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DRAFT MESSAGE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO PRESIDENT THORN

Thank you for your recent message about the prospects for progress on our problems with Japan and Spain and on the Common Fisheries Policy.

I agree that last week's discussions in the Council on both Japan and Spain were a helpful beginning. I hope that we can carry forward our mutual cooperation on both issues. In that way I look forward to early and solid progress.

On the current fisheries negotiations, we are willing to consider measures of the kind mentioned in your fourth paragraph, provided that the package of Commission proposals agreed by nine member states remains unchanged. You will understand from this that we could not agree to changes in the percentage quotas contained in the Commission's proposals.

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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

20 December 1982

Dear John,

COMMON FISHERIES POLICY

We agreed tonight that you would despatch the Prime Minister's message to President Thorn on the above subject, the text of which was annexed to Mr. Stapleton's minute of today's date. I enclose a copy of the text.

I am copying this letter and enclosure to Robert Lowson (Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food) and Richard Hatfield (Cabinet Office).

Yours ever

John Lowson

John Holmes Esq
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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MR COLES

cc Sir Robert Armstrong
Mr Hancock

COMMON FISHERIES POLICY

The Prime Minister decided this morning that she wished to respond to that part of President Thorn's recent message which set out the measures he felt would lead to a final agreement on a Common Fisheries Policy.

I accordingly attach a draft response, which seeks to keep up the pressure on Japan and Spain and incorporates a guardedly forthcoming line on the fisheries negotiations which has been approved by the Minister of Agriculture.

If the Prime Minister is content the Foreign Office will arrange for its despatch.

GUY STAPLETON

20 December 1982

Cabinet Office

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COMMON FISHERIES POLICY: YOUR MESSAGE TO
PRESIDENT THORN

I have discussed this again with Mr. Walker's Office. In order that there should be no misunderstanding I said that you agreed to this message on the assumption that at tomorrow's Fisheries Council Mr. Walker would:

- (a) not agree to any modification of the present package; and
- (b) not give away any more of our fish.

Mr. Walker's Private Secretary told me that that was the clear intention underlying your message to M. Thorn. I have therefore sent off the message, the text of which you approved.

A.J.C.

20 December 1982