

being of our own citizens abroad. Over half a million instances of consular service were provided last year, ranging from routine assistance to emergency evacuation of Canadians from Iran.

Preserving
Canada's
ocean interests

An early and successful conclusion to the Law of the Sea Conference is in Canada's vital interests from a national standpoint and in terms of global peace and economic development. Its record of achievement in restructuring traditional principles of the law of the sea and in developing new ideas on ocean-resource management is remarkable. For Canada, the conference has already provided multilateral endorsement of the 200-mile fishing-zone and the 12-mile territorial sea and contributed to increased international acceptance of the need for enhanced coastal-state jurisdiction over pollution from ships. The renaissance of the fishing industry in the Maritime Provinces is dramatic evidence of its positive impact upon Canada. We should not, however, underestimate the difficulties of resolving outstanding conference issues, particularly concerning the international system for deep-seabed mining, which has obvious significance for Canada, the world's largest producer of nickel.

High-level fisheries negotiations during 1978 led to the signing of a bilateral fisheries agreement with Japan, a Convention on Future Multilateral Co-operation in the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries and a Protocol modifying the International Convention for the High Seas Fisheries of the North Pacific Ocean. *Ad referendum* agreement was reached with the European Economic Community on the text of a bilateral fisheries agreement. With France, new interim arrangements for 1979 were agreed to relating to fishing in the area of Saint Pierre and Miquelon; maritime boundary talks with France continue.

Canada-U.S. negotiations on maritime boundaries and fisheries resulted in agreement on a new regime for co-operative management of the Atlantic fisheries and on a formula for final resolution of the Gulf of Maine boundary dispute through binding third-party settlement.

Canada/U.S.
co-operation

The management of Canada's relations with the United States is our highest bilateral priority and presents a continuing challenge. Notwithstanding the variety and complexity of the bilateral agenda, our relations with our nearest and most important neighbour have seldom been better. Canada's *rapprochement* with the Carter Administration reflects a special blend of commonsense, informality and mutual regard. Achievements in 1978 were impressive: the new Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement and discussions on transboundary air pollution; co-operation on the Northern Gas Pipeline; major bilateral studies on a strategic petroleum reserve and bulk-electricity exchanges; agreement by special negotiators on the management of east-coast fisheries; record levels of bilateral trade. We look forward in 1979 to enhanced energy co-ordination, an improved trading environment following conclusion of the Multilateral Trade Negotiations, progress towards resolution of the remaining boundary disputes in the Pacific and Arctic Oceans and conclusion of a west-coast fisheries agreement. Close consultations on international matters will be certain to continue on such subjects as Namibia, the Middle East and Cyprus, human rights and refugees, nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament.