

When it comes to the question of the area within which full authority may be exercised over fishing rights and the extent of the territorial sea I do think that much has been gained by the exchange of opinions in this general debate so that on the one hand the differences which do exist may be understood and on the other hand some obvious misunderstandings may be corrected. When I speak about these subjects on behalf of Canada I think it is appropriate that I should explain that in this case I am speaking on behalf of Canada in a way that is not always possible in a democratic country where differences of opinion are freely expressed. We are in the fortunate position that there is no difference of opinion in our country about what is known to most of you as "The Canadian Proposal." It was put forward at the General Assembly of the United Nations on December 7, 1956, by the representative of the preceding government in Canada. It was repeated in a memorandum to the Secretary-General of the United Nations by the present government on September 10, 1957, and it has received general approval by all parties in the Canadian Parliament.

#### Fishing Zone

We believe Canada should be able to reserve exclusive fishing rights for its own fishermen within a contiguous zone of 12 miles from the coastal baseline as defined by Articles 5 and 6. We believe that Article 66 should be amended to add the control of fishing to those subjects already covered by Section 1. This would seem to be the most satisfactory and most practical way of dealing with this subject because it comes logically under the article relating to a contiguous zone over which control will be exercised rather than any of the articles which deal with fishing on the high seas.

In seeking exclusive national jurisdiction over fishing within a 12-mile limit from the baseline we are not disregarding the arguments which have been put forward in favour of retaining a 3-mile limit over fishing as well as the territorial sea. We are impressed by the statements which have been made by the distinguished representatives of the United Kingdom and other countries as to the effect of such an extension of national jurisdiction over fishing upon their own fishing in distant waters. We would greatly regret that any decision by this conference might substantially reduce their annual catch. We do hope that satisfactory alternative arrangements can be made by agreement between the states concerned. In any event, we have imposed a 12-mile fishing limit on our own trawlers since 1911 for the protection of our shore fisheries. Thus within a 12-mile contiguous zone our own fishing trawlers have been denied by law the right to fish for 47 years. It is only natural that we should seek an international law which will impose the same restriction upon trawlers from other countries fishing in the waters off our coasts.