

HON. W. WASH  
C/- DEPUTY  
LONDON

Prime Minister's Department

21st June, 1957.

HON LEE MARTIN informs me he has discussed honey position thoroughly with Director General of Agriculture and Messrs. Butland Chairman and Hilliary member of Honey Control Board and asks me forward following message to you begins replying your cable eighteenth firstly neither Government nor Board committed to proposals beyond extent stated in cables to High Commissioner and Major Buckley secondly Government approached by Board middle April and again eighteenth May thirdly all Commercial honey producers canvassed since beginning season for export honey fourthly Government approved purchase hundred tons Australian Honey for second grade and bulk sale after fullest investigation being convinced necessity such action fifthly opinion of Jordan and yourself noted and Government Board and Industry anxious follow this policy if means of doing so can be found but position is that owing unprecedented crop failure no possibility securing adequate supplies prior next season even if all remaining crop secured (STOP) Cannot meet New Zealand demand even with substantial importations from Australia ( stop) present decision only course to avoid failure supply British Market with Imperial Bee after August ( stop) decision reached with great reluctance but considered less disastrous than only alternative namely withdrawal Imperial Bee (stop) reports from Buckley emphasized extreme danger any hold up (stop) recommend decision stand unless you on spot can offer better solution ends would suggest that you and Jordan see Major Buckley and give us the benefit of your opinion after discussion with him and other investigations if necessary

FRAZER.