

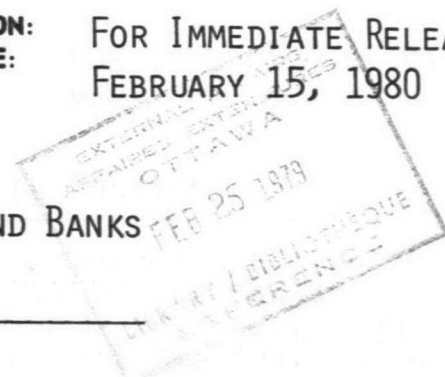
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
MINISTÈRE DES AFFAIRES EXTÉRIEURES

communiqué

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SPANISH OVER-FISHING ON GRAND BANKS
BEYOND 200 MILES



A senior official of the Department of External Affairs today received the Ambassador of Spain and communicated to him an urgent message on behalf of Flora MacDonald, the Secretary of State for External Affairs.

The message underlined the seriousness of the conservation problem raised by the unregulated activities of Spanish vessels in the Regulatory Area of the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) and the urgent need for its early resolution. It also noted that:

- failing immediate progress toward such resolution, the Government of Canada would be obliged to consider other possible measures in the light of growing concerns about the situation in the Regulatory Area;
- irrespective of such other possible measures, the Canadian Government intends to pursue this matter at the next NAFO meeting in Toronto on March 4;
- at the same time, the Government is also considering bilateral approaches to other NAFO member states, to seek their co-operation in protecting mutual interests in the conservation and management of the fisheries of the Regulatory Area.