

(Translation)

OTTAWA, March 27, 1972

Excellency,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of March 27, 1972, which reads as follows:

“It has been brought to the attention of the Government of France that certain vessels in the Gulf of St. Lawrence encountered some administrative difficulties when they attempted to enter the Strait of Belle Isle.

“The Government of France recognizes that fishing vessels using this route shall be subject to the applicable Canadian fishery and pollution-control regulations, and will ask its nationals to comply closely with these provisions.

“It considers that, with the above reservation, French fishing vessels have at all times the right of innocent passage in the Strait of Belle Isle.”

I thank you for your note and I confirm that French fishing vessels have at all times the right of innocent passage in the Strait of Belle Isle, subject to the condition stated in your letter.

Accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

MITCHELL SHARP
Secretary of State
for External Affairs

His Excellency
Pierre Siraud,
Ambassador of France,
OTTAWA.