

resources in their own off-shore waters as an important source of food and income. In this connection, Canada's role at the Conference was largely that of a coastal state seeking international recognition of the right of coastal states to achieve economic security through greater control of the fishery resources in their adjacent seas.

When it appeared that the Conference could not reach agreement on any proposal regarding the breadth of the territorial sea and fishery limits, the Conference decided to request the United Nations General Assembly to study at its thirteenth session (1958) "the advisability of convening a second International Conference of Plenipotentiaries for further consideration of the questions left unsettled by the present Conference".

This item was accordingly placed on the agenda of the thirteenth session of the General Assembly. (Agenda item 59). In the Sixth (Legal) Committee, there were three main views put forward regarding the convening of the Conference:

- (a) that, because of the critical nature of the situation in this area of international law, the Conference should be convened at the earliest practicable date in 1959 — preferably February or March. This view was put forward by Canada and Norway;
- (b) that the appropriate date for a new Conference, and one leaving more time for preparation, was July or August 1959. This date was formally put forward in a resolution co-sponsored by the United States, United Kingdom and 9 other countries;
- (c) that agreement could not be reached at a Conference in 1959, and that the question of convening a new Conference should therefore be postponed until the fourteenth session of the General Assembly (or the questions of territorial sea and fishery limits could be dealt with substantively at the fourteenth session if so decided at that time). This approach was proposed by India, Mexico and 5 other Latin-American and African-Asian countries, and was supported by the Soviet bloc.

After a lengthy debate, the Sixth Committee rejected, by an extremely close vote, the Mexican-Indian proposal and then adopted by a vote of 42 in favour (including Canada) 28 against with 9 abstentions, the United States-United Kingdom proposal for a July 1959 Conference. In plenary session, however, a new amendment to the Committee's resolution was put forward by India, Mexico and others, postponing the date for the Conference until March or April 1960. This new amendment, with United States and United Kingdom support, was carried by a vote of 68 in favour, 6 against, (including Canada) with 3 abstentions. The amended resolution in favour of the March-April 1960 date was then carried by an almost unanimous vote (71 in favour, including Canada, none against, with 6 abstentions). Geneva was agreed upon as the venue for the Conference.

Canada voted against the 1960 amendment because we had urged throughout that a Conference should be called as early as possible in 1959