

*Inquiries of the Ministry***FISHERIES****AGREEMENT WITH SOVIET UNION RESPECTING FISHING OFF PACIFIC COAST—CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC CONTINENTAL SHELF RESOURCES**

**Mr. Frank Howard (Skeena):** I wish to direct my question to the Minister of Fisheries and Forestry. It concerns the announcement made earlier today that Canada and the U.S.S.R. have reached a tentative or draft agreement with regard to permitting the Soviet Union fishing fleet to fish inside our territorial waters on the west coast. Will the minister move forthwith to have this draft agreement referred to the Standing Committee on Fisheries and Forestry so that it may be examined by members of this House?

**Hon. Jack Davis (Minister of Fisheries and Forestry):** I will be glad to do that, Mr. Speaker. I point out to the hon. member, if he is not aware of it, that representatives of all segments of the west coast fishing industry agreed unanimously that this is a good deal for our fishermen.

**Some hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Howard (Skeena):** The minister should be aware that I have many good friends among those who were delegates and therefore I knew what was happening. I am glad that the minister has agreed to refer the agreement to the standing committee.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please.

**Mr. Howard (Skeena):** I have a supplementary question.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member was given the floor for that purpose.

**Mr. Howard (Skeena):** Inasmuch as a map was attached to the press release which appears to have on it fisheries closing lines, can the minister indicate whether they have in fact been promulgated?

**Mr. Davis:** The map was for illustrative purposes to indicate the areas in which the Russians are permitted to fish and the areas in which they are not permitted to fish. As the hon. member knows, the closing lines have not been proclaimed.

**Mr. Lloyd R. Crouse (South Shore):** I wish to direct a related question to the Minister of Fisheries. In view of the disastrous effect of foreign fishing fleets on our declining fisheries resources on the east coast, has any progress been made in discussions with ICNAF countries concerning international rules governing safe navigation, the reporting of catches, the species of fish which may be taken and in what quantities, on our continental shelf?

**Mr. Davis:** Yes, Mr. Speaker, progress has been made. For example, two days ago we made an announcement with regard to haddock stocks off the coast—

**An hon. Member:** There are no haddock there, anyway.

**Mr. Davis:** —and the suspension of fishing by all countries.

[Mr. Sharp.]

**Mr. Louis-Roland Comeau (Southwestern Nova):** In light of the agreement reached between Canada and the Soviet Union, the effect of which is that Russian fleets will now have access to our ports, will the minister be introducing legislation to rescind Bill C-134 passed last March?

**Mr. Davis:** Well, the effect of that particular bill was to bring the Russians to this country to try to get back into the port of Vancouver, and the price they had to pay was to stay off our continental shelf.

**Mr. John Lundrigan (Gander-Twillingate):** Will the minister now honour the undertaking he made on Thursday last to make a full statement to the House on motions perhaps today or tomorrow, outlining the reasons behind the agreement which has now been drawn up and explaining the government's future plans on the east coast in order to accommodate east coast fishermen with respect to international fleet fishing?

**Mr. Davis:** There are two matters to be considered here. The bilateral negotiations with the Russians related to the west coast are somewhat involved and I would prefer this to be dealt with by the Committee on Fisheries and Forestry. As to the other matter affecting the Atlantic coast, I think we should await further progress.

**CLOSURE OF CERTAIN WATERS TO FOREIGN FISHERMEN—DISCUSSIONS WITH FRANCE AND UNITED STATES**

**Mr. T. S. Barnett (Comox-Alberni):** I believe it would be appropriate to direct my supplementary question to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Is he now in a position to reply to the question I asked on October 15 concerning whether negotiations are being pressed with France and the United States which would lead to an early proclamation of our fisheries closing lines?

**Hon. Mitchell Sharp (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** I do not believe it will be necessary to secure any international agreement of the kind suggested before proceeding to establish fisheries closing lines. This is a matter which lies within the jurisdiction of Parliament; indeed, parliament has now granted the government the right to make a proclamation. There are, of course, other considerations of a more general nature and these are under study.

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon. member for Comox-Alberni and other hon. members appear to be anxious to ask supplementary questions. We shall soon be running out of time and I think we should move on to another subject. Nevertheless I shall allow two or three more supplementaries, but they should be brief.

**Mr. Barnett:** My further supplementary arises from the statement the minister has just made to the effect that this is a matter entirely within our own jurisdiction. I therefore ask him to tell us when he intends that the government shall take such action to honour the commitment given by the Minister of Fisheries last spring that these lines would be proclaimed almost immediately.