

Ref: A04248

PRIME MINISTERCommunity Affairs

1. You might wish to give the Cabinet a brief account of the Community aspects of your talks with the Dutch Prime Minister in the The Hague on 6 February. Mr van Agt agreed with you on the need to keep the pressure up on the Commission to produce their restructuring proposals in good time for the June European Council; thought this year's CAP price increases should average 8-9 per cent with less for surplus products; and made clear his support for our position on the Common Fisheries Policy.
2. If he is back from Brussels, you will wish the Minister of Agriculture to report on the outcome of the Fisheries Council. If the outcome is unsatisfactory, you could say that you will discuss the next steps with the Ministers immediately concerned. The question of further finance for the United Kingdom fishing industry, raised at last week's Cabinet, is coming to E Committee on 4 March.*
3. Next week the Finance Council meets on 16 February and the Foreign Affairs Council on 17 February.



Robert Armstrong

*. now, according to the MAFF, the first possible date: they cannot talk to the industry until next week, and then will not be able to put proposals together and submit them to Ministers before you go to Washington.

12th February 1981