

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



Prime Minister

From the Minister

A.P.C. 4/12.

The Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London
SW1A

1 December 1982

Dear Prime Minister

Before our briefing meeting tomorrow it may be helpful to have a short report on progress this week on the Common Fisheries Policy negotiations.

The meeting of the Council of Fisheries Ministers on Monday was satisfactory. The nine Member States reaffirmed their agreement to the package and made it clear that there could be no alteration to the agreement that had been reached. It was interesting that Grove, the Danish Fisheries Minister, whilst not agreeing did not at any stage specifically reject the package and that Christopherson, the Deputy Prime Minister who was in the Chair, twice emphasised that the proposals were still on the table.

At the same time it was agreed that the Commission, and not the Presidency, should convene a meeting of high level officials to prepare a contingency plan for national measures should not agreement be reached. This should help to maintain pressure on the Danes to settle.

Since then I have been in touch with the Fisheries Ministers of France, Germany, The Netherlands and Ireland. They are all agreed that fisheries must be on the agenda for the European Council in Copenhagen and that their heads of State will maintain a united front with us.

I am sending copies of this letter to Francis Pym, George Younger and Sir Robert Armstrong.

Yours sincerely
Robert Lawson

for PETER WALKER
(Approved by the Minister
and signed in his absence)



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COMMUNICATIONS



Fishing Incl ~~to~~ B1.
Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
Whitehall Place London SW1A 2HH

W Rickett Esq
Prime Minister's Office
10 Downing Street
London
SW1

30 November 1982

Dear Willes *W Rickett*

COUNCIL OF FISHERIES MINISTERS: 29 NOVEMBER 1982

I attach a copy of the statement which Mr Walker hopes to make in the House today. I would be grateful for immediate clearance.

I am copying this letter to Bernard Ingham; David Heyhoe (Leader of the House's Office); Muro Maclean (Whip's Office, Commons); Michael Pownall (Whip's Office, Lords); David Wright (Cabinet Office); Keith Long (Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster's Office) and to Private Secretaries of the other Agriculture Ministers and members of the OD(E).

Yours sincerely
Robert Lawson

ROBERT LAWSON
Private Secretary

DRAFT STATEMENT ON THE COUNCIL OF FISHERIES MINISTERS:
29 NOVEMBER 1982

Together with my right hon Friends the Secretary of State for Scotland and the Minister of State, I represented the United Kingdom at the meeting of the Council of Fisheries Ministers on 29 November.

Nine Member States reaffirmed their agreement to the Common Fishing Policy agreed on 8 November but the Danish Minister asked for more time to consider his response. The nine Member States made clear that there could be no alteration to the agreement that they had reached.

On the instigation of the United Kingdom Government it was agreed that the Commission would convene a meeting of high level officials to prepare the national measures that would be required should Danish agreement not be obtained before 31 December.