

"In order to increase the number of fish and to prevent the disappearance of certain species, measures must be adopted over an area sufficiently wide to enable the action taken to prove effective.

"The restrictions imposed on the use of the various fishing appliances and the measures taken to prevent the disappearance of certain species must, however, be constantly and stringently supervised and controlled if they are not to prove entirely useless. This control is very expensive and mainly or almost exclusively affects the state whose interests are bound up with the exploitation of these waters: it can accordingly be maintained and exercised in practice only by a state within a zone under its sovereignty or assigned to its exclusive use.

"For these various reasons, the breadth of territorial waters for purposes of fishing and with a view to giving states exclusive fishing rights should be much more than six miles".

It is obvious from this statement that Portugal related its own claim to a wider area of control directly to the protection of its own fishermen and the living resources of the sea from which they earn their livelihood. I mention this because it is so directly in point in the present discussion. It does not appear that Portugal has stressed other reasons for requiring more than a 3-mile territorial sea so long as the fishing rights they would have within that area could be carried out to a distance of 12 miles.

I hope therefore that they will find that our present proposal is in harmony with their own proposal put forward so clearly in 1930. I would hope also that it would be equally acceptable to other nations in Europe, once it is recognized that, by agreement or otherwise, control of fishing is going to be demanded over a much wider zone than the 3-mile territorial sea which has been so generally accepted throughout Western Europe in the past. May I add, that in the general debate which has dealt so much with this subject, no convincing reason, I submit, has been advanced why the territorial sea should be more than 3 miles, except that it is a simple method of providing a wider area of control over fishing if there is no other effective way of obtaining that result. The creation of a contiguous fishing zone, however, does achieve the result, gives exactly the same rights over fishing as exist within the territorial sea, and at the same time makes it possible to continue the long-established principle of the freedom of the sea to within 3 miles to the coast.

If our proposed amendment is adopted the measurement of the contiguous zone will be definite. We have proposed that because we believe it desirable in this and in other cases that the measurement be exact. Variable distances to be established