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EUROPEAN COUNCIL, BRUSSELS

29/30 MARCH 1982

COMMON FISHERIES POLICY (CFP)

Brief by Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

POINTS TO MAKE

1. [If raised by others] We are seeking an early satisfactory settlement comprising all outstanding issues.

BACKGROUND

2. The next Fisheries Council is tentatively planned for 20 April. No new proposals on the main outstanding CFP issues (quotas and access) are expected from the Commission until after the European Council meeting; it is therefore unlikely that others will raise the CFP.

3. The government's position remains that we are seeking an early satisfactory settlement comprising all outstanding issues including access and catch quotas. Ministers have already stated in Parliament that a failure to agree a CFP by the end of this year would not be allowed to result in 'fishing up to the beaches'.

4. If, unexpectedly, other delegations raise the CFP we could agree to subscribe to a general statement of determination to reach agreement, but any more detailed specific proposals would need to be considered in the appropriate framework.

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