

consultations with the premiers, ministers and officials of British Columbia, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, and with representatives of the fishing industry and fishermen's organizations on both the west and east coasts. In addition, representatives of the fishing industry and provincial officials formed a Fisheries Advisory Group to assist the Canadian negotiating team.

In October, the negotiators submitted their joint report, which recommended establishment of a Joint Fisheries Commission for the co-operative management of fish-stocks of common concern, proposed arrangements for the sharing of hydrocarbon resources in boundary areas, and expressed the hope that, with a satisfactory resolution of the resource issues, mutually-acceptable agreement on specific lines delimiting the respective maritime jurisdiction of the two countries would be possible.

Despite substantial progress, the complexity and difficulty of some of the issues led the special negotiators to ask for an extension of their mandate to the spring of 1978.

International fisheries

Within the last decade, major changes in the legal status of the world's oceans have resulted from developments at the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea and from the extension of the maritime jurisdiction of coastal states. It has been the responsibility of the Department of External Affairs to incorporate these jurisdictional changes into the fisheries and maritime relations Canada has established with those nations operating off its coasts, and into the various regional multilateral organizations of which Canada has been a member. On January 1, 1977, the fisheries zones of Canada on the east and west coasts were extended from 12 to 200 miles, followed in March by a similar extension in Arctic waters.

During 1977, Canada concluded fisheries agreements with Cuba, Bulgaria, the German Democratic Republic and Romania, complementing those signed earlier with Norway, Spain, Portugal, the U.S.S.R. and Poland. These agreements permit the continuation of foreign fishing within the 200-mile zones for stocks that Canada declares to be beyond its capacity to harvest,

and under a strict Canadian system of licences and quotas. The four new agreements also contained a provision designed to ensure greater protection for depleted fish-stocks outside the 200-mile zones. In particular, they recognized Canada's special interest in the stocks on the Grand Banks and Flemish Cap beyond the zones of national jurisdiction.

With the signing of agreements with the nine nations mentioned above, Canada had only to negotiate agreements with the European Economic Community and Japan to bring all its fisheries relations under international agreement. To this end negotiations began in December with the EEC (now wholly responsible for the fishing activities of its member states) to develop a comprehensive bilateral fisheries agreement.

Pending the resolution of the maritime boundaries issue and the negotiation of a long-term comprehensive fisheries treaty, an interim reciprocal fisheries agreement for 1977 was signed with the United States. The underlying principle in the agreement was the avoidance of disruption to existing fishing patterns during the transitional period between the declaration of 200-mile zones by both countries and the negotiation of a long-term fisheries agreement. To attain this objective, the agreement permitted the continuation of fishing without licences by the fishermen of one country off the coast of the other, flag-state enforcement as between the parties, and prohibition of third-party foreign fishing in boundary regions. Canada and the United States continued to pursue negotiations towards a salmon-interception agreement. Its purpose would be to establish effective mechanisms to ensure that both nations benefited from their own conservation and enhancement programs.

In late 1977, Canada and France agreed that, pending negotiations on maritime boundaries, they would renew for 1978 the interim arrangements governing fishing in the designated ICNAF area adjacent to the islands of St Pierre and Miquelon.