

is very important to us. In 1956, the United Kingdom caught 1 million and 50,000 tons of fish. Canada caught one million and 77,000 tons. The distinguished delegate from the United Kingdom asked why, if this was the situation, we required a 12-mile fishing zone. Our population is now 17 million, less than one-third that of the United Kingdom. I think it is a fact supported by statistics that, outside of Israel, on a percentage basis Canada is today growing in population more rapidly than any other country in the world. It is reasonable to expect that within 25 years it will be at least 40 million. Probably by the end of the century it will be 70 million. Our fishing requirements will increase proportionately. We must protect our own fisheries and our own fishermen. No matter how great our desire may be to recognize the legitimate need of other nations in every part of the world, we cannot sign away our own birthright.

May I also emphasize another interest we have in this subject. Some remarks which have been made which seem to indicate that Canada enjoys a unique and remarkably favourable position of being able to reap rich harvests from these waters and of having limitless resources for our own fishing fleets as well as fishing fleets of any size from other nations who may choose to come close to our shores. The situation is very different indeed. The survival of some of our most valuable fish has been threatened from time to time. We are spending very substantial sums of money and great effort on the most advanced plans of conservation. Throughout Canada last year we spent 25 million dollars on conservation, to say nothing of the human effort involved. Of that, 13 million dollars went into research which is of value not only to ourselves but to all other nations with which we share the knowledge that we gain in this way. We had never withheld that knowledge from any nation in the world. There are several nations represented here who are well aware of our readiness to disclose the information we possess and to develop plans for conservation elsewhere along lines which have proved so successful in our own country. I mention that only to indicate that this is not in our interest alone. I do most respectfully urge the distinguished delegates of those nations which have limited interest in fishing and those nations which have no coastal areas of their own to recognize that the preservation of the fishing population is of value to all nations and that for us the establishment of an adequate fishing zone is essential for that purpose.

May I point out that in the case of landlocked nations, we have been trying to find a solution to their sharing the common heritage of the sea. Of them and of those states with a limited interest in this subject may I request that they give the interests of coastal states their careful and sympathetic consideration.