



Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food  
Whitehall Place London SW1A 2HH

From the Minister's  
Private Office

~~MODBA~~

N Sanders Esq  
Prime Minister's Office  
10 Downing Street  
London SW1

I told GARTH we had  
no obs - I hope you

18 June 1980

have none.

MS  
18/6

Dear Nick

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS (AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES):  
16-17 JUNE 1980

I attach a copy of the statement which Mr Walker hopes to make to the House today. I would be grateful for immediate clearance.

I am copying this letter to Ingham; Stevens (Leader of the House's Office); Maclean (Whip's Office, Commons) Pownall (Whip's Office, Lords); Wright (Cabinet Office) and to private secretaries of the other Agricultural Ministers and members of the OD(E).

Your sincerely

G R Waters

G R Waters  
Principal Private Secretary

Revise 1  
Cleared by Dept.

PARLIAMENTARY STATEMENT ON THE FISHERIES AND AGRICULTURE  
COUNCILS, LUXEMBOURG, 16/17 JUNE

Mr Speaker, I beg leave to make a statement on the meetings of the Fisheries Council and the Agriculture Council that took place in Luxembourg on Monday and Tuesday of this week.

My right hon friend the Secretary of State for Scotland, my hon friend the Minister of State and I represented the United Kingdom at the meeting of the Fisheries Council on 16 June.

The Council had a friendly and constructive meeting and the main item on the agenda was to have a general discussion on the principles that should govern the allocation of catch quotas between Member States on the basis of a background document prepared by the Commission.

The United Kingdom made clear its view as to the importance of taking into account the figures of catches prior to the considerable losses <sup>in fishing opportunities for the UK fleet</sup> that had taken place in the seas of third countries. We stressed the importance of the special needs of local communities and the importance of recognising the proportion of the fish in the waters of Member States that is found within United Kingdom fishery limits.

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We resisted a proposal that herring fishing be allowed in certain areas in 1980 contrary to the clear scientific advice.

We agreed to an extension until the 31 July of the interim decision on internal fishing arrangements, which requires Member States to control fishing activities by their national fleets having regard to the total allowable catches set by the Council.

The Council agreed to the ratification of the framework agreements establishing fishery arrangements with a number of third countries, but ~~the only agreements to be ratified~~ <sup>These</sup> were those that will have no effect on current or future fishing arrangements.

We refused to agree to the signature of an agreement with Finland which <sup>considered the possibility that</sup> would have allowed Finland to <sup>could</sup> obtain a catch of herring in the North Sea.

There was an important discussion on the possibility of a long term fisheries agreement with Canada and I pointed out that there could be serious implications for the United Kingdom market if unsuitable tariff concessions on fish products were to be granted to Canada at a time when our own market was already suffering from <sup>a surfeit</sup> an influx of imports. The United Kingdom views were shared by three other delegations and the Commission undertook to have regard to these concerns in the talks that they are going to have with the Canadian Government.

The next meeting was fixed for the 21 July when, following a series of bilateral meetings by the Commission with a number of Member States, including ourselves, more detailed proposals will be put forward to the Council.

At its meeting yesterday, the Agriculture Council concluded its discussion of the text of the Sheepmeat Regulation, and at the United Kingdom's suggestion agreed that the structure of prices should be included in the one Regulation, thus avoiding the necessity of the Regulation being again considered by the European Parliament and enabling the new régime to be implemented as soon as possible. *This will enable*

During discussion on structures, we argued for the early adoption of three Integrated Development Programmes, which include one covering the Western Isles of Scotland. The Council also had before it the new proposals for Northern Ireland, one dealing with agriculture in the less favoured areas of the Province and the other with the processing and marketing of eggs and poultrymeat. At my request, the Commission agreed to amend the second proposal to include pigs. The Council agreed that a high priority should be given to reaching agreement upon these various programmes with the object of the Council approving of them at its meeting in July.

The Council discussed the Commission's report on the effect on competition in the glasshouse sector of differences in

energy costs. I emphasised the problems faced by our own glasshouse sector and urged the need for speedy action to secure fair terms of competition between producers in different Member States. We were supported by a number of Member States in our view that urgent action was necessary to eliminate the adverse effects of the gas price advantage Dutch growers were enjoying. At the end of the discussion the Commission agreed that urgent action was necessary and I hope that they will be making proposals prior to the July meeting of the Council.

The Commission indicated that they intended to make their proposals for the future access of New Zealand butter after 1980 and stressed the judgement of the Commission as to the political, economic and social importance of providing New Zealand with realistic quotas for dairy products from 1980 onwards.

It was agreed that a special committee should be set up to discuss these quotas with the Commission, consisting of top officials, so that firm proposals could be made at the July Council.

The next meeting of the Council was fixed for the 22 July.

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