

MR. SPEAKER,

I STATED IN THE HOUSE ON MAY 18 THAT INFORMATION CONCERNING THE POSITION WHICH CANADA WILL TAKE AT THE FORTHCOMING ICNAF MEETING WOULD BE CONVEYED TO THE HOUSE. OUR POSITION AT THE ICNAF MEETING CANNOT BE DISCUSSED SEPARATELY FROM OUR POSITION ON EXTENDED CANADIAN FISHERIES JURISDICTION TO 200 MILES.

I WISH TO MAKE A STATEMENT ON BOTH THESE ISSUES, AND TO ANNOUNCE TODAY THE GOVERNMENT'S DECISION TO EXTEND THE FISHERIES JURISDICTION OF CANADA OUT TO 200 MILES FROM THE COAST. IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS DECISION UNDER EXISTING CANADIAN LEGISLATION WILL COME LATER THIS YEAR, AND IN ANY EVENT WILL BE IN PLACE BY JANUARY 1, 1977. THE STATE OF OUR FISHERY RESOURCE AND THE SITUATION OF OUR FISHERMEN, OF OUR FISHING INDUSTRY, AND OF OUR COASTAL COMMUNITIES, MAKE THIS ACTION IMPERATIVE. THERE WILL BE NO FISHERY RESOURCE LEFT TO PROTECT IF ACTION IS NOT TAKEN NOW -- BECAUSE THE FISH STOCKS WILL BE SO DEPLETED