

Adjournment Debate

mitted to fish in the gulf, including St. George's Bay, but must at all times remain 12 miles from the nearest land.

The Portuguese-Canada agreement does not contain this provision and Portuguese fishing vessels must remain 12 miles outside the St. George's Bay closure line. There has been no evidence of non-compliance with this requirement by units of the Portuguese fishing fleet.

The suggestion that some Portuguese vessels have been operating under French registry has also been investigated. I am informed that a check with the two agents for the French and the Portuguese fishing fleet in St. John's has revealed they have absolutely no knowledge of such transactions and, furthermore, they would consider such a possibility extremely remote. Even if this were a possibility these vessels would still be subject to the provisions of the French agreement regarding set periods of fishing under

the agreement and the restrictions on the species of fish that may be taken.

The fisheries patrol vessel *Cape Freels* was dispatched to the area, but due to extreme weather conditions and severe icing the vessel had to enter Port-aux-Basques for safety reasons. Weather permitting, the *Cape Freels* will be in the area tomorrow.

I assure the hon. member that we are most concerned about reports he is bringing to us, and we will do everything in our power to make sure that the phase-out agreements are being observed to the letter.

The Acting Speaker (Mrs. Morin): The motion to adjourn the House is now deemed to have been adopted. Accordingly, this House stands adjourned until tomorrow at 11 o'clock a.m.

Motion agreed to and the House adjourned at 10.27 p.m.