



Bulletin

Vol. 25, No. 17

April 29, 1970

CANADA PROTECTS ITS MARINE RESOURCES

Prime Minister Trudeau made a statement in the House of Commons on April 8 on the introduction by the Government of two bills dealing with protection of Canada's marine environment and the living resources of the sea.

Mr. Trudeau also tabled a copy of a letter delivered by Mr. Yvon Beaulne, Canada's Ambassador to the United Nations, to the Secretary-General submitting a new reservation to Canada's acceptance of the compulsory jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice. This reservation, the Prime Minister explained, was intended to guard against any possible litigation of certain features of the two bills.

LETTER TO UN SECRETARY-GENERAL

The following paragraphs are from Mr. Beaulne's letter:

"I give notice that I hereby terminate the acceptance by Canada of the compulsory jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice hitherto effective by virtue of the declaration made on September 20, 1929 and ratified on July 28, 1930, under Article 36 of the Statute of the Permanent Court of International Justice, and made applicable to the

International Court of Justice by paragraph 5 of Article 36 of the Statute of that Court.

"I declare that the Government of Canada accepts as compulsory *ipso facto* and without special convention on condition of reciprocity, the jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice, in conformity with paragraph 2 of Article 36 of the Statute of the Court, until such time as notice may be given to terminate the acceptance, over all disputes arising after the present declaration with regard to situations or facts subsequent to this declaration, other than: (a) disputes in regard to which parties have agreed or shall agree to have recourse to some other method of peaceful settlement; (b) disputes with the Government of any other country which is a member of the Commonwealth of Nations, all of which disputes shall be settled in such manner as the parties have agreed or shall agree; (c) disputes with regard to questions which by international law fall exclusively within the jurisdiction of Canada; (d) disputes arising out of our concerning jurisdiction or rights claimed or exercised by Canada in respect of the conservation, management or exploitation of the living resources of the sea, or in respect of the prevention or control of pollution or contamination of the marine environment in marine areas adjacent to the coast of Canada...."

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STATEMENT IN THE HOUSE

In his statement to the House of Commons, Mr. Trudeau said:

... "Canada strongly supports the rule of law in international affairs. Canada has made known to other states that it is prepared to participate actively in multilateral efforts to develop agreed rules on the protection of the environment and the conservation of the living resources of the sea.

"Canada is not prepared, however to engage in litigation with other states concerning vital issues where the law is either inadequate or non-existent and thus does not provide a firm basis for judicial