

## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

December 16, 1976

The Honorable Henry Kissinger  
Secretary of State  
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Mr. Secretary:

The special session of the International Commission for the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries concluded on December 9, 1976. We understand that despite the failure to renegotiate this treaty as contemplated under the Fisheries Management and Conservation Act (P.L. 94-265), the recommendation may be made to continue U.S. membership in ICNAF for the coming year.

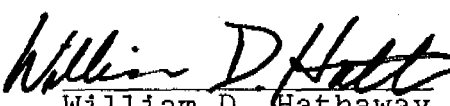
Such a recommendation would appear to be in violation of the intent of Congress as expressed in the conference report on P.L. 94-265. The report specifically contemplated that if treaties such as ICNAF were not renegotiated to conform with the Act's provisions by March 1, 1977, the U.S. would withdraw from such obligations by that date.

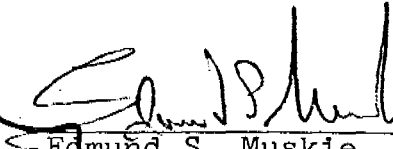
Our continued membership in ICNAF, in defiance of Congressional intent on this point, would appear to verify the concern expressed by many in the U.S. fishing industry that passage of P.L. 94-265 might not be fully implemented for the benefit of the domestic industry. If we as a nation are to realize the full potential of our nation's fishery resources, we shall need the efforts and the support of that industry. It will be difficult to obtain their full cooperation if the precedent of circumventing the intention of the law is set through continued membership in ICNAF. We urge you not to set this precedent, and to withdraw from ICNAF as of December 31, 1976, as contemplated in the Notice filed last June by the United States.

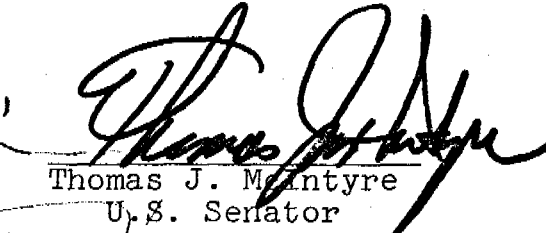
The Honorable Henry Kissinger  
December 16, 1976  
Page Two


Finally, we would like to lend our support to the position outlined in the correspondence from the industry representatives on this point.

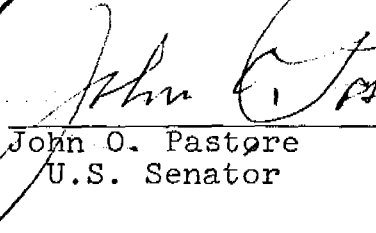
Sincerely yours,

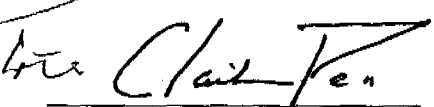
  
William D. Hathaway  
U.S. Senator

  
Edmund S. Muskie  
U.S. Senator

  
Thomas J. McIntyre  
U.S. Senator

  
Edward M. Kennedy  
U.S. Senator

  
John O. Pastore  
U.S. Senator

  
Claiborne Pell  
U.S. Senator