

national support for action already taken by Canada and other states to extend national fisheries jurisdiction out to 200 miles. Final agreement has not, however, been reached on these articles.

The following are the basic elements of the regime governing the living resources in the exclusive economic zone as embodied in the RSNT and reflected in the national legislation of countries, including Canada, which have already extended to 200 miles;

- 1) the coastal state shall determine the total allowable catch and determine its harvesting capacity within that limit;
- 2) the coastal state shall promote the objective of optimum utilization of the living resources in the exclusive economic zone;
- 3) where a coastal state does not have the capacity to harvest the entire allowable catch, it shall, subject to its management and authority, give other states access to the surplus of the allowable catch.

One of the more difficult questions yet to be resolved is the claim by landlocked and geographically disadvantaged states to a preferential right to access to living resources in the economic zones of neighbouring states or states in the region. For the first time at the Conference, representatives of landlocked and geographically disadvantaged states began discussions with a representative grouping of coastal states during the recent session. The differences are still considerable but there is no longer two solitudes; common solutions are being explored and with further effort could be translated into a reasonable compromise on the question of access to the living resources of the economic zone at the next session.

From the outset of the Conference, Canada has strongly asserted a coastal state's sovereign rights over the natural resources of the entire continental shelf (a right recognized in the 1958 Continental Shelf Convention) out to the edge of the continental margin (comprising the physical shelf, the slope, and the rise). But coupled with this right, Canada and other broad-shelf countries have recognized our obligation in equity to share a percentage of the revenue derived from exploitation of the resources of the continental shelf beyond 200 miles. This basic approach is embodied in the RSNT. However, formulae for defining the outer edge of the shelf and a revenue-sharing scheme are yet to be agreed. Canada played a leading role in discussions on these matters and there are encouraging indications that states are closer to an agreement on a method of defining the outer edge of the continental margin (based on a formula drafted by Ireland and Canada) and on a formula for sharing the revenues derived from the exploitation of the mineral resources of the continental shelf beyond 200 miles, while safeguarding the sovereign rights of the coastal state over