

are perhaps the most experienced in this small group of countries which have so far experimented with international action for the regulation of the high seas fisheries. Canada is a party to six international conventions on this subject, which include the "International Convention for the North-West Atlantic Fisheries" and the "International Convention for the North Pacific Ocean". International Commissions have been established under four of these conventions and these commissions are empowered to make recommendations or regulations concerning the protection of the fisheries involved. A fifth Commission, which is provided for under the terms of one of the remaining two conventions is about to be established and it is expected that it will begin to function shortly.

My Government considers that the creation of the international commissions such as I have referred to might be considered a first step towards that general international regulation of fisheries which the International Law Commission has in mind. It also considers that the draft articles now under consideration should be studied in the light of the experience which some nations now have and are constantly expanding in the interest of international joint action. From the practical experience of Canada in this particular field, my delegation is fully conscious of the complex problems which may and do arise where international regulation of fisheries is undertaken. For instance, Canada and the United States have two international commissions for the regulation of the halibut and sockeye salmon fisheries in the Pacific. The Commission in each case regulates the catch of only one species, fished by the nationals of these two states only. We can envisage the immensity of the problem involved in the establishment and operation of an international authority which would be concerned with regulating not one but many species of fish in many parts of the world for the many nations that might be involved or affected.

The two conventions I have referred to represent the result of long and technical negotiations between the two parties. Under the draft articles, which we are now considering and as we interpret them, if a third state did not wish to adhere to these conventions it would take the matter up with the new proposed international authority. Consequently, the fruit of years of negotiations between parties immediately and directly involved would be destroyed and the whole matter of regulation taken out of the hands of the existing commissions and transferred to the new international authority. My government considers, and this may be the opinion shared by other governments which are parties to these conventions and by many other delegations in this Committee, that to adopt articles with this implication involves a far reaching reorientation of principles, which cannot be willingly undertaken without further consultation among the governments involved. I should not like to have members of this Committee conclude from these remarks that Canada is anxious to protect vested interests and that we are seeking to preserve some closed systems of restriction which we have adopted to further national interests only. My country's object in concluding the series of conventions I have mentioned has been to prevent that excessive