

coast, and we are engaging in consultations with other countries that have previously fished there.

The Government will also take early action to promulgate an extended fisheries zone in the Arctic. There is no foreign commercial fishing in waters off the Canadian Arctic coast, nor are there depleted stocks requiring urgent conservation measures. However, the Government is fully alive to the need to safeguard the fishing interests of the Inuit /Eskimos/ and to provide for the future development of fisheries in the Arctic area. Consequently, the Government has decided to bring into force a 200-mile fisheries zone in the Arctic by March 1, 1977.

I have outlined the steps we have taken to ensure a smooth transition to the 200-mile jurisdiction regime. The response has been encouraging. Nations fishing off our coasts have shown a willingness to adapt to the facts of the resource crisis and to the new legal regime Canada is bringing in.

I now wish to draw your attention to an important aspect of the notice of Order-In-Council tabled by my colleague, the Minister of Fisheries and the Environment, on November 2, -- namely, the geographic co-ordinates defining the fishing-zones in which Canada will be exercising jurisdiction. If members agree, I should be prepared to table maps prepared by the Canadian Hydrographic Service illustrating the new zones as prescribed by the co-ordinates in the Order-In-Council. These co-ordinates raise maritime boundary implications with neighbouring countries. The Order-In-Council makes express reference to boundary-delimitation talks with the U.S., France and Denmark and affirms that the limits of the Canadian fishing-zones as defined in the Order are "without prejudice to any negotiations respecting the limits of maritime jurisdiction in such areas;....".

The United States Government has responded to the publication of the Order-In-Council by issuing in the form of a Notice in their Federal Register of November 4, 1976, a list of co-ordinates defining the lateral limits of its prospective fisheries zone, as well as its continental shelf in the areas adjacent to Canada. In a number of areas these lines differ from the Canadian co-ordinates. We do not accept these lines and we are so informing the United States Government through diplomatic channels. I am pleased to note, however, that the U.S. Government has mirrored the approach taken in the Order-In-Council by making it clear in the Federal Register Notice that the co-ordinates listed therein are without prejudice to any negotiation with Canada or to any positions that may have been or may be adopted respecting the limits of maritime jurisdiction