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CF. to rise

Fishing MFJ 14
cc MAF



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10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

16 June 1980

You wrote to me on 20 May about the problems of the fishing industry.

Peter Walker has been keeping me closely in touch with developments. I know that he and George Younger held a meeting with representatives of the main fishing organisations on 13 May who set out very strongly the case for action to protect the industry from the impact of weak prices and high costs.

We have, of course, taken some action to help the industry. We introduced an aid package in March which will continue to benefit the industry through the summer. The full benefits of this will not yet have been felt by the industry. I understand too that action is being taken within the Community to influence import prices by raising reference prices and some tariffs although not too much should, I understand, be expected to flow from this.

The question is clearly whether what we have done so far is enough. I understand that Peter Walker and George Younger have asked the industry to co-operate in drawing up a full picture of its economic situation and will be meeting its

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leaders again early next month to reassess the position. This should provide a basis on which, if necessary, we can look again at the need for fresh measures to help the industry meet its problems.

(SGD) MARGARET THATCHER

The Right Honourable James Prior, M.P.

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