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cc MAF

Fishing

10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

21 June 1980

Dear Walter,

You wrote to me recently about the problems of the fishing industry and the particular impact these are having in Fleetwood.

Your letter sets out the situation very graphically. I have also received a letter recently from the Chairman of the Fisheries Development Committee following the meeting with Alick Buchanan-Smith to which you refer in your own letter.

I keep very closely in touch with the situation in the fishing industry and am well aware of its current problems. Peter Walker has arranged with George Younger that they should meet representatives of the industry on 3 July to make a detailed study of its financial situation in the light of developments in our markets, modifications in certain tariffs which we are pressing for in Brussels and the position with the CFP negotiations. This will provide a firm basis on which to reassess the support we are currently giving to the industry.

I believe that our record in Government shows that we have been ready to act to help the industry when the case for action has been made.

Yours sincerely

Raymond

Sir Walter Clegg, M.P.

JS.