

The EEC-Iceland Trade Agreement

In the case of Iceland, whose principal export to the Community was fish, it was evident that any agreement would involve tariff concessions by the Community for fish, even though fish was considered to be agricultural under the EEC Treaty. Negotiations on this question took place under inauspicious conditions as, on February 15, 1972, the Icelandic Parliament adopted a resolution extending fishery limits to 50 miles from the baselines with effect from September 1, 1972. This reopened the conflict between Iceland and Britain which began when Iceland extended its fishery limits from three to four miles in 1952 and to twelve miles in 1958 and which reached its culmination in the 'cod war' of 1975 - 76 when Iceland extended fishery limits to 200 miles.

Despite these inauspicious circumstances, Iceland and the Community negotiated a free trade agreement, the key provision of which was tariff concessions by the Community for the import of Icelandic fish products. The Community's concessions on fish products were embodied in a protocol to the Agreement. Under this protocol, certain commercially important Icelandic fish exports were to be exempted from duty by the Community, on condition that Icelandic exporters respected the reference price for these products.

VII. OTHER EXTERNAL RELATIONS

The Community has asserted itself in both bilateral and multilateral fishery relations. At the multilateral level, it participates in NEAFC ⁹⁾ and NAFO. It represents member countries in NASCO ¹⁰⁾. It entered into several bilateral agreements, including the LTA with Canada. Its bilateral agreements are of many types: surplus agreements, reciprocal agreements, including commercial reciprocity, and phasing out agreements.

Agreement With Canada

With the extension of fisheries jurisdiction, Canada announced that allocations to foreign vessels in Canadian waters would be made only in exchange for commensurate benefits to Canada. Two main benefits were envisaged: commercial concessions to facilitate fish exports from Canada and recognition of Canada's claim to a special interest in certain