



le 30  
cto.

10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

11 January, 1985.

Dear Mr. Neukam.

Thank you for your letter of 12 December about fishing around the Falkland Islands.

I well understand your impatience at the time it has taken to obtain an answer on your draft agreement. I have looked carefully into the reasons for this before replying to you.

I see the advantages of Taiyo's offer to take British observers on board their ships. But this is of course not the only provision of the agreement, and we must be sure that the agreement as a whole is consistent with the Government's longer term approach to fisheries in the South Atlantic. This approach is based on the need to devise arrangements for conservation and management of fishing round the Falklands which will permit a proper control to be exercised over the depletion of fishing stocks. Such control is to the advantage both of the Falkland Islanders and of commercial fishing ventures like yours. But if the arrangements which we introduce are to be effective they must have the widest possible measure of international support.

It is against the background of these general considerations that we have examined your draft agreement. The upshot is that we have identified a number of points on which we have to ask you to make amendments to the draft so as to ensure that it does not cut across future arrangements of the sort which I have described. There is also an

R

important technical point about the definition of the Westward limit of the fishing area defined in the First Schedule of the agreement.

I am arranging for you to receive separately details of the changes which would be required. It is only fair to point out that some of these might make the commercial prospects appear less attractive to you and your partners. But provided you can accept these changes, I can confirm that the Government would be able to approve the draft agreement.

Yours sincerely  
Margaret DeLaha

C.E. Needham, Esq.