

in the boundary areas adjacent to Canada.

During my visit to France, I had the occasion to discuss with the French Foreign Minister our plans for extension of jurisdiction by January 1 in the area off our east coast. At that time precisely, on November 3, the European Community officially announced the decision taken by all member countries to extend their jurisdiction over fisheries to 200 miles by January 1, 1977. While the new management regime will be decided by the Community, the determination of the exact areas to be brought under extended jurisdiction, of course, continues to belong to the individual member countries, and the matter of delimitation of waters off St. Pierre and Miquelon remains a question for Canada and France to work out. What I particularly wished to underline in Paris, and my French colleague was quick to respond favourably, relates to the urgent need for both our countries to put in place by the end of this year interim arrangements in waters close to the French islands. Such arrangements would avoid conflicting fisheries regulations on matters such as enforcement and licensing. I am confident that, as a result of those discussions in Paris, both sides have a keener appreciation of the necessity of early agreement on these arrangements.

Interim arrangements are especially necessary in the absence of agreed maritime boundaries off the coasts of the French islands of St. Pierre and Miquelon. While France has given itself enabling legislation to extend jurisdiction off any of its coasts, there has been no indication to date by France of its intentions regarding the area off St. Pierre and Miquelon. In the preamble to the Order-In-Council extending jurisdiction, we clearly indicated that the establishment of an extended fishing-zone is not intended to prejudice ongoing consultations on the delimitation of waters with France, and this matter is also being pursued.

Another important factor in our fisheries relations with France is that the bilateral fisheries agreement concluded in 1972 grants certain rights to French vessels, and in particular to vessels registered in St. Pierre and Miquelon, in the areas that are now under Canadian jurisdiction -- that is, in our 12-mile territorial sea and in the Gulf. These rights, which are not modified by the creation of our new zones, were granted in exchange for the abandonment by France of important treaty rights in extensive areas dating back to the time of French settlement in the area. Similar rights were granted to Canadian vessels off the coast of St. Pierre and Miquelon. We have made very clear to the French that the rights granted to their vessels by this agreement are exclusive to France, and cannot in any way be claimed or exercised by other members of the European Community.