

Fishing Ind.



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

From the Minister's
Private Office

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

26 June 1979

~~Dear Nick,~~

overtaken by event

PA mj

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS (FISHERIES): 25 JUNE

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

I am copying this letter to James, Stevens (Lord President's Office), MacClean (Whip's Office - Commons), Cumming-Bruce (Whip's Office - Lords), Vile (Cabinet Office), the other agriculture Departments and to private secretaries to members of OD(E).

*Yours sincerely
G R Waters*

G R WATERS
Principal Private Secretary

STATEMENT

My Rt Hon Friend, the Secretary of State for Scotland and the Minister of State in my Department accompanied me to the meeting of the Fisheries Council on 25 June.

The Council discussed conservation measures proposed by the Commission, the first of which would not have come into operation until 1 September. Our own conservation measures, as I had previously announced on 18 May, would come into operation on July 1. We considered that it was vital that they should. Eight Member States and the Commission urged that we should abandon these national measures. I refused to do so and therefore these measures will come into operation on July 1.

The Council agreed to an extension for four months to 31 October 1979 of the existing interim arrangements requiring Member States to have regard to the needs of conservation in the management of fisheries, but I refused to accept changes that were proposed in these roll-over provisions.

I told the Council that the United Kingdom was not prepared to accept the piecemeal approach that would be involved in the adoption of a number of limited Community measures that were on the agenda at this meeting. Accordingly, I refused to agree to proposals dealing with conservation, catch reporting and the management of stocks shared with third countries.

I made it clear to the Council that any discussion on the Common Fisheries Policy in the coming months would have to recognise the fundamental fishing interests of the United Kingdom.

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