

represented on the new 42-member Standing Committee on the Sea-bed, formed last October to continue the work.

Only a limited consensus has so far been reached on the sea-bed question. It is generally accepted that there is an area of the sea-bed beyond the present limits of national jurisdiction; that this area should be reserved for peaceful purposes; and that its resources should be used in the interests of mankind. However, these principles only point up the difficulties involved in reaching further agreement.

On the question of the limits of national jurisdiction, the basic Canadian position has been that the continental shelf is a legal conception based on geographical and geological realities, and that these realities should be taken into account in defining the limits of national jurisdiction. On the legal rules which should govern the area of the sea-bed beyond national jurisdiction, we have argued that it is much too early to take a definitive stand. We are prepared to accept for the present, however, the widely shared view that the rules governing this area should prevent any form of national appropriation.

The principle that the resources of the sea-bed beyond the limits of national jurisdiction should be used in the interests of mankind obviously bears directly on the nature of the legal rules to be elaborated for this area. The U N resolution creating the Standing Committee on the Sea-bed qualifies this principle by referring to "the benefit of mankind as a whole, taking into account the special interests and needs of the developing countries". Does this mean that some part of the revenues from exploitation of the internationalized area of the sea-bed should be turned over to the United Nations for development aid and similar purposes? What would be the consequences of giving the United Nations this sort of independent income? How would such a scheme provide for a sufficient return from the investments required for the exploitation of the sea-bed? For the time being, the questions are more numerous than the answers.

All these questions will be studied by the Standing Committee on the Sea-bed. Deliberations on the reservation of the internationalized area of the sea-bed for exclusively peaceful purposes will also have to take place in the Eighteen-Nation Disarmament Committee.

As a country with one of the world's longest coast-lines and with a continental shelf roughly equal to 40 per cent of its land area, Canada can understand and share the enthusiasm which has been generated by the Maltese item, particularly among the developing countries. Ocean space is man's last earthly frontier and we are anxious to join in the effort to isolate it from the arms race, to exploit it in an orderly and co-operative fashion, and to dedicate some part of its wealth to reducing the alarming gap between the rich and the poor nations of the world.

These examples of the progressive application of international law and legal skills to important problems confronting the world community as represented in the United Nations show that international law is far more than an instrument for the prevention of war. It is also a necessary instrument for the elimination of discrimination, for the protection of human rights, for the education of the ignorant and for relieving the oppressed. At the United