

ratification of international conventions for the prevention of pollution from ships; reform of domestic and international ship construction and equipment standards; improvement of international crew standards and training; development of the domestic tanker boarding program; approval of domestic comprehensive oil pollution liability and compensation legislation, and improvement of the ability of USA federal agencies to respond to oil pollution emergencies. In keeping with these proposals, the USA called on the Inter-Governmental Marine Consultative Organization (IMCO) to schedule an early international conference to consider measures to improve tanker safety. This Conference will be held in London in February 1978, to consider draft protocols to the 1974 Safety of Life at Sea Convention and to the 1973 Marine Pollution Convention.

The reference to comprehensive oil pollution liability and compensation legislation was of particular interest to Canada since such legislation would supercede the Trans-Alaska Pipeline Authorization (TAPA) Fund under which Canadian claimants were guaranteed access to a \$100 million marine pollution claims fund on the same basis as residents of the USA who had suffered damage from the movement of Alaska oil. The U.S. Administration version of the comprehensive act continued to give Canadians access to similar funds but another version of the bill required Canada to provide reciprocal arrangements for potential USA claimants. Canada has expressed its concern to the USA about this provision and the U.S. Administration has supported Canada's position.

The USA, for its part, is interested in obtaining access for its citizens to the relevant remedies available under Canadian legislation which deal with liability and compensation for marine pollution damage, in particular, the Canada Shipping Act and the Arctic Waters Pollution Prevention Act. In the context of Canadian drilling in the Beaufort Sea, Canada has advised the USA that provisions of Canadian legislation are being reviewed to provide potential American claimants reciprocal access to Canadian legislative remedies.

In June of 1977, the Cabinet authorized offshore exploratory drilling in the Beaufort Sea for the next three years, subject to annual reviews, more stringent conditions and improved monitoring and surveillance. The arrangement established in 1976 to compensate American claimants in the event of an oil spill was continued for the 1977 season. This is an arrangement in which the operators have entered