

able to Canada but it was particularly deficient in our view on the subject of the control of pollution from ships. It provided very limited powers to coastal states over ships found in the territorial sea, economic zone, or in ports (in respect of violations committed elsewhere). The revised single negotiating text contains major improvements. It moves some appreciable way towards striking the balance between, on the one hand, the rights and duties which coastal states, flag states and port states must have to control pollution from vessels, and, on the other hand, the need to maintain freedom of maritime commerce and communications.

Canada has also been seeking a provision in this section of the convention which would provide international recognition that Canada has the right to protect the Arctic marine environment by the imposition of higher vessel-source pollution standards than those agreed to internationally. The revised single negotiating text contains such a provision....

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#### Scientific research

The articles in the revised text on marine scientific research provide, in our view, a large measure of protection to vital coastal state interests in the economic zone and on the continental shelf, while at the same time ensuring that important international interests in promoting and co-operating in research programs are not impeded.... Likewise, the articles on transfer of technology provide that states shall co-operate in providing the developing countries with the scientific and technological capability they need for the utilization and management of their marine resources and the protection of the marine environment. At the same time, the text recognizes that this co-operation must have proper regard for all legitimate interests, including the rights and duties of holders, suppliers and recipients of marine technology.

#### Disputes settlement outstanding

...Canada supported the inclusion of comprehensive dispute-settlement procedures in the convention.... The new Part IV of the single negotiating text on the settlement of disputes appears

unduly complicated and will require refinement and simplification. Since dispute settlement was discussed for the first time in the plenary session of the Conference in April of this year, it remains one of the outstanding issues upon which negotiation will begin at the next session of the Conference....

Canada, therefore, has good reason to be pleased with the results of the Conference. Unfortunately, the Conference was not able to conclude its work. It is encouraging, however, that a further session will be held within a relatively short space of time in New York, beginning August 2 and extending until September 17.

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#### Science scholarships

The National Research Council of Canada has awarded 1,810 postgraduate scholarships and 132 postdoctoral fellowships for 1976-77 with an estimated total value of \$11 million. The scholarships have a value of \$5,520 for 12 months, the fellowships, \$11,220 for 12 months.

These awards represent an important aspect of the Council's effort to maintain a basic capacity for research training in science and engineering. The aim is to support the provision of postgraduate scientific manpower for the creation of knowledge and the application of science related to Canadian needs.

Postgraduate scholarships are awarded to first-class students to enable them to pursue graduate studies leading to the Ph.D. degree. Postdoctoral fellowships are awarded to recent Ph.D. graduates to help them in acquiring additional research experience which, in many instances, is a prerequisite for an academic or industrial career.

The National Research Council of Canada has also awarded 43 new "1967 science scholarships" for 1976-77.

First awarded in 1967, these scholarships marked the fiftieth anniversary of the Council's scholarships program and the centennial of Canadian confederation.

Recipients receive \$7,000 dollars a year for three years, renewable for a fourth year, if necessary.

#### Habitat Conference

At press time, Governor-General Jules Léger was expected to welcome delegates and officially open the Habitat United Nations Conference on Human Settlements in Vancouver from May 29 to June 11, when about 125 countries would probably be represented. Some 3,000 delegates, as well as people attending Habitat Forum were expected at what is probably the largest ever UN meeting.

Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau and Urban Affairs Minister Barney Danson were to speak following the Governor General.

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, Allan J. MacEachen, was to give the first general statement in which he was expected to outline Canada's position, comparing national policies and experiences in human settlements.

Two of Canada's main aims at the Conference, said federal sources, were a ten-year target for universal clean water supplies and a reorganized UN agency to handle problems of human settlements.

Details of the Conference will appear in a subsequent issue.

#### Climate getting colder?

Proponents of the theory — often based only on a hunch — that the world's climate has been getting colder in recent years can draw some support from a study of ground ice wedges made recently in the Arctic on behalf of the Geological Survey of Canada, Department of Energy, Mines and Resources.

Vertical ice wedges in the ground are extremely abundant in many areas with continuous permafrost. They are fed by water seeping in through cracks. During cold years the wedges grow steadily, becoming wider at the top; during warmer years, the wedges are cut off.

It has been found that a major cut-off of the ice wedges occurred five to ten years ago. Since then secondary wedges began to grow on top of the old ones, indicating that the climate was again getting colder and the upper level of the permanently frozen ground was rising.