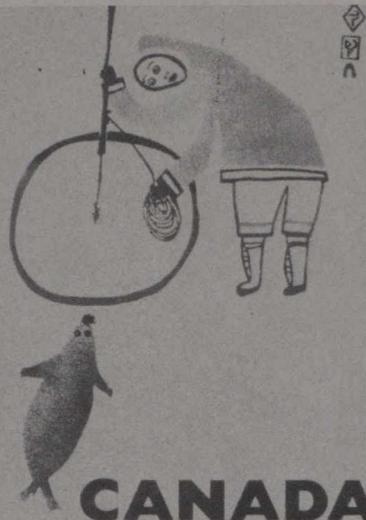


CANADA

VOLUME I NUMBER 6



OUR COVER: Shows a fine example of Eskimo art depicting an Eskimo fisherman spearing fish through a hole in the ice. Eskimo art is marked for its sparseness of line and simplicity. BACK COVER: one of the posters created for world publicity of the 1976 Olympics being held in Montreal, an artistic stylization of the Olympic symbol.

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EXTENSION OF CANADIAN FISHERIES JURISDICTION

The following are excerpts from a statement by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Dr. Allan J. MacEachen, in the House of Commons on June 4, 1976:

"I stated in the House on May 18 that information concerning the position which Canada will take at the forthcoming ICNAF meeting would be conveyed to the House. Our position at the ICNAF meeting cannot be discussed separately from our position on extended Canadian fisheries jurisdiction to 200 miles.

"I wish to make a statement on both these issues, and to announce today the government's decision to extend the fisheries jurisdiction of Canada out to 200 miles from the coast. Implementation of this decision under existing Canadian legislation will come later this year and in any event will be in place by January 1, 1977. The state of our fishery resource and the situation of our fishermen, of our fishing industry, and of our coastal communities, make this action imperative. There will be no fishery resource left to protect if action is not taken now—because the fish stocks will be so depleted as to disappear as a resource of commercial significance. Not only the fish but our Canadian fishermen too are an "endangered species," as I have heard them describe themselves.

"The protection of Canadian interests is of concern to us as a result of the extension of USA fisheries jurisdiction in March 1977. Mexico, our other neighbour on the North American continent, has felt compelled to act and has recently adopted legislation to bring about an extension of jurisdiction to 200 miles.

"The government last year instructed the Canadian officials to conduct bilateral negotiations with major fishing states operating off the Canadian coast regarding the terms and conditions that Canada will apply when permitting foreign fisheries in respect of any resources surplus to Canadian harvesting capacity within Canada's 200-mile zone. Agreements have been signed with Norway, Poland and the USSR, as well as ad referendum agreements with Spain and Portugal, in addition to the agreement with France entered into in 1972.

"We are prepared to commit ourselves, as we already have in the bilateral agreements, to allow other nations to fish in Canada's 200-mile zone for stocks surplus to Canada's harvesting capacity, and to carry out appropriate consultations with such countries in the development of regions within the zone. We are prepared to cooperate with other nations in this way, but in return we expect their cooperation in achieving our objectives.

"I wish to emphasize that the government will in no way abandon its deep commitment to reaching multilateral solutions to the problems of the law of the sea in general and fisheries in particular. We will continue to work within the UN Conference on the Law of the Sea to reach agreement not only on fisheries but also on the other vital and difficult issues facing the conference, issues such as the establishment of an international authority for the management of the resources of the deep seabed and ocean floor which constitute the "common heritage of mankind;" the preservation and protection of the marine environment, including the Arctic; and the breadth of the territorial sea and the related question of passage through straits used for international navigation. These issues must find an early multilateral solution.

"The decision I am announcing today to extend Canada's fisheries jurisdiction does not constitute unilateral action that either leaves no room for negotiations or ignores the interests of other countries directly concerned. It is action for which we have carefully prepared the way through both bilateral and regional negotiations within ICNAF, and within the multilateral framework of the Law of the Sea Conference. It is action based on a growing consensus among nations, a consensus which is increasingly finding its way into state practice and is reflected in the provisions of the single negotiating text that emerged from last year's session of the Law of the Sea Conference in Geneva and has been confirmed in this year's revised text."