

THAT THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS HAS CALLED IN THE U.S. AMBASSADOR AND GIVEN HIM A DIPLOMATIC NOTE STATING THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA IS NOT PREPARED AT THIS TIME TO CONTINUE PROVISIONAL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AGREEMENT. THE NOTE STATES THAT, CONSEQUENTLY, U.S. FISHING VESSELS WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO CONTINUE FISHING OPERATIONS IN CANADIAN FISHERIES WATERS AFTER 12 NOON JUNE 4. THIS MEANS, OF COURSE, THAT THE U.S. WILL TAKE CORRESPONDING ACTION AGAINST CANADIAN FISHING VESSELS IN U.S. WATERS.

THE GOVERNMENT HAS TAKEN THIS ACTION WITH GREAT RELUCTANCE, BUT UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES WE BELIEVE IT IS THE MOST APPROPRIATE MEANS OF MAINTAINING A BALANCE BETWEEN THE FISHING INTERESTS OF THE TWO COUNTRIES. I AM CONFIDENT THAT WE CAN WORK OUT, ON A CO-OPERATIVE BASIS, ENFORCEMENT ARRANGEMENTS IN THE BOUNDARY REGIONS THAT WILL AVOID CONFRONTATION.

THE PROBLEMS WE HAVE EXPERIENCED WITH THE INTERIM AGREEMENT DEMONSTRATE CLEARLY THE NEED FOR AN EARLY SETTLEMENT OF MARITIME BOUNDARIES AND FOR A LONG TERM AGREEMENT ON RECIPROCAL FISHING. MY COLLEAGUES AND I CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT A COMPREHENSIVE MARITIME BOUNDARIES/ RESOURCES AGREEMENT, ARRIVED AT BY NEGOTIATION, IS THE PREFERRED MEANS OF PROVIDING FOR THE EFFECTIVE AND MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL MANAGEMENT OF MARITIME RESOURCES IN CANADA/USA BOUNDARY AREAS.