



From the Minister

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FOOD
WHITEHALL PLACE, LONDON SW1A 2HH

Prime Minister ✓ JV

MUS 25/3

Cancelled for 31/3/82 SR₂

for E folder

No need to submit initial E folder

25 March 1982 made up

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PRIME MINISTER

ANNOUNCEMENT OF AN EIGHTH ROUND OF OFFSHORE OIL LICENSING

As I will not be able to attend the forthcoming meeting of 'E' Committee on 31 March I am writing to let you have my views on this proposed Eighth Round. While I would not wish to object to an announcement in April, anything which adds to the difficulties of the fishing industry at this stage clearly needs the most careful thought. It is therefore essential, in my view, that any such announcement should refer sympathetically to the interests of fishermen and should include a firm commitment to maintaining the consultation and safeguard arrangements introduced under the Seventh Round.

There is an encouraging degree of cooperation developing between fishermen and the oil industry off the south coast in particular, and I am sure this is the only way forward if we are to resolve the difficult problem of reconciling the conflicting interests of these two important industries.

I am sending copies of this minute to other members of E Committee, the Secretaries of State for Scotland and Wales, and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

PETER WALKER

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DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL INDUSTRY



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