

settlement of the contested maritime boundaries, it gradually emerged that, because of the large size of the disputed area and the very substantial economic and social implications, the problems on the east coast were more likely to be amenable to agreed solutions. Accordingly, in the last few months, the negotiators have concentrated their efforts on the east coast problems.

The result is two recommendations, which have now been accepted by both governments. One is that the maritime boundary in the Gulf of Maine/Georges Bank area be referred to binding third-party settlement procedures. Details of the third-party process such as the forum, its composition and the particular procedures relating to the case to be submitted to the court or tribunal will have to be worked out in further negotiations, which are now being undertaken on an urgent basis and, indeed, have already achieved a good measure of success. The negotiators have also recommended, and the governments have approved, a permanent Atlantic Coast Fisheries Agreement. Full substantive agreement has been reached on the three basic issues relating to fish stocks of common interest:

- (1) the management regime;
- (2) the entitlement or share which each country will take; and
- (3) the area of access.

It still remains, however, for officials to put this agreement in final, treaty language and this task is also now being undertaken as a matter of urgency.

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 Beauford 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 that 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.

If we can now reach agreement on the two Atlantic-coast treaties within the desirable

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