

I SAID AT THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY LAST FALL, THEN AT THE LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE IN NEW YORK, AND MOST RECENTLY IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS, THAT 1976 MUST BE THE YEAR OF DECISION FOR THE CONFERENCE. I WISH TO MAKE CLEAR HERE AND NOW THAT 1976 IS ALSO THE YEAR OF DECISION FOR CANADA'S EXTENSION OF FISHERIES JURISDICTION OUT TO 200 MILES.

THE DECISION I AM ANNOUNCING TODAY TO EXTEND CANADA'S FISHERIES JURISDICTION DOES NOT CONSTITUTE UNILATERAL ACTION THAT EITHER LEAVES NO ROOM FOR NEGOTIATIONS OR IGNORES THE INTERESTS OF OTHER COUNTRIES DIRECTLY CONCERNED. IT IS ACTION FOR WHICH WE HAVE CAREFULLY PREPARED THE WAY THROUGH BOTH BILATERAL AND REGIONAL NEGOTIATIONS WITHIN ICNAF, AND WITHIN THE MULTILATERAL FRAMEWORK OF THE LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE. IT IS ACTION BASED ON A GROWING CONSENSUS AMONG NATIONS, A CONSENSUS WHICH IS INCREASINGLY FINDING ITS WAY INTO STATE PRACTICE AND IS REFLECTED IN THE PROVISIONS OF THE SINGLE NEGOTIATING TEXT THAT EMERGED