

on fishing there. To all people who understand the importance of fishing to under-developed countries, the significance of the particular article is self-evident. Further, it provides that when conservation measures in the high seas have been adopted by a coastal state, they must be observed by fishermen from other countries. And then finally, under emergency circumstances, coastal states may unilaterally enact the necessary conservation measures on the high seas.

"The third important feature to Canada was the question of straight base lines and bays. To those of us who live in the inland portions of Canada the fact that our coastline is very irregular hardly comes to our attention but in trying to define territorial waters the sinuosity of our coastline is a matter that gives us considerable concern and therefore these regulations in this regard, as drafted and codified by this international law of the sea, are very important to the future of our country.

"In the Convention on the Territorial Sea and the Contiguous Zone, article 4 provides that where the coast is deeply indented the method of drawing straight base-lines from headland to headland may be followed in setting the boundary of the territorial sea rather than following the sinuosities of the coastline. I think the importance of that can be realized . . . This provision, which reflects the 1951 decision in the well-known Anglo-Norwegian fisheries case is of particular interest to Canada because much of our coastline is deeply indented.

"The Conference also adopted a provision recognizing that bays with mouths of 24 miles or less are to be regarded as internal waters. This limitation would not, of course, affect bays along coasts where the baseline system is applicable.

"The fourth Convention deals with the general law of the high seas . . . It provides for the first time a systematic compilation of recognized international law on a number of important matters and seeks to ensure the maximum freedom of the high seas. This applies not only to navigation but to fishing on the high seas, flying over the high seas and such activities as the laying of submarine cables and the building of pipelines under the high seas.

"It was, Mr. Speaker, a very thorough compilation of the existing laws of the sea into a code which we now hope will be ratified by the great majority of the nations of the world."

The Canadian Delegation played an active role in the Conference's discussions leading to the formulation of these Conventions, particularly the Continental Shelf Convention (in fact, it was a Canadian proposal that led to the adoption of a separate agreement on this subject). But perhaps the main Canadian contribution towards the development of a code of international law was the "Canadian proposal". Basically this concept was that there should be a coastal zone of twelve miles in which a state would have the same rights with regard to fishing as it had in its territorial sea. Under the final Canadian plan, a state would be allowed, in addition to a territorial sea of up to six miles, six further miles in which it would have exclusive control over fishing. This proposal affected profoundly the whole course of discussion from the time it was first put forward and in fact became the principal feature of several other plans at the Conference which were also put forward as possible solutions to the questions of the breadth of