

I now wish to draw your attention to an important aspect of the notice of Order-In-Council tabled by my colleague, the Minister of Fisheries and the Environment, on November 2, namely, the geographic coordinates defining the fishing zones in which Canada will be exercising jurisdiction. If members agree, I would be prepared to table maps prepared by the Canadian Hydrographic Service illustrating the new zones as prescribed by the coordinates in the Order-In-Council. These coordinates raise maritime boundary implications with neighbouring countries. The Order-In-Council makes express reference to boundary delimitation talks with the U.S., France and Denmark and affirms that the limits of the Canadian fishing zones as defined in the Order are "without prejudice to any negotiations respecting the limits of maritime jurisdiction in such areas;...".

The United States Government has responded to the publication of the Order-In-Council by issuing in the form of a Notice in their Federal Register of November 4, 1976, a list of coordinates defining the lateral limits of its prospective fisheries zone, as well as its continental shelf in the areas adjacent to Canada. In a number of areas these lines differ from the Canadian coordinates. We do not accept these lines and we are so informing the United States Government through diplomatic channels. I am pleased to note however that the U.S. Government has mirrored the approach taken in the Order-In-Council by making it clear in the Federal Register Notice that the coordinates listed therein are without prejudice to any negotiation with Canada or to any positions which may have been or may be adopted respecting the limits of maritime jurisdiction in the boundary areas adjacent to Canada.

During my visit to France, I had the occasion to discuss with the French Foreign Minister our plans for extension of jurisdiction by January 1 in the area off our east coast. At that time precisely, on November 3, the European Community officially announced the decision taken by all member countries to extend their jurisdiction over fisheries to 200 miles by January 1, 1977. While the new management regime will be decided by the Community, the determination of the exact areas to be brought under extended jurisdiction, of course, continues to belong to the individual member countries, and the matter of delimitation of waters off St. Pierre and Miquelon remains a question for Canada and France to work out. What I particularly wished to underline in Paris, and my French colleague was quick to respond favourably, relates to the urgent need for both our countries to put in place by the end of this year interim arrangements in waters close to the French islands. Such arrangements would avoid conflicting fisheries regulations, on matters such as enforcement and licensing. I am confident that as a result of those discussions in Paris, both sides have a keener appreciation of the necessity of early agreement on these arrangements.