

the investigation and detention of foreign vessels, and coastal state measures relating to the avoidance of pollution from maritime casualties. It was generally recognized that developments at this session have taken the Conference a significant step toward the successful completion of negotiations on the subject of marine pollution.

On another issue of critical importance to Canada, the definition of the outer limits of the continental margin, there has still been no breakthrough towards final agreement. Notwithstanding steadily expanding support for the Irish formula, employing criterion based on the natural features of the continental margin, efforts to achieve a compromise have been complicated by the unwillingness of the Soviet delegation to withdraw its formula which would impose an arbitrary 300 mile limit on coastal state claims to the continental margin. The question of the definition of the outer limits of the continental margin is closely linked to the issue of revenue sharing in respect of the exploitation of the margin beyond 200 miles for the benefit of developing countries. Wide margin countries have indicated that they will study a revenue sharing formula provided that it does not prejudice the sovereign rights of coastal states to their continental margin. Acceptance of such a formula would be conditional on the acceptance of the Irish formula by the Conference. This item will require more intensive negotiations before a solution can be found.

On the question of delimitation of marine boundaries between opposite or adjacent states, there is still a sharp difference between, on the one hand, those countries insisting on the principle of equidistance and on the other hand those contending that the criteria for delimitation should be equitable principles. However, after intensive discussions in the negotiating group, the Chairman, Judge Manner of Finland, indicated that any text on marine boundary delimitation should contain balanced references to equidistance and equitable principles as criterion for delimitation. Such an approach could conceivably be the basis for a compromise text when this matter is again considered at the next session.

The Drafting Committee chaired by Ambassador Beesley has met frequently during the resumed session and work on polishing the text is well advanced. The fact that it is already producing concrete results is in itself a measure both of the degree of progress achieved and of the confidence which many delegations have in the formulation of final comprehensive convention.