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17 June 1982

EUROPEAN COUNCIL, BRUSSELS

28/29 JUNE 1982

COMMON FISHERIES POLICY

Brief by Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

OBJECTIVE

1. Emphasise UK seeks early settlement, obtain as much support as possible that Council of Fisheries Ministers, also meeting on 28/29 June, be encouraged to reach agreement.

POINTS TO MAKE

2. Pleased that on 15 June partners generally showed a will to reach agreement on revised Common Fisheries Policy. Hope Fisheries Ministers will reach full agreement in their meeting today. Essential for UK to have satisfactory share of fish stocks of interest to her industry and adequate protection for coastal fishermen. In interests of all Community industry to have stability which agreed CFP would bring.

BACKGROUND

3. The Council of Fisheries Ministers met in Luxembourg on 14 and 15 June. The first meeting since October 1981. The next meeting has been agreed for 28/29 June.

4. New proposals from the Commission concerning access to waters, quotas and total allowable catches (TACs) were issued late on 14 June. There was therefore no detailed discussion of these aspects during the meeting but an expert working group has been

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convened to study the proposals in detail and to report to the Council before the next meeting.

5. These proposals, particularly quotas, contain elements which are unacceptable to the United Kingdom but, subject to further study, could form the basis for useful discussion. A consultation meeting with the UK industry has been arranged for Friday, 18 June.

6. Some progress was made on other subjects:-

(a) a draft regulation on control and supervision, which provides enforcement rules which member states will apply in their own waters and for a Commission Inspectorate to monitor national Inspectorates, was agreed to come into effect at the latest by 1.1.83;

(b) interim arrangements were made to cover payments to fishermen in respect of marketing operations for the rest of this year;

(c) all but one of the provisions in a revised conservation regulation were agreed.

7. If difficulties develop at the next stage of discussions they are most likely to arise from the attitude of the Danes whose Minister was the only one to adopt a negative approach on 15 June.

Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

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