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10 DOWNING STREET

Lawrence

THE PRIME MINISTER

Personal Minute

No. M4/83

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FOOD

At this morning's Cabinet meeting I was delighted to express to you the congratulations of the Cabinet on the agreement on the European Community's common fisheries policy.

After starting from a position in which Britain was isolated in the Community in defending the interests of our fishermen, it is a splendid achievement to have reached an agreement which is not only acceptable to our partners but has been welcomed by the United Kingdom fishing industry. That achievement is a tribute to the expertise, negotiating ability and stamina of yourself, George Younger and your teams. It is a landmark in the development of the European Community, and I am delighted that Britain has played a leading part in its attainment.

Please pass my warmest congratulations to Alick Buchanan-Smith and the officials in all Departments who have supported you in the negotiations.

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

Margaret Thatcher

27 January 1983

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