

So, it is correct, of course, as the Minister said, that we wouldn't include the U.S.A. amongst those states with whom we would reach the kinds of agreements we're now negotiating, but there is another kind of agreement which we would have to include, and I think which the U.S.A. would want to include. This could even happen as a result of legislation. If the U.S.A. legislation had a direct impact on our boundaries, then that would be an issue we would have to negotiate, but it also could be passed in a way that doesn't have that kind of impact, in which case it would be more of a technical fisheries problem that we would have to negotiate.

Q. Mr. Minister, you've mentioned the seabed authority as being, agreement on that, as being a key issue. Where would you place the question or the issue of settling disputes? New proposals have been put forward on settlement of disputes, well, for setting up a kind of international court.

SSEA: Would I put it in the category of...?

Q. Of a key issue.

SSEA: Yes, I think -- I wouldn't know how to prioritize these issues, but I believe that the question of dispute settlement will be a key question that will probably be agonized over at this conference.

Q. Perhaps some question of representation on such a body?

SSEA: Probably, and other kinds of disputes that can be dealt with. I think it will be a thorny question.

Q. If there's a new treaty agreement this year, sir, which of the many areas of boundary disputes between Canada and the U.S. would receive priority in negotiating treatment? I mean which of the -- West, East, North -- where would we begin to talk in hard terms, negotiating terms, about boundary settlements, offshore boundary settlements?

SSEA: Well, I believe that all the boundary issues that would be raised would have to be dealt with. I would hesitate to suggest that one coast is less important than the other to Canada.

Q. But, due to the circumstances, sir, and activities....

SSEA: Though, I might privately like to have that view, but I certainly wouldn't have it officially.

Q. But to the circumstances and activities in those areas now, which makes it more crucial, which area would have to receive priority?

SSEA: Well, I suppose you're asking me in which area is the greatest, or the greater, fisheries interest, that would demand... Minerals?

Q. I'm talking about the boundaries. I'm interested in minerals myself, but, you know, there are many, many questions there -- fisheries, minerals-and boundaries seem to be right in the middle of it.