

PM/81/47PRIME MINISTERPrime Minister.

Agree the approach recommended  
by Lord Carrington and Mr Walker?

HW  
(5.8)

M

Fisheries

1. Peter Walker and I have discussed the position in the fisheries negotiations after the 29 September Council at which he secured the useful mini-package which cleared several relatively minor but irritating aspects of the fisheries problem out of the way.
2. At that Council it was agreed that Contogeorgis, the Commissioner for Fisheries, would undertake a tour of Community capitals with a view to preparing proposals which could form the basis of a settlement of the outstanding aspects of the Common Fisheries Policy, particularly access, total allowable catches (TACs), and quotas. The Commission, however, have been dragging their feet. I fear that we must recognise that their procrastination will not leave enough time for proper preparation of the Council to be held at the end of October, making it unlikely it will be able to achieve major progress towards the CFP.
3. I therefore agreed with Peter that the Council should meet for one day only on 27 October, and should then agree that a major effort should be made to reach a decision at the following Fisheries Council on 30 November.

/4. Although

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4. Although this would mean that we would not in October see a settlement or substantive progress towards it, it should enable us to by-pass the European Council and make it clear that the CFP negotiations were in no way linked with discussion of the Mandate. Whatever else happens, we should do everything we can to ensure that no such linkage is established. A Mandate/fish trade-off could be extremely dangerous and potentially damaging to us.
5. We also agreed that at the October Council it might be possible to reach agreement on an enforcement regulation, which would represent a further step towards a complete CFP.
6. I hope you will agree that these are the right tactics.
7. I am copying this to the members of OD(E) and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

C  
/

(CARRINGTON)

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

15 October 1981

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*Michael (or)**PM has seen**mm**Paul*PM/81/47PRIME MINISTERFisheries

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A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'C' with a horizontal stroke below it.

(CARRINGTON)

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

15 October 1981

original *grubbed* to *CAF*  
CONFIDENTIAL *B. Fall - Blackpool,*  
*copies despatched*  
*from London*



10 DOWNING STREET

*WR 19/10*

From the Principal Private Secretary

16 October 1981

Fisheries

The Prime Minister has seen the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary's minute of 15 October about fisheries and she is content with the tactics which he and Mr. Walker are proposing to adopt.

I am sending copies of this letter to the Private Secretaries to the other members of OD(E) and to David Wright (Cabinet Office).

C.W.

Brian Fall, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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GRS 450

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FRAME GENERAL  
DESKBY 151600Z  
FROM UKREP BRUSSELS 151435Z OCT 81  
TO IMMEDIATE FCO  
TELEGRAM NUMBER 3705 OF 15 OCTOBER 1981

DATE OF FISHERIES COUNCIL

1. I UNDERSTAND THAT MAFF WISH TO CONFINE THE FISHERIES COUNCIL TO ONE DAY AND THEY PREFER 27 OCTOBER. AS YOU KNOW, THAT DAY IS NOT ONLY THE SECOND DAY OF THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COUNCIL. THERE IS ALSO A FULL DAY ENERGY COUNCIL. TO HOLD THE FISHERIES COUNCIL ON THE SAME DAY WILL CAUSE PRACTICAL PROBLEMS WHICH WOULD MAKE IT IMPOSSIBLE TO CONDUCT ALL THREE COUNCILS EFFICIENTLY AND WILL CAST SEVERE DOUBT ON THE CAPACITY OF THE PRESIDENCY TO MANAGE THE COMMUNITY'S BUSINESS. (OUR CREDIBILITY HAD ALREADY BEEN STRAINED BY THE ADDITION OF A FISH COUNCIL TO THE OTHER TWO, BUT THE PROBLEM COULD BE MANAGED WITH THE BULK OR ALL OF THE FISH COUNCIL TAKING PLACE ON THE MONDAY 26 OCTOBER).

2. THE NATURE OF THE PROBLEM IS INDICATED BY UKREP TEL NO 3257 OF 17 SEPTEMBER, THOUGH SOME CHANGES OF DETAIL WILL HAVE TO BE MADE. (AN UP-TO-DATE AGENDA WILL BE REPORTED IN THE NORMAL WAY AFTER TODAY'S COREPER). THE PRINCIPAL PROBLEM IS TO ENSURE THAT AMBASSADORS, DEPUTIES AND THEIR STAFFS ARE ABLE TO SERVICE THE THREE COUNCILS PROPERLY. IN ORDER TO DO THIS WE HAVE FOR SOME TIME PLANNED ON THE FOLLOWING BASIS:

A) ITEMS PREPARED BY AMBASSADORS FOR THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COUNCIL WILL BE TAKEN ON 26 OCTOBER. THESE INCLUDE THE MANDATE, SCHEDULED FOR THAT AFTERNOON, AND WE HAVE TRIED TO ENSURE THAT ALL FOREIGN MINISTERS WILL BE PRESENT FOR THAT CONCENTRATION PERIOD.

B) ITEMS PREPARED BY DEPUTIES FOR THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COUNCIL, MAINLY TEXTILES SUBJECTS WILL BE TAKEN ON TUESDAY MORNING 27 OCTOBER.

C) DEPUTIES WOULD THUS BE AVAILABLE TO ADVISE FISHERIES MINISTERS ON 26 OCTOBER.

D) AMBASSADORS WOULD BE AVAILABLE TO ADVISE ENERGY MINISTERS ON 27 OCTOBER.

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3. THE ORDER OF THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COUNCIL AGENDA CANNOT BE REVERSED (EVEN IN THE UNLIKELY EVENT OF ALL ENERGY MINISTERS BEING ABLE TO SHIFT TO 26 OCTOBER) BECAUSE THE COUNCIL MUST PREPARE ON THE MONDAY MORNING FOR THE MINISTERIAL MEETINGS WITH THE SPANIARDS, PORTUGUESE AND CYPRIOTS ON THE EVENING OF 26 AND AFTERNOON OF 27 OCTOBER (FOR WHICH INCIDENTALLY AMBASSADORS DO NOT THEMSELVES NEED TO BE PRESENT). IT WOULD AT THIS LATE STAGE ALSO BE MOST UNLIKELY THAT THE THREE VISITING FOREIGN MINISTERS COULD CHANGE THEIR SCHEDULES IN A MUTUALLY CONGRUENT FASHION: NOR WOULD IT BE COURTEOUS TO ASK THEM TO DO SO.

4. IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES IN HOPE THAT MR WALKER CAN AGREE TO HOLD THE FISH COUNCIL ON 26 OCTOBER. I FEAR THAT THE ALTERNATIVE WILL BE UNWORKABLE.

FCO ADVANCE TO

FCO - PS HANNAY SPRECKLEY FONBLANQUE ECD(I) FORTESCUE

CAB - FRANKLIN ELLIOTT GOODENOUGH

MAFF - MASON

D/EN - D LE B JONES

BUTLER

[ADVANCED AS REQUESTED]

FRAME GENERAL

ECD (I)