

2008/7/7

From: Hilton Furness

Mr. R. Hansen
Chairman,
Norwegian Support Committee for Western Sahara.

Dear Ronny,

Phosphate Trade With Morocco

Ballance Agri-nutrients has forwarded your email to them to me, and asked me to reply on their behalf.

The member companies of Fert Research have always acknowledged that they import phosphate rock from Morocco, and that some of that raw material is sourced from locations in the Western Sahara.

On issues of international trade, member companies of Fert Research take guidance from the position of the New Zealand Government.

As recently as June 2008, New Zealand's Minister of Trade, Phil Goff, publicly stated "the UN does not prohibit trade in resources from Western Sahara. Nor does such trade contravene a UN legal opinion [Hans Correll, UN Under Secretary for Legal Affairs, 2002]".

Mr Goff also made the point that "New Zealand does not unilaterally refuse to trade with countries with whom we have disagreements. [if it did] New Zealand would have to withdraw from trading with much of the world's population".

The most appropriate authority for you to take up any concerns you have with the position taken by New Zealand on trade in Western Sahara resources is the Minister of Trade's office.

Yours sincerely

Hilton

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