

Labrador, probably B.C., etc. (The question of the application of this system to other parts of the coast is still under consideration by the Interdepartmental Committee).

(b) [Paragraphe non-déclassifié./Paragraph not declassified.]

(c) To consult the United States and the United Kingdom and France informally concerning the action contemplated.

(d) To decide in principle on the extension of the breadth of the territorial sea to 12 miles as an ultimate goal.

(e) [Paragraphe non-déclassifié./Paragraph not declassified.]

(f) To adopt the position that a littoral state should have the right to explore and exploit the natural resources of the seabed and subsoil of the continental shelf to the point where it plunges into ocean depths but where the outer edge of the shelf is ill-defined to agree to the limit being set at the 200 meter mark. (A 200 meter limit has been favoured by the International Law Commission as the maximum depth for a "continental shelf". However, much of the true continental shelf off the east coast of Canada is more than 200 meters deep.)

4. On July 30, the then Prime Minister, in response to questions in the House, indicated in general terms the Government policy with regard to the adoption of baselines and the 12-mile limit. (*Hansard*, July 30, 1956, pages 6700-6703). On August 3, 1956, the Government agreed that the United States, United Kingdom and French Governments should be officially informed of the decisions outlined in the House of Commons, i.e. that in the United Nations consideration of the report of the International Law Commission Canada would support the adoption of a straight baseline system for the measurement of territorial waters and would also support the adoption of the 12-mile limit for territorial waters.

5. Subsequently, in 1956, confidential discussions took place between Canadian officials and United States and United Kingdom officials. At these discussions United States and United Kingdom officials emphasized that universal adoption of a 12-mile territorial limit would have serious implications for security. In the light of their views, the government decided on a modified position which would involve, as the Canadian policy:

(a) a 3-mile limit for territorial waters proper,

(b) a 12-mile contiguous zone (measured from the same baselines from which the territorial sea would be measured) in which the coastal state would have the full right to impose fishing regulations (as well as customs, fiscal and sanitary regulations as already recommended by the Commission).

It was agreed that Canada make such a proposal at the General Assembly but that it should *not* exclude Canadian support for the 12-mile limit if at a later stage it appeared that no agreement could be reached on a 12-mile contiguous zone within which the coastal state would have adequate fishery controls. Subsequently the Canadian position on the breadth of the territorial sea was stated by the Canadian representative in the Sixth Committee of the General Assembly on December 7, 1956 as follows:

"The Canadian delegation believes that the 3-mile limit is not adequate for all purposes. In particular it is not adequate for the enforcement of customs, fiscal and sanitary regulations. It is also not adequate for the protection and control of fisheries. The Commission has already recommended a contiguous zone of not more than 12 miles from the baseline from which the territorial sea is measured for the purpose of exercising the necessary control in the enforcement of customs, fiscal or sanitary regulations. For Canada it is of fully as great importance that the rules of international law should provide adequately for the regulation and control of fisheries off the coasts of any state. One way of providing this would be by accepting, for general application, the twelve