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Qz.02480

MR COLES

*My* *mt*

Prime Minister 1

Content for Mr Walker's paper at A to be circulated to the Chancellor, and the Foreign Secretary, and discussed at the ad hoc meeting on 17 March, with Mr Younger present?

THE COMMON FISHERIES POLICY AND THE 30 MAY MANDATE

LH  
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A 1. In his minute to Mr Wright of 24 ~~December~~ 1981 Mr Rickett recorded that the Prime Minister would prefer to handle fisheries questions in OD rather than in a special MISC group of Ministers. The Minister of Agriculture has accordingly prepared a paper which he intended for circulation to OD.

B In it he asks his colleagues to consider whether it would be advisable to link the settlement of the Common Fisheries Policy to the 30 May Mandate and the agricultural price fixing. It seems probable that both the Foreign Secretary and the Chancellor will have reservations about this suggestion (which, as you will see, Mr Walker does not make in categorical terms). The link we are already planning to make between the settlement of the budget problem and the price fixing will not be free from difficulty and to add fish as well could significantly increase the difficulties and the risks. I understand that the Foreign Secretary will be commenting on Mr Walker's paper and is likely to propose a different way of handling the negotiations on fish.

2. An ad hoc meeting has been arranged to discuss the 30 May Mandate at 5.30 pm on 17 March. The Foreign Secretary, the Chancellor and the Minister of Agriculture are to attend. Given the clear connection between Mr Walker's paper and





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the handling of the Mandate and price fixing, it would seem appropriate that all three subjects be discussed at the same meeting. If the Prime Minister agrees, we shall therefore arrange for the Minister of Agriculture's paper to be converted into a minute and circulated only to those colleagues attending the 17 March meeting.

3. The Secretary of State for Scotland has given his name also to Mr Walker's paper and it would therefore be necessary to invite him to the 17 March meeting as well.

4. I should be grateful to know whether the Prime Minister agrees that we should make arrangements accordingly. Mr Walker has been consulted and is, I understand, entirely content with what I have suggested above.

D.H.

D J S HANCOCK

2 March 1982



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*fishings incl* JR

*c*

MR. HANCOCK  
HM TREASURY

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THE COMMON FISHERIES POLICY AND THE 30 MAY MANDATE

Thank you for your minute of 2 March. The Prime Minister is content for Mr. Walker's paper to be circulated to the Chancellor and the Foreign Secretary and to be discussed at the ad hoc meeting on 17 March with Mr. Younger present.

JC

3 March 1982