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The Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea

In 1974 a United Nations Conference will be held which will have extremely important implications for Canada.

The Conference will attempt to establish a new legal regime which, amongst other matters, may affect:

- Canada's sovereign rights over the resources of its continental margin, that is, the submerged land mass bordering its coastline;
- Canada's right to manage and receive a preferential share of the living resources found over its entire continental shelf;
- the right of coastal states to take measures to protect their marine environment as Canada did in adopting the Arctic Waters Pollution Prevention Act;
- the right of coastal states to control scientific research within their zones of maritime jurisdiction;
- the disposition of the riches of the seabed beyond the jurisdiction of states so that they can be of benefit to the whole of mankind.

These are but a few of the questions which will be at issue during the Third United Nations Law of the Sea Conference in 1974. Because its decisions are bound to have far-reaching consequences for the international community as a whole, for individual states, for coastal communities and even for the individual, it is widely recognized that the forthcoming Law of the Sea Conference will be one of the most important diplomatic conferences ever convened under the aegis of the United Nations.

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