



STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

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CANADIAN STATEMENT AT CONFERENCE OF
THE LAW OF THE SEA

By George A. Drew, P.C., Q.C., Chairman of the Canadian Delegation to the International Conference of the Law of the Sea, on April 18, 1958 at Geneva, Switzerland.

Mr. Chairman and distinguished delegates, these past few days have seen sudden and profound changes in the questions which must be answered if we are to reach agreement in regard to the measurement of the territorial sea and the subjects directly related to them.

First, however, may I say how deeply moved I was by the words of the distinguished delegates from India and Mexico. I shall speak later of the proposal in which we joined, but, without regard to the content or the purpose of that proposal, may I say how much I do agree to the desirability here and elsewhere of reaching a wide basis of agreement, this not only in the drafting of conventions but in the affairs of our lives and in increasing understanding within the sphere of the mutual problems that in some measure we all share. I shall not forget the words that were used here in regard to the way in which we have been associated on this occasion expressing by that very association even for so brief a time in a formal way a broad measure of association. This suggests the wide possibilities of increasing human understanding as a result of meetings of this kind.

When the distinguished delegate of the United States presented a new proposal on behalf of his country three days ago and declared their support for what is clearly a 6-mile territorial sea, then I think it is not going too far to say the ancient doctrine of the 3-mile limit no longer was left with a feather to fly with. From the moment the new proposal of the United States was placed before this committee, we were firmly convinced and still are that neither that proposal nor any other proposal then before the committee offered the possibility of general agreement in regard to the articles now under-discussion. Time was running short. Voting was due to