

CANADA RATIFIES SEABED ARMS CONTROL PACT

Canada ratified the Seabed Arms Control Treaty on May 17, when instruments of ratification were deposited by Canada's representatives in London, Washington and Moscow.

The Seabed Arms Control Treaty, or the Treaty on the Prohibition of the Emplacement of Nuclear Weapons and Weapons of Mass Destruction on the Seabed and Ocean Floor and the Subsoil Thereof, its full title, was negotiated in the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament and approved by the United Nations General Assembly in the autumn of 1970. In announcing Canada's ratification, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. Mitchell Sharp, described it as an important step towards the exclusion of the seabed from the arms race.

The treaty prohibits the emplacement of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction (chemical and biological) on the seabed and ocean-floor beyond a 12-mile coastal zone. It also prohibits the emplacement of structures, launching facilities, or installations designed for storing, testing or using such weapons. It does not prohibit the emplacement of conventional weapons that are not part of systems for mass destruction or any other underwater weapons systems, such as nuclear submarines that are not actually placed on the ocean floor.

CANADA'S ROLE IN NEGOTIATIONS

The Canadian delegation to the Geneva Conference of the Committee on Disarmament played an active part in the negotiations leading up to the treaty. Canada was among the first states to urge that the widest possible range of arms-control measures should be extended to the widest possible area of the seabed and ocean floor. A number of Canadian proposals, particularly those relating to verification procedures,

were incorporated into the final text.

Canada's ratification is accompanied by an interpretative declaration intended to make clear Canada's position on a number of issues. The declaration enunciates Canada's view that:

(a) the treaty cannot be interpreted as allowing states to place non-prohibited (conventional) weapons on the seabed and ocean floor beyond the continental shelf, or to use this area for anything but peaceful purposes;

(b) the treaty cannot be interpreted as allowing any state other than the coastal state to place non-prohibited weapons on its continental shelf; and

(c) the treaty cannot be interpreted as in any way restricting the right of the coastal state to carry out inspection and removal of any foreign weapons or components or weapons systems on its continental shelf.

The Secretary of State for External Affairs explained that the treaty neither affirms nor prejudices the position of any state party on any of these issues but that it was considered desirable to put Canada's own views on record at the time of ratification.

The treaty now enters into force, having been ratified by 22 governments including the depository governments (Britain, the U.S.A. and the Soviet Union). The Secretary of State for External Affairs welcomed this development as a major step forward in the long and difficult process of achieving a comprehensive system of arms control and disarmament. He emphasized the determination of the parties to the Seabed Arms Control Treaty, as expressed in the preamble to the treaty, to continue negotiations concerning further measures leading to this end in respect of that 75 per cent of the earth's surface lying under the seas and oceans of the world.

NATIONAL BALLET IN EUROPE

On May 17, the National Ballet of Canada began a two-month European tour at the Coliseum Theatre in London with a gala charity performance of *The Mirror Walkers*, *Légende* and *La Sylphide*.

A full house gave the Canadians a warm reception on the occasion of their début in Europe. In the audience were Princess Anne and Prime Minister Edward Heath, who had been escorted to the royal box by Canadian High Commissioner J.H. Warren.

Celia Franca, artistic director of the company, expressed delight at the welcome from the first-nighters - some 2,300 patrons who had paid as much as \$25 a ticket. Princess Anne and Mr. Heath later went backstage to meet the dancers; the Prime Minister stayed on for the reception that followed.

From London, where they closed on May 27, the company of 85 members went to Stuttgart for a performance on May 30, and they perform in Paris from June 5 to 13. The ballet will be in Brussels from June 15 to 17, in Glasgow from June 20 to 24, in Lausanne from June 27 to 28, and they will end their tour in Monte Carlo, performing from July 1 to 3.

Ten ballets, traditional and modern, make up the repertoire for the European tour; in addition to *La Sylphide*, *The Mirror Walkers* and *Légende*, the company is dancing *Intermezzo*, *Fandango*, *The Judgment of Paris*, *Kraanerg*, *Swan Lake*, *Evocation* and *Session*.

In August, the National Ballet will begin rehearsals for its production of *The Sleeping Beauty*. Rudolf Nureyev will rehearse the company for the première performance in Ottawa on September 1.