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## CANADA TO SIGN THE LAW OF THE SEA CONVENTION

The Honourable Allan J. MacEachen, Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs, announced today that Canada will sign the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea when it is opened for signature at the final session of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea in Jamaica from December 6 to 10. Mr. MacEachen will head Canada's delegation to the final session. The Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, the Honourable Pierre De Bané will be the Alternate Head of the delegation and Canada's Ambassador to the Conference, Alan Beesley, will be Deputy Head of the delegation.

The Conference began in 1973 and was preceded by five years of negotiations in the United Nations Seabed Committee. In making the announcement Mr. MacEachen underscored the important role which Canada played in the Conference in providing leadership and generating ideas to resolve the vast range of issues which the Conference had before it. These included: the limits of the territorial sea; the establishment of exclusive economic zones providing coastal state control over important fish stocks; the limits of the continental shelf; marine scientific research; protection of the marine environment; and deep seabed mining.

The Secretary General of the United Nations has called the Convention "possibly the most significant legal instrument this century". Canada as a leading coastal state is a major beneficiary of the Conference, having obtained recognition of its right to control offshore living and non-living resources as well as to take measures for the prevention of marine pollution, particularly in Arctic waters. The Convention, in its 320 articles and nine annexes, provides a clear set of rules