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Fishing Ind. JS

10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

11 June 1980

Dear Mr. Walker

You wrote to me on 27 May to thank me for arranging a meeting between your Committee and the Minister of State at the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. You also sent me telegrams reporting the tying up of the trawlers 'Irvana', 'Boston-Halifax' and 'Boston-Stirling'.

I am well aware of the efforts which your Committee has made to maintain efficient and viable fish-handling facilities at Fleetwood and I am sure that the meeting on 21 May was useful for all concerned. I understand that it lasted for two hours and provided a full opportunity to spell out the difficulties now facing the fishing industry as your Committee see them.

As you will know, the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and the Secretary of State for Scotland will be meeting representatives of the industry within the next few weeks to re-assess the present position in the light of developments in our market and in the CFP negotiations.

I assure you that I am keeping closely in touch with developments in the fishing industry and I believe that this Government's record shows that we have been ready to act to help the industry when the case for action had been made. I

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also take this opportunity to repeat that our commitment to securing a fair outcome to the negotiations on the Common Fisheries Policy remains as firm as ever.

signed

MT

Edwin Walker, Esq.