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Text of Statement to be made by the Canadian Representative, Dr. D. G. Crosby, in the Economic and Technical Sub-Committee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of the Seabed and the Ocean Floor Beyond the Limits of National Jurisdiction on
Friday, March 13, 1970

The Canadian delegation believes there is general agreement that the first and principle objective to be served by the international regime for the seabed beyond the limits of national jurisdiction must be to ensure that resources which form part of the common wealth of mankind are developed and utilized for the common good of mankind. The test against which we must measure our efforts and progress in the Seabed Committee is whether or not we are achieving this basic objective, from which should flow the detailed propositions for the regime and the machinery to implement it.

The Secretariat's paper, "Government Measures Pertaining to the Development of Mineral Resources on the Continental Shelf", A/AC.138/21, represents an impressive achievement in terms of research, compilation and analysis. I am pleased to note in particular the contribution made to this work by Mr. I. W. Morley of Brisbane, Australia, whose acquaintance I have been privileged to make at meetings in both Canada and Australia over the past several years. This document can serve as a useful reference for our considerations regarding the nature of the resource management system to eventually evolve from our studies here.

My delegation agrees that we must come to grips with the specific items or topics that will form the basis for the regulatory provisions necessary to govern the development and utilization of seabed resources beyond the limits of national jurisdiction. As my delegation stated in this Sub-Committee last March, the international regime that is eventually designed for the administration and management of these resources will have to meet certain basic requirements in order to encourage the exploitation of the resources in this difficult and alien environment. Aside from the prospect of finding valuable mineral deposits and producing these in the context of world supply and marketing conditions, the single most important