

The Federal Minister then noted that the most significant outcome of the meetings with the USSR, Spain and Portugal was the willingness of all three to sit down now to work out the terms and conditions governing continued fishing by their fleets in waters off Canada's coasts in the light of anticipated legal and jurisdictional changes, i.e., the establishment of an extended Canadian fishing zone.

The presentation of the Canadian case had been based on the assumption that Canada's fishing jurisdiction will inevitably be extended to 200 miles, one way or another; and foreign officials appeared to accept this assumption. "They know it's coming and they know that, before long, offshore fishing fleets will need, in the law as well as in fact, the co-operation of Canada to operate in the Northwest Atlantic," said Mr. MacEachen.

In conclusion, the Secretary of State for External Affairs cautioned that, even if Canada has some real clout in the matter, it is important and very much in the interest of the Atlantic Provinces that Canadian goals be achieved and foreign governments dealt with, whenever possible, in such a way that longer-term international co-operation in fisheries will not be compromised.

"The higher the Canadian catch, the more important it will be for us to have secure markets abroad; and many of these markets are to be found in the countries whose fleets are fishing in the waters off our coasts, because their population eats more fish than Canadians do," said Mr. MacEachen.

"There are several other reasons why we should ensure that it will be politically feasible, in the future, to expand co-operation with other fishing nations," the Nova Scotia Minister went on to say. "Access to technology might be one of them, for we all know that some of the foreign fishermen off our coasts are pretty efficient. Could it not be to our advantage, some day, to negotiate joint ventures with them?"