

Our proposal reads as follows:

"1. A state is entitled to fix the breadth of its territorial sea up to a limit of six nautical miles measured from the baseline which may be applicable in conformity with Articles 4 and 5.

"2. A state has a fishing zone contiguous to its territorial sea extending to a limit twelve nautical miles from the baseline from which the breadth of its territorial sea is measured in which it has the same rights in respect of fishing and the exploitation of the living resources of the sea as it has in its territorial sea."

There has been no change of front by Canada. Ever since 1911, we have claimed that there should be a fishing zone of 12 miles and since that time there has been a law in our country which has kept our own trawlers outside that zone. We have been waiting for long years patiently, perhaps too patiently, for a general solution to this problem which would protect the vital fishing interests of the long coast-lines on three oceans. We have no special interest in the measurement of the territorial sea as such, except for the reasons I have mentioned and the desirability of obtaining uniformity. Let me make that abundantly clear. We incorporated a proposal for a 3-mile limit only for the reason that we sought general agreement. We accepted the measurement upon which there had been such firm insistence by the major maritime powers. We still believe that if there is to be a workable regime of law, the measurement of the territorial sea must be that distance from the baseline which is acceptable to those nations which operate the overwhelming majority of the shipping tonnage of the world. It is consistent with that principle that we have now changed our original proposal for a 3-mile limit to a measurement of up to 6 miles, and that is the only change.

There would indeed have been a decisive change of front by Canada if we were to accept the completely new proposition put forward by the United States which would make the rights of a coastal state in the 12-mile fishing zone subject to the proviso" that such rights shall be subject to the right of the vessels of any state whose vessels have fished regularly in that portion of the zone having a continuous baseline and located in the same major body of water for the period of five years immediately preceding the signature of this convention to fish in the outer six miles of that zone under obligation to observe therein such conservation regulations as are consistent with the rules on fisheries adopted by this conference and other rules of international law". Let us see what that would mean. That reservation would completely neutralize the meaning, purpose and effect of the creation of a 12-mile fishing zone for more of the countries concerned with this extended protection for fishing interests. Until their