



GUILDHALL,
KINGSTON UPON HULL.

18th April, 1980

Dear

RZ1/4

The Fishing Industry in Hull

I have pleasure in enclosing a submission prepared by all sections of the Fishing Industry in this City, which will be discussed with you on Thursday, 24th April.

As you know, the Industry has suffered considerably in recent years and all sections of the Industry would like to offer this submission as a way forward in retaining a viable fishing industry. The submission will be considered in due course by the City Council.

May I take this opportunity to thank you for your continued interest in the industry.

Yours sincerely,

Alex. F. Clarke.

Deputy Lord Mayor

The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher, M.P.,
Prime Minister,
10, Downing Street,
LONDON.



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HULL FISHING INDUSTRY

SUBMISSION TO PRIME MINISTER ON
KEEPING OPEN THE FISH DOCK IN HULL

We refer to the meetings and correspondence with you and your Ministers and those connected with the fishing industry in Hull, that have taken place in recent months. In particular, we refer to:-

1. Paper to Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food presented at a meeting at the House of Commons on the 7th February.
2. The letter and accompanying documents to you from the Lord Mayor, dated 14th March on the occasion of your visit to Hull.
3. The letter from T. W. Boyd Jnr., Chairman of Humber Freezer Trawler Owners' Company Limited of 20th March, following your meeting with representatives of the Industry on 14th March.
4. The letter dated 1st April, 1980 from D. K. Cairns, Regional Secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union to the Prime Minister on behalf of Hull's fishing interests, requesting a meeting.

The delegation arranged for the 24th April would wish to discuss the following:-

- 1) The Fishing Industry in Hull regards the present Fish Dock as being ideal for its purposes, as it has facilities for processing, merchanting, distribution and the manufacture of Fish Meal, together with vessel repair and servicing facilities (including a Dry Dock).
- 2) The Dock is owned by the British Transport Docks Board who have declared their intention to close it if the throughput of fish on a month by month basis is not sufficiently high to cover their running costs. THE BRITISH TRANSPORT DOCKS BOARD WILL NOT COMMIT THEMSELVES TO KEEPING THE DOCK OPEN AFTER THE END OF THIS MONTH.

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- 3) If the British Transport Docks Board close the Dock, (or effectively close it by implementing charges far higher than those in operation in other fish docks in the country), then the Industry in the City requests that finance be made available from Government sources. This would be used to purchase the Albert and Wm. Wright Dock from the British Transport Docks Board and operate it in anticipation of an acceptable Common Fisheries Policy being successfully concluded, and of the tangible benefits which will accrue from the conservation policies now being followed by the U.K.
- 4) The City has benefited recently from a Government grant of over £2.0m. towards a reclamation of Humber and Railway Docks which were derelict.

We would respectfully suggest that a similar sum would enable the fish dock to be purchased while it is still a viable commercial proposition.

5) Landing Company

Plans are well advanced for the formation of a landing company which will represent all interested parties. Progress has been made in investigating the financing of this Company by means of a Grant under the Inner Urban Areas Act. As you know, grants of Inner Urban Area money can be made to common ownership and co-operative organisations that satisfy the conditions laid down by the Industrial Common Ownership Act, 1976. This matter will be raised by Councillor Doyle, Leader of Hull City Council with Lord Bellwin of the Department of the Environment when he visits the City to discuss with the Council their Inner City Programme on Friday, 25th April. In addition to this, we have made initial contact with the Co-operative Development Agency. We would also like to suggest that, as such a scheme is vital to retaining possibly thousands of jobs in Hull, assistance could be made available under Section 7 of the Industry Act, 1972, similar to Category B, under the Scheme of Selective Financial Assistance which was operated until recently.

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Your assistance in these projects would be greatly appreciated. May we emphasise again that we do not require Government money merely to "prop up" a failing industry, but rather to ensure that the industry will continue to have a base in Hull, so that it will be able to operate successfully when a satisfactory C.F.P. is agreed upon.

We would like to thank you for your continued interest in the Fishing Industry. We have deliberately kept this submission as brief as possible, but are able to go into greater detail at the meeting.

The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher, M.P.,
Prime Minister,
10, Downing Street,
LONDON.