



Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
Whitehall Place London SW1A 2HH

From the Minister's Private Office

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

14 July 1983

I have for made this visit
Dear Willie

WRN 14/7

COUNCIL OF FISHERIES MINISTERS: 11-12 JULY 1983

... I attach a copy of the statement which Mr Jopling 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); David Beamish (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

COUNCIL OF FISHERIES MINISTERS, 11/12 JULY, 1983.

With permission Mr Speaker, I wish to make a statement on the Council of Fisheries Ministers meeting in Brussels on 11 and 12 July

Together with my rt hon Friend the Secretary of State for Scotland and my hon Friend the Minister of State in my Department, I represented the United Kingdom.

After further lengthy discussions the Council could not reach agreement on the package of proposals for total allowable catches, quotas, associated conservation provisions and structural implementing measures which were under consideration. Nor was it possible, because one Member State invoked its vital national interest, to reach agreement on interim measures which would have permitted fishermen from Member States and from Norway to continue fishing for North Sea herring.

However, the principal problem was on North Sea herring and it was agreed that a Commission Group of Experts should be asked to carry out an urgent study of the allocation of quotas for this stock. This is a technical study and it is clearly established that the Group will be concerned only with the application of the criteria laid down in the Council Declaration of 30 May, 1980. The work will be completed in time to report to the Council at its next meeting, now scheduled for 25 and 26 July. In the meantime, fishing for herring in the North Sea by those Member States who have exhausted their interim quotas and by Norway will cease.

I took the opportunity to press the Commission on the need for more rapid implementation of the arrangements for enforcement. I am glad to say that the Commission undertook to have at least some of their inspectors in post by the end of September and to have log-books in operation before 1 November. These will be significant steps towards more effective control to which I attach considerable importance.

14 JUL 1983

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