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The Canadian Government and I, and I think the other ministers who were present, are generally pleased with the progress made in attaining most of the objectives that the Canadian Government had set down at the Geneva session of the Law of the Sea. As you know, towards the end of the conference the chairmen of the three committees were designated to produce a negotiating or unified text which text was tabled on the last day of the session. Each of these chairmen worked on his own, obviously drawing upon the discussions that had taken place, and on the last day the work of these three chairmen appeared in the form of a unified text which is now to be the negotiating text at the resumed session of the Law of the Sea Conference. So that now the conference has advanced to the point where there is a text from which or upon which or to which the delegates will address themselves and upon which they will work. This is now called the unified text or the negotiating text and it is upon this text that I am giving some impressions.

The text demonstrates the fact that there has now been sufficient development of new principles of international law to permit some radical departures from the pre-existing traditional principle of the Law of the Sea. On fisheries the progress has been dramatic. Most countries have agreed on the new concept of the economic zone, which is neither territorial sea nor high seas, as the key to an accommodation between the interests of the coastal states on the one hand and the distant water fishing states on the other.

Canada's position has always been that the economic zone must be exclusive in that a coastal state must have complete management rights over fisheries in the zone, coupled with the right to reserve to itself as much of the allowable catch as it has the capacity to take. At the same time the economic zone must be a shared resource zone in the sense that the coastal state should allow other states to harvest stocks surplus to its needs under coastal state control and regulation. There appears to be a basis of agreement emerging on just these principles.

Of particular importance to Canada is the inclusion of a provision in the negotiating text on anadromous salmon species whereby fishing for salmon would be confined to the economic zones only, except where this would create economic dislocation for a state other than the state of origin. The text clearly recognizes the primary interest and responsibility of the state of origin in the anadromous stocks.

This I think is a very important development because we had been fighting, so to speak, an uphill battle in promoting the interests of this species of fish, this anadromous species, and, therefore, the fact that it has found its way into this text is of great importance to Canada.