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No: 96
No.:

DIFFUSION:
RELEASE:

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
OCTOBER 31, 1977

STATEMENT DELIVERED ON FRIDAY AFTERNOON, 28 OCTOBER 1977
BY AMBASSADOR WILLIAM R. BARTON,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF CANADA TO THE UNITED STATES

RENEGOTIATION OF NORTH PACIFIC FISHERIES CONVENTION

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The Department of External Affairs announced that delegations of Canada, Japan and the U.S.A. met October 24-26 in Anchorage, Alaska, to consider the future of the 1952 International Convention for the High Seas Fisheries of the North Pacific Ocean. All three countries are members of the International North Pacific Fisheries Commission, which was established under the Convention to conserve and manage fishery resources of the North Pacific Ocean. This initial renegotiation session was held to discuss the necessary revisions to the Convention to align it with recent extensions of national fisheries jurisdiction.

The Canadian delegation was headed by C.R. Levelton, Director-General, Fishing Services Directorate, Department of Fisheries and the Environment. Ambassador Thomas Clingan, Expert Consultant, Department of State, headed the U.S. delegation, and the Japanese delegation was headed by Kunio Yonezawa, Counsellor, Oceanic Fishery Department Fishery Agency.

All three delegations termed this initial meeting a useful and frank exchange of views. A further (and hopefully final) meeting is expected to be held not later than mid-January 1978.