

Telephone call from Mr. Zelleny - Department of Agriculture - Beltsville, Maryland, February 24, 1959.

He said that he had received an inquiry from the Associated Press re the following:

703197

"London, February 24

A Laborite member of Parliament asserted yesterday American wheat has been so seriously contaminated by deadly strontium 90 from atomic tests that it should be barred from Britain.

Konni Zilliacus raised the matter with Britain's Health Minister, Derek Walker-Smith, during a question period in the House of Commons. Zilliacus said 1958 samplings of U. S. wheat averaged 50 per cent above the Atomic Energy Commission's safe limit for strontium 90, a suspected major cause of bone cancer. Samples of Minnesota wheat, he said, contains six times the safe limit.

Zilliacus said that after giving due notice Britain should prohibit the import from the United States wheat, cereals and related products not reliably tested and warranted free from strontium 90.

Walker-Smith replied that all he knew of any such findings is what he had read in British newspapers, but he added:

"Further information about these samplings is being sought from the United States in order to assess any possible risks from importing the cereal products."

US DOE ARCHIVES	
RG	326 US ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION
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Folder	SR 90 in Wheat

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SR-90 Wheat

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