

terms the contents of this new concept of "common heritage of mankind."

There now seems to be fairly wide agreement concerning the basic principles applicable to the exploration and exploitation of the resources of the international area. However, a wide range of views exists as to the powers of the international machinery which should be established to manage the international seabed area. Many developing nations favour an important and exclusive operational role for the international seabed authority whereas many developed countries would like to see the agency controlling the exploration of the resources by means of licenses to corporate entities or states or through joint-ventures. Canada's position has been evolving around a middle of the road approach which would promote the early exploration and exploitation of the area's resources through some sort of licensing system while at the same time providing for the direct participation of the new international authority in the management of the area.

Conclusion

The above discussion of the main issues should make it clear that negotiations will be difficult at the Conference. If a general outline of an agreement based on a twelve-mile territorial sea and a two-hundred mile economic zone seems to be emerging, many thorny issues do not appear to have any clear solution in sight. Adjustments will be in order if both international and conflicting national interests are to be harmonized in a viable constitution of the oceans.