

EUROPEAN BACKGROUND INFORMATION COMMUNITY

EUROPEAN COMMUNITY INFORMATION SERVICE

2100 M Street NW, Washington DC 20037 Telephone (202) 872-8350

New York Office: 245 East 47th Street, New York NY 10017 Telephone (212) 371-3890

BACKGROUND NOTE

No. 47/1976

November 5, 1976

EUROPEAN COMMUNITY ADOPTS 200-MILE FISHING ZONE

Following a ministerial meeting in The Hague last Saturday, the Council of Ministers of the European Communities has decided to create a 200-mile fishing limit on Community members' North Sea and Atlantic coast lines, in accordance with the Council's July 27 declaration.

The resolution consists of two main elements:

- The member states, acting together, will extend their fishing limits to 200 miles as of January 1, 1977.
- Starting on January 1, 1977, third-country fishing rights will be regulated by agreements between the Community and interested third countries. At the same time, the Community will seek protection for rights in third country waters fished by Community fleets. To these ends, the Council asked the Commission to begin negotiations with third countries so that agreements can be concluded as soon as possible on the general conditions that will be applied in the future for access to resources in fishing limits of member states as well as those of interested third countries.

At the same time, the Council adopted a decision authorizing the Commission to open negotiations on fishing agreements with third countries, as well as a resolution concerning certain aspects of the Community's internal fisheries policy.

The resolution deals in particular with the development of the Irish fishing industry as well as with the need to take into consideration the vital interests of localities -- including Greenland and the North of the United Kingdom -- that depend heavily on fishing for their livings.

This decision will affect countries such as Norway, Iceland, the United States, Canada, Finland, Sweden, the Soviet Union, East Germany, Poland, and Spain.

These countries will be informed that the Community is ready to immediately open negotiations for agreements on fishing rights. The Commission is already in touch with Norway, Iceland, the United States, and Canada to find an opening date for negotiations.