

cannot be a special case when it comes to withdrawal of troops from Lebanon.

On November 21, in the House, the External Affairs Minister clarified his remarks on the role of Syria saying that "our view . . . is that all foreign forces should withdraw unless specifically requested by the Government of Lebanon . . . . We have made it clear about Israeli forces. We have made it equally clear about Syrian forces and the PLO." Syria, he continued, could be either a "positive force or a destructive force" in the peace negotiations. Canada hoped the Syrians would choose the latter role. The Minister added that, overall, his visit had improved relations not only with Israel but with all countries in the region.

## NASCO

### Salmon Conservation Convention Ratified

A Government of Canada press release of October 13 announced that Canada had ratified the International Convention for the Conservation of Salmon in the North Atlantic Ocean.

The Convention, which entered into force upon ratification, was the culmination of several years of negotiation with the other North Atlantic salmon-producing and salmon-fishing countries: the United States, the European Community, Iceland, Norway, Denmark (for the Faeroes Islands) and Sweden.

The Convention is important to Canadian fishing interests as many salmon which originate in Canadian rivers are caught outside of Canadian waters where they have migrated in order to feed and mature before returning to their rivers of origin in order to spawn. In 1982 it was estimated that 45 percent of the 1077 tonnes of salmon caught off West Greenland were Canadian in origin. Because of this, international cooperation is required to minimize the interception of salmon by fishermen in other waters.

The Convention has created the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization (NASCO), which will have as its prime objective "to contribute, through consultation and cooperation, to the conservation, restoration, enhancement and rational management of North Atlantic salmon stocks. Controlling salmon interceptions will be one of the Organization's prime functions" (Government of Canada press release, October 13).

Canada is a member of NASCO's Council as well as of two of its three commissions.

## NATO

### NATO to Cut Nuclear Arsenal

Fourteen defence ministers from the sixteen-country NATO military alliance met at Montebello, Quebec, from October 26 to 28. *The Citizen* reported on October 27 that the High Level group, under the chairmanship of United States Assistant Defence Secretary, Richard Perle, wanted the meeting "to be considered a response to worldwide peace marches opposing the nuclear arms build-up by both U.S.-led NATO and the Soviet Union."

At a press conference at the conclusion of the talks,

NATO Secretary General Joseph Luns stated that the NATO nuclear arsenal in Europe would be reduced by 1400 warheads during the next five to six years and, in addition, existing warheads would be reduced by one for each of the 572 new Pershing and Cruise missiles deployed in the area. The weapons to be dismantled would include nuclear artillery shells, air-delivered warheads and short-range missiles.

Mr. Luns, speaking for the group, reaffirmed their determination to deploy the new intermediate-range missiles, starting in December. The Ministers, in a joint statement, called on the Soviet Union to "follow the example set by the [NATO] alliance, to halt and reverse its buildup of nuclear forces." (See MULTILATERAL RELATIONS — UNITED NATIONS.)

## UNITED NATIONS

### International Disarmament Day Observed

October 22 was proclaimed an International Day of Disarmament, kicking off the United Nations Disarmament Week from October 24 to 31. A press release by the October 22nd Committee stated that the groups involved advocated that Canada return to its traditional role as a peacemaker by promoting balanced, multilateral disarmament.

Demonstrators in Canada numbered about 40,000, far short of the anticipated turnout. In Toronto 20,000 people protested the Cruise testing and demonstrated for peace; 10,000 people in Montreal joined hands to link the American and Soviet consulates; 5,000 people gathered on Parliament Hill in Ottawa.

In Edmonton, Defence Minister Jean-Jacques Blais suggested, according to *The Citizen*, that peace groups were playing into the hands of the Soviet Union at a time when the Geneva disarmament negotiations were at a crucial stage. The Minister said, "The consequence of course is the potential weakening of [the North Atlantic Treaty Organization] because we recognize that if we are to be effective at the bargaining table there has to be resolve amongst the NATO allies."

In Saskatoon, NDP Leader Ed Broadbent told his audience of 3,000 that Canada could refuse to test the Cruise without violating any NATO agreement and he urged Canadians to pressure the Government to stop the tests (*The Citizen*, October 24).

The demonstrations in Europe turned out more than one and a half million protesters, nearly half a million of them on Sunday in Brussels, Madrid and Paris. The campaigners said the huge turnout indicated widespread opposition to the deployment of 572 Pershing 2 and Cruise missiles in Europe (Canadian Press reports, October 24).

At the same time, the Canadian Council for Peace and Freedom held a conference which was attended by about thirty-five people. The Council, as reported by *The Citizen*, "believes the international peace movement has frightened the public over the true defence purposes of nuclear arsenals."

Arthur Mathewson, chief of defence policy planning at National Defence, said that particle beams, lasers and energy-targeted weapons had great potential to replace nuclear weapons. The fact that both sides recognize that