

Unfortunately, the conference has not gone very far beyond accepting this very basic concept. The practical implementation of the concept -- that is, the creation of a new international authority -- has given rise to a most serious confrontation between developed and developing nations.

This may seem to some Canadians a controversy so far removed from our essential preoccupations that it should not cause us to worry. There are, on the contrary, two very basic concerns that trouble us: One is that the two opposing factions on this issue attach such importance to its resolution that failure on this item might undo the whole conference. Our second concern is that, if a proper international legal regime is not established over the international area, we shall not only find ourselves faced with conflict between developing and developed states but we, as Canadians, might also suffer from an uncontrolled exploitation of mineral resources -- in particular of nickel -- which constitute a good part of our hard-minerals exports and on which entire Canadian communities depend.

Both for reasons of world-wide equity and our own domestic interests, we must do everything we can to set up a strong and economically viable international authority.

Finally, the third major trend at the conference can be expressed in terms of a growing realization by all states that the oceans must be managed in a rational manner as opposed to the *laissez-faire* attitudes of the past. While it is desirable to maintain the ocean as a major thoroughfare for commerce, communications and general exchanges between nations, the time of unfettered freedom that has so often led to abuse is over. Navigation, fishing, research and exploration must be permitted and encouraged, but they must also be made subject to appropriate controls, rules and standards.

Much of the debate that is going on has to do precisely with the reasonableness of such rules, their source and their enforcement. Canada has led the way in the protection of the marine environment. We have already legislated to control pollution in the Arctic and in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, the Bay of Fundy, Queen Charlotte Sound, Dixon Entrance and Hecate Strait. For all practical purposes we are already managing these coastal areas as we would like to see economic zones managed. We hope that the conference will endorse these concepts and will apply them universally, taking into account the interest of the world community in international navigation and the special ecological or geographical circumstances that prevail in certain parts of the world.