

THIRD UNITED NATIONS LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE:
SEVENTH SESSION - A CANADIAN ASSESSMENT

The seventh session of the third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea was held in two stages: the first in Geneva from March 21-May 19, 1978, and the second in New York from August 21-September 15, 1978. The first stage marked a turning point in the discussions and was indeed one of the most productive sessions the Conference has seen. A guarded optimism has now replaced earlier fears that the Conference would founder on the questions of deep seabed mining and of the rights of land-locked and geographically disadvantaged States. The New York session continued the work done at Geneva and accomplished further progress, especially with regard to the precise modalities of an international deep seabed mining authority. Due to hard work in the negotiating groups, it was possible to isolate the key elements which must go into any compromise which attempts to resolve the outstanding major issues, but further hard work remains to be done in order to reach a global treaty.

