

Supply

vessel *Maritimer* is a deliberate provocation, as it must be considered to be.

Under the 1972 treaty small fishing vessels of both countries can fish in each country's territorial waters. We are dealing here with inshore fishermen with small boats, 65-foot longliners and under. There are some 200 Newfoundland inshore fishermen who fish from time to time in the zone that might be called the territorial waters off St. Pierre and Miquelon. There are 20 or 30 St. Pierre and Miquelon boats which fish in the Canadian territorial waters. We have never required the small inshore fishermen from St. Pierre and Miquelon to get licences to do that nor has France ever required our vessels to be licensed to fish in these waters. Yesterday, without any notice or warning to Canada at all, the French authorities took action to arrest or to take under their control the Newfoundland fishing vessel *Maritimer* which was fishing in those waters, as has been the custom. This is, and can only be described as, a deliberate provocation.

Some 10 or 12 days ago the representatives in St. Pierre and Miquelon sent a 200-foot trawler with camera crews, media, a senator and other politicians on board into Canadian waters in a deliberate attempt to get publicity and to challenge Canada's jurisdiction well into the Canadian area, about 50 miles I think it was, off the coast of St. John's West. They were arrested as they had to be and have been charged as they should have been. There is no comparison between that particular event and the action of France yesterday.

As a result of France's actions yesterday, the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Clark), the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans (Mr. Siddon) and I met. We have directed our representative, Mr. Fortier, who was to have a meeting today with the French representative, Mr. Puyssochet, in connection with trying to establish a process of mediation to try to bring to a successful conclusion this fisheries dispute, not to proceed with any session in connection with mediation—

Ms. Copps: Big deal!

Mr. Crosbie: —as we are going to suspend any meetings in connection with the mediation process until this matter is resolved to our satisfaction.

Ms. Copps: How about the Airbus?

Mr. Crosbie: I might tell the House that we have received a telex from the Premier of Newfoundland expressing Newfoundland's outrage at the actions taken by France. In the final paragraph, he said that "the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador commends the Government of Canada for the swift action taken by the Right Hon. Joe Clark, Secretary of State for External Affairs, in suspending the mediation talks scheduled for later this week between the two countries. The Government in Newfoundland cannot support any resumption of these talks until the full implications of France's actions have been determined".

That is the motion that should be before the House today, not this partisan, silly, frivolous motion put by the Hon. Member for Gander—Twillingate. We should have a motion commending the Government for the swift action that was taken, just as the Government of Newfoundland has commended us for our swift action.

I want to advise the House that the Secretary of State for External Affairs has called in the Ambassador to France—

Ms. Copps: Which ambassador?

Some Hon. Members: Oh, oh!

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Pappas): I would like to hear the Hon. Minister's speech, if I may.

Mr. Crosbie: We can imagine, Mr. Speaker, what the Liberal caucus is like when challenging their leader if this is the kind of noise we have to listen to when we are speaking in this chamber.

The Secretary of State for External Affairs has called in the French ambassador to protest this provocation by France. Of course, the process of mediation will not go forward until this matter is settled to our satisfaction and until we know exactly what France is going to do with respect to the fishing situation in this area that lies between St. Pierre and Miquelon and Newfoundland. Once we know just what France's position is and after the French presidential election is over on Sunday, we will see what then happens in that particular situation.

This is an extremely deplorable action taken by France. I can only outline for the House and deal with the resolution before the House. The resolution asks the House to:

—condemn the Government for its failure to protect the Canadian fishing industry and its continuing inability to resolve the Canadian-France fishing dispute.

It takes two sides to resolve a dispute. I will outline briefly for the House the steps that we have taken. In the negotiations for the last year or year and a half, we have taken a series of firm steps to try to resolve the dispute with France. We have been unable to resolve it because the Government of France does not respond and is not prepared to accept any reasonable suggestions for the settlement of this dispute. We have followed a step-by-step approach to increase pressure against the French overfishing in the disputed area 3PS. By the way, this incident yesterday did not take place in the disputed zone of 3PS.

In February, 1977, we closed Canadian ports to French fishing vessels. That prevented any diversion of French vessels to Canadian ports for supplies, repairs, or refuelling. Closing the Canadian ports also makes it more difficult for vessels from St. Pierre and Miquelon to operate because they do not have their usual quick repair facilities in Canada. That is part of the action that we have taken to protect the Canadian fishing industry to try to induce France to be reasonable and to settle this dispute. That was a clear signal to the French about our commitment to conservation. We closed the ports because