

questions facing the conference, the "Evensen Group" became an effective informal negotiating forum. This body brought together about 40 representatives, including Canada's chief negotiator, J. Alan Beesley, under the chairmanship of the Norwegian Minister for the Law of the Sea, Jens Evensen. The Evensen Group was able to produce texts acceptable to a large number of delegates on the economic zone, fisheries jurisdiction and the continental shelf.

Under the draft articles worked out by the Evensen Group, the coastal state's economic zone would extend beyond its 12-mile territorial sea to a distance of 200 miles from the coastline. Within this area, the coastal state would enjoy sovereign rights over living and mineral resources and other rights to protect the marine environment and control marine scientific research. On fisheries jurisdiction, the draft articles reflected the emerging consensus at the conference concerning the powers the coastal state would exercise. The coastal state would have the right to set total allowable catches for stocks found in its zone and the right to reserve for its own fishermen all the fish they have the capacity to harvest. Fish that are surplus to the needs of the coastal state will be allocated to foreign fishing fleets, which will be permitted to fish in the zone under the control of the coastal state.

Based on the consensus developing at the conference on the régime of fisheries jurisdiction, Canada has undertaken a series of bilateral negotiations with a number of countries whose fleets fish off its coasts — such as Norway, Spain, the U.S.S.R., Poland and Portugal — in order to establish the terms and conditions of their continued fishing within the anticipated 200-mile zone. An agreement was signed with Norway in December and the negotiations with the other countries continue.

The First Committee devoted its attention to the international seabed area, regarded by the UN General Assembly as constituting the "common heritage of mankind" and, more specifically, to the conditions for exploitation of the international seabed's mineral resources — that is, nodules rich in copper, nickel, cobalt and manganese. At the Geneva session a serious divergence of views developed between the technologically-advanced and the developing countries. The latter supported the principle of giving the proposed International Seabed Authority extensive control over the management and exploitation of the zone's

resources, while the former favoured a system that would grant safeguards to developers against decisions of the Authority that might impede exploitation activities. One way that was discussed of bridging the gap would be for the developers and the future Authority to enter into joint-venture contracts.

The Third Committee continued work begun in Caracas on an "umbrella" chapter covering all aspects of marine pollution and serving as an organic link between the various specific conventions now in force or that might be agreed upon in the future. The Committee agreed on essential aspects of the monitoring of activities likely to cause pollution, environmental assessments of proposed activities, the obligations of states regarding marine pollution from activities undertaken on land or on the continental shelf, and the dumping of wastes at sea.

Faced with the impasse in the Second Committee and wishing to preserve the positive results achieved in the Evensen Group, the conference entrusted the chairmen of the three committees with the task of preparing a series of articles to serve as a basis for future negotiations. These articles were embodied in a "Single Negotiating Text" distributed at the very end of the session.

From the Canadian point of view, the Single Negotiating Text was satisfactory in many respects. It incorporated the articles elaborated by the Evensen Group on the economic zone and fisheries jurisdiction. It also included an article relating to salmon that recognizes the primary interest and responsibility of the state in whose rivers these fish originate. There was also a chapter reaffirming the coastal state's sovereign rights over the resources of its continental shelf, even when the continental margin extends beyond the 200-mile limit (as it does off the Atlantic coast of Canada). As an equitable element to benefit the developing countries, the chapter provided that the continental-shelf state shall share with the international community part of its revenue accruing from the exploitation of the continental shelf extending beyond the 200-mile limit. With respect to marine pollution, the Single Negotiating Text provided that the coastal state may, in exceptionally vulnerable areas in its economic