

Save the whales and we save ourselves, says scientist-diver down under

"Go slow and give the environment a chance.... If the nations don't agree on the law of the sea there will be the biggest land-grab in history — under water. As for whales, I agree with the slogan that if we can save them, maybe we can save ourselves." This was the message that was given by renowned Canadian marine scientist Joseph B. MacInnis, keynote speaker at Oceans '77, the World Underwater Congress in Melbourne, Australia, on June 11 and at the Annual Congress of the Ocean Society of New Zealand, in Auckland on June 19.

In his addresses to both meetings, Dr. MacInnis described from his own experience the beauty and wonders of the ocean and argued eloquently for the protection of the marine environment. He also delivered lectures in Australia on the medical and operational aspects of diving in the Canadian Arctic and introduced his latest film, *The Narwhals Came*. (The narwhal is a species of whale found in the Arctic seas, which has a horn like the mythical unicorn.)

Message reached many

On his trip "down under", sponsored partly by the Department of External Affairs, from June 10 to 20, Dr. MacInnis spoke publicly, in addition to his congress presentations, and held discussions with government officials, marine and environmental scientists, divers and businessmen in Melbourne, Canberra, Sydney and Auckland. Praising the staff of the Canadian high commissions and consulates who helped to arrange his program, he estimates that he spoke personally to over 100 people and lectured to live audiences of over 4,000, as well as appearing in over a dozen television and radio programs and press conferences.

One of the highlights of his tour was a 20-minute dive in Sydney with the New South Wales Minister of Environment and Planning, Paul Landa.

MacInnis the man

Dr. MacInnis, an international authority on underwater medical research and environmental marine research, is eminently qualified to plead the environmentalist cause. He is president of Undersea Research Ltd., of Toronto



Canadian marine scientist Dr. Joseph MacInnis (left) and Australia's New South Wales Minister for Planning and Environment Paul Landa (right), with instructor, Lieutenant Bruce Thompson, prepare to dive at the Clearance Diving School at HMAS Penguin, Sydney on June 16. Dr. MacInnis visited the School of Underwater Medicine and Australian Navy underwater facilities.

and is certified by the United States Navy as a "man-in-the-sea aquanaut" for the Sealab III program. In 1969, he designed and constructed *Sublimos*, Canada's first underwater habitat.

"Firsts" under ice

The 40-year-old doctor, a native of Barrie, Ontario, has carried out diving research throughout the world and led four scientific diving expeditions to Resolute Bay, 600 miles north of the Arctic Circle from 1970 to 1974. He led the first dive under the ice at the North Pole and established the first Polar dive station under ice. He also made the first telephone call, via satellite from the floor of the Arctic Ocean to Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau at his home in Ottawa. In 1975, Dr. MacInnis accompanied Prince Charles on a dive beneath Polar ice, when the prince carried 50 pounds of weights. "I told him," said MacInnis, "the first 25 were to overcome the problems of the suit, and the second 25 to overcome reluctance."

Dr. MacInnis is also a professional

undersea filmmaker and author. His film *Deep Androsia* was awarded a gold medal of excellence at the International Film Festival in Santa Monica, U.S.A., in 1965 and his underwater photographs have appeared in such publications as *National Geographic* and *Sports Illustrated*. Since January this year, he has lectured in nine countries, including Britain, France, Germany, Israel, Sweden and Norway.

Media coverage

The Australian media gave Dr. MacInnis extensive coverage. Most major dailies reported his visit. A full-page article on his accomplishments appeared in *The Bulletin*, Australia's equivalent of *Time* magazine. He appeared for 20 minutes as feature guest on the popular *Don Lane Show* and was interviewed on several radio programs and three of the four Australian networks. The press was specially receptive to his plea for the protection of the marine environment. Sample newspaper headlines were: "Diving for a better sea future" (*The Australian*); "Deep down low-down on environment" (*The Sydney Morning Herald*); and "Diver warns of 'underwater land-grab'" (*The Bulletin*).

"From my point of view," says Dr. MacInnis, "the trip was a great success. "Going to Australia and New Zealand was an opportunity to discuss and show Canada's ocean facilities and to learn how other nations manage their own continental shelves."

Before he left Australia, Dr. MacInnis was invited to return next year, on a speaking tour of all State capitals. He expressed a strong interest in doing so.

Visitor from the Sudan

Foreign Minister Dr. Mansour Khalid of the Sudan, is in Canada from July 25 to August 7 at the joint invitation of Secretary of State for External Affairs Don Jamieson and Industry, Trade and Commerce, Minister Jean Chrétien. This is the first such visit to Canada by a high-ranking member of the Government of the Sudan.

Dr. Khalid and his delegation, which includes officials from five government ministries, are discussing a wide variety of bilateral economic interests, including trade and technical co-operation, as well as political subjects,