

The Secretary of State for External Affairs explained that the treaty neither affirms nor prejudices the position of any state party on any of these issues but that it was considered desirable to put Canada's own views on record at the time of ratification.

The treaty will now enter into force, having been ratified by 22 governments including the depository governments (Britain, USA and USSR). The Secretary of State for External Affairs welcomed this development as a major step forward in the long and difficult process of achieving a comprehensive system of arms control and disarmament. He emphasized the determination of the parties to the Seabed Arms Control Treaty, as expressed in the preamble to the treaty, to continue negotiations concerning further measures leading to this end in respect of that 75% of the earth's surface lying under the seas and oceans of the world.