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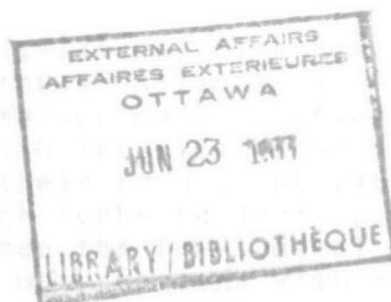


STATEMENT DISCOURS

SECRETARY
OF STATE
FOR EXTERNAL
AFFAIRS.

SECRÉTAIRE
D'ÉTAT AUX
AFFAIRES
EXTÉRIEURES.

NOTES FOR A SPEECH BY
THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, THE
HONOURABLE DON JAMIESON,
AT THE OPENING OF THE
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON
THE FUTURE OF NORTHWEST
ATLANTIC FISHERIES, ON
MARCH 14, 1977



During these past cold winter months, I have been reading reports about fisheries negotiations held in such sunny spots as the Canary Islands and Los Angeles. Bearing that in mind, I am a little concerned about any promises made to entice you to Ottawa while the snow is still melting. You are very welcome in any case, and I hope you will enjoy your visit.

Both as Secretary of State for External Affairs and as a Minister from Newfoundland responsible to fishermen, I consider the work you are beginning today to be of the utmost importance. A new course is to be charted here which will have far-reaching effects in future multilateral cooperation in the field of fisheries. Over the past year, agreements have emerged which, to a significant degree, make clear the pattern for future bilateral fishery relations, based on the 200-mile zone concept which has developed within the Law of the Sea Conference. What is less clear, however, is what new forms multilateral fisheries cooperation will take now that the 200-mile zone has been adopted widely.

The December meeting of the International Commission for the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries (ICNAF) took an historic step when it voted to accept an amendment to the Convention that restricts the Commission's management authority to the area beyond national fisheries limits. A second amendment also provided for the Commission to offer scientific advice to coastal states upon their request. These interim measures were, in the Canadian view, essential first steps. The task before you now is to conduct a more comprehensive examination of future multilateral cooperation with regard to the Northwest Atlantic fisheries, building not only on the new jurisdictional realities but on new approaches and new relationships that take into account:

- the fact that in the Northwest Atlantic there are fish stocks outside 200 miles, beyond coastal state jurisdiction but linked in conservation terms and in fishing terms with the interests of the coastal state;
- the fact that multilateral fisheries arrangements in the Northwest Atlantic will be based not on an organization made up primarily of coastal states with interlinked management problems within their zones, but rather on an organization which seeks to develop useful cooperation between the few coastal state managers and the many nations with traditional fishing practices both within and beyond 200 miles;

- the fact that effective cooperation in the Northwest Atlantic fisheries will inevitably require both multilateral cooperation and bilateral cooperation, and that the two are interlinked.

This conference is being held outside the formal framework of ICNAF, but it has come about mainly because of the spirit of cooperation which has been displayed within the Commission. ICNAF, with all its weaknesses, was probably more successful than any other multilateral fisheries commission, and the lessons it has taught us must not be forgotten. Among its achievements, ICNAF performed a vital service in scientific research, and it would be wise to ensure that the high level of cooperation in science within ICNAF is not lost.

The new arrangements you negotiate may of necessity look somewhat different from those now in place. It seems necessary that new mechanisms be established to provide for scientific cooperation both within 200 miles, and for the management of fish stocks beyond the 200-mile limit. For Canada, it is also vital to ensure that the new arrangements take into account the special interest of the coastal state in areas outside but adjacent to its zone, and in particular to ensure that management measures for stocks outside 200 miles are consistent with those taken by the coastal state within 200 miles.

In conclusion, I do not believe that national management is incompatible with international cooperation. Coastal states now have the opportunity to manage the living resources of their new zones, but if this management is to be effective, it will be essential to maintain various forms of international cooperation and to develop new ones.

I wish you every success in the coming weeks.

