

law at the next conference; that is to say, a formula which recognizes the essential interests of all states and presents a genuine middle position . . . to which countries favouring less extensive or more extensive limits can move together in common accord.

In the view of the Canadian Government, the Canadian six-plus-six formula—that is a six-mile territorial sea and a further six-mile exclusive fishing zone—remains the proposal with the best chance of proving an acceptable compromise solution at the forthcoming conference; and for this reason it is the firm intention of the Canadian Government to sponsor such a proposal at the conference and to work actively on its behalf.

During the past months Canada has been seeking support for this proposal and conducting discussions in capitals throughout the world. Toward this end, Canada has presented to all members of the United Nations a pamphlet entitled "The Law of the Sea — A Canadian Proposal", which was tabled in the House on January 15 and which has just been distributed to the members of the Committee. This little booklet seems to be arousing considerable interest and bringing about a wider understanding of the Canadian position.

What of the prospects for the success of the conference? I think the Canadian pamphlet demonstrates that the failure of the first conference should not occasion pessimism for the success of the next. Reassuring progress was, in fact, made at the earlier meeting; it proved that there was a wide measure of agreement, not only on the desirability of adopting new rules of law, but also on the principle of the freedom of the high seas and a coastal state's right to a 12-mile fishery zone.

In the light of the probable consequences of the failure of the conference, the need for the adoption of new rules of law has become more and more pressing. Agreement at the conference will be a significant achievement and will, furthermore, testify to the international community's ability to meet its responsibilities. The chances of success of the conference will, in the final analysis, depend on the willingness of a number of states to be flexible in their positions and on their readiness to move towards a genuine compromise or "middle" formula which lies in between the positions heretofore adopted both by the Western maritime powers and by a number of African, Asian and Latin American countries, and the Soviet Bloc as well. The Soviet Bloc is in favour of a 12-mile territorial sea.

If a number of countries or groups of countries adopt inflexible positions at the conference and are unwilling to move towards a genuine compromise formula, the prospects of success, both of the Canadian formula and, indeed, of the conference itself, will be considerably reduced. Whatever the circumstances, I can, however, assure the members of the Committee that the Canadian Government will continue to work actively towards the success of the conference and the adoption of uniform and equitable rules of law; and, of course, we will be guided at all times by what we consider to be the best interests of Canada and of the international community.