

I do not think that I can overstress to an audience of Maritimers the importance of the sea, its protection and the orderly management of its bounty. The early settlements in this region and your livelihood over the centuries have been bound up with it and the water-borne commerce of Canada entering the outward-bound through your ports. The outcome of the Caracas conference will have a particular and direct bearing on the future development of the Maritimes.

The conference will be drafting texts of international conventions in much the same way that many past conferences have done. The great difference will be the codification of concepts for the management, regulation and establishment of a joint world ownership of a vast part of the globe. This is something very new and very important in the growing interrelations of countries and continents. If the conference succeeds in its work, the world will have taken an enormous step in the direction of working out collectively the responsible global exploitation, use and conservation of world resources.

To accomplish its work, the conference, which will meet throughout the summer and probably again in a further session, will address itself to several broad areas of common concern:

- the breadth of the territorial sea;
- the further area of national jurisdiction - the so-called economic zone or patrimonial sea;
- the water and seabed area beyond the limits of national jurisdiction and concept of "the common heritage of mankind";
- navigation in the different zones and areas of the sea;
- fisheries and their conservation;
- the protection from pollution of the marine environment.

Not only the Maritimes but all Canada has a strong and direct interest in the outcome of the conference in each of these areas.

**Territorial sea** For centuries, the distance of a cannon shot, the classical three miles, was the accepted limit of the territorial sea. By 1958, however, it had come to be recognized that, with the advance in technology of all sorts, including the speed of ships, modern