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*Note pour l'ambassadeur aux États-Unis*<sup>33</sup>  
*Memorandum for Ambassador in United States*<sup>33</sup>

CONFIDENTIAL

[Washington], December 20, 1957

## MEETING — INTERNATIONAL LAW OF THE SEA

On December 3rd a meeting was held in New York between United States and Canadian officials for the purpose of exchanging informal views on questions relating to the conference on the Law of the Sea which is to commence in Geneva on February 24th, 1958. The representatives present at the meeting were:

*United States*

Mr. William Saunders, Co-ordinator, United States  
 Preparations for the Conference on the Law of the Sea,  
 Raymond T. Yingling, Assistant Legal Adviser, Department of State,  
 Mr. William C. Herrington, Special Assistant to the Under-Secretary  
 of State for Fisheries and Wildlife,  
 Captain Wilfred A. Hearn, Judge Advocate General Staff, Navy.

*Canada*

Mr. Gordon Robertson, Deputy Minister, Northern Affairs  
 and National Resources,  
 Mr. S.V. Ozere, Assistant Deputy Minister, Fisheries,  
 Mr. J.S. Nutt, Legal Division, Department of External Affairs,  
 Mr. A.F. Broadbridge, Canadian Embassy, Washington.

2. Altogether, the meeting was, I think, most useful both to the Canadian delegation and to the United States delegation. There was a frank exchange of views and while in some instances no firm conclusions were reached, it was clear that view points had been frankly exchanged and that further sympathetic consideration of these would be made by both delegations on their return to Washington and Ottawa respectively.

3. The agenda for the New York meeting called for discussion of the following items:

- (a) International Law Commission Fishery Articles — including abstention, compulsory arbitration and criteria. (Report of the International Law Commission to the U.N. 1956)
- (b) Limits of the Territorial Sea
- (c) Contiguous Zones for Fisheries
- (d) Living Resources of the Continental Shelf
- (e) Conference Organization and Officers

4. The discussion on the first item was mainly of a technical nature and there was general agreement between the Canadian and United States representatives on the points raised. The position of the United States on conservation, arbitration and abstention are to a great extent covered in the attached appendices,† 1, 2 and 3. The discussions on these technical aspects will be dealt with in greater detail in the secretary's report. Considerable discussion was held in connection with Articles 53 and 55 of the Report of the International Law Commission. The United States delegation was particularly interested in the matter of violations by fishermen in areas where conversation is being practised. In this connection, the

<sup>33</sup> Note marginale :/Marginal note:

Interesting when you have time to look it over. AE R[itchie]