

between the Department of the Interior and the Canadian Department of Energy, Mines and Resources, when we gave notice of the limits that we proposed to respect and the permits we intended to issue, and this was accepted at the time. I think those negotiations haven't yet concluded, and they may go on a while, but they are underway.

Q. Mr. MacEachen, there's been considerable pressure in Canada for unilateral action, particularly on fisheries, what do you need out of this conference in New York to be able to continue to withstand that sort of political pressure?

SSEA: Well, what I need out of this particular conference is rapid enough and great enough progress to indicate that it would be possible to secure an agreement on all aspects of the Law of the Sea in 1976.

Q. In other words, by the end of the summer, by the end of the summer session?

SSEA: Well, I would like what I need and what I want.

Q. Mr. Secretary, in following up on that question it has been said that as much as eighty, or perhaps ninety per cent of the single negotiating text has the consensus of the conference. Would you put it that high, and if so, what are the principal sticking points on the remaining ten or twenty per cent?

SSEA: Well, I wouldn't be able to quantify in that way the area of agreement as against the area of disagreement. I do know that there are important areas that still have to be settled....

Q. Principally what?

SSEA: Well, let me mention an area that seems to me as quite crucial to the making of progress at this conference, and that is the international seabed authority, the part of the world's resources that is described as the common heritage of mankind, that particular area that is engaging the attention, I believe, of the first committee is certainly a very important, I think a key, element in reaching solutions, and because countries and participants regard, in a sense, an overall settlement as a settlement involving interrelated elements, an important element like the international seabed authority or the common heritage of mankind can have, it seems to me, a very important overall effect on the results of the conference. If progress or solutions were reached in that area, it undoubtedly would have a very beneficial effect on other aspects of the conference.

Q. Mr. Minister sir, I'm still a little bit hung up on your ninety per cent guesstimate. I take it that when you say ninety to ninety-eight per cent you mean coastal states, all coastal states -- Canada is the largest one in the world -- but you also, I'd say, West Germany or Zaire as a coastal state, as you talk about ninety per cent of the world's population, and if you do, isn't there a built-in inequity?