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10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

3 November 1982

PRIME MINISTER'S

PERSONAL MESSAGE

SERIAL No. T200A/82

Dear Prime Minister

Thank you for your letter of 21 October. I am delighted that confrontation was avoided at the Fisheries Council earlier this week. The path of negotiation and compromise was taken, as you and I both earnestly wished. Peter Walker tells me that much credit is due to Mr. Henning Christophersen, whose conduct of the meeting was in the very best traditions of a Community Presidency.

Compromise proposals were made on two of the three issues you particularly mentioned.

I am sorry that this was insufficient to enable your delegation to agree the final Commission proposals then and there, and all our colleagues in the Community hope that your Government and Parliament will accept the final settlement when it is explained to them.

It is very clear that the negotiation is now ended, and that there is no prospect of further adaptation of the proposals.

The alternative is agonisingly clear. If Denmark cannot signal her agreement all prospect of successful negotiation of a Common Fisheries Policy will disappear, perhaps for some considerable time.

/ Our industries



Our industries will be plunged into a further period of uncertainty. The problems of the last few years have left them in a desperately weakened state, and painful and potentially divisive measures will have to be taken on a national basis to protect them and the stocks they fish. Such a position will certainly be far worse than the much improved proposals that are now on offer for Denmark. If Denmark can agree, there will be every hope and expectation that a well regulated regime will form the basis for rebuilding the stocks and our fishing industries. It will be a triumph for Europe, and a great triumph for the Danish Presidency.

I am well aware of some at least of the tremendous political pressures upon you. If you can overcome them, you will earn the gratitude and admiration of myself and all those who wish to see Europe succeed, and European fishing industries flourish.

Yours sincerely

Margaret Thatcher

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His Excellency Mr. Poul Schlüter