

A few industrialized states remain opposed to a regime providing for the consent of the coastal state before research can be undertaken in its economic zone or on its continental shelf. Various proposals were discussed, and there were indications towards the end of the session that elements of a compromise may now be present based on a qualified consent regime, but intensive efforts will be needed at the next session to break the current impasse on this crucial issue.

Not much time was devoted to transfer of technology at the recent session although a number of amendments were submitted by developing countries who contend that the present text does not impose a sufficiently strong obligation on developed countries to provide assistance in this field. Since this part of the text must be coordinated with Part I provisions dealing with the role of the International Seabed Authority which the developing countries foresee as playing a key part in coordinating the collation and transfer of ocean-related technology, final agreement on a text covering transfer of technology must await further progress in Committee I.

#### Revised Part IV

A positive result of the last session was the complete revision in informal Plenary meetings of the Conference, of Part IV of the Single Negotiating Text on the settlement of disputes relating to law of the sea. The Conference President will shortly be issuing a revised text for Part IV, which will undoubtedly reflect the general desire expressed in the Plenary meetings for a simplified, and somewhat more restrictive, system for the settlement of disputes. At the same time, the text will probably confirm that states participating in the Conference are now ready to accept the principle of compulsory settlement of disputes relating to the law of the sea. An issue which will have to be addressed at future sessions of the Conference is the interaction between the Part IV settlement of disputes provisions and the mere restricted dispute settlement provisions applicable to seabed exploitation in Part I. Thought will have to be given as to whether these two mechanisms should be combined in one comprehensive dispute settlement procedure.

Canada strongly supports the inclusion of a comprehensive system of compulsory dispute settlement as an integral part of the Law of the Sea Convention. Such a system is particularly important in a Convention embodying rules which are new and radical. One of the major difficulties in reaching a generally acceptable third party regime is to define the scope of its application in respect of the exercise of a coastal state's discretionally powers in the economic zone. It is the view of Canada that coastal states must be free to exercise their jurisdiction over the living and non-living resources, prevention of pollution and maring scientific research in the economic zone, so long as they remain within the specific bounds of the discretion vested in them and do not infringe the rights of other states. However, compulsory adjudication could apply in cases where coastal states grossly abuse their discretionary powers in the economic zone.