

and its contribution, throughout the nine weeks of the conference will long be remembered as one of the outstanding features of the Conference. A good deal of the credit for this must go to the Honourable George Drew who gave such vigorous and imaginative leadership to the Canadian Delegation and to the able and devoted team of officials who assisted Mr. Drew as members of the Delegation. During my own brief visit to Geneva I was able to observe at first hand that Mr. Drew was regarded on all sides as one of the persons playing a very major part in the Conference and one to whom the success of many of the negotiations was due.

It is worth while recalling here that the last conference of a similar type on the Law of the Sea was held at The Hague in 1930. It was known as The Hague Codification Conference. At that time some 40 nations participated and the International Conference broke down on a single issue, the question of the breadth of the territorial sea. Twenty-eight years later with twice as many nations participating it seems rather significant that this same obstacle to agreement did not bring the Conference to failure. The significant thing is that the participants achieved many things that went far beyond anything achieved in the whole history of international law since mankind first began to keep its history.

Specifically, the Conference produced four international conventions as well as a protocol providing for the judicial settlement of disputes. These four conventions were (1) a convention on the high seas; (2) a convention on fishing and the conservation of the living resources of the high seas; (3) a convention on the continental shelf; and (4) a convention on the territorial sea and contiguous zone. It was on April 29 that Mr. Drew signed these conventions on behalf of Canada as well as the protocol on the settlement of disputes and the final act of the Conference. I might say that Canada was the first nation to sign all six of the instruments embodying the results of the Conference. The four conventions and the protocol on the settlement of disputes are, of course, subject to ratification by the Government of Canada and will not enter into force until ratified by at least 22 nations....

Background

Before dealing in more detail with the conventions and their significance to Canada it might be of interest to provide a little background on the events leading up to the Conference and the method of work adopted by the Conference. The Conference was called as a result of a resolution by the General Assembly of the United Nations on February 21, 1957-- Resolution 1105X1. It grew out of the studies and recommendations made over the years by the International Law Commission of the United Nations which had been meeting since the initial formation of the United Nations in 1946. The Commission had given very intensive study to all aspects of maritime law and