



Fishing Fund.
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MS

PRIME MINISTER

FISHERIES: CLAIM ON THE CONTINGENCY RESERVE

The Minister of Agriculture wrote to you on 11 July proposing a claim on the Contingency Reserve to cover £15 million further aid which he proposed to give to the UK fishing industry. I referred to this in my minute to you of 29 July about the Northern Ireland claim on the Reserve.

2. After detailed consideration by officials this proposal was discussed by E Committee under your Chairmanship on 4 August. The Committee decided that notwithstanding the severe pressure on this year's Contingency Reserve there was a case for further aid along the lines proposed. It agreed to make available from the Contingency Reserve to cover both this and some £0.9 million additional fishery protection costs which I had been discussing with Fisheries Ministers a sum of £15 million at outturn prices. This is equivalent to a claim on the Reserve of £13.2 million at 1980 Survey prices. It was left to Fisheries Ministers to decide whether or not they wished to supplement these funds by savings within their existing PES provision in order to be able to meet their £15 million aid target. In the event they chose not to do so.

3. The £15 million additional expenditure was announced to the House of Commons by the Minister of State, MAFF on 7 August. A further announcement will be made in due course to deal with the consequential effects on fisheries cash limits.

4. I am copying this minute to other members of Cabinet and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

W.J.B.

JOHN BIFFEN
15 August 1980

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