



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

7 February 1984

The Prime Minister has asked me to thank you for your letter of 11 January about the possible declaration of a 200-mile exclusion fisheries limit (EFL) around the Falkland Islands.

The Prime Minister and her colleagues well understand the arguments in favour of declaring a 200-mile EFL, to which they are continuing to give their closest attention. The very fact that it has been under consideration for so long demonstrates that it is far from being the simple issue - especially in its international aspects - that some people imagine. If we are to take due account of all the factors, and avoid risks of repercussions in the longer term that could outweigh short-term benefits, the question is formidably complex. I am sorry that I cannot for the moment give you a more positive reply.

You will know from the press and from the transcripts sent to you by the FCO of Lady Young's speeches and press conference that there was a good deal of discussion of this subject during the Minister of State's visit to the Islands. She emphasised in her address to the Public Meeting in Port Stanley on 16 January that the Government are alive to the urgency of the matter. Lady Young said:-

"The strong arguments in favour of declaring an EFL are well understood in London and I can assure you that this is something which is being given the closest attention at the highest level."

In reply to a question later on the same occasion, Lady Young said:-

"I do appreciate that you want a 200-mile fishing limit. I recognise your concern on conservation grounds that the fish stocks may run out in the not too distant future and I'm very conscious that you earn a lot of

/money K

money from harbour dues on vessels that are currently fishing and of course would get a bigger income if there were some licensing arrangements. So we are very conscious in London of the arguments about the fisheries zone. And it is because we are conscious of those arguments that we have been considering them very seriously and I would like you to accept that this is a matter that we have very much before us. There are complications about it. It isn't quite as straightforward I think as some people might think and I'm sure all of us would hope, but I can assure you that it is something about which we are concerned."

I really cannot go beyond this at present.

You ask whether there is some way in which interested parties could be brought together for a discussion. I understand that any British companies or individuals expressing interest in commercial fishing operations around the Falkland Islands are advised to contact the Falkland Islands Government in Port Stanley, and that some have indeed done so. At the London end, there have been preparatory meetings between officials of the ODA and the FCO and representatives of the companies most interested in Falklands fisheries, e.g. Coalite, Taiyo and Messrs Marr and Boyd. This dialogue will no doubt continue, and the FCO, the ODA and your own authorities in Port Stanley will I am sure remain in contact with you as the situation develops.

A. J. COLES

A.B. Monk, Esq., OBE.

1/30/1
Adrian Monk
2/6/2



26/1

289

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

12 January 1984

FALKLAND ISLANDS: FISHERIES LIMITS

I enclose a copy of a letter which the Prime Minister has received from Mr. Adrian Monk. I should be grateful if you would let me have a draft reply for my signature on behalf of the Prime Minister, to reach this office by Thursday, 26 January.

A. J. COLES

Roger Bone, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

289



Falkland Islands Government

LONDON OFFICE
29 Tufton Street
Westminster, London SW1P 3QL
Telephone: 01-222 2542
Telex: 8950476 FIGLON

Ack'd on 12/1

11th January 1984

Rt. Hon. Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, PC MP
10 Downing Street,
London S.W.1.

R12

Dear Prime Minister,

Firstly, may I thank you for your warm and welcome message broadcast to the Islanders before Christmas and wish every success to you endeavours in 1984.

You may be aware from Press reports that an issue is developing over the request by Legislative Council that a fisheries limit around the Falkland Islands be declared to conserve stocks and yield much needed revenue. No doubt Lady Young will report to you on her current discussions in the Islands and I look forward to meeting her in due course myself.

In the meantime, I should like to point out that the Legislative Council's request (enclosed) is based on long standing concern about fishing activities in our putative waters both in the Islands and elsewhere.

At present we have a three mile limit. Argentina was one of the first to declare a 200 mile limit. Currently, some 120 vessels from various nations are fishing off the Falkland Islands. I enclose a report from Fishing News of 18th November 1983 and our letter to the Times on 19th November which substantiates our concern. No British vessels are fishing there.

Various organisations have studied Falklands fisheries, not least Lord Shackleton in 1976 and 1982, the United Nations Development Programme, the White Fish Authority and the House of Commons Expenditure Committee in 1978. There is no doubt about the resources.

We very much hope that a limit may be declared in Falklands waters and secondly, that the British fishing industry devote some attention to our resources. Is there some means by which the interested parties could be brought together for a discussion?

Yours faithfully
Adrian Monk

A.B. Monk

Encs../

REPRESENTATIVE: Adrian Monk OBE



Falkland Islands Government

LONDON OFFICE
29 Tufton Street
Westminster, London SW1P 3QL
Telephone: 01-222 2542
Telex: 8950476 FIGLON

The following is the text of a Motion put forward by
The Hon. L.G. Blake at a Legislative Council Meeting
held on 22nd November 1983:

That this House request Her Majesty's Government in
the United Kingdom to take note and the earliest
action to impliment a fisheries protection zone of 200
miles around the Falkland Islands or such lesser distance
to the median line where Falkland waters impinge on
other exclusive economic zones: To control the unlimited
fishing at present taking place and prevent further
damage to the fish stocks in these waters. Also to
provide revenue which will guarantee a balanced budget
in the future and provide funds for the further development
of these Islands.

Ends.

FALKLANDS RIP-OFF

Foreign fleets cashing-in

FAILURE by the British government to establish a 200-mile exclusive economic zone around the Falkland Islands is allowing foreign fishing fleets to reap a rich harvest.

Spanish and Polish fishing vessels have discovered huge squid grounds to the north of the islands, as well as massive stocks of blue whiting. Around 80 per cent of the fish is reported to be within the 200-mile zone.

A fleet of 20 Spanish trawlers has taken around 20,000-tonnes of squid. Landings have been so heavy that the Spanish government is being forced to announce a ban on imports.

"The market is swamped with Falklands squid and something had to be done," a Spanish fish trader told *Fishing News* last week.

Spanish trawlers had moved from the grounds off South Africa to the Falklands, which had left Spanish markets desperate for hake. Spanish skippers reported fishing so close to the islands that they could see the lights of Port Stanley.

A large Polish fleet is understood to have taken some 100,000-tonnes of squid and blue whiting from the Falklands area. There have been problems with parasites in the blue whiting, because of the density of the stocks, but it is thought that a bout of sustained heavy fishing would clear out the parasites.

While Britain maintains an expensive military presence in the Falklands, there has been no move to protect the area from foreign fishing fleets, nor any negotiations

HARRY BARRETT reports

to allow them to fish under licence. Money from a licensed fishery would help offset the huge cost of the military operation. At the same time Britain is importing huge quantities of blue whiting.

A Whitehall spokesman told *Fishing News* this week that there is only a three-mile territorial limit around the islands at present.

The Shackleton report had proposed that a 200-mile zone should be established

Turn to page two

Rip-off

From page one

and the Foreign Office now has this under consideration. However, the spokesman added that a zone of this size would bring complications.

There would be a requirement to police it and, also, negotiations over the median line with Argentina would be difficult in view of present relations with this country.

The importance which Poland attaches to squid was underlined at the International Seafood Conference held in Vienna last week. Norbert Drazkowski, of the Polish fish export organisation RYBEX, said that one of the recent achievements of the Polish industry had been the wide introduction of new technology for squid tube processing.

"Right now frozen-on-board squid tube is one of our main export items. At this moment we are considering the possibility of installing squid skinning machines on our trawlers to process this product further," he said.

Mr. Drazkowski also revealed that Poland had made a breakthrough in developing machinery for peeling krill, the tiny shrimp-like creature which is in huge abundance in the south Atlantic.

"The taste of krill peeled this way is similar to shrimp," said Mr. Norbert.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Conserving fish in the Falklands

From Mr Adrian Monk and others

Sir, The intention of the Manx Government to extend its fisheries limit (*The Times*, November 17) echoes our own desire and need in the Falkland Islands. At present we, too, have a three-mile limit.

It is now essential that a fisheries conservation programme for various species and licensing to provide the islands with revenue is begun. For our part, we are appointing two fisheries inspection officers to monitor our two-year consortium arrangement with the Japanese Taiyo company, but fishing by others must be controlled.

More than 100 trawlers from West Germany, Italy, Japan, Spain and eastern Europe are currently fishing the waters within our putative extended fisheries zone. Others are proceeding south to the richest fisheries resource in the world, with huge stocks of hake, blue whiting, cod and crustaceans. However large the stocks, some already need protection.

Around the Dependencies (from which revenue would accrue to Britain itself), some 150 million tonnes of the shrimp-like krill could be harvested annually, according to a series of scientific reports, among which is that of the United Nations development programme.

The last words of the House of Commons Expenditure Committee's 1978 report (HC 356: para 268) on the British fishing industry were "... when arrangements for the Falkland Islands are being considered, the fishing potential of the waters around them must be fully taken into account in any negotiations about their future."

Such negotiations were, of course, broken off by Argentina with the invasion of the islands last year. We cannot anticipate their early resumption. We can anticipate a "Klondike" in the South Atlantic, which in earlier times destroyed our whale, seal and penguin stocks.

It is therefore essential, in the interests of both Britain and the Falkland Islands, that a fisheries protection scheme to match that of our South American neighbours is started forthwith.

Yours faithfully,

ADRIAN MONK,

A. BLAKE (Legislative Councillor, Camp),

J. S. CHEEK (Legislative Councillor, West Stanley),

Falkland Islands Government,
London Office,

29 Tufon Street, SW1.

November 17.