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CANADA/KOREA DRIFTNET MEETING

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, and the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, the Honourable Tom Siddon, said today that initial discussions between Canadian and Korean officials on driftnet fishing in the North Pacific resulted in progress towards bringing the driftnet problem under control.

As a first step, the two countries agreed that Canadian scientists will now be present on Korean research vessels as observers during the 1990 fishing season. Canada will also permit Korean scientists aboard Canadian research vessels during the 1990 season for the same purpose. In addition, the two countries have agreed to exchange information and personnel from their respective fisheries research and scientific institutes.

Commenting on the agreement, Mr. Clark and Mr. Siddon agreed that the discussions were another example of how Canada is actively seeking to control driftnet fishing on the high seas through diplomatic and political initiatives. The Ministers also said they hope that such an agreement will lead to real and substantive progress on a practice to which Canada is strongly opposed.

The talks followed shortly after International Trade Minister John C. Crosbie's visit to Korea. While in Seoul, Mr. Crosbie raised the Canadian concerns with Korean Ministers.

During the consultations, Canada pushed for effective action in controlling driftnet fishing activities and made it clear that it wants to take part in Korea's recently announced comprehensive regulatory and monitoring programs.

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