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CANADA/GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC
FISHERIES NEGOTIATIONS

The Department of External Affairs announced today that Canadian and German Democratic Republic representatives met in Ottawa on September 7, 8 and 9, 1977 to discuss their future cooperation in the field of fisheries.

The German Democratic Republic Delegation was led by Mr. L. Zeissler, Director-General, Ministry of Regionally-Managed Industries and Foodstuffs Industries. The Canadian Delegation was led by Mr. G.C. Vernon, Director-General, International Directorate, Fisheries and Marine Service, Department of Fisheries and the Environment.

The two sides put forward proposals as the possible basis for an agreement on the terms and conditions that would govern continued fishing by vessels of the German Democratic Republic in areas under Canadian jurisdiction. On the basis of these proposals, they agreed on the terms of an agreement which, if approved by both governments, would permit vessels of the German Democratic Republic to fish in the area concerned, under Canadian authority and control, for resources surplus to Canadian requirements. The agreement also recognizes the special interest of Canada, including the needs of Canadian coastal communities, in fisheries resources in the area beyond and immediately adjacent to the Canadian 200-mile zone. It is the third agreement to do so since the extension of Canadian jurisdiction to 200 miles: similar agreements have been concluded with Cuba, in May and with Romania, in June. It becomes the tenth agreement dealing with foreign fishing in the Canadian fishing zones.

The proposed Agreement, which will now be submitted for the approval of the two governments, constitutes the first to be concluded since the establishment of diplomatic relations between Canada and the German Democratic Republic.