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Top copy in Germany, May 1979

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

11 May 1979

Prime Minister's Discussions with Chancellor Schmidt on
10 May: Fisheries

I have omitted from the record which I am sending you separately of the Prime Minister's discussions with Chancellor Schmidt at No. 10 on 10 May, at which the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary and Herr Genscher were present, a short exchange on the handling of fisheries policy of which you should be aware.

Chancellor Schmidt told the Prime Minister that he had always taken the view that fisheries should be dealt with by Foreign Ministers, given the extent to which international law came into the issue; Ministers of Agriculture, in the Chancellor's view, were not properly qualified to deal with this. Lord Carrington told Chancellor Schmidt that the new Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Peter Walker, was not only extremely able but was very well qualified for his job and had as one of his Junior Ministers Mr. Alick Buchanan-Smith who was not only a farmer but also an expert on fisheries. Lord Carrington said, nevertheless, that he would certainly not neglect the fisheries problem.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Martin Vile (Cabinet Office).

BGC

G.G.H. Walden, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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