

Canada and the United States therefore withdrew their respective proposals in favour of a new one constituting a compromise that they presented jointly. The new proposal was essentially the same as the original Canadian proposal, except that it gave to coastal states claiming traditional fishing rights the right to continue to fish for a period of ten years in the fishing zones contiguous to the territorial waters of other states. This would do away with the necessity of bilateral arrangements between states designed to lessen the impact of a sudden imposition of an exclusive fishing zone. The supporters of the two proposals welcomed this compromise as one that, though it involved a good many sacrifices on both sides, might ensure the success of the Conference.

#### Voting on the Proposals

When the 18-Power and the joint Canada-United States proposals were voted on in committee on April 13, the former was rejected by a vote of 36 in favour and 39 against, with 13 abstentions, while the latter was adopted by a vote of 43 in favour and 33 against with 12 abstentions. Because the joint Canada-United States proposal was therefore the only major proposal to succeed in committee, it was the only one referred to the Plenary Session, where it attracted further support. On April 26, the proposal received 54 votes in favour and 28 votes against (with 5 abstentions — Lebanon not being present), thereby being defeated by only one vote. When the United States delegate asked the Conference to reconsider the proposal, his motion did not receive the necessary two-thirds majority.

During the discussions in Plenary, the 18 powers that had sponsored the defeated three-to-twelve-mile proposal dwindled to a hard core of 10 countries. These countries then sponsored a new proposal providing for a 12-mile exclusive fishing zone and requesting the Secretary-General to consider the possibility of convening a further conference to deal with the breadth of the territorial sea. It was defeated by a vote of 32 to 38, with 18 abstentions.

#### Achievements of the Conference

By agreeing to support the joint proposal, 54 states, amongst which were numbered the main maritime nations of the world, indicated that they preferred the establishment of a rule of law to the chaos that might result on the high seas through unilateral action. The measure of agreement obtained at the Conference was particularly pleasing to Canada because it meant that Canadian differences with the United States and Western European countries over the question of fishing rights were resolved. This achievement, in itself, offered hope for the future.

The Conference adopted a resolution on technical assistance asking various Specialized Agencies of the United Nations to give urgent consideration to any requests by states for assistance in developing fishing industries or adjusting fishing practices to new situations.