

LAW OF THE SEA

Bilateral Discussions

In the course of the last year, (i.e. September 1972 - September 1973) bilateral discussions were held with officials of the Danish government with a view to concluding an agreement on the delimitation of the continental shelf between Greenland and a number of Canadian islands in the Arctic. Discussions have progressed to a point where final agreement is expected to be reached soon.

Multilateral Level

In the course of the last year, the nations of the world have been focusing their efforts on preparing for one of the most important diplomatic conferences ever convened under the aegis of the United Nations, i.e. the Third Law of the Sea Conference, a first substantive session of which is scheduled to take place in the course of 1974, in Santiago, Chile. The U.N. Seabed Committee, whose mandate it is to prepare the Conference, has held two extensive sessions; one in March-April and an eight-week meeting in July-August.

However, an overall assessment of the Seabed Committee's work makes clear that, notwithstanding the intensive efforts displayed, progress towards a comprehensive and viable understanding of the law of the sea was rather slow with states unwilling to move, at this preparatory phase, from their publicly-stated negotiating positions.