

FOR PRESS



NEW ZEALAND BUTTER IN AUSTRALIA

Statement by the Prime Minister and Minister for Trade and Industry (Mr. J. McEwen), replying to suggestions that New Zealand Butter might be imported into Australia.

Speaking as Minister for Trade and Industry, Mr. McEwen said that the New Zealand Prime Minister (Mr. Holyoake) had raised with him during talks in Canberra last week the question of the likelihood of Australia being unable to fill her full quota of butter for the British market this season because of the drought in Australia.

He agreed that if Australia could not fulfil its quota he would be glad if New Zealand could make good Australia's shortfall this season.

Mr. Holyoake had apparently discussed this matter with the British Prime Minister (Mr. Wilson).

Mr. McEwen said that notwithstanding the drought and notwithstanding any re-structuring of Australia's dairy industry, Australia would still be an important exporter of butter and certainly would not be prepared to import butter.

This had been a basic point in the Australia - New Zealand Free Trade Area Agreement, he said.

Canberra, A.C.T.

24th December, 1967.

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