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GUILDHALL,
KINGSTON UPON HULL
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Prime Minister.

To me.
I am sincerely
in your behalf.
Hull
2/11

20th March, 1980.

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Dear Prime Minister,

I think you will know that the interest you showed in our fishing problems when you visited Guildhall last week was very much welcomed.

One of the main purposes of our discussion was to draw your attention to the current disproportionate and, in my view artificial charges for fish landings at Hull. These make us totally uncompetitive with other British ports.

I enclose an extract from yesterday's Hull Daily Mail which relates to the presence of an Icelandic trawler which, according to the account, is ready to discharge 2400 kits of wet fish at Hull provided charges more comparable with other ports can be agreed. This illustrates precisely the problem which now faces our port.

To-day the Town Clerk and Chief Executive has contacted the British Transport Docks Board in Hull and in London and understands that interim arrangements are being discussed with the Fishing Vessel Owners which could prevent further fishing vessels being deterred from landing their catches in Hull - at least for the time being.

I am writing to keep you informed of the present critical situation in the fishing industry as far as the City is concerned and trust that your Ministers will continue to monitor the situation closely until a long term solution can be realised.

In conclusion, I would add that all interested parties in the fishing industry will be meeting in Guildhall to-morrow to consider further the present situation.

Yours sincerely,

Patrick J. Doyle

Leader, Kingston upon Hull
City Council

The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher, MP,
Prime Minister,
10 Downing Street,
LONDON.

HULL DAILY MAIL

WEDNESDAY

19th MARCH, 1930.

'Tragic' decision by Docks Board

THE BRITISH Transport Docks Board has refused to lower its £51 a tonne landing charge at Hull to enable an Icelandic trawler to discharge 2,400 kits of wet fish in the port.

The Board's decision was described today by Mr Bob Dalton, secretary of the Hull Fishing Vessel Owners' Trading Co., Ltd., as a tragedy.

"It is the beginning of the season and we could have been landing 300 to 400 tonnes of Icelandic fish a week, building up to about 700 tonnes a week around July, if the Board had agreed to reduce its charge," he added.

Last year the port dealt with this quantity of Icelandic fish but the Icelanders are now refusing to come to the port when they face landing charges of only about £10 a tonne at Grimsby and Fleetwood.

After the Board's top-level decision this morning, the Icelandic trawler Arsaell Sitgurdsen was informed as it waited in the North Sea.

CONGESTION

The trawler would have come to Hull if the Board had agreed to an acceptable landing charge which could have been marginally higher than the Grimsby rate.

She would have put in to Hull on these terms because of congestion at Grimsby.

"Now she might go to Grimsby, Fleetwood, the Continent or even back to Iceland," added Mr Dalton.

"It is a tragedy — but there it is. I would have thought the Board would have taken the view that some income from the Fish Dock was better than nothing at all, for as long as it remains open the Board is incurring costs."

In anticipation of a favourable reply from the Board a team of just over 60 bobbers had been alerted to land the vessel tonight, together with four fitters and electricians.

The whole of the Hull fish landing force was made redundant some weeks ago because of lack of work for them and about 10 fitters and electricians employed by the Trading Company were laid off earlier this month.

The Board's decision means the immediate loss of a night's work for the bobbers and the possibility of work during coming months if the charge had been reduced sufficiently to attract further trawlers