

could happen, and then knowing what we can do, not just the Government of Canada, or just the Department of Fisheries, or just the government in Newfoundland and Labrador, or the government in Nova Scotia, or one company, one union, or one community, but what all of us together must come together to do, what all of us together must realize has to be done. How do we deal with that?

In recognition that this is a national issue, the Prime Minister appointed a cabinet committee of senior cabinet ministers from right across the country, including my colleague who spoke just before, including the ministers who are particularly pertinent to the issue, but chaired by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the former Prime Minister of Canada, to focus the government in dealing with the problem not, as I say, just in terms of fisheries but to bring together all the resources of government. Bring them together and ask, "What have we got to deal with? What are the resources we have in hand to deal with the problem? What resources do we need that may not be there?" On top of that, we should ask, "What are our options? What other things can we do?"

In support of that committee there was a group of very senior public servants appointed from a variety of departments, employment and immigration, fisheries and oceans, a little help from external affairs, a little help from ACOA, and employment and immigration in Newfoundland as well as in Ottawa, to try to deal with the problem and to give ministers advice.

So what did they do? They consulted. They talked to communities, to provincial governments, to unions and to companies. They have had reports and papers and pieces of information from all over. They have gathered their own information which will form the body of knowledge, and the body of advice to which the government will respond in an organized, realistic fashion, in a way that we will know what the problems are, what the approaches must be. It must not be an attitude of just sit by or act all of a sudden out of the blue.

The government has also taken a series of approaches to deal with the serious problem of overfishing, of people from foreign countries taking fish outside the 200-mile limit. This did not start last night. This did not start last month. It has been going on for a period of time.

### *Supply*

In 1986 this government undertook some new scientific studies. Not only did we do that, but we substantially increased the penalties for foreign overfishing. We increased the surveillance. We closed our ports to countries that were not prepared to co-operate and comply.

In international bodies like NAFO we have been trying to make these countries recognize a fundamental point that what we are dealing with here is an ecological problem, that if we all talk about sustainable development around the world, we should look in our own backyard. If we cannot sustain the fish stocks in the north Atlantic that we have all historically depended upon, if we are going to rape and pillage, it is not going to serve our interests and it is not going to do anybody any good.

So we have moved on that. The Prime Minister has spoken not only to individual heads of state and government leaders in Europe, but also to the European community collectively, as has the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Minister of Fisheries, and the Minister for International Trade. fishing", but "Look, you are threatening us, you are threatening yourselves. We like to think we are both fairly substantial players in this world. You are threatening a very important relationship, and that relationship has been affected by your actions."

We have also gone to the Europeans, and my friend the Minister for International Trade is just returning from Europe. He said to the European public: "Look at what you are doing. Look at what your governments are doing. Look at what effect it is having not only on your friends across the ocean but on the environment that you are so proud of and that you talk so much about."

It is no good to stand up in this House or otherwise and say: "All this is wrong. It is your fault. Look at what you have done." We must be able to stand up and say, as this government has said, that there are problems, and we will together solve them.

In conclusion, I would like to quote from a press conference of the Premier of Newfoundland and Labrador on October 5, 1989, in which he states:

"I am pleased to note that the federal government is also seized with the seriousness of this problem." When dealing with overfishing in a radio broadcast on VOXM with Mr. Bill Rowe the Premier said: "The European overfishing is still a major problem, but again it would take a whole program to get into it. The government is dealing with it and I must give credit to the federal