

is to propose solutions. I would hope, however, that my intervention is not interpreted as negative in its intent. I hope instead that I have been able to convey our conviction that the approach we should take to this question should be both imaginative and yet cautious. At this stage it is too early, in our view, to consider treaties, conventions, enunciations of principles or recommendations. What we do require is a more intimate knowledge of all aspects of this essentially new area of human activity. Our interest in these matters is, after all, natural concomitant to the fact that Canada has a most extensive coast line.

It has been suggested that a study group or a Committee of experts be established and given the task of gathering the information that will be necessary for future work and of examining the need for cooperation and regulation in this area and the planning that should be carried out. Canada believes that this is basically a sound proposal and, in our view, it is a satisfactory course of action in the circumstances. Canada considers that the mandate of such a Committee as may be established should not be of such wide scope as would draw it into contentious disputes. We are concerned also to avoid any kind of rigid institutionalization which could impede progress in this area. We see merit in the Committee undertaking, at least as a first step, the more limited but no less essential task of ascertaining in a precise fashion the extent of the problems at hand, the extent of our knowledge in this field, the need for