

exercise our sovereignty we found that the Canadian cupboard was nearly bare. We obtained from the United States a formal and explicit assurance that the voyage of the *Polar Sea* was without prejudice to Canada's legal position. That, Sir, is an assurance which the Government of the day in 1969 did not receive for the voyage of the *Manhattan* and of the two United States Coast Guard ice breakers. Sir, whatever was done this summer, and however it may contrast with what was done before, nonprejudicial arrangements will not be enough in the future.

● (1520)

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Clark (Yellowhead): The voyage of the *Polar Sea* has left no trace on Canada's Arctic waters and no mark on Canada's Arctic sovereignty. It is behind us and our concern must be for what lies ahead. Many countries, including the United States and the Federal Republic of Germany, are actively preparing now for commercial navigation in Arctic waters. Developments are accelerating in ice science, ice technology, and in tanker design. Several major Japanese firms are moving to capture the market for ice breaking tankers once polar oil and gas come on stream. Soviet submarines are being deployed under the Arctic ice pack and the United States Navy has, in turn, identified a need to gain Arctic operational experience to counter new Soviet deployments.

The implications for Canada are clear. As the western country with by far the greatest frontage on the Arctic, we must come up to speed in a range of marine operations that bear on our capacity to exercise effective control over the Northwest Passage and our other Arctic waters. To this end, Sir, I wish to declare to the House the policy of the Government in respect of Canadian sovereignty in Arctic waters, and to make a number of announcements as to how we propose to give expression to that policy.

Canada is an Arctic nation. The international community has long recognized that the Arctic mainland and islands are a part of Canada like any other, but the Arctic is not only a part of Canada, it is a part of Canadian greatness. The policy of the Government is to preserve that Canadian greatness undiminished. Canada's sovereignty in the Arctic is indivisible. It embraces land, sea and ice. It extends without interruption to the seaward-facing coasts of the Arctic islands. These islands are joined, and not divided, by the waters between them. They are bridged for most of the year by ice. From time immemorial Canada's Inuit people have used and occupied the ice as they have used and occupied the land. The policy of the Government is to maintain the natural unity of the Canadian Arctic archipelago and to preserve Canada's sovereignty over land, sea and ice undiminished and undivided.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Clark (Yellowhead): That Canadian sovereignty has long been upheld by Governments of this country. However, no previous Government has defined its precise limits or delineated Canada's internal waters and territorial sea in the Arctic.

Statements by Ministers

This Government proposes to do so. An Order in Council establishing straight baselines around the outer perimeter of the Canadian Arctic archipelago has been signed today and will come into effect on January 1, 1986.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Clark (Yellowhead): These baselines define the outer limit of Canada's historical internal waters. Canada's territorial waters extend 12 miles seaward off the baselines. While the Territorial Sea and Fishing Zones Act requires 60 days notice only for the establishment of fishery limits, we consider prior notice should also be given for this important step of establishing straight baselines.

[*Translation*]

Canada's jurisdiction over its continental margin and 200-mile fishing zone is unchallenged in the Arctic as elsewhere. Canada also exercises jurisdiction over a 100-mile pollution prevention control zone in arctic waters, in order to protect the unique ecological balance in the area. That too has been recognized by the international community, in a special provision in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

However, no previous government had ever extended the application of Canadian civil and criminal laws to offshore zones in the Arctic and elsewhere. The present Government will take this action. To this end, one of our priorities will be the speedy passage of legislation covering the offshore application of Canada laws.

The exercise of functional jurisdiction in Arctic waters is essential to Canadian interests. However, it is no substitute for Canada's full sovereignty over the waters of the Arctic archipelago. Only with full sovereignty can we protect the entire range of Canadian interests. Full sovereignty is vital to Canada's security. It is vital to the Inuit people. And it is vital to Canada's national identity.

The policy of this Government is to exercise full sovereignty in and on the waters of the Arctic Archipelago and this applies to the airspace above as well. We will accept no substitute.

[*English*]

The policy of the Government is also to encourage the development of the navigation in Canadian Arctic waters. Our goal is to make the Northwest Passage a reality for Canadians and foreign shipping as a Canadian waterway.

Some Hon. Members: Hear, hear!

Mr. Clark (Yellowhead): Navigation, however, will be subject to the controls and other measures required for Canada's security, for the preservation of the environment, and for the welfare of the Inuit and other inhabitants of the Canadian Arctic. In due course the Government will announce the further steps it is taking to implement these policies, and especially to provide more extensive marine support services, to strengthen regulatory structures, and to reinforce the necessary means of control. I am announcing today that the Government has decided to construct a Polar Class-8 ice-breaker.