

the nature of the rights involved. However, apart from these matters, my Delegation believes it to be of importance to ensure that there be a comprehensive system of compulsory dispute settlement applicable not only in the Economic Zone but also to disputes arising on the High Seas and in any other area of the seas, such as international straits, where such interests as the freedom of navigation are potentially in conflict with the interests of coastal states. If certain States make the protection of freedom of navigation by compulsory dispute settlement a precondition to agreement it must be borne in mind that coastal States have corresponding rights of environmental integrity and security which are equally in need of protection. These rights must also be protected by compulsory dispute settlement.

2. With respect to the principle that States should be free to choose the system of dispute settlement most appropriate to their needs, provided that the procedure is one which leads to a binding decision, the proposals in Part IV of the Single Negotiating Text appear to be satisfactory since they lay down this principle in clear and unequivocal terms. The corollary of this fundamental principle is that, subject to any specific exceptions made in the Convention, no State should be free to pick and