

Assembly's Sixth Committee. The Canadian delegate suggested that the workload of the Commission should include a study on the activities of multinational corporations. This suggestion was made to encourage the creation of international guidelines for these institutions. A number of other delegations expressed interest in this suggestion.

The International Law Commission's report on its 1971 work was also considered by the General Assembly's Sixth Committee. Canada supported a request, which was approved unanimously, for the International Law Commission to study, as soon as possible, the question of the protection and inviolability of diplomatic agents, with a view to preparing a set of draft articles dealing with offences committed against diplomats. The ILC has placed this topic on its provisional agenda for its 1972 session.

Law of the Sea

By Order in Council P.C. 1971-366 of February 25, 1971, the Government prescribed as fishing-zones of Canada certain areas of the sea adjacent to the coast of Canada, pursuant to the amendments to the Territorial Sea and Fishing Zones Act adopted in June 1970. "Fishery closing lines" have thus been drawn across the entrances to the Gulf of St. Lawrence, Bay of Fundy, Dixon Entrance, Hecate Strait and Queen Charlotte Sound. Canadian pollution-control jurisdiction has also been extended to these areas by virtue of the June 1970 amendments to the Fisheries Act and the amendments to the Canada Shipping Act adopted on March 30, 1971.

During 1971, Canada continued its active participation in the UN Committee on the Peaceful Uses of the Seabed and Ocean Floor beyond the Limits of National Jurisdiction, which held two sessions at Geneva in the course of the year. The membership of the Committee has been expanded from 42 to 86 states and its mandate broadened to include preparations for a third conference on the law of the sea provisionally scheduled for 1973 pursuant to Resolution 2750 C (XXV) of January 14, 1971. That resolution calls for a conference to deal with a large variety of issues, including: (1) the establishment of an equitable international regime (including international machinery) for the seabed and ocean floor beyond the limits of national jurisdiction; (2) a precise definition of this area of the seabed; (3) the breadth of the territorial sea and the question of international straits; (4) fishing and conservation of the living resources of the high seas, including the preferential rights of coastal states; (5) the preservation of the marine environment and the prevention of marine pollution; and (6) marine scientific research. The adoption of Resolution 2750 C required extensive negotiations in the light of the divergence of views on the scope of the conference and the priority attaching to the various issues it will consider. Canada was among the countries favouring a broad mandate for the conference and the Canadian delegation chaired the negotiating group that brought about agreement on the compromise resolution finally adopted.

In January 1971 the General Assembly was also able to agree, in Resolution 2749 (XXV), on a declaration of principles applicable to the seabed and ocean floor, and the subsoil thereof, beyond the limits of national jurisdiction. The declaration, in essence, affirms that this area of the seabed and ocean floor constitutes the "common heritage of mankind" and is not subject to national appropriation or claims of sovereignty; the area shall be reserved