

needs; others already claim very wide jurisdiction and deny the need to define the limits of national jurisdiction. Canada has supported the concept that national jurisdiction extends, on the basis of the exploitability test, to the whole of the "submerged continental margin", and thus, that only the area beyond should be considered as appropriate for the establishment of an international regime.

On the nature of the proposed international regime, opinion has been divided between those who favour a system with strong supranational elements, those who prefer merely the elaboration of a code to which states ought to adhere in their exploitation of the area in question, and those who do not rule out some form of international control but are not yet prepared to reach definitive decisions. Canada has taken the position that the question of the need for "international machinery" should not be prejudged one way or the other but should await progress in the technical and legal studies as to the nature of the regime to be established.

On the disarmament or non-armament of the seabed, differences of views have related to the interpretation of the phrase "peaceful purposes", and to the extent of the area to be reserved exclusively for such purposes and to the nature and efficacy of verification procedures (on which Canada has tabled a proposal). Some states have insisted that the peaceful use of the seabed precludes all military uses, while other states, including Canada, have argued that it does not bar purely defensive military installations.

Proposals for the establishment of international machinery range from those which would give the UN itself, or a UN agency, some form of jurisdiction and control amounting almost to sovereignty in relation to the seabed and the exploitation of its resources, to those suggesting merely a form of registration of exploration and exploitation. Here the basic division is, in general, between the developed and developing countries. The creation of international machinery with quasi-proprietary or sovereign rights might conceivably lead to confrontations, as between the UN and its member states, that could have grave consequences for international order.

In seeking to protect its national interests, Canada should strive to ensure that the ultimate definition of the limits of national jurisdiction respects existing international law (including the exploitability test), and takes into sufficient account a definition of the shelf based on the concept of the continental margin. Canada should also support the general concept of an international regime for the area of the seabed beyond national