

However, Canada must continue its negotiating efforts to obtain satisfactory results on certain outstanding issues. In the economic zone it is pursuing efforts to obtain adequate enforcement powers for the coastal state in respect of vessel source pollution. With respect to coastal states powers to control marine pollution in their territorial seas, many maritime states have construed the right of innocent passage in an absolute sense so as to impose severe restrictions on the powers of a coastal state to set standards relating to vessel source pollution. Canada, on the other hand, has insisted on the sovereign right of a coastal state to enact national laws within the territorial sea to regulate the design, construction, manning and equipment of vessels in the absence or anticipation of agreed international standards applicable to such matters, as well as to set more stringent discharge standards. Some progress was achieved on this issue at the recent session in that the Chairman's final report acknowledged that this was a key issue on which further negotiation was essential in order to reconcile the navigational rights of shipping states with the sovereign prerogatives of the coastal state to enact and apply environmental laws in its territorial sea.

In the area of marine scientific research, a few industrialized states remain opposed to a regime providing for the consent of the coastal state before research can be undertaken in its economic zone or over its continental shelf. Various proposals were discussed, and there were indications towards the end of the session that elements of a compromise may now be present, but intensive efforts will be needed at the next session to break the current impasse on this crucial issue.

Not much time was devoted to transfer of technology at either the spring or summer sessions although a number of amendments were submitted by developing countries who contend that the present text does not impose a sufficiently strong obligation on developed countries to provide assistance in this field. Since this part of the text must be coordinated with Part I provisions dealing with the role of the International Seabed Authority which the developing countries foresee as playing a key part in coordinating the collation and transfer of ocean-related technology, final agreement on a text covering transfer of technology must await further progress in Committee I.

Revised Part IV

A clearly positive result of the last session was the complete revision in informal plenary meetings of the Conference, of Part IV of the Single Negotiating Text on the settlement of disputes relating to law of the sea. The Conference President will shortly be issuing a revised text for Part IV, which will undoubtedly reflect the general desire expressed in the plenary meetings for a simplified, and somewhat more restrictive, system for the settlement of disputes. At the same time, the text will probably confirm that states participating in the Conference are now ready to accept the principle of compulsory settlement of disputes relating to the law of the sea.