

Mr. FULTON: Will it in future then report to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development?

Mr. HARRISON: I think so.

Mr. FULTON: Not directly to this department?

Mr. HARRISON: No.

Mr. FULTON: Does that appear to put the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development in that department then in the position of being the co-ordinator of plans and programs for actual development in that area?

Mr. HARRISON: I am afraid I will have to beg off on that one, sir, because I do not know; I would not think so, but I cannot say what the plans are. This is an advisory committee; it is not an executive committee.

Mr. FULTON: I understand that. With respect to the polar shelf, the extent of Canada's jurisdiction was determined, or the basis of it was determined at the international conference in Geneva in 1958, was it not?

Mr. HARRISON: I do not know about that, sir. I know that at the 1958 conference, to which you refer, it was agreed that the nations of the world would have the authority to carry out investigations and to obtain from the continental shelf contiguous to their shores the mineral resources thereof.

I think there is some caveat in the statement which says they do not own them but they do have the right to exploit them. I am not quite sure about this.

Mr. FULTON: And then there was to be, as I understand it, studies made to determine or to delineate precisely the area of prior right of other respective nations; and our area runs, as I understand it, like a pie-shaped wedge toward the north pole and at some stage the boundaries of Canada's jurisdiction on the one hand, and Russia's on the other, had to be settled. Is that correct?

Mr. HARRISON: I do not know the legal aspects, sir, but I think the sort of sector approach that Canada used has been accepted, de facto accepted.

I am afraid I cannot be sure of this and I think that up to now the actual surface jurisdiction is a matter of some dispute on the surface waters. There are other international laws which have, I think, overriding authority, but according to the Geneva convention, at any rate, Canada should have the right to any physical resources of the continental shelf that extend from its islands seaward as far as they extend to the limits of the continental shelf.

Mr. FULTON: Well really what I am getting at here is whether you can tell us, or whether anybody is in a position to tell us, what progress is being made towards determining the actual physical extent of Canada's authority?

Mr. HARRISON: On the continental shelf, yes indeed, sir; this is part of the function of the continental shelf project to try to determine the limits of the continental shelf.

Mr. FULTON: Could you give us a progress report?

Mr. HARRISON: A good deal of this information is classified I think, sir, but it extends westward a matter of a couple of hundred miles in some areas west of the westernmost land limits before we get to the Arctic Ocean deeps.