

Closing of Atlantic ports to foreign fishermen under study

A special study is to be made into the possible effects of closing Canadian East Coast ports to foreign fishing fleets.

Dr. Ernest P. Weeks, Chairman of the Canadian Salfish Corporation, who has been asked by Fisheries Minister Jack Davis to carry out the study, will assess the economic consequences of port closures on Canadian merchants and on the Canadian fishing industry.

"Our own fishermen have been asking us to close our ports to foreigners, especially those who fish indiscriminately near our shores," Mr. Davis said. "Two-thirds of all the fish caught in the North Atlantic are taken by foreign fishermen. Their big fleets are heavily subsidized. They'll be even more costly if they can't get into our ports to buy supplies and make repairs. Closing them, or even the threat of closing them, may cause them to back off our Shelf."

Vessels from 15 countries fish regularly in the Northwest Atlantic. They frequently call at St. John's, Newfound-

land and Halifax, Nova Scotia. Occasionally they also call in at Sydney, N.S.

"Dr. Weeks is being asked to visualize," the Minister said, "what would happen if foreign fishing vessels no longer come into our ports. The supply of fuel, food, clothing, entertainment, etc., provides an income for some of our local merchants. But if, by keeping foreign vessels out, we increase our own Canadian catch, this additional income to Canadians could be of even greater benefit at home.

"We are concerned, of course, with the future of our fishermen in the outports. They do not benefit in any way from the visits of foreign fleets to our waters. Runs of fish coming inshore are depleted by foreign fishing operations on our Shelf.

"The small inshore fisherman has really been hurt by the big foreign trawler and I have a feeling that sound conservation practised by Canadians in our own coastal waters will more than offset any loss in revenues result-

ing from the disappearance of foreign fleets," Mr. Davis stated.

The port of Vancouver on Canada's West Coast was closed to fishing vessels of the Soviet Union in March 1970, following a dispute over fishing operations. The port was re-opened when the Soviet fishermen agreed to stay away from the Big Bank off Vancouver Island.

China and Canada settle Ming Sung Company claim

On June 4, the Canadian Ambassador to the People's Republic of China, Mr. Charles Small, signed in Peking, on behalf of Canada, an exchange of notes between the Government of Canada and the Government of the People's Republic of China providing for the settlement of the Ming Sung Claim.

The Chinese Ming Sung Industrial Company obtained a loan in 1946 from three Canadian banks to finance the construction of nine ships by two Canadian companies. The loan was guaranteed by the Government of Canada. Construction of the vessels began in 1947 and they were delivered to the Chinese company by 1949. As of 1951, the Ming Sung Company, was unable to meet the payments pursuant to the terms of the guarantee, the Canadian Government paid to the Canadian banks a total of \$14,469,183.06 between 1951 and 1960.

In settling the claim, the Government of the People's Republic of China has agreed to repay to the Government of Canada, immediately, the full amount.

NATO scholarships

The National Research Council of Canada has awarded 13 North Atlantic Treaty Organization postdoctorate fellowships for 1973-74, with funds provided by the NATO Science Committee. These awards are designed to stimulate the exchange of young scientists between NATO member countries. They represent Canada's part in the NATO Science Fellowship Program.

Thirteen fellowships, with a value of \$8,600, will be held as follows: four in France; three in the United States; two in Britain and the Netherlands; and one each in Germany and Denmark.



Eight soldiers of the Second Battalion, Royal Canadian Regiment, are canoeing from Ottawa to Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, to arrive in time for that province's July 1 centennial celebrations, which will be attended by Queen Elizabeth and Prince Phillip.

The men, stationed at Canadian Forces base, Gagetown, New Brunswick, are seen here on the Ottawa River on May 24 at the start of their 1,000-mile trip, with the Parliament Buildings in the background.

Canadian Forces photo