

Northern, Greenland and Norwegian Seas (later extended to include the Barents Sea as well). Limitations on anti-submarine weapons, advance notification of major military exercises, and the banning of naval activity in international straits and shipping lanes were all proposed. President Gorbachev also called for multilateral cooperation in the development of Arctic resources, in scientific research, and in environmental protection. Finally, he raised the possibility of the Soviet Union opening to other nations the Northern Sea Route from Europe to the Far East.

On 6 October 1987, the Soviet draft text of a Soviet-Canadian agreement on Arctic cooperation was released by the Canadian Arctic Resources Committee. First proposed by the Soviets in early 1987, the provisions of the draft included: recognition of the rights of both countries to control pollution and govern navigation in the Arctic waters adjacent to their territories, provision for information exchanges on environmental, natural resource and navigation safety issues, and the extension of existing scientific and technical cooperation between the two countries.

On 9 December 1987, at a Norway-Canada Conference on Circumpolar Issues in Tromsø, Norway, External Affairs Minister Joe Clark indicated the Government's desire to develop a comprehensive Northern foreign policy. He stated the elements of this policy as follows: 1) affirming Canadian sovereignty; 2) modernizing Canada's northern defences; 3) preparing for commercial use of the Northwest Passage; and 4) promoting enhanced circumpolar cooperation. Enhanced security in the Arctic, according to Clark, would come from a step-by-step approach to arms control and disarmament. Finally, he noted that Canada's Arctic security was a direct function of Alliance solidarity and cohesion, the climate of East-West relations, and progress toward balanced reductions of nuclear weapons.<sup>3</sup>

On 11 January 1988, after two years of discussion, Canada and the United States signed a Canada-United States Arctic Cooperation Agreement (the "Icebreaker" Agreement). This Agreement seeks to facilitate navigation by the icebreakers of the two nations, and to develop cooperative procedures for this purpose. Under its terms, the United States pledges that all navigation by US icebreakers in waters claimed by Canada to be internal, will be undertaken with the consent of the Canadian Government.<sup>4</sup> It goes on to state that nothing in the Agreement nor any practice thereunder affects the respective positions of the two governments on the Law of the Sea in this or other maritime areas, or their positions regarding third parties.<sup>5</sup>

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3 "Speech by the Right Honorable Joe Clark to the Norway-Canada Conference on Circumpolar Issues, Tromsø, Norway, December 9, 1987." Secretary of State for External Affairs, *Statement* 87/72.

4 "Agreement Between the Government of Canada and the Government of the United States of America on Arctic Cooperation." Department of External Affairs, *News Release* No. 010 (11 January 1988).

5 *Ibid.*