

We have been conscious of the need to avoid disputes with other countries stemming from our new fisheries-management regime. For this reason, Canada has taken a number of steps internationally, aimed at achieving a smooth transition to our new 200-mile jurisdiction regime.

Our first priority was to obtain agreement within the International Commission for the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries ICNAF on fishing quotas for the calendar year 1977 that would correspond to Canadian requirements within the 200-mile zone. At Canada's insistence, total allowable catches of stock have been set at levels low enough to ensure rebuilding of threatened species over a period of time. There will be a further meeting of ICNAF in December in Spain to deal with the quotas on a few remaining stocks.

The Commission, at our urging, is in the process of examining the role it might play in future. We have given formal notice of Canada's intention to withdraw from the Convention, as has the U.S.A. I am hopeful, however, that ICNAF can make the necessary adjustment to Canada's exclusive jurisdiction, management and enforcement in the 200-mile zone, and that new arrangements will preserve the long tradition of international co-operation, particularly in the field of scientific research, that has grown up within the Commission. On this basis, Canada could continue to play a full and active part in the work of the Commission. After the December meeting, we shall be in a better position to assess what our attitude toward ICNAF should be for the coming year.

Our next priority was to negotiate bilateral agreements with those countries that together account for almost 90 per cent of the foreign fishing operations off our coasts. The Government has now concluded an intensive round of bilateral negotiations, and fisheries agreements are now in place with Norway, the U.S.S.R., Poland, Spain and Portugal. These agreements set out the terms and conditions that Canada will apply in permitting foreign fishermen, under Canadian management and control, to harvest certain stocks surplus to our needs.

In addition, we have required the submission of fishing programs from all members of ICNAF who wish to fish off our coasts in 1977. This information is essential in order to ensure that these projected fishing operations are compatible with the quotas established by ICNAF with Canadian concurrence.

The problems on the Pacific coast are no less important and we are taking the steps we consider necessary to ensure that Canadian jurisdiction in our new Pacific zone is effective. Our recent bilateral agreements with the U.S.S.R. and Poland cover the Pacific