

response to a question asked in the Senate on December 20 last by the Honourable Senator Bonnell respecting Panama—United States Invasion of Panama—Timing of United States Consultation with Prime Minister.

(The answer follows:)

President Bush called Prime Minister Mulroney after the USA intervention in Panama had commenced on December 20, 1989.

FISHERIES

OVERFISHING BY EUROPEAN VESSELS IN ATLANTIC CANADA

Hon. C. William Doody (Deputy Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, I have a delayed answer in response to a question asked in the Senate on December 13 last by the Honourable Senator Bonnell respecting Fisheries—Overfishing by European Vessels in Atlantic Canada.

(The answer follows:)

Canada has denied access to ports and rights to fish in Canadian waters to vessels which do not cooperate with Canada on conservation.

The Government has improved surveillance and enforcement capability along the 200-mile limit and increased penalties for violations.

Canada has maintained the support of other NAFO members regarding the overfishing problem, the EC's disregard of NAFO decisions and the need for compliance with the established NAFO conservation regime by all members of the organization.

Mr. Alan Beesley, an internationally respected expert on the Law of the Sea, has been appointed Ambassador for Marine Conservation, with responsibility to coordinate Canada's efforts to resolve the problem of foreign overfishing.

Provincial and industry representatives have been consulted continually on the steps taken by the Government.

The Government will continue the comprehensive public information campaign to press the European Community to end its overfishing outside the Canadian 200-mile limit. The campaign will stress the environmental, political and socio-economic impact on both sides of the Atlantic of continued EC overfishing.

The Government intends to continue the diplomatic initiatives begun in 1989 to gain EC compliance with NAFO decisions and end EC overfishing in the North-west Atlantic.

The Prime Minister and Ministers will continue to take every opportunity to pursue this issue at the highest levels with EC leaders and Member State counterparts.

Arrangements are being made for Mr. Manuel Marin, EC Vice-President and Commissioner for Fisheries, to visit Canada for further discussions of EC overfishing in the northwest Atlantic.

[Senator Doody.]

The Prime Minister has written to EC President Jacques Delors urging a review of the EC's decision to fish 2J3KL cod outside the Canadian 200-mile limit, contrary to the NAFO decision. President Delors has in response agreed to meet the Prime Minister, perhaps in the spring, to discuss the issue.

Bilateral and multilateral initiatives are being pursued to develop international law so as to enhance the rights of Coastal States in the management of stocks that straddle 200 mile limits. A proposal is being developed for an international conference of experts to examine this issue.

Within NAFO, Canada is examining ways to ensure that the Organization works in accordance with its responsibility to conserve the stocks it manages.

PANAMA

UNITED STATES MILITARY ACTION—LEGALITY UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW AND CONFORMITY WITH UNITED NATIONS CHARTER

Hon. C. William Doody (Deputy Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, I have a delayed answer in response to a question asked in the Senate on December 20 last by the Honourable Senator MacEachen respecting Panama—United States Military Action—Legality Under International Law and Conformity with United Nations Charter.

(The answer follows:)

The SSEA's statement of December 20, 1989 expressed regret over the use of force by the USA in Panama but extended sympathetic understanding and support to the USA since: a) all reasonable and extraordinary diplomatic efforts to negotiate with General Manuel Noriega had failed, and b) the killing of an off-duty US military officer and threats to the families of US servicemen had demonstrated that the lives of American citizens, who were stationed in Panama by right of treaty, were in jeopardy.

These events took place after General Noriega's unilateral declaration of a "state of war" with the United States. Under these circumstances, the United States' government invoked Article 51 of the United Nations Charter, which permits states to use force in self-defence. Considering the aggression displayed the régime of General Noriega before December 20, 1989, the Government of Canada accepted the United States' government's explanation of the need to resort to force, and expressed regret that the situation had deteriorated to the extent that force was required.