

sion on fishing gave adequate recognition to the interests of a coastal state in conserving off-shore fisheries. Other states, particularly some of the Latin American states such as Chile, Peru and Ecuador, argued that the interests of the coastal state in the living resources of the sea contiguous to its coasts required that the coastal state have the right to apply to foreign nationals as well as its own nationals, regulations designed to safeguard fisheries in those areas.

The Canadian proposal assumes there might be more likelihood of agreement on the question of the breadth of the territorial sea if this could be separated from the problem of the regime for the exploitation of the resources of the sea and if some general agreement were worked out on this latter question. Under the Canadian proposal the coastal state would have exclusive control over fisheries, including the right to exclude foreign nationals from the fisheries, within the twelve-mile limit. Beyond the twelve-mile limit a regime along the general lines proposed by the Commission would be desirable. It is the Canadian view as communicated to the Secretary-General¹ that this general regime for fishing which would apply outside the twelve-mile limit should be subject to the so-called "abstention principle". This principle recognizes that a special case exists where countries through research, regulation of their own fishermen and other activities have restored or developed or maintained a particular fishery, and that additional states which have not heretofore participated in the fishery should abstain from entering the fishery so long as it is fully utilized and conservation measures based on scientific research are continued.

At the conclusion of its discussions the General Assembly decided, in accordance with the recommendation of the Commission, to convoke an international conference early in March 1958 to examine the law of the sea. This proposal was adopted by a vote of 67 in favour (including Canada), 1 against, with 3 abstentions. The conference will meet in either Rome or Geneva as the Secretary-General may decide.

To advise the Secretary-General on the preparations for the conference, a committee of ten experts has been established. These experts are nationals of the following member states: Australia, Chile, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Egypt, India, Mexico, Netherlands, the United Kingdom and the United States. They met in February 1957 and will meet again in the autumn.

Definition of Aggression

The special committee² studying this question and attempting to draft a definition of aggression met at United Nations Headquarters in New York from October 8 to November 9, 1956. The special committee had been requested to submit a detailed report on the matter. The report of the committee³ outlines the history of the question of defining aggression, surveys the discussion in the Sixth (Legal) Committee at the ninth session of the General Assembly, and sets out the discussion in the special com-

¹Document A/CN4/99/Add. 7.

²See *Canada and the United Nations 1954-55*, p. 105.

³The special committee's preliminary report is set out in Document A/AC 77/L13 of January 18, 1957.