

Mr. MURPHY: I think they would be of importance and interest to this committee and should be tabled.

Mr. CARTER: Could I have an answer to the question I asked?

There was an international conference in Geneva last year at which the problems of conservation and extension of territorial waters was discussed. I wonder if the committee could be brought up to date in regard to the results of that conference?

Mr. MACLEAN: Mr. Chairman, I think I may be able to clarify the situation somewhat. The conference was held in February, March and April.

There was an international conference in Geneva convened by the United Nations for the purpose of reviewing, revising, and reaching new agreements on the problems involving territorial waters.

There were 86 countries represented at this conference. The subjects under discussion were not confined to territorial waters as far as fishing is concerned, although that was the item that seemed to receive a lot of publicity in the press, and understandably so. There were many other subjects discussed. There was the question of navigation in territorial waters discussed; there was a discussion of territorial waters for the purpose not only of navigation, but customs and excise and natural resources in regard to the continental shelf of countries.

Agreements were reached in regard to many of the fields concerned.

No actual agreement was reached—it required a two-thirds majority—in regard to the expansion of territorial waters for fishing purposes.

The conference was adjourned with the hope that it will convene again within a reasonable length of time—within the next year, probably. It is hoped that at that time an agreement can be reached in regard to this question of territorial waters as far as fishing is concerned.

There have been a wide variety of problems and different points of view in regard to territorial waters of various countries throughout the world. There is a great conflict of interest in this field.

Some nations are interested in having their territorial waters, for all purposes, extended to very wide limits, while other countries are interested in extending their contiguous waters for fishing purposes only, and keeping the old traditional three-mile limit, which is the range of an old-fashioned gun, as international territorial waters.

Many other countries would like to have their territorial waters extended for certain purposes, while other groups of countries for special reasons would like to see the territorial waters of the nations of the world fairly limited.

This is a very complex problem. It has facets dealing with defence and the rights of navigation through narrow channels. If there was an outright extension of territorial waters, many water channels, which some countries consider essential to their economy and to their survival, perhaps, in some cases, would be closed.

Examples of such places would include the strait of Gibraltar, the gulf of Aqaba and places of that sort.

You also have very complex problems in regard to areas where a number of relatively small countries border on one body of water, such as the countries of western Europe, which border on the North sea.

I hope that that explanation answers your question.

Mr. CARTER: I was interested mainly in the conservation aspect.

Mr. MACLEAN: That is a matter which comes with the purview of one of these commissions, and I think perhaps what Mr. Carter has in mind is ICNAF.

Mr. CARTER: Yes, that is right, Mr. Chairman.