

Mr. Herrington added, however, that the 12-mile zone might be applicable to certain areas if conventions for such areas could be drawn up, and in this context he thought it might receive support at the Geneva Conference.

7. The position of the United States in support of the maintenance of the narrow breadth of the Territorial Sea is given in appendices 4† and 5.† Neither of these appendices, however, deal with the matter of fisheries and are mainly concerned with security. Therefore, despite the official United States view, the Canadian delegation felt that the United States might be realizing that there were advantages to the 12-mile contiguous zone, at least as far as fisheries were concerned, if only to act as a counter to the extension of the national coastal zone to 200 miles as advocated and, indeed, practised in certain areas in South America. The United States delegation also asked whether the Canadian Government had made any attempt to gain adherents to the 12-mile contiguous zone, and the Canadian delegation again felt that this might be an indication of United States interest. Indeed, this point raised by the American delegation prompted the Canadian delegation after the meeting to consider the advisability of promoting the plan. Some technical difficulties were foreseen, but the matter was to be studied in Ottawa immediately.

8. On the matter of the Continental Shelf there was very little discussion concerning the living resources but there was considerable discussion on the extent to which the resources, eg. minerals, oil, etc., might be considered within the national jurisdiction. The United States delegation suggested that it might be desirable to set the national limits of the Continental Shelf to a depth of 200 meters. The Canadian delegation pointed out that the floor of the Continental Shelf off the Canadian coast was uneven and it would be extremely difficult to prove with any exactitude where the Canadian interest ended. The Canadian delegation, therefore, favoured the plan of extending the country's limits to the point where the Continental Shelf ended. Mr. Yingling (US) expressed the view that limiting national jurisdiction to a depth of 200 meters was easily recognized and certainly covered a distance beyond present methods of exploitability. Mr. Robertson disagreed. He considered the 200-meter depth criterion artificial and much less desirable than a criterion based on geological and geographical fact. He also mentioned that there was every likelihood that in the development of new techniques it would be possible to explore beyond the 200 meter depth. In these circumstances, it would seem desirable to set the limit of national jurisdiction to the edge of the Continental Shelf.

9. The remaining part of the meeting was devoted to the question of organization of the conference and officers. This was a particularly desultory discussion since neither Canada nor the United States had formed any strong views. A few exploratory proposals were made concerning the committees and what nationals might serve on these committees. Nothing, however, was resolved and it was decided that each delegation would give this further consideration.

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