

as I understand it, yesterday. That kind of operation proceeds independently, as do, for example, our bilateral negotiations with other countries, but we do exchange views and we certainly advise each other of our attitudes on important issues in the Law of the Sea.

Q. What's the effect on Canada of that legislation?

SSEA: Well, I'm not quite sure of the effective date of the legislation...

Q. March 1st, 1977.

SSEA: ...but certainly we are quite interested, to put it mildly, in the effective date of that particular legislation.

Q. What is the effect on Canada?

SSEA: Well, the effect on Canada at the moment is nil, but at the time of implementation it would be of concern to Canada what bodies of water were included within an extended American jurisdiction.

Q. I'm told that it increases Canada's jurisdiction by some means.

SSEA: I would welcome that, but I doubt whether...
(Laughter.)

Q. Is that not the case?

SSEA: Well, I haven't seen the bill, I haven't read it's provisions, but I would be very surprised if that were the outcome.

Q. Considering the oil explorations going on now in the Beaufort Seas and the seismic testing going on in the George's Bank area, and some of the discussion that has gone on about oil tankers' passage through Arctic waters, how long do you think Canada can wait before beginning formal discussions with the U.S. on some of these questions, particularly on hydrocarbons exploration and transit?

SSEA: Well, we do have a series of discussions in play with the United States on these environmental questions, basically, which have, obviously, direct implications for exploration and for development and for transit of hydrocarbons. These are continuous consultations and detailed in nature because we do have a common concern for the protection of the environment. With respect to the Beaufort Sea, we've had recent consultations on proposed, or possible, drilling by Canadian companies in the Beaufort Sea, and we've had consultations with the United States on that.

Mr. Beesley: Can I comment on that?

SSEA: Please.

Mr. Beesley: I might just add that we've also had bilateral negotiations with the U.S.A. on the delimitation of the continental shelf boundary in the Gulf of Maine area. This is not a new thing, it goes back some time ago. I believe it originated with an exchange of letters