

CANADA-U.S.S.R. FISHING PACT

Mr. Jack Davis, Minister of Fisheries and Forestry, announced recently that a two-year Pacific Coast fisheries agreement between Canada and the Soviet Union will be signed soon in Moscow.

Under the terms of the pact, the Soviet fishing fleet will move off the Big Bank area of the continental shelf (on the southern part of the west coast of Vancouver Island) in return for port privileges and a fishing area inside the territorial boundary off the Queen Charlotte Islands but outside the continental shelf.

The agreement followed four weeks of negotiations in Ottawa between Soviet representatives and Canadian officials headed by Fisheries and Forestry Deputy Minister Dr. A.W.H. Needler. Representatives of all fishing groups from the West Coast were present during the talks as advisers and observers. The draft agreements were approved by them.

Mr. Davis said that the Soviet fleet would give up fishing on Big Bank, where heavy runs of salmon and herring occur, and move to an area of comparable size within the 12-mile limit off Queen Charlotte Islands — a fishing ground that has not been exploited to any extent by Canadians.

The most important advantage acquired by the Soviet fleet under the agreement is the re-opening of the port of Vancouver to their supply ships. This privilege was taken away in March 1970, and the U.S.S.R. later asked for a conference to discuss this point. Following a series of collisions between Soviet trawlers and Canadian salmon-trollers in July, a sharp protest was sent to Soviet authorities, who agreed to add this subject to their discussions.

Mr. Davis said the Soviet delegation showed an interest in an exchange of research information and, under the proposed bilateral agreement, this will be carried out. Special emphasis will be given to studies of stocks which range beyond British Columbia coastal waters.

NICKEL RESTRICTIONS REMOVED

Mr. Jean-Luc Pepin, Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, announced recently that all existing quantitative restrictions on the export of all forms of nickel were removed, effective October 30. The embargo on the export of nickel scrap is also removed. Nickel in all forms, however, will remain on the export control list and export permits will continue to be required.

The supply of nickel has returned to normal, and while considerable world demand exists, the open market price for nickel in various parts of the world is sufficiently close to the producer price that normal trading can be resumed.

In announcing the withdrawal of the export restrictions, Mr. Pepin said that the nickel supply situation would be kept under close review.

CANADIAN ART TO MIDDLE EAST

The National Gallery of Canada has, for the first time in its history, sent works of art to the Middle East. Sponsored by Hadassah-WIZO of Canada, the exhibition, which is part of the international program of the Gallery, features the work of eight Canadian artists, selected specially for display in Israel. It was opened at the Helena Rubinstein Pavilion of the Tel Aviv Museum on November 12. Miss Jean Sutherland Boggs, Director of the National Gallery, was present for the opening.

"This exhibition has been the result of the enthusiasm of the Hadassah-WIZO Organization of Canada for a closer liaison in cultural matters between Canada and Israel", writes Miss Boggs in the preface to the catalogue. "The National Gallery would like to express its gratitude to the patrons for having made this exhibition possible."

TWO GENERATIONS REPRESENTED

Eight Artists from Canada, put together by Pierre Th  berge, the Gallery's Assistant Curator of Canadian Art, consists of 36 works representing two artistic generations. Alex Colville, Gershon Iskowitz and Jean-Paul Riopelle were born in the twenties and began their artistic careers after the Second World War, while Greg Curnoe, Charles Gagnon, John Meredith, Guido Molinari and Joyce Wieland were born in the thirties and began to paint in the late fifties. The works on exhibit show great stylistic range — from the "gesturalism" of Jean-Paul Riopelle, to the images of "everyday" reality of Alex Colville, and the lettered landscapes of Curnoe. Joyce Wieland, the only woman whose work is included, makes quilts in strong, contrasting colours to hang on the wall like paintings.

The Prime Minister has lent the exhibition Miss Wieland's quilt *La raison avant la passion*, in which the artist quotes from one of Mr. Trudeau's campaign speeches.

This will be the first display of contemporary Canadian art in Tel Aviv. In his introduction to the trilingual catalogue (English, French and Hebrew), Dr. Haim Gamzu, Director of the Tel Aviv Museum, recalls his growing interest in the work of Canadian artists as he saw it over the years at the Venice, Sa o Paulo and Paris biennial exhibitions, until "a Canadian exhibition at the Tel Aviv Museum became one of my cherished aims".

COAL PRODUCTION

Coal production in August increased by 129.5 per cent, to 1,304,513 tons, from the August 1969 figure of 568,396 tons. Imports jumped to 2,025,588 tons from 1,628,634 tons a year earlier. Industrial consumers used 1,233,404 tons of coal and 497,789 tons of coke, an increase of 193,530 tons of coal and 241,329 tons of coke from last year.