

SUBJECT

T 29/81

Copenhagen, 19 February 1981

PRIME MINISTER'S

PERSONAL MESSAGE

Dear Mrs. Thatcher,

SERIAL No. T. 29/81

In the course of the fisheries negotiations in Brussels the British Government made reservation with respect to the draft agreement between the EEC and the Faroe Islands which has been negotiated by the Commission. I understand that the British reservation is due not to the substance of the draft agreement but to general considerations on interrelationships in the Community's internal and external fisheries policies which are hardly affected to any appreciable extent by an agreement with the Faroe Islands.

It has not been possible to establish, like in previous years, a temporary arrangement under which reciprocal fishing is permitted pending conclusion of the agreement.

This situation has faced the Faroe Islands with serious difficulties. The value of the agreement with the EEC deteriorates with every day that passes without the Faroese fishermen being able to start utilizing their access to fishing in waters of Member States. For some important species, fishing is of a seasonal character.

I consider it important that the EEC, by delaying the conclusion of the agreement, should not weaken the cooperation with the Faroe Islands. Fishing is the fundamental basis of the economy of the Faroe Islands and makes them dependent on agreements with other countries.

The United Kingdom has in other instances taken a sympathetic view of the special problems which arise for small communities, among them New Zealand, to which relations with the EEC play a determinant role.

Relations between the United Kingdom and the Faroe Islands have always been close, created as they have been by geographical and other conditions. Preservation of the fishing cooperation between the United Kingdom and the Faroe Islands will contribute to consolidate the good neighbourly relations.

I would be grateful for your Government's assistance in bringing about a speedy conclusion of the fishery agreement between the EEC and the Faroe Islands, or at least in establishing a temporary arrangement.

The Rt.Hon. Margaret Thatcher MP
Prime Minister

Postponement of the matter until the next meeting of the Fishery Ministers on March 9-10 would imply a further serious delay. I ask, therefore, that the British reservation, which is the sole obstacle to conclusion of the agreement, be revoked so that adoption may take place in connection with the Council Meeting next week of the Ministers for Agriculture.

Yours sincerely,

signed Anker Jørgensen

Royal Danish Embassy
London