

We will pursue this matter vigorously. But if the U.S. Government approves this objectionable legislation, Canada will pursue dispute settlement under the Free Trade Agreement or the GATT. I trust that such measures will not be needed.

As a second topic, I am pleased to inform you that the Government of Canada has included fish on the list of items we could supply to Poland. If there is a requirement for fish identified by Poland, we will meet that requirement. We hope to have an answer shortly from the new Polish government.

My third topic is foreign overfishing. As representatives of the Atlantic fishing industry, you are well aware of the serious consequences of foreign overfishing, both for straddling stocks and Canadians that harvest and process them.

This year, the Prime Minister, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans and I began a series of contacts with Ministers of the European Community and its member states regarding foreign overfishing.

These contacts have broadened. For example, the Honourable Lucien Bouchard recently raised the overfishing issue with Prime Minister Rocard of France. As well, during my recent visit to Korea, I raised overfishing in the Northwest Atlantic, as well as the driftnet problem in the Pacific, with Korean Ministers.

The Government's principal focus at this time remains the European Community, whose fleets from Spain and Portugal are inflicting the most serious damage on Northwest Atlantic straddling stocks.

At the outset of the recent NAFO meeting, it seemed as if the European Community might take a different approach than it has since 1986, when it broke with its former policy of support for and adherence to NAFO decisions. EC Fisheries Commissioner Manuel Marin spoke to NAFO about an EC commitment to conservation.

However, at the NAFO meetings the EC did not deliver on that commitment. Instead, the EC voted against the 3L cod moratorium and abstained from voting on most Total Allowable Catches (TACs) and quotas. The EC now has to decide whether it will comply with the NAFO conservation measures or lodge objections and continue its overfishing.