

*Supply*

seas are not effective and they do not adequately implement the provisions of the Law of the Sea convention. That is something that we will take to UNCED when we meet with other countries there in June. It called on states to prohibit fishing methods and practices that can have an adverse impact on the conservation and management of the living resources of the high seas and to take the measures required to give full effect to the applicable provisions of the 1982 Law of the Sea convention and called on states to comply with the regimes established by regional fisheries organizations through effective monitoring and enforcement measures.

It is against this background of crisis in the Canadian east coast fishing industry and developing international concern—which is growing largely as the result of the efforts of this government—with respect to the problems caused by overfishing by distant water fishing fleets, that Canada launched its high seas fishing initiative at UNCED. This initiative seeks to develop specific principles and measures consistent with the Law of the Sea convention with a view to giving full implementation to the provisions of the Law of the Sea convention, strengthening regional organizations and ensuring the recognition of the special interest of coastal states with respect to straddling stocks. That would provide for an effective legal regime governing activities on the high seas. We are optimistic concerning our ability to achieve this objective.

The first steps in the elaboration of the principles and measures were taken at a legal conference held in St. John's, Newfoundland in September 1990. The conference recognized the need for such measures and agreed on a set of conclusions reflecting an increasingly shared view on how the rules of international law should be interpreted and applied. This was further developed into a set of principles and measures at a meeting of Latin American states, New Zealand and Canada in May in Santiago, Chile. This is called the Santiago paper and it was tabled at a meeting of legal experts in New York City in July. The meeting was convened by the UN by the Under Secretary-General responsible for the Office of Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea.

In August, the Santiago papers, as refined in New York City, were included under agenda item 21 at the third

UNCED preparatory committee. It gained additional sponsors and was praised for its “forward-looking strategies” to deal with specific problems that have arisen in the last decade and to implement effectively the provisions of the Law of the Sea convention. The Santiago paper has won the support of some 40 countries and is part of the documentation on the table this week as a fourth UNCED preparatory committee begins its work in New York City on fisheries issues.

• (1650)

Canada and like-minded countries are determined to do all they can to ensure that the principles and measures set out in that Santiago paper are incorporated in the documents adopted by the UNCED summit when it convenes in Rio and that they serve as the basis for a diplomatic conference to be convened following the UNCED summit to address in particular the problems of high seas fishing.

The government considers the only way that Canada can achieve its goal of protecting Canadian fish stocks for Canadian fishermen today and in the future is through international co-operation and not through confrontation on the high seas.

We are determined to act with the imagination and vigour required to achieve success, and we know that it takes a considerable amount of effort. Results are not always visible in the early stages, but our fisheries communities deserve no less because ultimately it is international co-operation that is going to assist them.

We are committed to finding an effective solution to this problem, a solution that enhances Canadian control over the fish stocks off Canada's east coast throughout their migratory range. That is why we are going to such extraordinary lengths.

**Mrs. Coline Campbell (South West Nova):** Mr. Speaker, I have a number of questions.

I have listened to the minister on two occasions. I know that she takes this debate seriously, as we all do, but three weeks ago we held an emergency debate and this week it is our opposition motion on the crisis that exists. We would like to see more effort, more energy from the government on this crisis.