

periods and severe and unpredictable weather conditions prevail for a good part of the year. Such are also the delicately balanced ecological systems prevailing in the highly productive fishing areas on Canada's East and West coasts. The Conference should, therefore, allow coastal states to adopt, over and above universally applicable standards, special protection measures such as those which Canada took in 1970 through the Arctic Waters Pollution Prevention Act and the Canada Shipping Act.

Canada is bordered by a vast submerged area which is the natural prolongation of its land mass and extends, in some areas, much beyond 200 miles. This submerged geological formation comprises the continental shelf, the continental slope and the continental rise and is generally referred to, as a whole, as the continental margin. On the basis of existing international law and the practice of states, Canada exercises sovereign rights over the natural resources of this extensive and potentially rich area. Other states are opposing Canada's view of the geographical limits of these rights and are suggesting extremely restricted limits, as little as forty miles.

Canada is an active coastal fishing nation and a great many Canadians, and in some cases whole communities, rely heavily on fishing for a livelihood or as a source of food. Canada is seeking both a right to manage and a preferential share of the living resources that are found off its coasts and over its continental margin so as to ensure the maximum utilization as well as the preservation and maintenance of stocks. States whose citizens fish at considerable distances from their own shores view rights such as those demanded by Canada as detrimental to their own interests and want to maintain their present fishing practices.

Canada has considerable technological knowledge in the field of marine scientific research and favours the widest possible freedom for this type of activity. At the same time it is aware that scientific research in the marine environment can have military and economic implications and that it is difficult to define "pure" research. Canada would therefore allow such research in the area of jurisdiction of a coastal state, provided that prior to the commencement of the intended research, and in accordance with an enforceable