

Canada was one of the pioneering countries in efforts to bring about international arrangements for the conservation of the living resources of the sea. Since the beginning of this century, Canada has become a party to seven international conventions which, within the scope of their limitations, have been relatively successful but which have failed to bring about a truly effective *régime* for the protection of fisheries resources.

The Canadian Government is convinced, on the basis of its lengthy experience in this field, that neither existing customary international law nor contemporary conventional international law are adequate to prevent the continuing and increasingly rapid depletion of the living resources of the sea. It is for this reason that we propose to extend our fisheries jurisdiction in the manner I have described. It is our expectation that other governments will take similar action since it is only too evident that there is no other effective way of preventing the rapid depletion of the living resources of the sea.

It seems anomalous that, whereas international law recognizes the right of coastal states to control the exploitation of mineral resources and of the so-called sedentary species of shellfish on the continental shelf adjacent to their shores, it has not yet developed an equally effective system for the management of the "free-swimming" fish in coastal areas. A coastal state may licence foreign *entrepreneurs* to exploit the mineral resources of its continental shelf, but so far only a few states have taken a similar approach to controlling the exploitation of coastal fisheries resources.

Now that the world is becoming aware that living resources are not infinitely renewable and that they can, indeed, be exhausted or depleted by over-exploitation or wiped out by means of pollution of the sea, it is vitally necessary to apply to the exploitation of these resources some of the techniques which have been developed for offshore mineral resources. The action now being taken by Canada is a step in this direction, a step toward a more logical and systematic approach to the management of living marine resources.

Exclusive rights to harvest may be necessary, but they are not an end in themselves. The end we have in mind is conservation and rational management, and for this purpose we require jurisdiction. That jurisdiction, however, does not rule out the possibility of sharing fisheries exploitation with other countries; it does, however, allow us to set rules for that exploitation, to impose licensing requirements if necessary and thus to share the financial burden of conservation as well as the financial rewards of exploitation.

Following the establishment of Canada's new fishing-zones, we intend to conclude negotiations for the phasing-out of the fishing activities of the countries which have traditionally fished in the areas concerned -- namely, Britain, Norway, Denmark, France, Spain and Italy. With respect to the fishing activities of the United States in these areas, it is intended that they should continue on the basis of the *ad referendum* agreement on reciprocal fishing privileges we have recently negotiated with that country. Apart from traditional fishing practices, the United States and France also have certain treaty rights off Canada's east coast, and these rights will, of course, be respected.