



Treaty Series No. 29 (1956)

**AGREED MINUTE**  
of discussions

between the Government of the  
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland  
and the Government of Denmark

on arrangements relating to the import  
of Danish Bacon  
with Exchange of Letters

London, February 27, 1956

*Presented by the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to Parliament  
by Command of Her Majesty  
July 1956*

LONDON  
HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE  
FOURPENCE NET

Cmd. 9823

**AGREED MINUTE OF DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND AND THE GOVERNMENT OF DENMARK ON ARRANGEMENTS RELATING TO THE IMPORT OF DANISH BACON (WITH EXCHANGE OF LETTERS)**

*London, February 27, 1956*

**AGREED MINUTE**

1. Discussions have taken place between representatives of the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and of the Government of the Kingdom of Denmark on the arrangements to be made at the expiry of the present long-term contract for the purchase of Danish bacon. During these discussions the United Kingdom Government stated that they had decided to restore the import trade in bacon to private hands on the 1st October, 1956, and, as from that date, would need to apply a tariff of ten per cent. *ad valorem* on imports of bacon from foreign countries as defined in paragraph 6 of the Anglo-Danish Agreement relating to Trade and Commerce of the 13th August, 1949.<sup>(1)</sup> In the light of this statement, the two Governments have agreed on the following arrangements.

2. Having regard to the following considerations:—

- (a) their desire to facilitate and extend trade and commerce between the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Kingdom of Denmark;
- (b) the paramount importance for Denmark's economy of the export of bacon to the United Kingdom;
- (c) that it is not their intention to disturb the long-standing position of Denmark in the trade in imported bacon in the United Kingdom;
- (d) the desire which, having regard to the position of Danish bacon exports in the United Kingdom market in the recent past, the Danish Government have expressed for assurances in respect of the future operation of the new arrangements,

the United Kingdom Government have agreed that if at any time events should occur which affect or are likely to affect the conditions of the market for bacon in the United Kingdom in such a way as to cause substantial injury to Danish producers, they will be ready, upon request, to examine the situation with the Government of Denmark with a view to the application of any remedial measures that may be appropriate.

3. Recognising the mutual interest of their two countries in the avoidance of violent fluctuations in the British bacon market, the two Governments have also agreed that there shall be a joint review of market prospects not less frequently than once a year.

4. The United Kingdom Government have further agreed that, if as a result of circumstances which cannot now be foreseen they should at any time find it necessary to impose quantitative restrictions on imports of Danish bacon into the United Kingdom, they will suspend the tariff for so long as the restrictions are in force. They have also undertaken that, if quotas for bacon imports are allocated to individual foreign countries, they

(1) "Treaty Series No. 35 (1950)," Cmd. 7986.

will, having regard to the Danish Government's expressed interest that any previous base period which may be used for this purpose be agreed, consult with the Government of Denmark on the choice of a base period, and will in any event allocate to Denmark not less than the percentage provided for in Article 4 of the Anglo-Danish Agreement relating to Trade and Commerce of 1933,<sup>(2)</sup> as amended by the Agreements of 1938<sup>(3)</sup> and 1949.

5. The United Kingdom Government have also undertaken not to apply a tariff at a rate exceeding ten per cent. *ad valorem* on imports of Danish bacon.

6. The Danish Government having expressed the wish that the Anglo-Danish Agreement relating to Trade and Commerce of 1933 as amended by the Agreements of 1938 and 1949 should not be terminated, it has been agreed between the two Governments that this Agreement shall be continued with the necessary modifications.

7. The two Governments have discussed the United Kingdom Government's intention to establish a margin of tariff preference of ten per cent. in favour of imports of bacon from countries other than foreign countries as defined above in replacement of the preferential quantitative arrangements in respect of bacon referred to in Annex A to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade;<sup>(4)</sup> and, in view of the United Kingdom Government having taken the decision referred to in paragraph 1 above and of the other provisions of this minute, the Danish Government have agreed that the United Kingdom Government may report to the Contracting Parties to the General Agreement that the negotiations for the replacement of the preferential quantitative arrangements by this preference have been concluded as provided for in Annex A.

8. It has been further agreed between the two Governments that the arrangements provided for in this Minute shall remain in force for four years from 1st October, 1956, after which they may be terminated by either Government upon the expiration of six months' notice. The two Governments have also agreed to amend the Anglo-Danish Agreement relating to Trade and Commerce so as to provide that that Agreement, modified in accordance with paragraph 6 above, shall continue in force for the same period and subject to the same notice of termination.

9. The United Kingdom Government have agreed that, if at any time they terminate the arrangements provided for in this Minute and withdraw or modify the undertaking in paragraph 5 above, the whole field of concessions made by the two Governments to each other under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade shall be open for review and for any adjustment which may be necessary to establish a fair balance between the concessions granted by the two Governments to each other.

10. Nothing in this minute shall require either Government to do anything contrary to any obligations to which they may be subject under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

London, 27th February, 1956.

For the Government of the Kingdom of Denmark:

For the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland:

ERLING KRISTIANSEN.

ERIC ROLL.

<sup>(2)</sup> "Treaty Series No. 34 (1933)," Cmd. 4424.

<sup>(3)</sup> "Treaty Series No. 45 (1939)," Cmd. 6112.

<sup>(4)</sup> See Cmd. 8048, page 41.

*Exchange of Letters*

No. 1

*The Head of the United Kingdom Delegation to the Head of the Delegation of Denmark*

*London,*

*27th February, 1956.*

Sir,

1. In the course of the discussions which we have had about the arrangements to be made when the present long-term contract for the purchase of Danish bacon expires and which have resulted in the Agreed Minute signed to-day, you have asked what would be the intention of the United Kingdom Government if at any future date Government bulk purchase of bacon were re-introduced.

2. I am sure that you will appreciate that it is extremely difficult to provide for a contingency of this kind since it is impossible to visualise the circumstances in which, and the purpose for which, the United Kingdom Government might wish again to resort to bulk purchase.

3. I am, however, able to say that in the event of Government bulk purchase being re-introduced, the United Kingdom Government would wish to have regard to the then existing pattern of trade and it would be their intention to suspend the tariff subject to the clear understanding on your side that they would be free as hitherto in regard to the commercial negotiations relating to quantities and purchase prices as well as in the fixing of resale prices.

4. If the Government of Denmark agree, I would propose that this letter and your reply in similar terms should be regarded as formally placing on record the understanding arrived at in this matter between our two Governments.

I have, &c.

ERIC ROLL.

---

No. 2

*The Head of the Danish Delegation to the Head of the United Kingdom Delegation*

*London,*

*27th February, 1956.*

Sir,

I have the honour to refer to your letter of to-day and confirm that it is understood between our Governments that, in the event of Government bulk purchase of bacon being re-introduced, the United Kingdom Government would wish to have regard to the then existing pattern of trade and it would be their intention to suspend the tariff subject to the clear understanding that they would be free as hitherto in regard to the commercial negotiations relating to quantities and purchase prices as well as in the fixing of resale prices.

I have, &c.

ERLING KRISTIANSEN.

Printed and published in Great Britain by

HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE