

In sum, the session which began badly ended well, with a measure of agreement reached on a range of controversial issues of great importance to Canada which had previously eluded all efforts at solution. While it cannot be said even now, in light of this substantial progress at the seventh session, that the Conference will succeed in its monumental task of producing a global constitution of the oceans, it may be said not only that it must do so, but that it now can do so. Many of Canada's objectives have already been achieved at the Conference on questions as important and as diverse as safeguarding Canada's mineral industry, preservation of the environment, freedom of navigation, and other vital questions concerning Canadian sovereignty and jurisdiction. The importance of the Conference goes well beyond immediate national interests. The success of the Conference is vital to the international community as a whole. The Canadian Government reaffirms its commitment to this high purpose.