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PRESS RELEASE

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EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AND UNITED STATES SIGN NEW FISHING AGREEMENT

An agreement was signed today, February 15, 1977, between the United States and the European Community concerning the fishing activities of member states of the Community off the coasts of the United States.

This is the first bilateral agreement signed by the Community as an entity, except for Euratom agreements, and the first bilateral agreement on fisheries between the Community and a third country.

The agreement sets out the arrangements between the parties which will govern fishing by vessels of member states of the Community within the fishery conservation zone of the United States beginning on March 1, 1977. The agreement will come into force after the completion of internal procedures by both parties.

The signing of this agreement took place in Washington. Lord Bridges, Minister to the United States of the United Kingdom, signed for the Presidency of the Council of the European Communities, and Jean-Pierre Leng signed on behalf of the Commission of the European Communities. Frederick Irving, Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs, signed for the United States. Both delegations expressed their satisfaction with the new accord, and the hope that it will strengthen cooperation between the European Community and the United States.

