

During these past cold winter months, I have been reading reports about fisheries negotiations held in such sunny spots as the Canary Islands and Los Angeles. Bearing that in mind, I am a little concerned about any promises made to entice you to Ottawa while the snow is still melting. You are very welcome in any case, and I hope you will enjoy your visit.

Both as Secretary of State for External Affairs and as a Minister from Newfoundland responsible to fishermen, I consider the work you are beginning today to be of the utmost importance. A new course is to be charted here which will have far-reaching effects in future multilateral cooperation in the field of fisheries. Over the past year, agreements have emerged which, to a significant degree, make clear the pattern for future bilateral fishery relations, based on the 200-mile zone concept which has developed within the Law of the Sea Conference. What is less clear, however, is what new forms multilateral fisheries cooperation will take now that the 200-mile zone has been adopted widely.

The December meeting of the International Commission for the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries (ICNAF) took an historic step when it voted to accept an amendment to the Convention that restricts the Commission's management authority to the area beyond national fisheries limits. A second amendment also provided for the Commission to offer scientific advice to coastal states upon their request. These interim measures were, in the Canadian view, essential first steps. The task before you now is to conduct a more comprehensive examination of future multilateral cooperation with regard to the Northwest Atlantic fisheries, building not only on the new jurisdictional realities but on new approaches and new relationships that take into account:

- the fact that in the Northwest Atlantic there are fish stocks outside 200 miles, beyond coastal state jurisdiction but linked in conservation terms and in fishing terms with the interests of the coastal state;
- the fact that multilateral fisheries arrangements in the Northwest Atlantic will be based not on an organization made up primarily of coastal states with interlinked management problems within their zones, but rather on an organization which seeks to develop useful cooperation between the few coastal state managers and the many nations with traditional fishing practices both within and beyond 200 miles;