

On this occasion, I wish to release a joint statement by myself and my colleague Cyrus Vance, and to comment on an auspicious and promising development in Canada/USA relations. Before doing so, it may be useful to give some background by way of introduction. In doing so, I will make no secret of the fact that the two agreements I will be discussing are of a highly technical nature, but I will try to convey to you, and through you to the public, my own understanding, as a non-expert, as to the outcome of a long and complex negotiation.

Urgent problems between Canada and the USA on maritime boundaries and fisheries arose with the extension by both countries of fisheries jurisdiction from 12 to 200 miles, early in 1977. The extension of jurisdiction created two distinct problems. The first was how to draw boundaries between the fishing zones of the two countries and how to deal with fishing in the disputed areas pending agreement on boundaries. It was agreed by both sides that these boundaries would apply for all purposes, including delimitation of the