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No. 72

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
AUGUST 28, 1975

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
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CANADA/USSR
AGREED RECORD OF UNDERSTANDING
AUGUST 27, 1975

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
MINISTÈRE DES AFFAIRES EXTÉRIEURES

Canadian and Soviet delegations met at Ottawa from August 25 to 27, 1975 to discuss fisheries matters of mutual concern.

Both sides recognized that it was imperative to ensure strict adherence to and implementation of measures agreed within the International Commission for the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries (ICNAF), particularly in light of the urgent need to maintain and restore the stocks. The Canadian and Soviet delegations agreed to establish new methods of cooperation to achieve this result.

Following a review of past differences in this field, the two sides undertook to develop procedures that would lead to a common understanding of catch information on which implementation of quotas is based, and that would ensure that future differences, should any arise, could be satisfactorily and promptly resolved.

To this end technical experts of the two countries will meet from time to time for further consultations and coordination of information, with the next such meeting to be held in September. It was agreed to recommend to the two governments the establishment of a "Joint Fisheries Consultative Commission" to carry out, inter alia, the following functions:

- a) to review problems referred to it by the two governments regarding the implementation of agreed measures, and to make recommendations for the resolution of such problems;
- b) to facilitate the coordination of statistical and scientific information;
- c) to improve bilateral cooperation under the ICNAF Scheme of Joint International Enforcement;
- d) to provide for an improved exchange of information with regard to areas of concentration of fishing operations of both countries and promote other cooperative measures for the purpose of preventing damage to fishing gear and of facilitating the settlement of any claims arising from such damage;
- e) other functions that may be assigned to it by the two governments.

In connection with the establishment of the proposed Joint Commission, the two sides further agreed to ensure the prompt discontinuance of a fishery when the national quota allocation for the stock in question has been taken. Upon the effective establishment of such provisions and the other procedures referred to above, Soviet fishing vessels will be granted renewed access to Canada's Atlantic ports.

It was understood that the role of the proposed Commission would have to be reexamined in the light of future developments in fisheries relations between the two countries.

Both sides attached great importance to their future cooperation in the field of fisheries. They expressed their readiness to meet at an early opportunity in order to consider the elaboration of a bilateral agreement on fisheries cooperation that would establish the terms and conditions governing continued fishing by the Soviet fleet in waters off Canada's coasts, taking into account anticipated legal and jurisdictional changes in the regime of fisheries management in such waters and traditional Soviet fishing.

The two sides reviewed the Canadian proposals for the conservation and management of fish stocks off Canada's Atlantic coast first advanced at the June 1975 meeting of ICNAF and scheduled for further discussion at the special ICNAF meeting to be held at Montreal in September. The Canadian side stressed the importance Canada attaches to these proposals and their possible implications for the future of ICNAF.

The Soviet delegation was chaired by Mr. Aleksey A. Volkov, Deputy Chief of External Relations Department, Ministry of Fisheries; the chairman of the Canadian delegation was Mr. L.H. Legault, Director General, International Fisheries and Marine Directorate, Department of the Environment.