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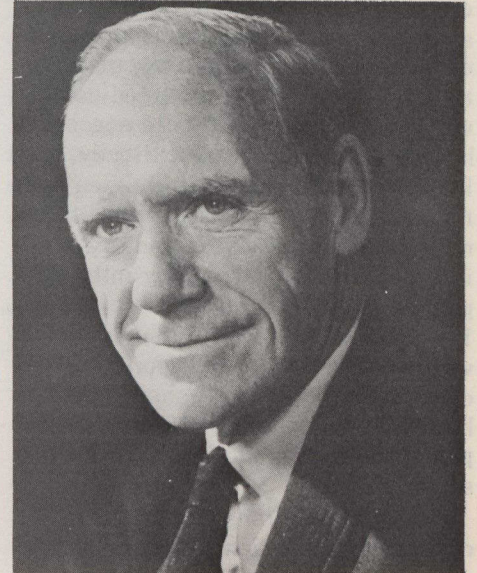
## United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea

*The following passages are from an address by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mitchell Sharp, to the Canadian Institute of International Affairs in Saint John, New Brunswick, on May 3:*

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The conference will be drafting texts of international conventions in much the same way that many past conferences have done. The great difference will be the codification of concepts for the management, regulation and establishment of a joint world ownership of a vast part of the globe. This is something very new and very important in the growing interrelationships of countries and continents. If the conference succeeds in its work, the world will have taken an enormous step in the direction of working out collectively the responsible global exploitation, use and conservation of world resources.

To accomplish its work, the conference, which will meet throughout the summer and probably again in a further session, will address itself to several broad areas of common concern: the breadth of the territorial sea; the further area of national jurisdiction – the so-called economic zone or patrimonial sea; the water and seabed area beyond the limits of national jurisdiction and concept of “the common heritage of



Mitchell Sharp

mankind”; navigation in the different zones and areas of the sea; fisheries and their conservation; and finally the protection from pollution of the marine environment.

Not only the Maritimes, but all Canada has a strong and direct interest in the outcome of the conference in each of these areas.

The United Nations General Assembly will convene the first substantive session of its Third Conference on the Law of the Sea in Caracas, Venezuela, from June 20 to August 29.

The conference began on December 23 with a two-week organizational session in New York. Ambassador J.A. Beesley of Canada was elected chairman of the general drafting committee, a key position in the conference organization.

During the first week of the Caracas session, the conference will conclude its examination of the rules of procedure, which it began but did not complete at its inaugural session. Then delegates will take up the many issues in three committees of the whole. A first committee will devise

a legal regime for the international seabed area and will determine the powers and functions of the International Seabed Authority. The second committee will concentrate on the more traditional issues of the Law of the Sea, such as the territorial sea, the Continental Shelf, high seas, fisheries, archipelagos, straits, innocent passage and islands. The subjects of scientific research on the oceans and preservation of the marine environment will be taken up in the third committee.

If the delegates are unable to conclude a comprehensive and viable agreement on the Law of the Sea at Caracas, the conference will meet again at a further session – probably in Vienna in 1975.