

port of the industry, and an equally intense lobby promoting the proposed ban. Only the Netherlands and Italy firmly supported the community-wide ban, endorsed by the European Commission and the European Parliament. The French and West German governments said that the proposal was not legally sound. According to news reports, the West Germans feared retaliation from Canada regarding fishing rights in Canadian waters (*The Citizen*, December 4). Canada had argued that the annual seal hunt in Newfoundland, the Maritimes and Quebec does not threaten the seal population, that the killing methods are not inhumane, and that the traditional life of the sealers should be maintained. European groups have argued the opposite. Public outcry against the hunt in Europe had been extensive. In Britain alone, more than two million signatures had been collected on a petition calling for the import ban (*The Citizen*, December 4).

After the December 3 decision, Canadian Fisheries Minister Pierre De Bané expressed his satisfaction about the outcome. A Fisheries and Oceans press release December 6 quoted Mr. De Bané: "The results of the December 3 meeting in Brussels indicate that European ministers are reluctant to act in the irrational and unreasonable manner demanded by a small fraction of the European Parliament and a vocal minority of Europeans . . . Their reluctance to take the politically-expedient route and bow to the pressure exerted by ill-informed sectors of public opinion does them considerable credit." While in Europe at the end of November, the press release said, Mr. De Bané had proposed to the European ministers the establishment of an international commission to review and expand all the aspects of the hunt including the method of slaughter, "to ensure it is as humane as all the experts to date have attested, and to manage the hunt on an international basis."

On December 17, the ten countries of the EEC again met, and again failed to agree on a community-wide ban. Instead, they adopted resolutions which pledged member countries to "take all necessary and possible measures within the limits of their national competence" to stop imports of the harp and hooded seal skins. They also agreed to sponsor with Canada, a scientific study of the seal hunt and to report back these findings by March 1. At that time, it was agreed, they would consider the possibility of proposing an evaluation of national measures, and possibly additional action by the Community itself.

Fish Pact Review

Under an agreement between Canada and the European Economic Community (EEC), signed in January 1982, European countries were allowed to take 15,000 tonnes of fish from Canadian waters a year for six years in return for tariff reductions on frozen Canadian fish going to Europe. On December 6, Fisheries Minister Pierre De Bané called the pact "a great disappointment," and said that Canada may have to break the treaty. According to the *Globe and Mail* December 7, the problem was that when signed, "Canadian officials were under the impression that the tariff reductions would be applied in Britain, where Canada sends much of its two billion dollars in annual fish exports. Instead, the EEC decided to allocate the fishing rights to West Germany, which buys almost no Canadian fish." Breaking the fish treaty would be a last resort if other

remedies could not be found, Mr. De Bané told reporters (*Globe and Mail*, December 7).

The question of the agreement was brought up in the House of Commons on December 17 by John Crosbie (PC, St. John's West). He insisted that the failure of the agreement be followed up with disciplinary action against those in Canada responsible for its negotiation, as well as the dismissal of the former Fisheries Minister from his new post as Minister of Public Works and the dismissal of "the officials whose negligence and incompetence caused this great disappointment and caused Canada to be burned at the same time Canada suffered a snow job from the negotiators for the European Economic Community." Mr. Crosbie said that the agreement had been signed over the objections of the Newfoundland government and the Canadian fishing industry.

In late January, External Affairs Minister Allan MacEachen said in Brussels that Canada was unhappy about the EEC administration of the treaty. He said Canada was compiling statistics on how much Canadian fish was sold under the agreement in 1982, before deciding what allocations to offer EEC fishermen in 1983. "We are prepared to give reduced allocations for 1983," he said (*Globe and Mail*, January 28).

A Fisheries and Oceans press release January 28 said that the EEC had been granted an interim allocation of 2,000 tonnes of northern cod off northeastern Newfoundland and Labrador. Mr. De Bané said that Canada was currently reviewing the degree of EEC compliance with the Agreement in 1982. "Following completion of that review, additional fishing permits will be issued for smaller allocations than the EEC expects because the Community did not live up to its terms of the Agreement last year, and has already indicated that its obligations will not be fulfilled this year," Mr. De Bané said. He also called the 2,000 tonne allocation — which will be fished by vessels from West Germany — a "goodwill gesture" on Canada's part. "Some may say that we should not have granted this interim allocation, since the EEC failed to honor the Agreement last year. But I am still willing to show the Europeans we want the Agreement to continue," the Fisheries Minister said.

BRANDT COMMISSION

Ottawa Meeting

The Independent Commission on International Development Issues met in Ottawa from December 12 to 15, to discuss North-South relations. Commission Chairman Willy Brandt, former West German Chancellor, told reporters December 12 that the Commission was meeting at a time of "seriously growing difficulties for the world economy as a whole." The purpose of the three-day talks was to come up with recommendations in major international problem areas — finance and trade, food and agriculture, energy, and reform of international agencies.

Members of the Commission addressed about one hundred members of the House of Commons and Senate, and observers December 14. The end of the current economic crisis depends on improving the economic health of developing countries so they can buy more goods, said