

It is hoped that the two treaties, the one on the third party settlement of the boundary and the other on fisheries arrangements, will be completed and ready for signature, if possible by the beginning of March.

On the West Coast and the Beaufort Sea, it does not appear likely that early agreements can be reached on the settlement of the boundaries. However these questions will continue to be addressed. In the course of their numerous meetings, the two Negotiators have also been concerned with Pacific coast fisheries issues, and the field has been fully and carefully explored. It even looked, a few months ago, as if an agreement could be reached, but after careful consultation with the interested groups it turned out that this was not possible.

For the past several weeks, we have been discussing with the U.S. side the resumption of Pacific coast fisheries negotiations. The need for a Pacific coast agreement has been stressed repeatedly by Mr. Cadieux, as well as in other high-level contacts with the U.S. Administration. As a result, meetings have been arranged for later this week, to take place in Juneau, Alaska, in order to define and articulate the maximum areas of agreement which may be possible. It should be clear, then, that by reaching agreement on the Atlantic coast, we are not in any way abandoning our efforts to reach a fair and balanced agreement on the Pacific coast that will also serve our respective national and joint interests.