

On the West Coast, the threat to the environment posed by the prospective intensification of tanker traffic in the Puget Sound area was the subject of continuing discussions. In part these were aimed at assessing the adequacy of the remedies available to Canada under the provisions of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline Authorization Act. A recent development in this case was the introduction in Congress by the U.S. Administration on July 9 of a Comprehensive Oil Pollution Liability and Compensation Act, which would supersede the liability and compensation provisions of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline Authorization Act.

An agreement between Canada and the U.S. relating to the exchange of information on weather-modification activities was signed on March 26 in Washington. The agreement provides for an exchange of information on weather-modification activities in the territory of one of the countries that are likely to affect the territory of the other, and requires prior notification and consultation with regard to activities carried out by either of the two federal governments that are likely to have an effect within the territory of the other. A review-and-amendment mechanism has also been provided to enable new development in the technology of weather modification, which is now in a somewhat rudimentary state, to be reflected in the agreement.

International fisheries

In future years, 1975 may well be viewed as an important turning-point in the progress of Canadian initiatives to establish a new international regime for the conservation and management of the living resources of the oceans. In addition, significant success was achieved in obtaining urgently-required new conservation measures to protect depleted fish stocks off Canada's Atlantic coast.

At the 1975 session of the Law of the Sea Conference, it became clear that a consensus was emerging favouring the establishment of a 200-mile economic zone, within which the coastal state would have sovereign rights of management and conservation over the living resources, coupled with an obligation to ensure the full utilization of these resources — i.e., the coastal state would allow other states to have access to the portion of these resources that was surplus to its requirements.

Diplomatic initiatives, taken in co-operation with the Department of the Environment (Fisheries), resulted in decisions by the International Commission for the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries (ICNAF), at meetings in Edinburgh and Montreal, to bring about a sizeable reduction in foreign fishing in waters off Canada's Atlantic coast.

Following the consensus now emerging from the Law of the Sea Conference, Canada has undertaken a series of bilateral negotiations with major fishing nations operating off its coasts to develop long-term arrangements regarding their continued presence in areas to be brought under its anticipated extended-fisheries jurisdiction. In the latter part of 1975, both a short-term agreement with the U.S.S.R. and a long-term agreement with Norway were concluded, and negotiations were also held with Spain, Portugal and Poland.

Bilateral and multilateral discussions were held on various other fisheries matters in the course of the year, including the renewal for a further year of the Canada-U.S. Reciprocal Fisheries Agreement, and the renewal of two bilateral agreements with the U.S.S.R. pertaining to the West Coast fishing operations of the Soviet fleet.

International economic law

The impetus given to the general subject of a "New International Economic Order", first at the sixth special session of the UN General Assembly and then at the twenty-ninth regular session in 1974, was carried over during 1975, not only at the seventh special and thirtieth regular sessions but also throughout the UN family of organizations, including such bodies as ECOSOC, UNCTAD, UNCITRAL and UNIDO. And, although 1975 may appear to have been less fertile in the production of resolutions and other documents enunciating principles of general application to the formulation of the New International Economic Order, the discussions of the vast array of underlying issues — such as control over natural resources, foreign investment, transfer of technology, industrial development, activities of transnational corporations and intellectual and industrial property — continued undiminished. More particularly, discussions of the legal framework within which to inscribe the transformations implied by the conception of a