

Law of the Sea conference

Secretary of State for External Affairs Mark MacGuigan is heading the Canadian delegation to the tenth session of the third United Nations Law of the Sea Conference which runs until April 24 in New York. J. Alan Beesley, Ambassador to the Law of the Sea Conference, is vice-chairman of the delegation.

Among issues requiring further consideration are the principles governing the delimitation of maritime boundaries; the establishment of a preparatory commission to lay the groundwork for the seabed mining regime; interim protection for deep seabed mining investments and the question of the seabed nickel mining production controls. With regard to the latter issue, which is of particular concern to Canada, the Canadian delegation hopes that a recently released United Nations study on the effects of production controls will serve as a basis to modify the control system and make it more responsive to the interests of land-based, mineral-producing countries.

The draft Law of the Sea Convention produced at the end of the last session in



Seated at the head table during the informal meeting of the drafting committee, third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea, are: (left to right) Armand de Mestral, adviser to the Canadian delegation, UN Conference on the Law of the Sea; Bernardo Zuleta, special representative of the Secretary-General on the Law of the Sea Conference; A.J. Beesley (Canada), committee chairman; Dolliver M. Nelson, committee secretary; and Linda Hazou, assistant committee secretary.

Geneva, already represents a major step forward in restructuring the principles of the Law of the Sea and in developing new concepts of ocean resources management.

The drafting committee, under the

chairmanship of Mr. Beesley, held an intersessional meeting from January 11 to February 27 and has nearly completed its task of putting the draft into acceptable treaty language.

Conservation and renewable energy offices planned

Energy Minister Marc Lalonde has announced that Energy, Mines and Resources will open 12 regional conservation and renewable energy offices across Canada this spring.

The offices will be located in Vancouver, British Columbia; Whitehorse, Yukon; Yellowknife, Northwest Territories; St. Albert, Alberta; Saskatoon, Saskatchewan; Winnipeg, Manitoba; Montreal, Quebec; Port Credit, Ontario; Dieppe, New Brunswick; Halifax, Nova Scotia; and Summerside, Prince Edward Island. In Newfoundland there will be four small offices rather than a larger one. The offices will be in St. John's, Grand Falls-Windsor, Corner Brook and Goose Bay.

The offices will be to co-ordinate the regional aspects of major conservation and renewable energy programs stemming from the National Energy Program announced last October.

All regional offices will administer a grant program for individuals converting from oil-heating systems to wood, solar or propane systems. These grants will cover 50 per cent of conversion costs up

to a maximum \$800.

Through the regional offices, funds will also be made available to assist individuals or communities to develop alternative energy systems such as small-scale hydro-electric generators, renewable energy projects, or heat-recovery systems.

In the territories and two provinces, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland, these offices will administer the SuperCHIP program. In these areas, where neither natural gas nor reasonably priced electricity are available as an alternative to oil, the program will cover 50 per cent of eligible costs to a maximum of \$800 for such items as oil furnace retrofits, additional insulation and home energy audits.

Work is under way to develop a home energy audit service that will assist homeowners in determining energy conservation options available to them and in determining how much oil will be saved by implementing the various options.

Regional offices in the Atlantic region will also administer an industrial capital retrofit program.

Effects of technology on labour

Labour Canada recently held a national conference on "Micro-Electronics and the Work Environment" in Ottawa.

The conference's aim was to provide information and promote public awareness of the anticipated social and economic impacts — both positive and negative — of communications technology and micro-electronics on the industrial work environment, and to identify ways of dealing with these concerns.

The technological advancements taking place in the micro-electronics and communications industries may have an important impact on jobs and training requirements — a critical concern for both labour and management.

The International Labour Organization (ILO) recently stated, "there are strong indications that the micro-electronics revolution will have more far-reaching consequences for labour and employment than any previous technological breakthrough". The conference provided the first national forum for representatives of industry, labour and government to discuss technological change.