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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

BUREAU OF OCEANS AND INTERNATIONAL
ENVIRONMENTAL AND SCIENTIFIC AFFAIRS

April 5, 1977

Mr. Elmer Rasmuson
Chairman
North Pacific Regional
Fishery Management Council
Suite 32
33 West 4th Avenue
Anchorage, Alaska 99510

Dear Elmer:

As I noted in my letter to you of March 17, our policy review concerning long-term management of the Pacific halibut resource indicated the need to submit, at the earliest possible date, an appropriate U.S. notice of intent to terminate the Convention for the Preservation of the Halibut Fishery of the North Pacific Ocean and Bering Sea. Pursuant to that decision, such a notice was deposited by the United States on April 1.

Let me again emphasize that our action does not constitute termination of the Convention and in no way prejudices our final conclusion with respect to the future of the Commission. We view this action as a necessary legal step permitting us to withdraw from the Convention no earlier than April 1, 1979, if any required renegotiation proves unsuccessful. We believe any other course of action would not be consistent with the provisions of the Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1976.

We look forward to the active participation and assistance of all concerned parties in resolving this issue within the context of our long-term fishery negotiations with Canada.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
Rozanne L. Ridgway
Deputy Assistant Secretary
for Oceans and Fisheries
Affairs

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