



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

7 March 1985

Time Ringer

CDP
7/3.

MS

Dear Charles,

Falkland Fisheries

You will recall that on 26 ^{Attached} February OD approved the Foreign Secretary's proposal that we should approach the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) to seek their assistance in establishing an international regime for fishery conservation and management in the south-west Atlantic. The Prime Minister may wish to know that the first step in this process has been taken.

On 5 March the responsible Assistant Under-Secretary in the FCO, David Thomas, accompanied by the ODA Fisheries Adviser and our Permanent Representative to the FAO called on M. Carroz, FAO Assistant Secretary General for Fisheries, in Rome. Our delegation explained that we believed that increased and uncontrolled fishing by many countries in the south-west Atlantic was giving rise to serious over-fishing of certain stocks; that in view of the multinational nature of the fishery and the geographical distribution of the fish stocks we saw an urgent need to establish a regional fishery management structure under the guidance of a competent body; and that we believed that the FAO was the appropriate body to undertake the job. We suggested that as a first step the FAO might consider convening an ad hoc working group of interested countries for an exchange of information and ideas relating to the management of fishery resources in the south-west Atlantic.

M. Carroz's reaction was cautious but positive. He was clearly conscious of the political overtones of the issue, but appeared satisfied by our delegation's explanation that we were seeking FAO's technical assistance in tackling an urgent problem of regional fishery conservation and management falling squarely within FAO's remit. He undertook to seek the advice of the appropriate technical experts within the FAO Secretariat (some of whom are at present away from Rome) in order to establish that our case for the need for conservation measures was well-founded. Assuming that it was - and it emerged during the course of the meeting that a draft report being prepared by the Secretariat for the meeting of the FAO Committee on Fisheries on 21-25 April is likely to support our case - M. Carroz undertook to discuss further with our Permanent Representative to the FAO his ideas on how best to proceed. He indicated that he might well follow up our suggestion of an ad hoc working group.

/ So far, ...

CONFIDENTIAL



So far, so good.- Our initiative has been launched and, to judge from M. Carroz's attitude, there seems a reasonable chance that the FAO will be prepared to initiate at least the necessary first phase of technical studies. But news of our approach is bound to reach Argentina soon, either through leaks or as a result of the informal soundings of interested Permanent Representatives which M. Carroz will be making in due course; and as we have recognised from the start, the Argentines may well attempt to sabotage the exercise, notwithstanding their own interest in fishery conservation in the south-west Atlantic. We shall remain alert to this contingency and ready to counter it. Meanwhile, we are keeping the Falkland Islands Government informed.

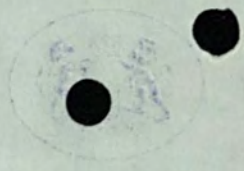
I am copying this letter to Ivor Llewelyn (MAFF), Richard Mottram (MOD) and Michael McCulloch (ODA)

Yours ever,
Len Appleyard

(L V Appleyard)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

CONFIDENTIAL



1985
MAR 07
11 12 1
10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

James
in the