

Along with these justified unilateral actions, the Government is continuing its efforts through bilateral and regional arrangements to regulate certain international fisheries and is pressing for greater protection of coastal fisheries through the Third Law of the Sea Conference expected to be held in 1973. We are working toward the acceptance of Canada's right, and the right of every coastal state, to manage the fish stocks adjacent to the waters under its jurisdiction and to reserve for its own fishermen a preferential share of the kinds of fish vital to them. Canada believes there is an international trend developing in this direction thanks to our efforts and those of like-minded countries.

In past months Canada has been negotiating with other countries that have traditionally fished in our territorial sea and fishing zones to conclude agreements to bring these fisheries operations to an end. Two agreements have been concluded with Norway on fishing and sealing activities and are now in force. Under the fishing agreement Norwegian vessels will no longer fish within the territorial sea or fishing zones of Canada, although in the Gulf of St. Lawrence their vessels may continue operations, subject to Canadian laws and regulations, until the end of 1974. The sealing agreement was negotiated to meet the difficulties faced by Canadian sealers due to declining stocks and to ensure seal conservation and humane hunting methods. The agreement has the effect of regulating Norwegian and Canadian sealing even on the high seas. For conservation measures to be effective the seal stocks must be treated as a single whole -- whether or not the seals remain on the high seas or drift with the ice flows into waters under Canadian jurisdiction. Norwegian sealing vessels are not permitted closer than three miles from our coast and the taking of seals will be on an occasional and regulated basis. A commission has been established which will formulate proposals for the two governments on such matters as national quotas and opening and closing dates for the hunt.

Agreements, not yet formalized, have also been negotiated with Denmark, Britain, Portugal and France. We are still in the negotiating process with Spain and hope that these negotiations will be brought to an early and successful conclusion. It has been quite an achievement to bring so many complex negotiations so far in such a short time.

Newfoundland's fishermen may be assured that the Canadian Government knows that their problems are urgent. Canada must continue to respect the rule of law in national and international affairs, and many fisheries problems require multilateral action to achieve viable solutions, but the Canadian Government has not avoided unilateral