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CANADA/DENMARK MARINE ENVIRONMENT TALKS OTTAWA, FEBRUARY 21 AND 22; 1979

Canadian and Danish officials met in Ottawa February 21 and 22 to discuss matters of mutual interest relating to resource development and the marine environment in the eastern Canadian Arctic and west Greenland. These discussions were a continuation of talks which have taken place periodically in recent years in Copenhagen and in Ottawa. The Canadian side consisted of officials of the Department of External Affairs, Indian and Northern Affairs, Energy, Mines and Resources, Environment and the Coast Guard. The Danish Delegation consisted of officials of the Ministry for Greenland and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The discussions covered various matters relating to protection of the environment, including:

- cooperation on environmental studies and marine research in the Baffin Bay/Davis Strait/Labrador Sea area;
- prospects for off-shore drilling and hydro-carbon exploration activities in 1979;
- cooperative arrangements for the prevention and clean-up of marine pollution, including the 1977 Interim Canada/Denmark Oil Spill Contingency Plan;
- legal questions relating to liability and compensation in the event of trans-frontier pollution; and
- prospects for shipping through the Davis Strait, including Petro-Canada's proposal for an Arctic Pilot Project.

It was agreed that this had been a useful review and that further consultations would be held between the two governments and experts in various fields as appropriate with a view to strengthening cooperation further in these matters.