

who have followed with interest the development of techniques in the exploration of resources know that we can drill for oil at depths of 1,500 feet under the surface of the sea.

It is not without significance that it was a proposal put forward by Canada in Committee IV that led to the adoption of the Convention on the continental shelf nor is it without significance that it was a Canadian proposal to the final plenary session that led to a prohibition against reservations to the three main substantive articles in the Convention. To have permitted these reservations might have undermined the whole purpose of the Convention. Finally, it was not without significance that it was Canada which proposed that this Convention should enter into force when signed by 22 nations instead of 50 as proposed by another power.

High Seas Fishing

The second convention dealt with fishing and the conservation of the living resources of the high seas. The Convention on High Seas Fishing is the first such general convention regulating high seas fishing and it accords well with Canadian interests. It recognizes the special interest of the coastal state in maintaining the productivity of the living resources of the high seas in areas adjacent to its territorial sea. It also entitles the coastal state to take part on an equal footing in any system of research or regulation of purposes of conservation in that area even though its own nationals may not carry on fishing there. To all people who understand the importance of fishing to under-developed countries, the significance of this particular article is self-evident. Further, it provides that when conservation measures in the high seas have been adopted by a coastal state, they must be observed by fishermen from other countries. And then finally, under emergency circumstances, coastal states may unilaterally enact the necessary conservation measures on the high seas.

The third feature to Canada was the question of straight base lines and bays. To those of us who live in the island portions of Canada the fact that our coastline is very irregular hardly comes to our attention but in trying to define territorial waters the sinuosity of our coastline is a matter that gives us considerable concern and therefore these regulations in this regard, as drafted and codified by this International Law of the Sea, are very important to the future of our country.

In the Convention on the territorial sea and the contiguous zone, Article 4 provides that where the coast is deeply indented the method of drawing straight base lines from headland to headland may be followed in setting the boundary of the territorial sea rather than following the sinuosities of the coastline. I think the importance of that can be realized. Thirdly, our shoreline now in so far as the territorial sea is concerned is not the line of the high water mark or the low water mark; it is a line drawn