

from this area for the primary benefit of the developing countries, particularly the landlocked and least-developed among them. We have made much progress on these questions since Caracas and are encouraged that the trend of negotiations on these issues is very much along these lines.

There are other important and controversial issues under negotiation in the conference, such as the archipelagic conception, the problem of passage through international straits, the problems of delimitation of national boundaries, etc. I do not propose to comment on these questions at this time, although I am quite prepared to answer questions.

In summary, I consider that this round of negotiations in the continuing Law of the Sea Conference has made great progress. My country strongly supports the major trend of the conference. I should be less than candid with you, however, if I were to leave with you the impression that we are entirely satisfied with the results of the conference. We had hoped that it would be possible to make further progress. While we shall leave Geneva with a "unified text" that can provide an extremely useful basis for future negotiations, we are all aware that this unified text will have no legal status and will not of itself constitute the outlines of a proposed convention. Much negotiation is still required. In these circumstances, the Canadian Government, like many other countries represented at this conference, must make a very careful appraisal of the results of the conference with a view to determining what future action should be taken to promote the future development of the developing international law of the sea. Canada has tried to play a constructive role in the development of the new legal principles now reaching the stage of crystallization as customary international law. I can assure you that, whatever course of action is decided upon by the Canadian Government, it will be consistent with those new principles of international law. We are determined that the new law of the sea will be based not merely on power and influence but upon equity and sound management principles. It is my own view that the new international law of the sea will be based upon this approach rather than on narrow nationalistic interests.

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