

-- A meeting of Spanish and Canadian delegations, on August 6 and 7, at which it was agreed that steps would be taken to enable Spanish fisheries inspectors to work with Canadian inspectors in securing improved compliance with ICNAF regulations and that a new system of rapid communication between Canadian and Spanish officials will be put into operation to deal with possible violations. Spain will also give early consideration to the designation of a Spanish authority in the Northwest Atlantic with whom Canadian fisheries officials will be able to deal on a day-to-day basis with regard to enforcement questions and other related matters.

-- A meeting of Portuguese and Canadian delegations on September 4 and 5, at which Portuguese officials indicated, among other things, that they were taking measures to improve their fishing vessel log-books to bring about a fuller reporting of discarded by-catches, and that they would be intensifying their sampling programme to improve the assessment of the state of the stocks and the yields they can support. The Portuguese delegation also announced the intention of their Government to designate in the near future a Portuguese fisheries official stationed in St. John's, Newfoundland, who would deal directly with Canadian fisheries authorities on a day-to-day basis with regard to the implementation of conservation measures, their enforcement and other related matters.

-- Consultations with provincial ministers and officials as well as representatives of the fishing industry to seek their advice on and enlist their support of the federal government's strategy.

-- A meeting of the Secretary of State for External Affairs with the Ambassadors of all ICNAF countries in Ottawa, on September 2, at which an aide-mémoire stating Canada's position and requesting their co-operation was handed to them, while Canadian embassies abroad were simultaneously presenting the same document to the governments involved.

"These limited understandings are only a beginning, but at least they are a beginning," Mr. MacEachen continued. "We do not expect miracles from the discussions with other countries which will take place before the Montreal ICNAF meeting; but we expect that they will lead, at the very least, to similar understandings on some of the key issues. I am hopeful that, as a result of these intensive consultations, agreement on the Canadian proposals can be reached at the ICNAF meeting."