

ARCTIC

In a statement in the House of Commons on September 10, 1985, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, Secretary of State for External Affairs, strongly reaffirmed Canada's sovereignty in the Arctic.

Among the measures that he outlined on that occasion were the following: immediate adoption of an Order-in-Council establishing straight baselines around the Arctic archipelago; immediate talks with the United States on cooperation in Arctic waters, on the basis of full respect for Canadian sovereignty; immediate withdrawal of the 1970 reservation to Canada's acceptance of the compulsory jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice, adoption of a Canadian Laws Offshore Application Act; and construction of a Polar Class 8 icebreaker.

The government notified the Secretary General of the United Nations of its withdrawal of the 1970 reservation on September 10, 1985, and the straight baselines became effective January 1, 1986. The Canadian Laws Offshore Application Act received first reading on April 11, 1986. The subject of cooperation between Canada and the USA in Arctic waters has been addressed by the Prime Minister in meetings with the US President and Vice President, as well as by the Secretary of State for External Affairs and the US Secretary of State. Officials have also had a number of exchanges. Agreement has not yet been reached on cooperative arrangements, but the talks are still continuing. The government's commitment to construction of the icebreaker was reaffirmed in the Throne Speech delivered on October 2.