

well. Only the conscious pursuit of both an ecologically-sound and equitable world order can resolve this dilemma.

This is an overwhelming challenge, but it cannot be avoided. Ten years ago, the environmental issue was not really much of an issue at all and the developing countries were not much of a threat. Who can predict a decade hence?

There is truly a need for a new perspective, but it will not develop quickly. However, it must first be realized that the resolution of this global problem is increasingly in the "national interest". Only such a realization can provide the new perspectives that are necessary: on the

constructive relations that are needed with those transnational environmental organizations that are trying to accomplish much-needed changes in attitudes at home and abroad; on the legitimate aspirations of the developing countries; on our own domestic attitudes as we adapt to a "spaceship earth"; and on the invaluable future roles of the United Nations, IMCO and the UN Environment Program.

These are the real challenges of marine pollution and the environment. With its inheritance of concern for the larger interests of the international community, they are challenges to which Canada is well able to respond.

## Extended fisheries jurisdiction and international co-operation

By Gordon R. Munro

On January 1, 1977, Canada established an exclusive fishing zone extending 200 miles off the East and West Coasts; on March 1, 1977, the 200-mile zone was also established off the Arctic Coast. The consequences for fisheries will be twofold. First, important fishery resources off the Canadian coasts, which have hitherto been the object of international exploitation, will now become subject to Canadian management. This will be particularly important in the Atlantic region. Secondly, extended fisheries jurisdiction will require Canada to establish a new set of relations with the so-called distant-water nations, which have had a history of fishing within waters now

encompassed by Canada's 200-mile fisheries zone. One might also add that the new regime will have a significant impact on U.S.-Canada relations.

One characteristic of most commercial fisheries throughout the world is that they are eventually over-exploited. Economists and others ascribe this phenomenon to the fact that fisheries are, generally speaking, common-property resources. Fish in the waters of any state are not owned by individual fishermen or by groups of fishermen. The resource, it is true, is technically owned by the state, but more often than not the state is ineffectual in imposing its property rights. Thus the resource is, to all intents and purposes, open to all and owned by none, with the inevitable result that it is mismanaged. There is a tendency to exploit the resource to such an extent that the net economic benefits it is capable of generating for society are severely, if not totally, dissipated.

What the state should attempt to do is to make its property rights effective by imposing restrictions on fishing. An example of an attempt by the authorities to do this on a major scale is provided by the British Columbia salmon fishery. Ideally, the authorities should seek to ensure the greatest possible return to society from the fishery.

### More difficult

If a fishery is in international waters, the problem becomes much more difficult, for

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