

W.F.S.R.

PRIME MINISTER

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24/6

STATEMENT ON COUNCIL OF FISHERIES MINISTERS

The Opposition, led by Mark Hughes, tried to paint Mr. Walker's statement as a "sell out" that would dismay the fishing industry. They felt that the proposal for a six mile exclusive zone would only mean security for the inshore industry at the expense of the deep sea industry. They called for an early debate in Government time.

Mr. Walker dismissed Mr. Hughes' comments as a purely party political reaction and said that he would enter into no agreement in Brussels without the agreement of the fishing industry.

The question whether the industry supported the proposals under discussion in Brussels dominated the rest of the discussion. Enoch Powell suggested that Peter Walker was simply hiding behind the industry. Donald Stewart suggested that Mr. Walker had cajoled the leaders of the Scottish fishing industry into accepting the proposals, and John Prescott argued that it was not for the industry but for the fishing communities, like Hull, to decide whether the proposals were acceptable. Mr. Walker dealt with all these comments successfully by saying that it was only natural for the Government to consult the industry, and that to suggest that they were being cajoled into agreement was an insult to the industry's leaders.

Quentin Ody Clerk
W.F.S.R.

mt

17 June 1982



Fisher, Inc. Wh 17/6
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17 June 1982

Dear Mike

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS: 14-15 JUNE 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); Murdo 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 LOWSON
Private Secretary

DRAFT STATEMENT ON THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES COUNCILS:

14/15 JUNE 1982

With permission, Mr Speaker, I should like to make a statement about the meetings of the Council of Agriculture Ministers and of the Council of Fisheries Ministers held in Luxembourg on 14 and 15 June respectively.

My Rt hon Friend the Minister of State and I represented the United Kingdom at the Agriculture Council.

Agreement was reached on rules governing the approval of newly developed proteins, for example from yeast, for use as animal feedingstuffs in the Community. The UK has a strong industrial interest in this and agreement will help our industry to exploit the technology it has pioneered.

There was discussion of a new framework regulation on wine. But no decisions were reached on this and discussion will be continued at the next Council.

The Council discussed minimum space standards for battery hens. I emphasised that the Community legislation must provide satisfactory arrangements for ensuring uniform enforcement throughout the Community. The Council will resume its discussions on this at its next meeting.

/Together with

Together with my Rt Hon Friends the Secretary of State for Scotland and the Minister of State, I represented the United Kingdom at the Fisheries Council.

The President of the Commission presented the Commission's proposals on total allowable catches and quotas and on access and it was agreed that these proposals would be considered at a further Council meeting on 28/29 June. In the meantime I have arranged for consultations with our industry.

The Council reached agreement on the arrangements for enforcement of the Community's rules on fishing. This provides for Member States to enforce the rules in their own waters, subject to Community inspection to ensure that all countries enforce the rules effectively and impartially. The Control Regulation will come into force as part of a general settlement of a revised Common Fisheries Policy or on 1st January 1983, whichever is the earlier. It is obviously essential that our fishermen can rely on the rules being enforced as effectively by other countries as they are by the United Kingdom. This agreement is a major step forward and follows the initiative the United Kingdom took last year.

The Council also made progress on a revised Conservation Regulation.

/Lastly, the

● Lastly, the Council agreed to authorise the continuation of payments to fishermen in respect of various market support measures. These will apply while detailed work goes ahead on the implementation of the new marketing regime.

This was a useful meeting preparing the way for the major discussions on quotas and access at the end of the month.

Original to P7
15/6

RB Lip / ud

FISH 1

ONPASS FCO NEWS DEPT, 01D AND NUMBER TEN DOWNING STREET
ITEM: EC MOVES CLOSER TO COMMON FISHERIES POLICY
BY JOHN BARROWS, LPS CHIEF ECONOMIC CORRESPONDENT
LUXEMBOURG (LPS): THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY MOVED SIGNIFICANTLY
CLOSER TO AGREEMENT ON A COMMON FISHERIES POLICY (CFP) HERE
TODAY 15 JUNE WHEN PROPOSALS ON CATCH QUOTAS AND ACCESS TO
FISHING GROUNDS TABLED BY THE EC COMMISSION WERE BROADLY WELCOMED
BY MINISTERS.

INFORMED SOURCES SAID THAT WITH MINOR
ADJUSTMENTS THE PACKAGE WAS GENERALLY ACCEPTABLE TO NINE MEMBER
STATES, WITH ONLY DENMARK THOROUGHLY DISSATISFIED WITH ITS PROPOSED
QUOTA OF AROUND 23 PER CENT OF THE TOTAL EC CATCH.

FISHERIES MINISTERS THEREFORE AGREED AT THEIR MEETING TODAY
THAT A COMMITTEE OF TOP-LEVEL OFFICIALS SHOULD EXAMINE THE
PROPOSALS IN DETAIL OVER THE NEXT WEEK OR SO AND THAT ANOTHER
MINISTERIAL MEETING SHOULD BE HELD TOWARDS THE END OF JUNE IN THE
HOPE THAT A FINAL AGREEMENT CAN THEN BE NEGOTIATED.

BRITAIN HAS BEEN OFFERED A QUOTA OF ABOUT 35.5 PER CENT OF THE
EC CATCH, AND UK MINISTER PETER WALKER SAID THE PROPOSALS ON ACCESS
TO EC FISHING WATERS FOR BRITISH FISHERMEN WERE BETTER THAN ANY
PREVIOUSLY TABLED BY THE COMMISSION.

THE COMMISSION ALSO PROPOSE THAT THE UK SHOULD BE GIVEN A
SIX-MILE EXCLUSIVE FISHING ZONE AROUND ITS SHORES, RATHER THAN THE
12 MILES FOR WHICH THE UK HAD BEEN ASKING, BUT THAT BRITISH FISHER-
MEN SHOULD HAVE PREFERENTIAL RIGHTS IN THE ZONE FROM SIX TO 12

MILES FOR FROM THE COASTLINE. ONLY FOREIGN FISHING
VESSELS WITH "HISTORIC RIGHTS" WOULD BE ALLOWED WITHIN THE SIX TO
12 MILE ZONE, AND THE SAME CRITERIA WOULD APPLY TO THE COASTAL
FISHING WATERS OF OTHER MEMBER STATES.

MORE

CONSULTATIONS WITH INDUSTRY

MR WALKER TOLD CORRESPONDENTS THAT BETWEEN NOW AND THE NEGOTIATION ON THE PACKAGE, THE UK WOULD CLOSELY EXAMINE THE DETAILED PROPOSALS AND CONSULT WITH THE BRITISH INDUSTRY.

STRESSING THAT THERE WERE BRITISH RESERVATIONS ON QUOTAS, HE SAID IT WAS NOT SIMPLY THE GLOBAL QUOTA OF THE EC CATCH THAT WAS IMPORTANT TO THE UK FISHING INDUSTRY BUT THE QUOTAS FOR INDIVIDUAL FISH SPECIES WHICH THE INDUSTRY CONSIDERED OF GREATEST VALUE AND MOST MARKETABLE IN BRITAIN.

THE MINISTER SINGLED OUT AS "ABSOLUTELY UNJUSTIFIABLE," FOR EXAMPLE, A PROPOSED REDUCTION IN THE UK QUOTA FOR HERRING OFF THE WEST COAST OF SCOTLAND.

THERE WOULD SIMILARLY BE CONSULTATIONS WITH THE INDUSTRY ON ACCESS AREAS OF PARTICULAR IMPORTANCE TO IT, AND ON ANY SPECIAL PROBLEMS POSED FOR LOCAL FISHING COMMUNITIES IN BRITAIN.

MR WALKER SAID THE UK, BACKED BY SOME OTHER STATES, CONSIDERED DURABILITY FOR WHATEVER AGREEMENT IS FINALLY REACHED TO BE OF GREAT IMPORTANCE. IT IS PROPOSED THAT THE AGREEMENT SHOULD RUN INITIALLY FOR TEN YEARS AND BE RENEWED FOR A SIMILAR PERIOD THEREAFTER UNLESS SPECIFICALLY ENDED BY THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS.

UK WELCOMES POLICING

THE BRITISH MINISTERS GAVE A PARTICULARLY WARM WELCOME TO AN AGREEMENT REACHED IN THE COUNCIL TODAY TO ESTABLISH AN EFFECTIVE SYSTEM OF POLICING TO BACK EC FISHERIES REGULATIONS - SOMETHING FOR WHICH BRITAIN HAS BEEN PRESSING FOR YEARS.

THE COUNCIL AGREED THAT A 45-STRONG EC INSPECTORATE BE ESTABLISHED WITH POWERS TO BOARD FISHING VESSELS, INSPECT LOG BOOKS, EXAMINE NETS, CHECK LANDING DECLARATIONS AND STOP ALTOGETHER THE CATCHING OF ANY PARTICULAR FISH STOCK IN CASES OF OVER-FISHING

THE AGREEMENT ALSO REQUIRES MEMBER STATES TO MAINTAIN THEIR OWN INSPECTORATES WHOSE OPERATIONS WILL BE MONITORED BY THE EC ENFORCEMENT BODY.

THE UK, SAID MR WALKER, HAD LONG CONSIDERED THAT THE PRESENT SYSTEM OF CONTROL WAS INADEQUATE AND URGED THAT THE COMMISSION SHOULD HAVE PROPER ENFORCEMENT POWERS.

THE SYSTEM AGREED TODAY WOULD ENTER INTO FORCE ON FINALISATION OF A COMMON FISHERIES POLICY, OR IF THIS WAS NOT SETTLED BY THE END OF THIS YEAR, WOULD ENTER INTO OPERATION ANYWAY ON 1 JANUARY 1983.

"AT LONG LAST WE HAVE ACHIEVED A PROPER SYSTEM OF ENFORCEMENT AND THIS IS A MAJOR AND IMPORTANT OBJECTIVE FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF THE BRITISH FISHING INDUSTRY," MR WALKER DECLARED.

CONSERVATION REGULATION AGREED

MR WALKER SAID MINISTERS HAD ALSO AGREED A CONSERVATIONS REGULATION WHICH WOULD CONTINUE IN FORCE UNTIL DECEMBER IN ANY EVENT, AND PRESUMABLY WOULD BE ENSHRINED PERMANENTLY IN THE CFP WHEN THIS WAS FINALISED.

THE REGULATION WAS COMPLETELY IN LINE WITH WHAT BRITAIN REQUIRED IN TERMS OF NET SIZES AND OTHER CONSERVATION MEASURES, HE ADDED.

SETTLEMENT IN SIGHT

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE FISHERIES COUNCIL IS EXPECTED TO BE HELD WITHIN A FORTNIGHT, AND DESPITE STRONG DANISH RESERVATIONS, INFORMED SOURCES HERE BELIEVED THAT A SETTLEMENT OF THE EC'S LONG-STANDING DISPUTE OVER FISHERIES, WHICH HAS DEFIED RESOLUTION FOR MORE THAN FIVE YEARS, MAY NOW BE IN SIGHT. (LPS)