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DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE ON
NORTHWEST ATLANTIC FISHERIES
OTTAWA, OCTOBER 11-21, 1977

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Don Jamieson, announced today that a diplomatic conference will be held in Ottawa, October 11-21 to prepare a new convention providing for international cooperation in fisheries in the northwest Atlantic area. The new convention would replace the International Convention for the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries (ICNAF), which has governed fishing in the northwest Atlantic since 1950. Eighteen countries which have engaged in fisheries in the area and the European Economic Community will be represented at the conference.

Two preparatory meetings held in Ottawa in March and June have resulted in the production of a draft convention which will serve as a basis for negotiations at the October meeting. The draft convention provides for a scientific body to give advice to coastal states, at their request, on the scientific basis for management inside the 200-mile zones recently established by the coastal states of the area. It also provides for a regulatory body to manage fisheries in the area beyond and immediately adjacent to the 200-mile zones.

Mr. Jamieson has made it clear that the new organization must recognize Canada's special interest in the area beyond and immediately adjacent to the Canadian 200-mile zone reflecting the predominance of fish resources inside the 200-mile limit, and the needs of the coastal communities of the area.