

the air with the interest of the people who live in coastal states and whose living is largely dependent on the products of the sea off that coast. This Canadian proposal was very simply to have a three-mile territorial sea but to have an additional nine miles in which the coastal state would have exclusive rights for fishing. This became known in our minds at least as the three-and-nine mile proposal, three miles of territorial sea, and nine additional miles in which the littoral state would have exclusive fishing rights. At the present time under international law coastal states have certain rights in that 12-mile area with respect to sanitation, fiscal arrangements, customs arrangements and immigration and we thought we would like to extend that principle to include fishing.

I think it can be said, Mr. Speaker, that this suggestion was acceptable to Canadians generally and was supported by all political parties. During the Conference the basic conflict was between those states which have fishing interests off their own coasts and those that wish to see the widest measure of freedom to secure or to maintain fishing rights in distant waters off the coasts of other countries. The Canadian suggestion of a fishing zone in which a coastal state would have the same fishing rights as in its territorial sea was an entirely new concept and from the time of its introduction by Mr. Drew at Geneva it affected profoundly the whole course of discussion. Canada played a major role throughout the discussions and negotiations on this matter and it was not for any lack of initiative or good will on the part of Mr. Drew and the Canadian Delegation that the Canadian effort to achieve a satisfactory solution was not crowned with some success.

Here I might note that one of the most significant features of the Conference was the importance of the position taken by Canada to the newer national states. The Canadian Delegation was keenly aware of the legitimate aspirations of these newer nations which have neither traditional claims to establish fishing rights in distant fishing waters nor well developed fisheries in their own offshore waters but which are looking more and more to this important source of food and income as a part of their national birthright. In plain language, Mr. Speaker, Canada took the lead among these newer national states in trying to achieve greater economic security and stability for their own people and at the same time to express the new nationalism of their people in a responsible manner. We were very keenly aware of the legitimate demands of these nations.

Our delegation enjoyed the very closest and friendliest relations with the African and Asian Delegates, particularly with the very able delegates from our Commonwealth partners, Sir Claude Correa from Ceylon, Mr. Bing who represented the new Commonwealth nation of Ghana, Mr. Suffian from Malaya and Dr. Bhutto from Pakistan. I want to acknowledge the constructive