

communications, the numbers of ships entering and leaving busy ports, the growing efficiency of distant fishing operations -- and perhaps also the longer range of cannon -- had led many governments to the conclusion that some adjustment was necessary. The 12-mile concept had gained considerable currency, or at least a continuous territorial sea and fisheries-protection zone beyond three miles out to 12 miles. Canada, with its important traditional fishing interests, put forward such a compromise at the 1960 conference. The 1958 conference, which had achieved an important success on the continental-shelf question, had failed to reconcile the different points of view on the limits of full sovereignty.

The 1960 conference also failed to come to a conclusion, but only by one vote. Since that time, a number of countries have taken unilateral decisions on a 12-mile limit.

In 1970, Canada, for instance, established a 12-mile territorial sea. In the same 1970 amendments to the Territorial Sea and Fishing Zone Act, Canada laid down the legislative basis for proclaiming exclusive fishing-zones "adjacent" to its coast. Subsequently, by Order-in-Council, fishing-zones were established on Canada's east and west coasts.

#### Contiguous economic zone

There is also general agreement that some area beyond the territorial area should be under the jurisdiction of coastal states. The 1958 Continental Shelf Convention gave economic and management rights to the limit of the 100-fathom mark or to the "limit of exploitability" of the coastal shelf. One hundred fathoms was well beyond exploitability on the basis of the technology developed at the time. In the years since the Continental Shelf Convention was drafted, technology was advanced to the point where it can be foreseen that there is virtually no limit, owing to the depth of water, of the area that can be exploited -- if not today, at least in the near future.

Some 148 states with very different geographical dimensions and attributes are eligible to come to Caracas. Of these, 39 are landlocked. Particularly, the latter look with great interest to the conception put forward some years ago by the Maltese representative at the United Nations, Dr. Arvid Pardo. He argued that, beyond the territorial sea and economic zones, the exploitation of the seabed should take place for the benefit of all states. The landlocked states quite naturally wish to limit the economic zone of the coastal states as much as possible. They have put forward the idea of a limited 40-mile zone or one