principle of maritime boundary delimitation that the result must exclude any need for co-operation in the management of overlapping fish stocks, then there can be little hope for co-operation in the management of shared natural resources anywhere. And if it is an equitable principle of maritime boundary delimitation that nature or providence draws the lines, then we will have returned to one of the most troublesome doctrines that has ever provoked conflict among states.

All of this, Mr. President, is a step backward, not a step forward – a new form of isolationism, and no form of law. And any kind of isolationism is out of place in the relations of the parties. Canada and the United States share one of the longest, most artificial, and, so to speak, most porous land boundaries in the world. In the words of President Reagan, it is a border not which divides us, but a border which joins us" (address to Joint Session of the Houses of Parliament, Ottawa, 11 March 1981). President Kennedy elaborated on the same theme in the following statement: "Geography has made us neighbours. History has made us friends. Economics has made us partners. And necessity has made us allies." (Address to joint Session of Houses of Parliament, Ottawa, 17 May 1961.)

The present dispute, of course, has also made us litigants for a time. But it is preposterous to suggest that a "buffer zone" is required between Canada and the United States in the Gulf of Maine (United States Memorial, paragraphs 255 and 256). We have done very well without such buffer zones along the 8 891 kilometers of our common land boundary. The extension of a maritime boundary 200 nautical miles into the sea hardly requires their introduction now. A better view of the situation in the Gulf of Maine area has recently been expressed by a fisherman from Gloucester, Massachusetts: "If it were up to the fishermen themselves, we would keep the waters open between the two countries. We get along with the Canadians. Historically we've fished in each others waters and helped each other out. The only war we've had is who could catch the most fish" (Compass Point, National Geographic Society, 28 December 1983).

Mr. President, the boundary proposed by Canada for the Gulf of Maine area is a reasonable and balanced one whose origins date back to 1964. It results from the application of law to geography. Its equitable character is confirmed by non-geographical relevant circumstances that are rooted in legal principles proper to the zones to be delimited. The conduct of the parties themselves attests to these facts. And the tradition of co-operation between the parties is the most solid foundation for the rational management of the variety of resources that will inevitably be divided by any single maritime boundary the Court in its wisdom may establish.

Mr. President, members of the Chamber, I thank you for the courtesy you have shown me in hearing me so patiently today. The agent for Canada will now proceed with his presentation of the Canadian case.

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