

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



From the Minister

Prime Minister

May I suggest that you
await Mr. Lyng's view? This is
not the whole story.

A.J.C. 16/11

CONFIDENTIAL

- I am
winded to
15 November 1982
copy - Th. Walker
reported
- requested

PRIME MINISTER

Dear Prime Minister

I have just received a copy of telegram No. 373 from Copenhagen reporting the Danish Foreign Minister as having suggested that there should be no further meeting of the Fisheries Council before the European Council, and that then the heads of Government should ask Fisheries Ministers to produce a solution urgently.

Understandably a number of telegrams from Copenhagen have expressed sympathy with the Danish Government and rather implied that in our interest of obtaining their assistance in our budget negotiations there may be need for further concessions to Denmark.

I wish to make it perfectly clear, and I hope our Ambassador will be informed of this, that there is no possibility of any further concessions to Denmark. We will totally lose the support of the British fishing industry if any further concessions are made.

The suggestion of the Danish Foreign Minister would of course let them off the hook and would imply that there was some further solution to be obtained when in reality 9 Member States have found a solution and Denmark alone, in spite of numerous concessions, has decided not to accept it.

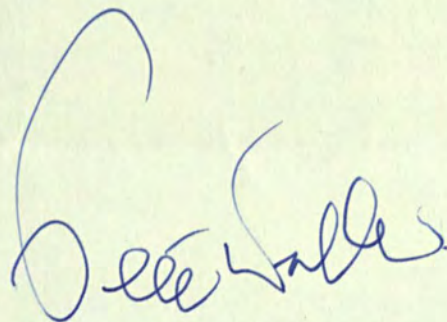
You would be severely criticised domestically if following Copenhagen the implication was that you had adhered to a suggestion that more concessions were needed to produce a solution urgently.

We must therefore decide what tactically is required between the 9 and the Commission to force the Danes to agree on the present compromise solution.

/During this week

During this week we will have to decide whether or not to press for a meeting of the Fisheries Council before the Summit. My own view is that our Ambassador should urgently make it clear to the Danes that if nothing is decided before the Summit, the Summit will not be used to give a clear indication that more needs to be done to obtain Danish agreement. The Summit must be used for 9 countries and the Commission to demand from the Danes that they stop blocking a common fisheries policy that more than adequately recognizes the needs of the Danish Fishing Industry.

I am sending copies of this minute to the Foreign Secretary, the Secretary of State for Scotland and Sir Robert Armstrong.



PETER WALKER

CONFIDENTIAL



fishy ind (JL)

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

17 November 1982

FISHERIES

The Prime Minister has seen Mr. Walker's minute of 15 November and I have informed her of the contents of Mr. Pym's minute of 16 November. Mrs. Thatcher entirely agrees that there can be no possibility of making further concessions to Denmark. She is inclined to agree with Mr. Walker that, when we have decided whether we want a Fisheries Council before the European Council, our Ambassador in Copenhagen should make it clear to the Danes that, if nothing is decided before the Summit, then this will be an occasion when the other member states and the Commission will put pressure on the Danes to stop blocking a Common Fisheries Policy.

The Prime Minister hopes that it will be made clear to the Danish Government before Mr. Schlueter's visit here next week that the issue cannot be side-stepped and that it is bound to play a large part in the Prime Minister's discussions with Mr. Schlueter. It will be for him to decide whether, in the light of that message, he wishes his visit to London to be maintained.

I am copying this letter to Roger Bone (FCO), Muir Russell (Scottish Office) and Richard Hatfield (Cabinet Office).

A. J. COLES

Robert Lawson, Esq.,
Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

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