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CANADA/BULGARIA FISHERIES NEGOTIATIONS

The Department of External Affairs announced today that Canadian and Bulgarian representatives met in Ottawa on September 21 to 23 to discuss their future co-operation in the field of fisheries.

The Bulgarian Delegation was led by Mr. L. Zhelyazkov, Head of the Legal Division of the Bulgarian Foreign Ministry. 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 Bulgarian vessels 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 Bulgarian vessels 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 fourth agreement to do so since the extension of Canadian jurisdiction to 200 miles: similar agreements have been concluded with Cuba in May, with Romania in June, and with the German Democratic Republic earlier in September.