

would have been adversely affected by the Canadian decision. Also in 1970, Canada took special measures to protect the special ecological conditions of the Arctic by introducing anti-pollution regulations for a 100-mile area off the Arctic coastline. This action was taken because existing international law did not adequately recognize the need of coastal states to protect themselves against threats to their marine environment which recent experience has shown to be very real.

These unilateral measures must, of course, be looked at in the light of the simultaneous efforts undertaken by Canada in international fora with a view to developing in a rational manner up-to-date multilateral solutions to some of these problems.

There are, of course, a great number of problems which by their very nature directly involve relations between two or more states but do not readily lend themselves to universal solution. A prime example of such problems can be found in the field of fisheries. For instance, the complexity of the problems and the number of participating countries in the context of North West Atlantic and North East Pacific fisheries have led Canada, along with its neighbours, to enter into bilateral or regional arrangements for the purpose of better regulating such fisheries. Such agreements have successfully established the importance of sound management principles for high seas fishing and have thus made a major contribution to the development of international law.

The most remarkable attempts to develop the Law of the Sea at the world-wide level were made in 1958 and 1960 at the first two Law of the Sea Conferences. Three of the Conventions elaborated in 1958 were essentially a codification of the existing law, that is, one which was basically concerned with practical applications of the principle of the freedom of the high seas; these conventions are the Convention on the Territorial Sea and the Contiguous Zone, the Convention on Fishing and Conservation of the Living Resources of the Seas and the Convention on the High Seas. A fourth Convention, that on the Continental Shelf, in confirming relatively new state practices with respect of the resources of the continental shelf, recognized for the first time the vital interests of coastal states in wide areas off their coasts without affecting the status of superjacent waters as high seas.