

Canadian Delegation to the Sixth Session of the Law of the Sea Conference New York May 23~July 8 or 15, 1977

The Sixth Session of the Third U.N. Conference of the Law of the Sea was held in New York from May 23 to July 15, 1977. On the basis of the discussions which took place in formal and informal negotiating sessions of the three main committees and of the Plenary of the Conference, and in informal meetings outside the committee framework, the President of the Conference (H.S. Amerasinghe of Sri Lanka), together with the chairman of the three main committees (First Committee: Paul Bamela Engo, United Republic of Cameroon; Andrés Aguilar, Venezuela; Alexander Yankov, Bulgaria) and in association with the other officers of the Conference (Kenneth O. Rattray of Jamaica, the Rapporteur-General and J. Alan Beesley of Canada the Chairman of the Drafting Committee), produced a new Informal Composite Negotiating Text.

Failure of the Law of the Sea negotiations could result in a proliferation of conflicts over the use of the world's oceans, in particular resulting from differences of view as to the regime which governs deep seabed mining, the rights of passage through international straits falling within the territorial sea of states bordering such straits and the sovereign rights and jurisdictions of coastal states within a 200 mile zone.