

Canada's Atlantic fish stocks can now be rebuilt

"The fish stocks off our Atlantic Coast will soon be on the way to good health, as a result of measures approved at the special meeting of ICNAF (the International Commission for the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries) just concluded in Montreal," Roméo LeBlanc, Minister of State for Fisheries, said recently.

"Canadian proposals for a 40 percent reduction in foreign fishing effort for groundfish species, for more stringent catch limits on six fish stocks in critical condition, and for Canada to be allocated higher percentage shares of the over-all catches, met with unqualified success," Mr. LeBlanc said. "These measures will start the rebuilding of fish stocks to the benefit of Canadians and of all nations fishing the northwest Atlantic.

"Our proposals were strong because our needs were great. The decline of fish stocks off our Atlantic Coast has threatened the existence of coastal communities. Our Government has used every means to make clear to other countries the gravity of the situation."

Mr. LeBlanc stated that, although it would take time for the stocks to recover under the new regime of strict conservation, the decisions made at Montreal on September 28 would "halt the tragic decline of the stocks off Canada's Atlantic Coast, and will provide a firm base for the future health and prosperity of Canada's coastal communities".

"Until now," he said, "events have outpaced ICNAF's ability to deal with the problems and its measures have fallen woefully short of what was really needed. I feel that ICNAF has now faced up to the challenge and that Canada's pleas have been heard. More and more nations recognize that Canada must have their co-operation now if they expect Canada's co-operation within its extended fishing zones in the future."

Concerted effort

Mr. LeBlanc noted that Canada's success at the ICNAF meeting had been prepared by a concerted campaign to convince ICNAF countries of the justice of Canada's cause. Approaches

were made by ministers and ambassadors and officials to the other countries concerned, both in Ottawa and in foreign capitals. Intensive bilateral consultations were held to make clear the importance and implications of Canada's proposals. These discussions resulted not only in support by the Soviet Union for Canada's proposals but also in an agreement meeting Canada's concerns with regard to Soviet fishing operations off Canada's coast in the Northwest Atlantic and allowing the Canadian Government to reopen Canada's Atlantic ports to Soviet fishing vessels. "I welcome this very positive development," Mr. LeBlanc said.

Rubens painting for Montreal Museum of Fine Arts

A long-lost Rubens — one of the last of the Flemish master's grand-scale paintings, which was once part of the collection of Philippe II, Duke of Orleans in the Royal Palace, Paris — has been acquired by The Montreal Museum of Fine Arts.

The huge work — 11 feet by 6½ — was described by David Giles Carter, the director of the Museum as "overwhelming". The purchase price was not disclosed.

Depicting three playful leopards with a nymph, satyr, and two children, the work strikingly conveys the power of Rubens' invention, the keenness of

his observation, and the bold freedom of his brush. It was painted in 1615 when the artist was 38.

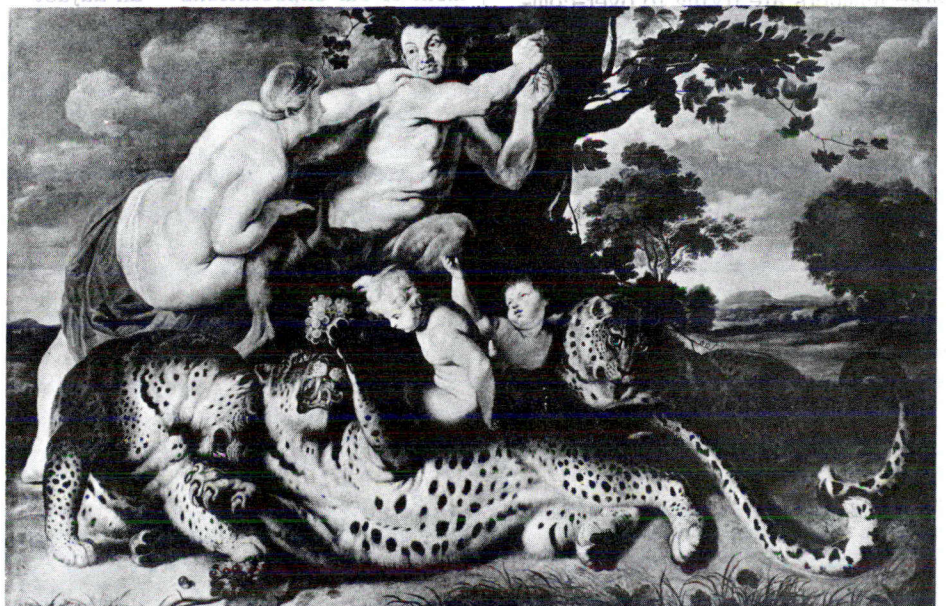
"Rubens was particularly concerned with the quality of the character of the animals," said Mr. Carter. "The personalities of the leopards come through most strongly."

"The work speaks to the viewer from 40 feet," he added, specifying that it would be a central piece in the Baroque gallery when the Museum reopens next May after completion of its \$10-million expansion and renovation program.

The painting, purchased in New York, is one of a series of acquisitions made by the Museum from the insurance settlement of the \$2-million robbery which occurred in the Museum in September 1972. Among the works stolen was the only Rubens in the Museum's collection — *Head of a Young Man*.

Rubens, who was born in Antwerp in 1577, was an extraordinarily prolific painter who best exemplified Baroque art in northern Europe. He travelled extensively to leading courts, where he carried out numerous commissions, climaxing his career as the painter of French, Spanish and English kings and queens.

The Museum's painting — a type of Rubens' work not otherwise represented in Canada — was assumed by 1900 to have been lost. It was rediscovered in 1973 in a New York warehouse when an art dealer was asked to look at a group of paintings that had been collecting dust for some 20 years.



Rubens' Leopards, described as "overwhelming", measures 11 feet by 6½.