



# STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

INFORMATION DIVISION  
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
OTTAWA - CANADA

## No. 58/9 CANADIAN VIEWS ON FISHING ZONES AND TERRITORIAL WATERS

As prepared for delivery in committee by the Hon. George A. Drew, P.C., Q.C., Chairman of the Canadian Delegation to the International Conference of the Law of the Sea, Geneva, March 17, 1958.

...We are here to consider one of the most carefully prepared documents ever to come before any conference. From November 1947, when it was appointed by a resolution of the General Assembly of the United Nations, until July of 1956 when it completed its final report, the International Law Commission examined every aspect of the Law of the Sea. In addition to the very distinguished members of the Commission itself, many men of great experience and ability from most of the countries represented here at this time had an opportunity to express opinions and contribute something to the final result. The members of the Commission received evidence, advice and suggestions from every part of the world. It is doubtful if any argument can now be presented which has not already been given careful consideration by those who finally prepared the report that is now the basis of our discussion. We are, of course, not bound to accept every recommendation without challenge. Some subjects are deliberately left open by the Commission for decision here. However, I do respectfully suggest that where the Commission has come to a definite decision and has made a clear and positive recommendation, the presumption should be in favour of accepting that recommendation unless there are equally clear and compelling reasons to the contrary.

We have our own reservations about some of the recommendations and shall put them forward when the various articles are under examination in the committees to which they have been assigned. The fact that I do not go into detail in my remarks today about any particular section or article is merely a recognition of the fact that, in general, we agree with the findings of the report and are mainly concerned about the details which can best be discussed when the particular article is under consideration.

I think I should emphasize that it is of the utmost importance to Canada that there be clearly defined laws of the sea universally applied throughout the world. Merely to indicate the measure of our concern about this subject, may I take the time to place some facts before the committee which may not be generally known. We are the only country bounded by three oceans, the