

Agreement Relating To The Delimitation of
The Continental Shelf Between Greenland
And Canada

The Governments of Canada and Denmark have concluded an agreement concerning the delimitation of the continental shelf between Greenland and Canada. The agreement was signed in Ottawa, on December 17, by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honorable Mitchell Sharp, on behalf of Canada and by the Danish Ambassador to Canada, His Excellency Henning Hjorth-Nielsen, on behalf of the Government of Denmark. The agreement is subject to ratification and instruments of ratification shall be exchanged in Copenhagen as soon as possible.

This is the first continental shelf agreement that Canada has concluded with its neighbours. Through this agreement, Canada and Denmark have decided to establish in the area of the continental shelf between the Canadian Arctic Islands and Greenland a dividing line up to which either party can extend its sovereign rights for the purpose of exploration and exploitation of the natural resources of the continental shelf, in accordance with the 1958 United Nations Convention on the Continental Shelf.

The dividing line, which runs some 1430 nautical miles in length and represents the longest continental shelf delimitation in the world, has been determined on the basis of the principle of equidistance incorporating certain adjustments necessary to arrive at a mutually agreeable and equitable solution.