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MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FOOD  
WHITEHALL PLACE, LONDON S.W.1



From the Minister

Prime Minister  
Clearly a meeting with  
Norms Lamington, Walker &  
Younger would be useful.  
— Apra?

A good job.

20 November 1980

Paul  
- WX

PRIME MINISTER

At the meeting of the Council of Fisheries Ministers in Brussels earlier this week, some progress was made on the basis of a Presidency compromise which raised the proposed quota allocation of the seven main species of fish for the United Kingdom from 32.5 per cent to a much more reasonable level of 35.2 per cent. We should be able to hold on to this allocation and it is just possible that we can improve it. At the same time it was generally acknowledged that a settlement of the access question must also be part of the package. At Commissioner Gundelach's request, we are providing papers suggesting lines of approach to access and to methods of enforcement. We are in a fairly strong central position. The Danes are under the heaviest pressure, since they were most strongly favoured in the Commission's earlier illustrative proposals. Their position has gradually deteriorated and Commissioner Gundelach is finding it increasingly difficult to protect them against the arguments of equity advanced by the French, Germans and ourselves.

We have already achieved a satisfactory position on conservation measures and the basic principles of control, matters which have now largely been settled. If we can get a quota allocation of about 35 per cent, we shall match our share of the landings over the last five years and should obtain this share on a lasting basis. There is also a prospect of preferential access on a reasonably favourable basis, bearing in mind that other Member States have fishing rights which have been enshrined in Treaties and conventions since the 1960's.

It is true that this whole package would not meet the needs of the distant water fleet - they have been the prime movers in asking for another £70 million from public funds - but I have always recognised that there is no way in current circumstances

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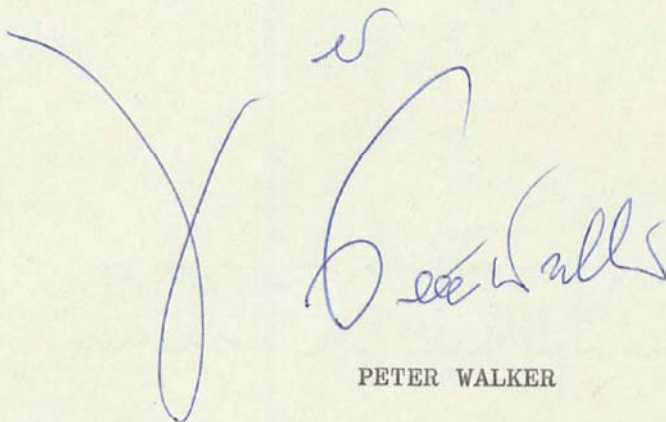
of saving them from the pressures caused by the loss of distant water fishing opportunities and the increases in fuel costs which have reduced their economic viability.

The Council meeting has been suspended for a short period and will be resumed either in some ten days' time or in mid-December. It is now clear that we are approaching the climax of the negotiation and I would welcome a half hour of your time to discuss with you ~~and~~ Peter Carrington the political aspects and our negotiating position.

*+ George Younger*

*George Younger*

I am sending copies of this minute ~~both~~ to Peter Carrington and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

A large, stylized handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Peter Walker'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large loop at the end.

PETER WALKER

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