

Ministry by our Embassy in Paris on June 6th, seeking to have the French reconsider their position. This they have so far declined to do. A related subject, which has been examined by our own lawyers, here and in France, is the possibility of Mr. McTaggart seeking legal redress through the French Courts.

Greenpeace III (1973)

On September 14th, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Mitchell Sharp, issued a statement about the recent incident concerning the vessel Greenpeace III. In this statement he expressed the view that:

"Mr. McTaggart is a private Canadian citizen with a legitimate grievance against the French Government, one who is at a distinct disadvantage because he cannot effectively pursue his claim without the Canadian Government providing, as at present, moral and diplomatic support to this end."

"As soon as the Canadian Government learned about this incident, we informed the French authorities not only that we considered that the creation of zones of security, for the purpose of nuclear tests, was an abuse of the freedom of the high seas, but also that we regarded the actions of the French seamen in boarding the ship in international waters, subduing the crew and removing it by force, as being a clear violation of international law."

After referring to consular assistance provided to Mr. McTaggart, Mr. Sharp added:

"The French Ambassador was called in on two occasions, on the second of which I handed over to him a formal diplomatic note. We have asked that a full investigation take place to establish the true facts of the case and we are continuing to seek further