

zone, being subject not to the compulsory dispute arbitration procedure, but only to conciliation in some cases.

With regard to delimitation of the maritime boundaries between States with opposite or adjacent coasts, there are still significant differences of opinion between the proponents of the equidistance concept and those of the principle of equity. However, after lengthy discussions in the negotiating group, the chairman of the group declared that any text adopted would have to include as delimitation criteria a fair share of both principles. This approach might well serve as a starting point for the formulation of a compromise text on this matter during the next session.

The disaster caused by the beaching of the Amoco Cadiz off the French coast in 1978 created among several delegations in the Third Committee not only a greater awareness of the possible dangers but also a greater concern for the protection of the marine environment. Participants therefore dealt with three issues of vital concern to Canada: the powers of a coastal State to set standards in its territorial waters, its powers to police its exclusive economic zone and its right of intervention to prevent and control pollution caused by accidents at sea. Several proposals received substantial support, one of which, a Canadian initiative, provides for increased powers of inspection by the coastal State in cases of violation of pollution control legislation in its economic zone. The consensus is that the progress made during this session has brought negotiations on marine pollution one step closer to a successful conclusion.

As a result of the lengthy debate, the seventh session has made it possible to isolate the essential points of an overall compromise on the key issues still to be resolved. However, further intensive negotiations will be needed before final agreement on a treaty is reached. The momentum of the 1978 session will have to be maintained at the eighth session which will take place in Geneva from March 19 to April 27, 1979.

Seeing the significant progress already achieved at the Law of the Sea Conference in the last four years, and aware of the vital importance of the issues to be resolved, Canada remains dedicated to the satisfactory conclusion of the negotiations, which will ensure complete protection of its mining and maritime interests, and will guarantee orderly and lawful utilization of the oceans.

International Fisheries

Within the last decade, major changes in the legal status of the world's oceans have resulted from developments at the third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea and from the extension of the maritime jurisdiction of coastal states. The Department of External Affairs has played a leading role in negotiations with other countries