

This is only a part of the search for further liberalization of international trade, a search in which all of the world's trading nations are engaged, even as they seek to protect their own essential economic interests in an interdependent world.

I said earlier that for Canada, prosperity is indivisible. I said too that each part of Canada has its own concerns and its own interests, concerns that must be heeded and interests that must be furthered by the Federal Government.

Newfoundland has an abundance of riches, its human resources, its minerals, its vast reserves of forest products. These are being developed by domestic and foreign capital and with the help of the Federal Government. But I believe it is true to say that prosperity for Newfoundland still depends very much upon its off-shore fisheries.

Fisheries occupy a special place in the history of Canada. Fishing is Canada's oldest primary industry and the first international agreement contracted by Canada, highlighting its status as an independent nation, was the Halibut Treaty negotiated with the United States in 1923. Fishing is of first importance to Canada's coastal provinces. For many fishermen, in Newfoundland in particular, the protection of this resource is a matter of vital economic and social necessity.

Following the failure of efforts to obtain international agreement on the breadth of the territorial sea and the limits of fishery jurisdiction, efforts in which we played a substantial part, Canada was one of the first countries to adopt, in 1964, a nine-mile exclusive fishing zone contiguous to our then three-mile territorial sea. Today the contiguous fishing zone is well established in customary international law. Developments in more recent years made clear that the full range of our coastal interests could no longer be adequately protected by the three-mile limit for the territorial sea and a 12-mile limit for fisheries. Because the international community was unable to agree on more effective rules, Canada felt obliged once more to act alone. A number of amendments were made to our Territorial Sea and Fishing Zones Act that permitted the establishment of exclusive fishing zones in the Gulf of St. Lawrence and Bay of Fundy on the Atlantic Coast, and Dixon Entrance, Hecate Strait and Queen Charlotte Sound on the Pacific Coast. We also extended the limits of our territorial sea from three to 12 miles, thus absorbing the old nine mile contiguous fishing zone within our extended territorial sea.