

CANADA WELCOMES NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Mitchell Sharp, made the following Statement on Motions in the House of Commons on March 5:

I should like to take a few minutes of the time of the House in order to welcome an historic development marking the most important achievement to date in the field of arms control. I refer to the ceremony in Washington this morning and to the similar ceremony in Moscow today during which instruments of ratification of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty are being deposited by the United States, the Soviet Union and a sufficient number of other states to bring the Treaty into force.

This convention is the culmination of more than five years of negotiations in which Canada played a significant role. Canada ratified the Treaty on January 8, 1969 and was in fact the first nation with a technological capacity to produce nuclear weapons

to renounce this weapons option by ratifying the Non-Proliferation Treaty. We shall continue to stress the importance of adherence to the Treaty by those states that already have or are close to attaining the technological capacity to produce nuclear weapons — the so-called “near-nuclear” nations.

Canada welcomes the coming into force of this Treaty and urges all countries to make it an effective means of counteracting the dangers inherent in the proliferation of nuclear weapons. We hope that those nations which have signed the Treaty but not yet ratified it, as well as those which have not yet signed, will proceed to ratification and to implement its safeguards provisions designed to preclude proliferation. Finally, we hope and expect that, in accordance with Article VI of the Treaty, this substantial step forward will inspire renewed efforts to curtail the arms race.

ANCIENT SHARK TEETH

Among the many strange catches sent by fishermen to the Fisheries Research Board's Biological Station at St. Andrews, New Brunswick, are fossil shark teeth discovered in scallop beds on Georges Bank, off the southwest coast of Nova Scotia.

These teeth which are concave on the inner surface and convex on the outer with a smooth, silver-grey enamel coating, have finely notched and curved cutting edges either concave or convex depending on the part of the jaw from which they came. Large teeth have a black basal margin, and all have a sandstone mass at the base.

One tooth, a small specimen 1-5/8 inches long and 1-1/2 inches wide at the base, which was found in 1965 by the Nova Scotian scalloper *Lady Acadian*, is in excellent condition. Dr. W.B. Scott, curator of Ichthyology and Herpetology at the Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto, classified it as a tooth from a shark of the genus *Carcharodon*, which includes the present-day great white shark, also called the man-eater shark.

A much larger tooth (4-3/4 inches long and 3-3/4 inches wide), found in November 1966 in the catch of the scalloper *Lunenburger* was sent to Dr. Bobb Schaeffer, curator of the Department of Vertebrate Paleontology, American Museum of Natural History, New York, for identification. According to Dr. Schaeffer, the once proud owner of this tooth was *Carcharodon megalodon*, an extinct species of shark closely related to the man-eater shark found in temperate waters today. This giant roamed most of the oceans during the Miocene epoch (20 million years ago), terrorizing its marine contemporaries until it became extinct about 600,000 years ago.

Numerous fossilized shark teeth have been

found over the years by fishermen and scientific expeditions. During dredging operations in 1875 in the Pacific Ocean, the Challenger expedition found a 5-inch tooth which they felt belonged to a 100-ft. shark. Fossil teeth found in rocks of the Eocene period (55 million years ago) are even larger. These fish were monsters when compared to the modern white shark which rarely grows more than 20 feet.



Giant fossil shark tooth found on Georges Bank in 1966.