

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Hon. Don Jamieson, and the Minister of Fisheries and the Environment, the Hon. Roméo LeBlanc, are pleased to announce that a Reciprocal Fisheries Agreement between Canada and the United States of America has been concluded today, and that the following Joint Communiqué has been agreed for release in Ottawa and Washington, D.C.:

"The United States and Canada today signed in Washington a Reciprocal Fisheries Agreement to permit continuation of fishing by fishermen of each country off the coasts of the other for 1977, following extension of their respective fisheries jurisdiction to 200 miles. The agreement was signed on the Canadian side by L.H. Legault, Director General, International Directorate, Department of Fisheries and the Environment, and on the United States side by Ambassador Rozanne L. Ridgeway, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Oceans and Fisheries Affairs. The agreement will enter into force upon completion of internal proceedings by both sides.

The agreement was concluded following discussions between President Carter and Prime Minister Trudeau. The two leaders concurred that a fisheries agreement for 1977 should be concluded on the basis of the same spirit of cooperation which marked their overall discussions. They also reviewed the principles which would ensure that the interests of each in the fishing zone of the other are accommodated reciprocally for the remainder of this year.

The two sides looked forward to longer term arrangements which are yet to be negotiated. They welcomed the signature of the agreement as an important step in the evolution of their fisheries relationship and as a contribution to their close ties as neighbouring states."