

spoken in a campaign in the U.K., Japan, and Paris. I met with the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries in Paris and the Minister of Agriculture in Bonn, who is responsible for fisheries as well. We have arranged parliamentary visits to the European Community and to European countries of both opposition and government members. We have had media campaigns, public relations campaigns. We have tried to get environmental groups, including Greenpeace and others, involved in this issue. To date they have been very reluctant to take any prominent role in it at all.

The only thing I can fathom is that the codfish or a fish is not some attractive little animal that you can get a TV audience really interested in from the point of view of it being warm-blooded or with big luminous eyes or cuddly looking, or whatever it is. The poor beast does not look like much. In fact I have to admit the codfish is a stupid looking animal and very difficult to cuddle.

It is not a fundraiser. It is not eye-catching, so we have had difficulty getting some of these groups involved as they should be, because this is the great ecological and environmental issue of this year and of the next several years, believe me, not just in the northwest Atlantic but everywhere in the world where pressure on the fish stocks is such that our fish stocks are in danger of not surviving.

We have taken action at NAFO. As a result of our efforts we have a special session of NAFO being held in May at which we are trying to get them to improve their surveillance and enforcement system.

We are always having trouble with the European Community. There have been some advances but their system is totally unsatisfactory. They do not know what is being caught out there by Spain and Portugal. The European Community relies on Spain and Portugal to report to them what is being landed in their countries. Spain and Portugal do not even have a sufficient number of inspectors to be present when their ships do arrive and land fish. When they report that skate is being caught or hake is being caught, they do not know whether that is really skate and hake or cod. We know that a great deal of what they report landed as skate and hake is really cod, and on and on it goes. A special meeting of NAFO will be held in May. We have addressed this issue in the UN. Ambassador Fortier made a very good speech on

### *Supply*

the subject just a month or so ago. We convened conferences, starting in St. John's, to get the international community to deal with this issue. The conferences continued to San Diego. Sixteen nations, including our own, have a resolution before UNCED to deal with this issue, to establish what the rights of the coastal state should be with reference to the management of straddling fish stocks.

It is a resolution that is also supported by Iceland, Chile, Argentina, New Zealand and by other concerned coastal countries. We are hoping to have many more signatories before the UNCED process ends in the great meeting in Rio de Janeiro in June.

Just this week I spent the day in New York meeting ambassadors from the United States, Japan, Argentina, Chile, Jamaica and other countries to try to get increased support for this resolution of the issue. I met with Mr. Maurice Strong, who is the Secretary-General of the UNCED conference and who agreed absolutely that this was an issue that must be front and centre at the final conference to be held in Rio de Janeiro in June. He said he would do all he could to assist in it being front and centre and being dealt with in an adequate manner.

We want a world conference of high seas fishing countries to be held that will adopt a resolution similar to ours to resolve this issue, so we are taking action on those fronts.

What we need to do now is to have people like Mr. Cashin, and other leaders of the industry in eastern Canada, perhaps the provincial governments, go to New York this month to make sure that the non-governmental organizations assembled there are brought up to date and made aware of this issue and get their support to see that the conference at Rio de Janeiro takes action on this issue.

It is not that there is no action being taken. A number of years ago we took action. We refused to allow European Community vessels to fish within our 200-mile limit for under-utilized stocks or stocks that we were not using because they would not observe proper conservation rules outside the 200-mile limit. That was action.

We took action to refuse to allow European Community countries to visit our ports. Their fishing vessels are no longer welcome in our ports unless they have an emergency or some reason of safety or to prevent a danger to life, health and safety that they might be