

Within the next few days, the Government will issue a first list of geographical co-ordinates of points, which will permit the immediate enforcement of a straight baseline system along the coast of Labrador and along the eastern and southern shores of Newfoundland. This will be only the first such list that the Government intends to issue within the next few weeks. Other lists will follow for other areas. The main reason for beginning to implement this policy in Labrador is that the coast of Labrador is the one that most readily lends itself to an application of the rules of International Law as they are laid down in the 1958 Convention on the Territorial Sea and Contiguous Zones and in the decision of the International Court of Justice in 1951 in the Anglo-Norwegian Fisheries case. As a matter of fact, the configuration of the Labrador coast is similar to that part of the Norwegian coast line that was the subject of the International Court decision of 1951. As to the eastern and the southern coast of Newfoundland, the members will recall that the Canadian Government committed itself in 1949, under the terms of the Union of Newfoundland and Canada, to preserve the historical internal character of the bays of Newfoundland. Although this commitment has already been fulfilled in practice through the assertion of our exclusive rights over these bodies of water ever since 1949, there have been, thus far, no special provisions made in our legislation to cover this situation. From now on, all bays of Newfoundland will clearly and definitely be defined as internal waters of Canada.