

# PRESS RELEASE



# COMMUNIQUÉ

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

CANADA

MINISTÈRE DES AFFAIRES EXTÉRIEURES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
OCTOBER 26, 1967.

STATEMENT BY THE HONOURABLE PAUL MARTIN  
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
BEFORE THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON EXTERNAL  
AFFAIRS AT ITS MEETING OF OCTOBER 26, 1967,  
ON THE LAW OF THE SEA.

The Committee will recall that on July 15, 1964 a law was enacted respecting the Territorial Sea and Fishing Zones of Canada. The main effect of this legislation was to create, beyond the already existing three-mile territorial sea off the shores of Canada, a further nine-mile zone within the limits of which Canada would exercise exclusive fishing rights. This legislation was, of course, immediately enforced, the twelve-mile zone having as its inner limits the sinuosities of the coast line of Canada, except for certain bays, such as those of Newfoundland, which were already part of Canadian internal waters. The only exceptions that were made to this general Canadian jurisdiction were in favour of certain European countries and the United States of America whose fishermen had for a substantial number of years, and in certain cases for centuries, been exercising their activities within the zones described in the 1964 legislation. It was then decided, and Parliament was informed of this decision, that pending the termination of negotiations with the countries involved, the fishermen of these countries would be allowed to continue the