

Request for Map of Canadian Arctic

continental shelves which lie off the shores of various nations. The American proclamation at that time indicated that the resources of the subsoil and the seabed of the continental shelf, adjacent to a country's shores, belonged to that nation. This principle was accepted and incorporated into an international convention at the U.N. Geneva Conference on the Law of the Sea in 1958, just 12 years ago.

This convention specifies that a coastal state has a sovereign right to exploit the resources of a continental shelf lying adjacent to its coast to a depth of 200 metres or less, and to a greater depth if exploration proves feasible. Here again, we find that this principle has become law in some parts of the world. It is recognized internationally. On the basis of these three precedents which I have outlined, I believe we have an excellent claim to the islands, and to the waters between the islands stretching from Canada's mainland right up to the North Pole.

It is not as though Canada were just getting into the northern picture now. Over the years we have set up a large number of outposts on the Arctic islands and around our Arctic coasts. Outposts were set up by the RCMP. Missionaries have gone into the area. The establishment of such outposts has often been recognized by international law as one method by which a country could lay claim to territories outside its mainland area. We have had Canadian geologists go into the north. We have had fur traders there. More important than all the rest, we have had a number of scattered groups of Canadian citizens living on the islands and on the mainland, and moving around all over the area in order to obtain a livelihood. What more do we need? We don't need to have people living there permanently in order to lay claim to the territory. We have staked our claim. I am convinced the mere fact that we have had Eskimo people living in these areas in the north, and that we have had a large number of geographical survey crews working in these areas, constitutes a clear indication that they are recognized Canadian territory.

Again, I wish to emphasize that in bringing this motion before the House it is my hope that the government will move quickly and, as a government, assert Canadian sovereignty over the area which I have generally outlined. I firmly believe the Arctic is recognized as Canadian territory by the international community, and certainly by the citizens of Canada. I realize that there are several other hon. members who would like to par-

[Mr. Harding.]

ticipate in this debate. I am hopeful that the motion will be accepted by the House and that we will see this government not only officially lay claim to this area as being under Canadian jurisdiction, but that they will issue a map showing the world that we look upon the area from the Canadian mainland to the north pole as Canadian territory.

• (5:10 p.m.)

Mr. G. H. Aiken (Parry Sound-Muskoka): Mr. Speaker, I rise to support the motion before the House this afternoon. It is very much in line with statements that I have made and beliefs that I have held since the whole issue of Canadian sovereignty first arose. The real difficulty, Mr. Speaker, is that until recently there was never any question about the Canadian Arctic. We accepted the maps which were in general circulation, some of which go back many years to the time when the Canadian Arctic Archipelago was claimed in the name of Canada or even as far back as the claim in the name of Her Majesty the Queen. It seems unfortunate that we have had to assert our claims to sovereignty in such a fragmented way. The government has explained that in order to protect the Arctic waters from pollution, it wanted a pollution control bill and an accepted definition of the 100-mile limit in connection with that. This approach did not in any way help a difficult situation.

Since the very early days, we have had maps which must surely be in the possession of the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources. We have had hydrographic surveys, geographic and geological surveys of Canada, which have been accepted by everyone without question. If the purpose of the motion is that such map be produced, that is the early official maps or perhaps a series of them proving without any question Canada's claim to the Arctic, then I must support it.

In 1925, Mr. Speaker, the minister of the interior and the Parliament of the day passed regulations providing for any vessels, scientists or explorers passing through the Arctic to apply for and obtain a licence. This was based on the fact that the waters were considered Canadian territory. At that time there was no question about it. Licences were authorized and were issued. I think this is a tremendously good precedent which might have been followed. However, question has been thrown on the whole subject by the way in which the government has approached the whole question of Arctic sovereignty.