



PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T 199/82

Prime Minister has
replied.
100-1/13

Copenhagen, October 21, 1982

Dear Prime Minister,

Yesterday, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Uffe Ellemann-Jensen, received ambassadors from other member states, who presented a note underlining the necessity of reaching full agreement with regard to the common fisheries policy before the end of the year and urged that final negotiations should not start. Your Ambassador, in particular, expressed the hope that a settlement could be reached at the meeting of Ministers for Fisheries in Luxembourg on Monday and Tuesday next week.

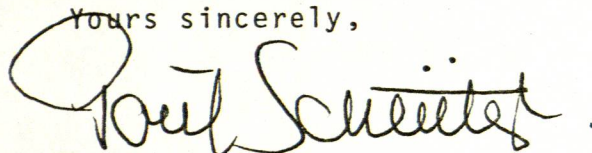
I wish to assure you that my government is as anxious as any other member government to bring to an end negotiations which have now been drawing out for a number of years. I consider it highly desirable to reach an agreement at next week's council meeting. The fishery matter which is of great importance to a number of member states and in particular to our two countries, should not be permitted to spoil the climate of co-operation within the Community and prevent a solution of other urgent problems.

At the latest meeting between Ministers of Fisheries in Brussels, the Danish Minister, Mr. Grove, accepted the Commission's proposals as a basis for final negotiations. However, since also vital Danish interests are at stake, such final negotiations could not consist in the mere acceptance of the Commission's proposals, as they stand at present. Some movement on the side of our partners in the Community is needed, in particular regarding Danish mackerel fishing, and regarding Danish access to the Shetland/Orkney Islands' waters as well as with regard to the cod catches in the North Sea.

There is a strong tradition between our two countries for solving problems arising between us by way of negotiation and compromise rather than confrontation. I personally hope that especially our two governments, who are so close to each other in general political thinking, will find it possible to apply this tradition to its fullest value. I therefore hope, that your country will be able to show, in the days to come, the flexibility needed to arrive at a compromise, which could serve the interests of our citizens and of the Community. We are prepared to do the same.

In view of the importance of the matter, the Deputy Prime Minister, Finance Minister Henning Christophersen, will chair the Council-meeting on the 25-26, while the Minister of Fisheries, Mr. Henning Grove, will be representing Denmark.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Poul Schlüter". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name "Poul Schlüter".

Prime Minister
The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher, M.P.
L o n d o n
