

The second part of the new text deals, among other questions, with the "economic zone" concept, a concept we regard as the foundation-stone of any successful Law of the Sea Conference. In spite of the many attempts made by certain groups -- notably the landlocked and "geographically-disadvantaged" states and some of the long-distance fishing nations -- to erode the very nature of the "economic zone", the concept has emerged unscathed and is now firmly entrenched in the consensus that is reflected in the revised Single Negotiating Text. This means that Canada would acquire sovereign rights over living resources (that is, fisheries resources) out to 200 miles, would maintain its sovereign right over the resources of the continental shelf out to the edge of the continental margin, and would have recognized in specific treaty language its right to preserve the marine environment and control scientific research.

On fisheries, the basic compromise reflected in the original Single Negotiating Text accommodated all essential Canadian interests, and has re-emerged intact in the revised text. In fact, there were very few changes to the fisheries articles, and these were mostly editorial in nature, including the change we thought about to the Anadromous Species Article to correct certain editorial problems that had found their way into the original Single Negotiating Text. The most difficult issue that remains to be resolved is the question of rights of access by landlocked and "geographically-disadvantaged" states to the fisheries within the economic zones of coastal states in the same region or sub-region. The revised Single Negotiating Text contains provisions on this subject that will require further negotiations. They contain no provisions that would materially derogate from Canada's sovereign rights over fisheries in the future 200-mile economic zone, nor should we be prepared to accept such derogation in future negotiations.

With respect to the continental shelf, the previous affirmation of coastal states' sovereign rights to the edge of the continental margin was confirmed, together with the concept of revenue-sharing in respect of the seabed resources found between the 200-mile limit and the edge of the margin.

Canada was extremely active in New York in the debate on the preservation of the marine environment. The basic Canadian approach is reflected in the revised Single Negotiating Text on this subject, whereby the draft articles establish an umbrella convention laying down fundamental treaty obligations to preserve the marine environment. The original Single Negotiating Text was already in large measure acceptable to Canada, but it was particularly deficient, in our view, on the subject of the control of pollution from ships. It provided very limited powers to coastal states over ships found in