

that time he has become a world-wide symbol of resistance to Soviet efforts to stamp out fundamental human rights." Another MP, David Orlikow (NDP, Winnipeg North), the same day urged Prime Minister Trudeau to appeal on behalf of the government, Parliament, and the people of Canada, directly to Mr. Andropov for Mr. Shcharansky's case to be reconsidered on humanitarian grounds to allow him his freedom and permission to join his wife.

URUGUAY

Demand for Release of Prisoner

In the House of Commons December 15, Dan McKenzie (PC, Winnipeg-Assiniboine) moved a motion

(which did not receive the required unanimous consent of the House under Standing Order 43), that the government demand the release of an imprisoned professor in Uruguay. Mr. McKenzie said that Professor Jose Luis Massera of Uruguay had been imprisoned for expressing political opinions. He has been tortured and held in conditions which are likely to lead to physical and mental illness and possibly death, Mr. McKenzie said. He moved:

That the Canadian government condemn the actions of the Uruguayan government and demand the release of Professor Massera. These flagrant violations of human rights are in direct contravention of the Helsinki Accord, and steps must be taken to have Professor Massera released and to put an end to acts such as he has suffered.

Multilateral Relations

UNITED NATIONS

Law of the Sea

Canada was one of the 119 nations to sign the UN Law of the Sea Convention on December 10. Fisheries Minister Pierre De Bané signed the pact on behalf of Canada at the final session of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea, held in Jamaica from December 6 to 10. The Convention consists of 320 articles and nine annexes and is the result of the longest, most complex conference in diplomatic history. A decade in the making, the Convention was called "possibly the most significant legal instrument this century" by the UN Secretary General (External Affairs press release, November 22). Twenty-four nations which had participated in the Law of the Sea conference did not sign the pact. These included the US, West Germany, Belgium and Britain. Japan did not sign, but indicated it would do so at a later date (*Globe and Mail*, December 11). The US refusal to sign was based largely on objections to provisions which regulate deep seabed mining. The Reagan administration regarded the regulations as a breach of free enterprise (*Globe and Mail*, December 10). The US rejection of the treaty was considered the largest obstacle to a meaningful convention. Canada had protested officially to Washington in July about the US decision not to sign.

As well as setting up a global authority for the regulation of deep seabed mining, the Convention provides,

among other things, that: nations are sovereign over waters twelve miles from their coasts; countries enjoy exclusive rights to the fish and other marine resources from within 200 miles of their coast; nations also own all the oil and gas on their continental shelves for 350 miles; and ships and planes can pass freely through narrow straits like Gibraltar and Hormuz, critical for the big military powers (*Globe and Mail*, December 10).

Canada had played an active role in the formulation of the Convention text. Many of its provisions were considered beneficial to Canada. Mr. De Bané said that benefits included the enshrinement of the 200-mile economic zone, freedom of navigation, greater environmental control, recognition of Canada's Arctic Waters Pollution Prevention Act, the protection of salmon stocks and the establishment of the 350-mile continental shelf zone. As well, the provisions regulating deep seabed mining will protect land-based nickel production (*Globe and Mail*, December 11).

In the House of Commons December 13, MPs unanimously agreed to a motion: "That this House recognize the contribution of the Ambassador, His Excellency Mr. Alan Beesley, and his team of the Law of the Sea Conference negotiations and congratulate them for the enormous work they have accomplished and the success they obtained for Canada and the international community."

While in Asia during January, Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau also hailed the conclusion of the Law of the Sea Conference. At a dinner given by Indonesian President