

(Translation)

OTTAWA, March 27, 1972

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that it has been brought to the attention of the Government of France that certain vessels in the Gulf of St. Lawrence encountered some administrative difficulties when they attempted to enter the Strait of Belle Isle.

The Government of France recognizes that fishing vessels using this route shall be subject to the applicable Canadian fishery and pollution-control regulations, and will ask its nationals to comply closely with these provisions.

It considers that, with the above reservation, French fishing vessels have at all times the right of innocent passage in the Strait of Belle Isle.

Accept, Sir, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

PIERRE SIRAUD
Ambassador of France

The Honourable Mitchell Sharp,
Secretary of State for External Affairs,
OTTAWA, Ontario.