

peans from Canada's 200-mile fishing zone (*Globe and Mail*, November 6 and 14). While in France in November, reporters asked Prime Minister Trudeau whether he had directly threatened the French government with such retaliation. He said he did not, but had "indicated that if our European friends were so misguided as to exclude Canadian products on an erroneous basis we would have to look at GATT and other treaties to see if there was any compensation or retaliation that could be necessary." Mr. Trudeau said that he had, during his visit, talked extensively with the French Prime Minister and other ministers about the hunt, and had found that not only was the European public misinformed, but members of the French government were misinformed (*The Citizen*, November 11).

Canada's arguments relating to the seal population were "confirmed" by the awaited report from the above-mentioned ICES, issued November 12. According to a Fisheries and Oceans press release November 12, the "report by a widely-respected body of international experts has confirmed the effectiveness of Canada's management policies aimed at increasing the Northwest Atlantic harp seal population." The ICES report was prepared by scientists from five European countries, Canada and the US. The Council had reviewed twenty-three studies and had concluded that the harp seal populations had increased. For hooded seals, the evidence, although inconclusive, did not indicate a decline, in the scientists' view.

In late November, the campaigns by both the Canadians and the European interest groups intensified. Full page advertisements appeared in British and French newspapers aimed at creating emotional reaction by graphically detailing the killing of the cute white seal pups,

and urging the public to write to heads of state in support of the ban. Canada continued to make representations to European governments. The European Parliament had November 19 reaffirmed its support of the ban. Another Canadian delegation including Newfoundland Premier Brian Peckford and Newfoundland Fisheries Minister James Morgan went to Europe from November 27 to December 2.

On November 27 it was reported that the ten environment ministers of the EEC could not agree on the ban, or on any other measure to stop the import of seal products. It was reported that at a Brussels meeting, Britain and West Germany had opposed it, worried about Canada's challenge at GATT. The *Globe and Mail* reported November 27 that, "When the member states came to look at the issue over the past ten days, more and more of them saw the legal impediments to the ban, and agreement to proceed within the next week is considered highly unlikely despite the expected presence of anti-hunt protesters in Brussels."

Also in Europe, Fisheries Minister Pierre De Bané and Mr. Peckford addressed a press conference on November 29 in Copenhagen, warning that a ban on seal products would force Canada to consider counter-moves affecting European fishery rights in Canadian waters. Arguments made by Mr. De Bané and Mr. Peckford at the press conference concerned the scientific evidence that the seal population was not threatened, and the fact that thousands of Canadians in isolated areas are totally dependent on seal hunting for their livelihood, as their ancestors were. The Canadian delegation also visited Bonn, Paris and Brussels (*Globe and Mail*, November 27, *The Citizen*, November 30).

Policy

FOREIGN

Middle East

As Israeli troops withdrew from Lebanon in October and November, and the fighting there had decreased, Canada's Middle East policy did not receive the attention that it had during the months of August and September, when daily fighting in Lebanon had dominated the media.

Former External Relations Minister Pierre De Bané and Quebec Intergovernmental Affairs Minister Jacques-Yvan Morin were asked, but refused, to boycott a gathering held by the Association of Arab-American University Graduates because it was also attended by Dr. Fathi Arafat, brother of PLO leader Yasser Arafat and president of the

Palestinian equivalent of the Red Cross. The Canadian Jewish Congress had asked the Ministers to boycott the convention because it would be used as a forum "to demand the destruction of the State of Israel." At the conference, Mr. De Bané said that Canada is "firmly committed to Israel's existence, legitimacy, security and well-being." He said that the only solution to the continuing crisis in the Middle East was for Arabs and Israel to sit down and negotiate (*The Citizen*, October 20 and 27). This position was also emphasized during talks between External Affairs Minister Allan MacEachen and Egyptian Foreign Minister Kamal Hassan Aly during a visit to Ottawa beginning November 8. Canada is in favor of such mutual recognition (*The Citizen*, November 9).

At a convention November 24, the Ontario Federation

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