

Law of the Sea Conference. Understandably, states may be reluctant to make the crucial "trade-offs" on these questions until they are in the final and definitive negotiations. A Working Group on Marine Pollution has been established, which, although it has as yet produced little concrete result, has the preparatory work of the Stockholm Conference to draw upon, including in particular the 23 principles on marine pollution endorsed by the Stockholm Conference and also the three coastal-state jurisdiction principles referred to the Law of the Sea Conference by the Stockholm Conference for appropriate action, and now the Ocean Dumping Convention. It may reasonably be assumed that the comments from states requested by the Working Group will be extremely useful in translating the Stockholm principles on prevention of marine pollution into binding treaty form. The Canadian delegation intends to table at any early date a comprehensive draft treaty on marine pollution that, we hope, will further contribute to the process of developing accepted rules of law on the preservation of the marine environment.

There are a number of proposals on fisheries that, while divergent on a number of issues, have in common one fundamental principle -- namely, the need to manage and conserve the living resources of ocean space. On this issue, as with the seabed regime, final conclusions will almost certainly have to await the negotiating situation which will exist only in the Law of the Sea Conference. It is important to note, however, that a further encouraging trend for the future can be detected from recent decisions of ICNAF establishing quotas over several species of fish in the North Atlantic region, including even ground fish.

In examining the state of preparations for the Law of the Sea Conference, it is important to note also the many constructive contributions consisting of working papers on a variety of subjects. These working papers illustrate very clearly that preparations need not take the form only of draft treaty articles. The Canadian delegation, for example, has itself proceeded over the last five years from a series of conceptual statements on various problem areas to a series of position statements on specific issues to the tabling of four concrete working papers on the seabed regime, fisheries conservation, scientific research principles and the preservation of the marine environment. Many other delegations have also submitted working papers on a variety of questions.

One is bound to note the lack of tangible progress on international straits and certain other issues, but even here there has been progress of a sort during the negotiations on the list of issues. Moreover, as I have previously suggested, imaginative approaches to the problems of coastal jurisdiction, such as the combination of rather narrow territorial seas and more extensive economic zones, may well produce solutions here where more traditional attitudes have failed.

I have referred to a number of encouraging trends but, in so doing, we accept that much remains to be done. A trend is not a draft convention. The way has been paved, however, for an attempt to draft concrete conventions. My delegation therefore shares the view expressed by so many others that there is no need to postpone the commencement of the Conference until we have completed draft articles on all the many issues requiring resolution.