

provisions will have the practical effect of operating as a full consent regime for all research while simultaneously incorporating provisions for its promotion and facilitation, Canada is satisfied that they balance the rights of those states wishing to conduct research and the legitimate rights and interests of coastal states in controlling or regulating certain types of MSR bearing on the utilization of resources over which they exercise sovereign rights.

Plenary Discussions on the Settlement of Disputes

For the first time, the Conference had before it a draft text on the settlement of disputes (Part IV of the RSNT) having the same status as the other parts of the RSNT. Discussions of this subject were conducted in Plenary under the chairmanship of the President of the Conference and were directed to four basic ends:

- (1) improving the style and drafting of the RSNT;
- (2) consolidating the disputes settlement provisions of Part I of the RSNT on exploitation of the deep seabed with the comprehensive law of the sea dispute settlement system which had been included in Part IV of the RSNT;
- (3) resolving certain substantive problems, in particular the question of certain types of disputes exempted from the dispute settlement process in Articles 17 and 18 of the RSNT; and
- (4) developing and confirming support for the general principle of compulsory dispute settlement in a future Law of the Sea Treaty.

Of major importance at the session was the general consensus accepting the creation of a separate Seabed Chamber of the proposed Law of the Sea Tribunal. The Chamber would have jurisdiction over disputes arising out of the application of the provisions of the ICNT respecting the exploitation of the deep seabed. The effect will be to amalgamate in one dispute settlement system all disputes relating to the application of the comprehensive Law of the Sea Treaty.