

future because a consensus has yet to emerge on a whole range of issues -- the nature of the rights and obligations of coastal states and of other states within that limit, the effect of such a limit on some of the most important straits used for international navigation, and demand of many states for a much wider zone -- of 200 miles or more -- for the protection of coastal states' interests in marine resources and environment.

I am quite prepared to concede that this interrelationship of issues and the resulting one-package approach make the task of the conference extremely difficult and lengthy. But fragmented solutions are out of the question. No nation is prepared to make concessions or to accept compromise formulae on a given point until it is satisfied that the over-all solution strikes an acceptable balance between its diverse interests.

What is important, therefore, is to assess the general direction of the conference and relate it to Canada's essential objectives.

There is a clear trend towards the acceptance of a three-tier concept: that is, an economic zone out to 200 miles; an international area beyond the economic zone reserved for the benefit of all mankind; and the application throughout the oceanic space of sound management principles for the use and preservation of the sea.

First, the economic zone, that is certainly the area where progress was most evident at Caracas. I believe I can safely say that whether or not the conference is altogether successful, the economic zone concept is here to stay. That is to say that within 200 miles of its coasts, a coastal state will have very substantial rights over the mineral and living resources of that zone and more extensive rights than it now possesses over marine pollution and scientific research.

For Nova Scotians and Canadians in general, that is a most encouraging development. It means that in the very near future Canada will be able to exercise full control over the most important economic activities now taking place or that may take place in the future in our off-shore waters. To be realistic, I must point out that this does not amount to an automatic remedy to all the economic ills of our coastal areas. Such a panacea does not exist. But it does mean that we will have the legal means and the necessary tools to put into effect sound management and conservation practices for the benefit of our own citizens, a power we have not had.

Let us consider for a moment what a 200-mile zone would do for Canada as far as fishing is concerned.