

found for impoverished hunters, Canada may turn the St. Lawrence Gulf into a seal sanctuary. Even the grizzled swimmers should be relieved. They do not particularly enjoy the annual bloodbath themselves. Newfoundlanders have odd names for almost everything; a spring storm is "Sheila's brush," strong tea is "switchel" and floating ice is variously described as "growlers," "bergy hits" and "clumpers." But where biologists clinically refer to female seals as cows, the craggy Newfoundlanders never do. To them, they are always "mothers."

PERU

Talking It Over

Returning to Santiago from a visit to neighboring Peru, Chilean Foreign Minister Gabriel Valdés hastily summoned U.S. Ambassador Edward Korry. In Lima, Valdés had held two long talks with Juan Velasco Alvarado, leader of the military junta that seized power last fall. Subject: the approaching showdown between Peru and the U.S., which neither nation really wants. Soon after his junta overthrew President Fernando Belaúnde Terry in October, Velasco expropriated the U.S.-owned International Petroleum Co. As a result, the U.S., under a congressionally imposed retaliation called the Hickenlooper Amendment (TIME, Feb. 14), would have no choice in six months but to cut off aid and favored trade with Peru unless "appropriate steps" were taken toward a settlement compensating the oil company.

Velasco, reported Valdés, was finally beginning to realize that the U.S. actually intended to invoke the amendment and that the two countries were on a collision course. With 350,000 sugar workers immediately dependent on exports to the U.S., Peru's previously adamant president was now open to negotiation.

Disintegrating Relations. Valdés' message, relayed to Washington from Santiago, contained four face-saving

provisos for the sovereignty-conscious Peruvian junta. Velasco would receive a U.S. emissary, but that representative must be 1) a high-level personage, 2) President Nixon's special representative, 3) armed with discretionary powers to negotiate broadly, and 4) willing to come to Lima. The Administration has been increasingly concerned over its disintegrating hemispheric relations; at his press conference two weeks ago, President Nixon ruefully admitted that imposing the Hickenlooper Amendment would have an anti-American domino effect all over South America. Therefore the President speedily agreed to all four considerations. Off to Lima last week flew John N. Irwin, 55, a Wall Street lawyer who served briefly in the Eisenhower Administration as a Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Affairs and who helped to negotiate new treaties with Panama covering the Panama Canal.

Peruvians received the President's representative cordially and prepared to get down to serious negotiations this week to head off the Hickenlooper deadline of April 9. To demonstrate good faith, moreover, Velasco held his first press conference and made a point of answering questions from U.S. correspondents.

Not Willy-Nilly. "We want to converse," the retired general said somewhat nervously, standing in khaki army uniform behind his desk. Velasco praised the U.S. as "a just nation" and suggested that "immoral companies" were the real barrier keeping the two countries apart. How would the spread be resolved, he was asked, between the \$120 million that the IPC is asking for its expropriated properties and the \$54 million that Peru up to now has been prepared to pay? "Court-appointed appraisers will decide what the property is worth." Was the \$690 million that Peru insists it is owed by IPC subject to modification? "Yes, naturally. We are not acting willy-nilly." With that, the two sides retired for private discussions to defuse the crisis.

EQUATORIAL GUINEA

Fangs a Lot

It was only last fall that an improbable little part-island, part-mainland Spanish territory in Africa won its independence and sidled into the world's consciousness as the 126th member of the United Nations. The omens could not have been brighter. Spanish U.N. Ambassador Don Jaime de Pinies applauded "the splendid example of peaceful independence" set by tiny Equatorial Guinea, and in return the nation's U.N. ambassador, Saturnino Ibongo Iyanga, said his countrymen hoped to be "an Iberian bridge to Africa." All differences seemed ironed out between the 60,000 Fangs of underdeveloped Río Muni, the mainland wing, and the 8,000 Bubis of the prosperous island of Fernando Poo. Francisco Macias Nguema, 45, was

GUSTAVO NIETO—PIX



FRANCISCO MACIAS NGUEMA
With friends that fall out.

elected President, and his fellow Fang, cosmopolitan Atanasio Ndongo, 41, became Foreign Minister. Then, unhappily, the Fangs fell out.

Macias, a sleepy-eyed, impetuous demagogue, noted that Spanish officials in Bata, the capital, had had the temerity to fly three Spanish flags over official buildings—one beyond the quota. Late in February, he sent his personal guard to haul one flag down. When the Spanish ambassador dropped by to discuss the matter, Macias ordered him out of his office and cabled Madrid to demand that he be recalled. A few days later, Foreign Minister Ndongo and U.N. Ambassador Ibongo (also a Fang) arrived in Bata and the situation deteriorated still further.

Ndongo tried to mount a *golpe* (coup) against Macias, who, at the time, was out of town delivering a series of tirades against Spanish "exploiters." Well aware that without Spanish financial aid (which runs to nearly \$8,000,000 a year), Equatorial Guinea would find itself in serious difficulty, Ndongo moved into the President's office, after doing his best to assure himself of military support. The assurances proved illusory. As Macias now tells it, Ndongo became so frightened when Macias returned that he leaped from the office's window and broke a leg. Ibongo, also in the office, was arrested. The coup, without a leg to stand on, collapsed.

The political unrest, combined with Macias' increasingly anti-Spanish attitude, was enough to persuade more than 2,000 Spaniards to flee the country. According to Macias, Ibongo poisoned himself in prison, though some Spaniards maintain he was beaten to death in his cell. Spokesmen for Macias said Ndongo was being treated in a Bata hospital. The 260-man Spanish garrison still remains. Macias, after first ordering them to leave, seems to trust his own troops no longer.



SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE IRWIN
To keep the dominoes upright.