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No. 67

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
AUGUST 8, 1975

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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
AFFAIRES EXTERIEURES  
OTTAWA  
  
'AUG 7 1975  
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REFERENCE

JOINT COMMUNIQUE ON CANADA/SPAIN  
DISCUSSIONS OF FISHERIES MATTERS OF MUTUAL CONCERN,  
OTTAWA, CANADA  
AUGUST 6-7, 1975

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DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
MINISTÈRE DES AFFAIRES EXTÉRIEURES

Officials of the Spanish and Canadian Governments met at Ottawa on August 6 and 7 to discuss fisheries matters of mutual concern to the two countries.

Both sides recognized that it was imperative to ensure strict fulfillment of obligations assumed under the International Commission for the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries (ICNAF), particularly in light of serious declines in the stocks. The Spanish officials indicated that they had recently met with representatives of the Spanish fishing fleet to bring about improved compliance with ICNAF regulations and increased biological sampling of catches to help assess the state of the stocks and the yields they can support. It was agreed that under the ICNAF Scheme of Joint International Enforcement steps would be taken to enable Spanish fisheries inspectors to work with Canadian inspectors in securing improved compliance with ICNAF regulations. A new system of rapid communication between Canadian and Spanish fisheries officials will be put into operation to deal with possible violations. Early consideration will be given to designating a Spanish authority in the Northwest Atlantic with whom Canadian fisheries officials could deal on a day-to-day basis with regard to enforcement questions and other related matters.

Particular attention was given to the problem of discards of by-catches, and methods of dealing with this matter were explored.

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.

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 Spanish fleet in waters off Canada's Atlantic coast, taking into account anticipated legal and jurisdictional changes in the regime of fisheries management in such waters and relevant provisions of the 1972 Canada/Spain Fisheries Agreement.

The Spanish delegation was chaired by Mr. Jaime Manuel y Pinies, Director General of Fisheries, Ministry of Commerce; the chairman of the Canadian delegation was Mr. L.H. Legault, Director General, International Fisheries and Marine Directorate, Department of the Environment.