic Community towards the economic well-being of the developing world and the relief of world poverty which is politically hostile to our Western European way of life, and which does not recognize the European Economic Community, and

4. Give an undertaking that methods will be found for the disposal of intervention stocks which will in no circumstances lead to their sale to the Soviet Union without express prior authorization by the European Parliament.