

## 9. Preserving Canada's Ocean Interests

An early and successful conclusion to the Law of the Sea Conference is in Canada's vital interests from a national standpoint and in terms of global peace and economic development. Its record of achievement in restructuring traditional principles of Law of the Sea and in developing new concepts of ocean resource management is remarkable. For Canada, the Conference has already provided multilateral endorsement of the 200 mile fishing zone and the 12 mile territorial sea and contributed to increased international acceptance of the need for enhanced coastal state jurisdiction over pollution from ships. The renaissance of the fishing industry in the maritime provinces is dramatic evidence of its positive impact upon Canada. We should not, however, underestimate the difficulties of resolving outstanding Conference issues, particularly concerning the international system for deep seabed mining, which has obvious significance for Canada, the world's largest producer of nickel.

High level fisheries negotiations during 1978 led to the signing of a bilateral fisheries agreement with Japan, a convention on Future Multilateral Cooperation in the North-West Atlantic Fisheries and a Protocol modifying the International Convention for the High Seas Fisheries of the North Pacific Ocean. Ad referendum agreement was reached with the EEC on the text of a bilateral fisheries agreement. With France new interim arrangements for 1979 were agreed relating to fishing in the area of St. Pierre and Miquelon; maritime boundary talks with France continue.

Canada/USA negotiations on maritime boundaries and fisheries resulted in agreement on a new regime for cooperative management of the Atlantic fisheries and on a formula for final resolution of the Gulf of Maine boundary dispute through binding third party settlement.

## 10. Canada/U.S.A. Cooperation

The management of Canada's relations with the United States is our highest bilateral priority and presents a continuing challenge. Notwithstanding the variety and complexity of the bilateral agenda, our relations with our nearest and most important neighbour have seldom been better. Canada's rapport with the Carter Administration reflects a special blend of common sense, informality and mutual regard. Achievements in 1978 were impressive: the new Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement and discussions on transboundary air pollution; cooperation on the Northern Gas