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DIFFUSION: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
RELEASE: February 14, 1979

JOINT STATEMENT ON ATLANTIC COAST FISHERIES
AND BOUNDARY AGREEMENTS

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Don Jamieson, and the Secretary of State, the Honourable Cyrus Vance, announced today the approval by the Governments of Canada and the United States of the recommendations of Special Negotiators Marcel Cadieux and Lloyd N. Cutler for an Atlantic coast fisheries agreement and an agreement to resolve the boundary delimitation issue in the Gulf of Maine area by binding third party procedures.

The agreements reached will be set out in two separate but related treaties, one on fisheries and the other on third party resolution of the boundary delimitation issue, which would enter into force simultaneously. Treaty texts should be ready for signature by the first of March. They will then be subject to ratification in accordance with the domestic legal requirements of each country. Mr. Jamieson and Mr. Vance expressed their desire to have both treaties ratified as early as possible.

The fisheries agreement builds on the Joint Report of the Special Negotiators that was approved by the two governments in October 1977. A joint fisheries commission will be established to implement the agreement and to provide for cooperative management of fish stocks of mutual interest. Dispute settlement mechanisms will be included as part of the institutional framework created by the agreement in order to resolve any differences that might arise in its interpretation or implementation.

The fisheries agreement also contains detailed sharing, access and management provisions for fish stocks of mutual interest