

shipping of all nations subject, however, to necessary conditions required to protect the delicate ecological balance of the Canadian Arctic.

Canada's new reservation to its acceptance of the compulsory jurisdiction of the International Court does not in any way reflect lack of confidence in the Court but takes into account the limitations within which the Court must operate and the deficiencies of the law which it must interpret and apply. Canada's readiness to submit to the international judicial process remains general in scope and is subject only to certain limited and clearly defined exceptions rather than to a general exception which can be defined at will so as to include any particular matter.

It is the earnest hope of the Canadian Government that it will be possible to achieve internationally accepted rules for Arctic navigation within the framework of Canada's proposed legislation. It is recognized that the interests of other states are inevitably affected in any exercise of jurisdiction over areas of the sea. These interests have been taken into account in drafting this legislation; Canada has, for instance, provided that naval vessels and other ships owned by foreign governments may be exempted from the application of Canadian anti-pollution regulations if the ships in question substantially meet Canadian standards. Canada will give the interests of other states, including the USA, further consideration in entering into consultations with them before promulgating safety regulations under the Arctic waters bill.

The Canadian Government is pleased to note that the USA confirms that it is acutely aware of the peculiar ecological nature of the Arctic region and the potential dangers of oil pollution in that area. The Canadian Government agrees that the Arctic is a "region important to all nations in its unique environment, its increasing significance as a world trade route and as a source of natural resources". The Canadian Government does not, however, agree that the Arctic as a whole should be subjected to an international regime protecting its assets both living and non-living, if that is what is proposed by the USA. Canada's sovereignty over the islands of the Arctic Archipelago is not of course, in issue, nor are Canada's sovereign rights over its northern continental shelf and the Canadian Government assumes that the USA Government is not suggesting an international

regime to cover these environments (nor the land near and adjacent submarine resources of Alaska).

With respect to the waters of the Arctic Archipelago, the position of Canada has always been that these waters are regarded as Canadian. While Canada would be pleased to discuss with other states international standards of navigation safety and environmental protection to be applicable to the waters of the Arctic, the Canadian Government cannot accept any suggestion that Canadian waters should be internationalized. The Canadian Government notes that the USA intends shortly to ask other interested states to join in an international conference designed to establish internationally agreed rules protecting the living and non-living assets of the Arctic beyond national jurisdiction, and notes that the USA Government would be pleased to join the Canadian Government in such a conference. Before the Canadian Government can express a definitive view on this question, further information will be required as to the scope, nature and territorial application of the rules the USA proposes, since the Canadian Government obviously cannot participate in any international conference called for the purpose of discussing questions falling wholly within Canadian domestic jurisdiction. With regard to matters properly of an international character, the Prime Minister took the lead in his statement to Canadian Parliament on October 24 last, in inviting the international community to join Canada in promoting a new concept, an international legal regime to ensure to human beings the right to live in a wholesome natural environment.

With respect to the proposed legislation permitting the establishment of exclusive fishing zones, it is the considered view of the Canadian Government that neither existing customary international law nor contemporary conventional international law are adequate to prevent the continuing and increasingly rapid depletion of the living resources of the sea. The Canadian Government is aware of the proposals of the USA and other states concerning possible solutions to this problem through a multilateral approach, and intends to participate actively and constructively in any conferences to be held to consider such questions. The Government in the meantime proposes to take all measures necessary for the protection and conservation of the living resources of the sea adjacent to Canada's coast. It is Canada's expectation that