

expression to the measure of agreement that so far has been reached. In this way it may be possible for the Committee to recommend to the 25th General Assembly a declaration of principles which will be comprehensive enough to serve as the foundation of an international regime for the seabed beyond national jurisdiction without, at the same time, attempting to be so comprehensive as to substitute either for the regime itself or for the subsequent international agreement which must give it force and effect.

If the Committee is unable to achieve this result, then all of us may find that our deliberations, even if continued, will be overtaken by events and become increasingly academic and unrealistic. Time waits for no man, and technological, economic, political and military developments will not await the pleasure of this Committee.

It would be invidious, in the view of the Canadian delegation, to suggest that the major factor inhibiting the progress of the Committee is some supposed "split" between various groups of states represented here, or between the forces of conservatism and nationalism, on the one hand, and the forces of progress and internationalism, on the other. The delegations assembled here undoubtedly share a common dedication to working out an international regime which will encourage, in the interests of humanity, the peaceful and orderly exploitation of the seabed and ocean floor beyond the limits of national jurisdiction. At the same time, of course, all states wish to ensure that the regime which eventually emerges will be consistent with their national interests, as they see them.

There is no need to be apologetic about this concern for national interests, if such interests are viewed in the broadest and most enlightened sense so as to include a proper concern for international cooperation and mutual assistance. Nor, in our view, is it helpful to mask particular interests by attempting, however sincerely, to equate them with the general interests of humanity as a whole. What is necessary, on the contrary, is for all delegations carefully and clearly to define their interests and then to seek a responsible accommodation of their particular interests with those of other states. It is precisely in that accommodation that the Committee will find and safeguard the interests of humanity, and will ensure the exploitation of the seabed beyond national jurisdiction for the benefit of mankind, having particular regard to the special needs and interests of the developing countries.

Perhaps, then, one of the major factors slowing the progress of the Committee has been the fact that important uncertainties do still exist concerning the balance of national and international interests relative to the seabed both within and beyond national jurisdiction. Many states do not yet have sufficient information concerning the resources of the areas adjacent to their coasts. Too little is known about the resource potential of the oceanic basins. More serious still is the lack