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Prime Minister.

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

23 September 1981

If you agree, I will send a gloss
to your earlier agreement saying that
you think the Lord Privy Seal's points
at A, B & C below are well taken.

Sir R. Amulree's minute, attached, is making virtually the
same points.

Dear Michael.

Rmb - 23/9

mb

NEGOTIATIONS ON THE COMMON FISHERIES POLICY

We have seen a copy of Mr Buchanan-Smith's letter of
22 September to the Prime Minister about the line to be adopted
at the Fisheries Council next week.

The Lord Privy Seal very much agrees with Mr Buchanan-Smith
that it is in our interest to do all we can to reach a successful
conclusion of these negotiations in the course of the autumn.
Not only is this important in the fisheries context itself but,
as you know, it has a considerable bearing on wider issues of
Community policy, in particular the negotiations over the
30 May Mandate.

A. It is certainly the case that the indications on the French
attitude are not encouraging. This puts a large question mark
over the likelihood of a fully successful meeting of the Council
next week. We are glad, therefore, to see that dates for a
further Council in October have been reserved. We think it is
important that, however discouraging next week's Council, this
second Council should be held. We want to put the maximum pressure
B, we can on the French to settle or, as Mr Buchanan-Smith says,
to be able to pin the blame for eventual lack of progress firmly
on to them. Two Council meetings will be necessary to do either
successfully.

/As to

M O'D B Alexander Esq
Private Secretary
10 Downing Street



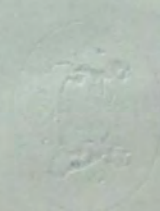
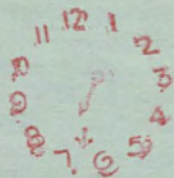
As to the fall-back idea of a 'mini package', we think it would be best to leave it to Mr Walker's tactical judgement to decide whether this might be concluded. But in order to maintain the maximum pressure on the French we do not think that there should be any mention of a mini-package at the September Council until there is a firm commitment to a further meeting in October. to agree an overall settlement.

I am copying this letter to Private Secretaries to Mr Buchanan-Smith, to the other members of OD(E), and to the Secretaries of State for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Yours ever
Stephen Gomersall

S J Gomersall
Private Secretary to the
Lord Privy Seal

12 3 SEP 1981



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Yeshing HC

File



cc: OD(E) + SO
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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

24 September 1981

DOT
LAD

Negotiations on the Common Fisheries Policy

I wrote to you yesterday conveying the Prime Minister's agreement to the policy outlined in Mr. Buchanan-Smith's letter to the Prime Minister of 22 September. The Prime Minister has subsequently seen Stephen Gomersall's letter to me of 23 September on the same subject. She considers that a number of points made by the Lord Privy Seal, developing those in the Minister of State's letter, are well taken.

Specifically, the Prime Minister agrees that:-

- (a) However unfavourable the auguries, we must make a major effort this Autumn to reach an agreement on the Common Fisheries Policy and to sell the agreement to the industry;
- (b) This means exerting maximum pressure on the French in the weeks ahead. To this end we should be clear from the outset that if agreement on an overall settlement is not reached in September, we will expect the discussion to be continued at the October Fisheries Council;
- (c) This implies that if the idea of a mini-package is to be floated - and the Prime Minister has agreed to this on the basis that in Mr. Walker's judgement it would be "helpful as a step towards an overall settlement" - this should not be done until it has been agreed that discussion of the overall settlement will continue next month.

I am sending copies of this letter to the Private Secretaries to the members of OD(E) and to Godfrey Robson (Scottish Office), John Craig (Welsh Office) and Stephen Boys Smith (Northern Ireland Office). A copy also goes to David Wright (Cabinet Office).

M. O'D. B. ALEXANDER

Miss Kate Timms,
Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Food.

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