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CANADA/FRANCE INTERIM FISHERIES ARRANGEMENTS

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Don Jamieson, and the Minister of Fisheries and the Environment, the Honourable Roméo LeBlanc, announced today that Canada and France, pending the delimitation of their respective zones of jurisdiction around the islands of St-Pierre and Miquelon, have agreed to continue through 1978 the interim arrangements regarding the regulation of fisheries which have applied in 1977 in this area.

Pursuant to these arrangements, both countries will continue to exercise restraint in the application of their fisheries regulations to each others' vessels operating in a stock management area, Division 3Ps, of the International Commission for the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries (ICNAF). Management in this area, including allocations for 1978, will be based on the results of consultations on this subject held in Ottawa in the months of June and October 1977. Enforcement by the two countries vis à vis Canadian and French vessels will be based on the ICNAF International Enforcement Scheme: either country can inspect the vessels of the other, but prosecution is left to the flag state. It is understood that Canada and France will consult closely, as necessary, to ensure the smooth and orderly operation of these arrangements.

These arrangements are without prejudice to the negotiations between Canada and France respecting the limits of maritime jurisdiction in this area.

At their recent meeting in Ottawa in October, 1977, Mr. Jamieson and the French Foreign Minister, Mr. de Guiringaud stressed their commitment to pursuing negotiations as a matter of priority in respect to the establishment of a boundary between waters under the jurisdiction of Canada and France off St-Pierre and Miquelon.