

Committee II

Some progress was achieved in Committee II which is concerned with all the traditional law-of-the sea jurisdictional issues as well as elaborating the new concept of the 200 mile economic zone.

Five Negotiating Groups established by the Chairman dealt respectively with:

- 1) the legal status of the exclusive economic zone and the rights and duties of the coastal and other states in the zone;
- 2) the right of access of landlocked states to and from the sea and freedom of transit;
- 3) the definition of the outer edge of the continental margin and revenue-sharing in respect of the exploitation of the continental shelf beyond 200 miles;
- 4) the question of straits used for international navigation;
- 5) the delimitation of the territorial sea, the exclusive economic zone and the continental shelf between adjacent or opposite states.

The concept of an exclusive economic zone in which the coastal state exercises triple jurisdiction over living and non-living resources, marine pollution control and marine scientific research appears now to be firmly enshrined in the RSNT as one of the key components of a new Convention. Differences remain, however, as to the legal status of the zone - that is, whether it is to be categorized as high seas or, as Canada has proposed, a sui generis zone which is neither high seas nor territorial sea, but which embodies the right of functional jurisdiction by coastal states. It is the view of Canada that the RSNT in its Articles 44, 46, 47 and 75 has already provided for a fair balance of rights and obligations as between coastal and maritime states. As a means of accommodating maritime state interests more specific guarantees of traditional high seas freedoms in economic zones might be written into the text but without at the same time classifying the economic zone as high seas or otherwise prejudicing the rights and interests of coastal states, but no agreement has yet been reached on such a formula

Good progress was achieved on the question of rights of access and transit for interested states although the Group was unable finally to reach an overall compromise due to last minute reservations on the part of some landlocked states. It would seem, however, that with some minor changes, agreement on the relevant text in the RSNT (Part II, Chapter VI) could be reached at the next session, although the issue remains a difficult one.

The fisheries articles of the RSNT were not a focal point of discussion at the recent session and the concept of a coastal state's sovereign rights over the living resources in the economic zone remains firmly embodied in the draft text. This affords strong inter-