

- the 1971 Convention on the Establishment of an International Fund for Compensation of Oil Pollution Damage.

Last year, outside the IMCO context, a Convention on the Dumping of Wastes at Sea established a total prohibition on the discharge of certain extremely noxious substances and provided for the strict regulation of dumping of other less dangerous materials; it also envisaged for the first time a role for the coastal state in the enforcement of these measures. Another convention, which at the time of writing is being negotiated, the Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, should go beyond the 1954 Convention since it would apply not only to oil but to the discharge from ships of all other noxious substances, including sewage and garbage. Except for the latter Convention, which will require ratification, the other Conventions, although useful, deal with specific types of pollution only and would be much more effective if they included strict enforcement and fair compensation mechanisms.

The 1972 Stockholm Conference elaborated a Declaration on the Human Environment whose widely-accepted statement of principles may be considered as laying down the foundation for the future development of international environmental law. Three of the principles of the Declaration have particular relevance to marine pollution. A first principle posits the duty of States to prevent marine pollution; a second reflects the responsibility of States to ensure that activities within their jurisdiction or control do not cause damage to the environment of other states or of areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction; and a third calls upon states to cooperate in the further development of international law regarding liability and compensation for the victims of pollution and other environmental damage.

A Statement of Objectives concerning the Marine Environment, which was endorsed by the Human Environment Conference, recognizes the particular interests of coastal states with respect to the management of coastal area resources. The same statement also recognizes that there are limits to the assimilative and regenerative capacities of the sea and that, therefore, management concepts should be applied to the marine environment, to marine resources and to the prevention of marine pollution.