

hydrocarbons and hard minerals, marine pollution, marine scientific research, navigation, both commercial and military, international straits, archipelagos and islands, off-shore installations, large landlocked and geographically-disadvantaged states, to name but the more important questions. All these questions are interrelated and the balance of interests within the 138 participating states is such that final resolution of one particular issue must of necessity await progress on all other issues. This is usually referred to as the "package approach".

Let me give you an example. It is well known that there already exists a very large majority of states in favour of an uniform breadth of 12 miles for the territorial sea. A vote could easily be carried tomorrow on that simple proposition. But there will not be a vote on this issue in the immediate future because a consensus has yet to emerge on a whole range of issues -- the nature of the rights and obligations of coastal states and of other states within that limit, the effect of such a limit on some of the most important straits used for international navigation, and the demand of many states for a much wider zone -- of 200 miles or more -- for the protection of coastal states' interests in marine resources and environment.

I am quite prepared to concede that this interrelation of issues and the resulting one-package approach make the task of the conference extremely difficult and lengthy. But fragmented solutions are out of the question. No nation is prepared to make concessions or to accept compromise formulae on a given point until it is satisfied that the overall solution strikes an acceptable balance between its diverse interests.

What is important, therefore, is to assess the general direction of the conference and relate it to Canada's essential objectives.

There is a clear trend towards the acceptance of a three-tier concept -- that is, an economic zone out to 200 miles, an international area beyond the economic zone reserved for the benefit of all mankind, and the application throughout the oceanic space of sound management principles for the use and preservation of the sea.

First, the economic zone -- that is certainly the area where progress was most evident at Caracas. I believe I can safely say that, whether or not the conference is altogether successful, the economic-zone concept is here to stay. That is to say that, within 200 miles of its coasts, a coastal state will have very substantial rights over the mineral and living resources of the