

## Delay in fisheries treaty ratification raises concern

The failure of the United States Senate to ratify the Canada-U.S. East Coast Fisheries Agreement may have possible implications for other areas of Canada-U.S. relations, said Secretary of State for External Affairs Mark MacGuigan in a statement to the House of Commons Standing Committee on External Affairs and National Defence, June 10.

In March 1979, Canada and the United States signed two agreements providing for a co-operative regime for the management of fisheries on the east coast and for adjudication of the disputed maritime boundary in the Gulf of Maine. "Since then," said Mr. MacGuigan, "we have made repeated representations to the United States Government concerning the importance of the treaties and the urgency of ratification."

The House of Commons on April 23 unanimously passed a resolution urging early ratification of the treaties. The resolution states that "the east coast fisheries and boundary treaties represent fair and urgently required co-operative arrangements in the interests of both countries" and that the Canadian Parliament regards "the early ratification and implementation of these treaties as a matter of national importance to Canada and to good relations between Canada and the United States". U.S. President Jimmy Carter also expressed his concern when he told the Senate delays in ratification of the treaty "could lead to serious irritants in United States' relations with Canada".

### Little progress

Mr. MacGuigan said also on June 10 that there had been "inexplicable delays" in presenting the treaties to the Senate and there has been little progress since. He called the results of a recent preliminary hearing arranged by the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee "most disappointing" and he rejected amendments presented at the hearing, saying they "could destroy the balance of the agreements which resulted from long and arduous negotiations in which both sides made significant concessions".

In addition to the important fisheries and resource issues at stake, Mr. MacGuigan expressed concern that the delays in ratification raise questions as to how Canada and the U.S. can best arrive at

negotiated settlements to problems.

"If in future negotiations, Canada were to withhold concessions — in the expectation that we would face further negotiations when an agreement reaches the Senate — we might not be able to go beyond the first stage and reach a signed agreement," he said. "And if we did manage to reach a signed agreement, must we anticipate yet another round of negotiations with further demands for concessions from the U.S. Senate along with indefinite delays?"

In an editorial on June 17, the *New York Times* said that "Canada is being asked to negotiate the treaties a second time.... While the debate continues, so does scallop fishing beyond the agreed limits (see *Canada Weekly* dated July 2) increasing the American claims — and the risks of angry Canadian reprisal on other catches.... The customary time for presenting regional interests in diplomacy is during the negotiation process. The fisheries agreements are fair and deserve the Senate's early approval without gratuitous reservations".

## Canada elected to United Nations women's committee

Canada was elected for a four-year term to the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women at a recent meeting of the Economic and Social Council, Secretary of State for External Affairs Mark MacGuigan and Minister of State for Status of Women Lloyd Axworthy have announced.

Status of Women Canada, the agency which co-ordinates federal government policy and program developments as they relate to women, will play the leading part for Canada at the commission.

The commission, first set up by the United Nations in 1946, is made up of 32 member states. Meetings are held bi-annually and the next session is slated for 1982. Canada will be one of the Western Group Members to the commission along with Spain, Italy, the United States, Britain, France, Finland and Norway.

The commission has the mandate to study the situation of women in the world context and to make appropriate recommendations and reports to the UN Economic and Social Council on promoting women's rights. Canada has served on two previous occasions on the commission, in 1958-60 and in 1970-76.

## Brazil-Canada economic committee

The Brazil-Canada Economic Committee met in Ottawa, June 23-24, to review the international economic situation and trade and economic developments between the two countries.

The committee was co-chaired by Mexican Ambassador Carlos Augusto de Proença Rosa, Head of the Economic Department, Ministry of External Relations, and Barry Steers, Assistant Deputy Minister, Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce.

The committee noted that working groups on industrial co-operation and agricultural co-operation had identified areas where joint activity could be developed and it was agreed that these prospects should be pursued on a priority basis. The committee also agreed to set up a working group to explore new areas of bilateral technological co-operation.

During the visit, the leader of the Brazilian delegation also met with senior officials of the Department of External Affairs, the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce, and the Department of Finance.

The Brazilian delegation also met with members of the Canada-Brazil Chamber of Commerce in Toronto.

Secretary of State for External Affairs Mark MacGuigan announced on June 25 that Brazil's Minister for Foreign Affairs Ramiro Saraiva Guerreiro will visit Canada on September 29-30. This visit will take place within the framework of the Government's policy of seeking to intensify relations between Canada and Brazil, said Mr. MacGuigan.

## First atomic safeguards office plan

Canada has reached agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) on the establishment in Canada of an international safeguards field office, Secretary of State for External Affairs Mark MacGuigan and Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources Marc Lalonde have announced.

Through its safeguards system the IAEA verifies that nuclear materials are used only for peaceful purposes. Canada's principal objective in establishing the office is to assist the agency in its efforts to improve the cost-effectiveness of its safeguards operations in Canada.