

connection with our territorial seas since 1964 has been dictated primarily by the attitude that the United States has had on this subject. Here we have an opportunity, the first one in a long time, to make a declaration in a firm way, which will start us on another course.

I have not always been highly appreciative of the things which the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (Mr. Chrétien) has announced in this House. I have not always endorsed the programs that he has introduced or the statements he has made. Not always have I applauded the minister on the bills he has introduced or the declarations he has made about different things. But here is an instance, from my point of view really the only one in the minister's tenure of office as head of that department, where we can unreservedly applaud him and indicate our full support for the intentions he has.

On the matter of the territorial sea we have some thoughts to express because even in the Arctic we are involved in declaring a territorial sea, and in declaring straight base lines from which that sea should be measured. We have had such legislation in force in Canada since 1964 but at no time has this, or previous governments, given any indication that it is developing any geographic co-ordinates for the Arctic archipelago, or for the whole Arctic area, or for any part of it, from which straight base lines the territorial sea, and up until now the fishing zones, would be measured.

In fact, the east and west coasts were ignored for many years so far as straight base lines were concerned, and some parts of those coasts are still wide open. We feel, they should be enclosed as inland waters behind a straight base line. If the minister closes this debate in a formal way, I hope he will be able to give us some indication about the intentions of the government with respect to the geographical co-ordinates in the Arctic, but not the type of declaration that Senator Paul Martin used to make when he was Secretary of State for External Affairs. He told us that the base lines would be drawn before the end of 1964. He said there was no doubt about that, and that that was the firm intention of the government.

We would like to know, and I am sure the people in the Arctic would like to know, what progress is being made with respect to developing the geographic co-ordinates and, so far as we are concerned, drawing them in such a way as to enclose the waters between the

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islands as inland waters. A few of the bodies of water of breadth that I have in mind are, Amundsen Gulf, Lancaster Strait and McLure Strait. Even though they are broad bodies of water, we believe they should be enclosed within straight base lines, so that we would then be declaring sovereignty by establishing straight base lines around the entire Arctic archipelago. We would be declaring that the islands within that circumscribed area were ours, that the waters between the islands in that circumscribed area were inland waters, and that we were exercising our sovereignty over them.

In addition to that, there is the provision in the bill with respect to the 100 nautical mile limit for pollution control. This is something that it is important for the committee to understand, and about which the people of Canada should receive information. They would then be in a position to more fully endorse the position of the government, and the position which I am sure Parliament will exhibit by unanimously supporting the minister's bill.

In the minister's introductory remarks, right at the start, he indicated that there were four primary interests in the Arctic. Presumably, these are the four primary reasons for the introduction of the bill. He mentioned the security of Canada, the economic development of the north, the preservation of the ecological balance, and the continued high stature of Canada in the international community. I think the continued high stature of Canada in the international community is more window dressing than a real reason for doing something. We should be doing something in this field, and I am sure the minister would agree, not because of any attempt to maintain public relations with the rest of the world but because of our concern about matters affecting the Canadian nation.

The security of Canada is a different matter. It is rather an unknown term. It could be given many interpretations or connotations. I would like to think of it in terms of political security, political integrity and economic security. These are the ones we are talking about. Today the Minister of National Defence (Mr. Cadieux) issued a press release with respect to placing a national defence unit at Yellowknife. I think this would probably indicate that if need be, and if the tests came right down to it, we intend to preserve the security of the nation by military means, although that really is an extension of the security concept beyond that which we nor-