

peace and security. The two governments had agreed to co-operate closely in the drafting of this charter. The Mexican Ministers examined with the Canadian Ministers the progress achieved by the group of 40 on its elaboration. In this respect, they reaffirmed the interest of both governments in pursuing their co-operation within that group, which will meet in Geneva on February 4, and in searching for formulas to reconcile divergent interests, given that they both recognize that approval of the charter will mark an important step in the codification and development of basic principles of economic relations between states. In particular, they reiterated the desirability of having the final draft of the charter approved during the twenty-ninth session of the United Nations General Assembly, in keeping with Resolution 3082 (XXVIII), which had been unanimously adopted on the basis of a draft presented by a large number of delegations, including those of Mexico and Canada.

Ministers emphasized the importance of the UN Conference on the Law of the Sea, which will be held in Caracas beginning in June of this year. In this respect, they noted that both Mexico and Canada were in agreement that coastal states enjoy special rights with regard to the exploitation of all the resources in a broad area adjacent to their coast beyond the territorial sea of 12 miles, as well as special rights in that area with regard to the prevention of pollution and the regulation of marine scientific research. They also agreed that the sovereign rights of the coastal state over the continental shelf extended over the whole of the shelf up to the outer limit of the continental margin. The Ministers agreed that Mexico and Canada would continue to co-operate in the search for conciliatory formulas based on the principles outlined above.

Ministers expressed their satisfaction with respect to the developments that had led to the separation of the military forces of the parties to the Middle East conflict, and stated their conviction that there should be no closing-down of the negotiations leading towards the application of Resolution 242 and 338 approved by the Security Council of the UN. The achievement of a just and lasting peace in that region is, in the present circumstances, the most urgent task of the UN and, in that respect, the Ministers reaffirmed their confidence that the Secretary-General would play a full and effective role at the Geneva peace conference.

Ministers reviewed the state of discussions on monetary reform, particularly in view of developments at the IMF meeting in Nairobi last autumn and at the Committee of 20 Meeting in Rome earlier this month. They noted that Canadian and Mexican Ministers had had on