

could work to Canada's disadvantage. Based on concerns expressed by the Canadian delegation at the 4th session, the Chairman, in his introductory note to Part I of the RSNT, indicated his awareness of the need for more careful consideration of this matter, adding that specific attention would have to be directed to the projected rate of increase for nickel demand.

Second Committee

The Second Committee deals with most of the "traditional" law of the sea questions - the territorial sea, international straits, fisheries, continental shelf, islands, high seas, etc. - and with the most important new concept - the 200-mile "exclusive economic zone". The 137 articles on Second Committee matters commanded the widest support of the three parts of the Geneva text. There still remained, however, enormous difficulties to be surmounted - particularly concerning whether special rights or privileges would be granted to the group of land-locked and "geographically-disadvantaged" states.

Over 3,700 interventions were made and over 1,000 amendments proposed during the Second Committee's deliberations. It is remarkable therefore that the Geneva text emerged, for the most part, unchanged at the New York spring session. However, a number of serious issues remained outstanding as the Chairman conceded in his introductory note to the RSNT, Part II. These included: the problems raised by the claims of the land-locked and "geographically-disadvantaged" states; boundary delineations between adjacent or opposite states; a technical and precise definition of the "outer edge of the continental margin" worked out by Canada and a number of other broad-shelf states, which was received sympathetically but was left over for further study; the relationship between the "exclusive economic zone" and the "high seas".

Despite these problems, however, considerable progress was achieved. In spite of attacks made during the session on the concept of the 200-mile "economic zone", it emerged even more firmly entrenched in the RSNT. Improvements were made in the provisions concerning fisheries, especially in the "anadromous species" (salmon) article whereby the special interests and responsibilities of the state in whose waters these species breed is recognized. Furthermore, the RSNT reaffirmed the coastal state's sovereign rights over the resources of its continental shelf, even where the shelf extends beyond 200 miles. The RSNT combines this broad shelf approach with a system for the sharing of revenues from the exploitation of the mineral resources of the continental shelf beyond 200 miles.

Third Committee

The mandate of the Third Committee concerns the protection and preservation of the marine environment, marine scientific research and the development and transfer of technology. The text on the