

included measures to achieve oil market de-regulation, effective June 1, 1985, phase out of the Petroleum and Gas Revenue Tax and the Petroleum Incentives Program, abolition of export charges and the effective lifting of restrictions on short-term petroleum exports. It also contained a commitment to a more market-oriented pricing mechanism for domestic gas by November 1, 1985, and an undertaking to implement non-discriminatory and profit-based fiscal incentives for exploration and development of Canada's oil and gas resources.

Canada was active in international energy-related meetings, especially in the International Energy Agency (IEA), where the unstable oil market was a major topic in 1984. While downward price pressure was the obvious trend, the IEA members continued to be concerned about the basic unpredictability of the market and the need to avoid complacency. The Governing Board meeting in July recognized the potential value of reducing oil stocks to calm markets at an early stage in a supply disruption not substantial enough to trigger the IEA's emergency sharing system.

Canada engaged in bilateral energy discussions with several countries. The Mexican Minister of Energy, Mines and State-owned Industries visited Ottawa in December 1984. The Swedish Minister of Energy led a commercial mission to Canada in February 1985. Energy was a significant component in the discussions held by the Secretary of State for External Affairs during his visits to Japan in December and to Mexico in January. The Energy Consultative Mechanism brought Canadian and US officials together for discussions in July and again in January. The third meeting of the Canada-Mexico Joint Co-operation Committee took place in Mexico in November and there was a further meeting in March to discuss the implications of de-regulation of the domestic oil market for the Canada-Mexico state-to-state oil supply arrangement. Energy figured prominently in the semi-annual discussions with officials of the EC in November. The government followed closely the negotiations between the Canada liquefied natural gas (LNG) group and prospective Japanese buyers of liquefied natural gas exports from Canada. During visits to Japan in December and February respectively, the Secretary of State for External Affairs and the Minister for International Trade discussed the project with the Japanese authorities and confirmed Canadian government support for this large, commercial undertaking.

Law of the Sea

The Law of the Sea Convention closed for signature on December 9, 1984, with 159 signatories, including Canada. The number of signatures reflected an unprecedented and overwhelming acceptance of an international accord of this magnitude and complexity. However, the United States, the United Kingdom and the Federal Republic of Germany have not signed the Convention. Of the 60 ratifications required to bring the Convention into force, 17 had been deposited by March 31, 1985. To date, no western industrialized country has ratified the Convention.

Canada has already taken steps to give effect under domestic legislation to those sections of the Convention that are now recognized as part of customary international law. The government is also reviewing the possible need for additional implementing legislation in the event that Canada decides to become a party to the Convention.

During the year, the government participated actively in the Preparatory Commission established to develop the rules and regulations for the International Seabed Authority, which will be responsible for controlling mining of the seabed in areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction once the Convention comes into force. Pursuant to Resolution II of the final session of the Law of the Sea Conference, the Preparatory Commission is also involved in the creation of a system that will protect current investments in seabed mining for the period prior to the Convention's entry into force. All signatories are members of the Preparatory Commission, while states such as the United Kingdom and the Federal Republic of Germany, which signed the Final Act but not the Convention itself, participate as observers. The United States does not attend.

Two meetings of the Preparatory Commission were held in 1984-85. Progress at the August 1984 session was slowed down by the complexity of the issues related to seabed mining (which were discussed for the first time) and somewhat hampered by the inability of seabed mining states to develop a method for the resolution of overlapping claims to seabed mine sites. The March 1985 session in Kingston, Jamaica, (which will be the headquarters of the Authority) proved more productive, especially with respect to the Special Commissions dealing with individual aspects of the establishment of the Authority. A more positive atmosphere prevailed than at previous sessions, reflecting a greater realization of the need for practical solutions to the problems at hand. The Canadian delegation worked to foster this atmosphere, in order to encourage the creation of a seabed mining system that would attract the participation of private mining companies, including those from Canada and other signatory and non-signatory states.

However, the problem of overlapping claims to seabed mining sites remained unresolved. Canada maintained its position that the resolution of this problem should be achieved on a comprehensive basis involving all pioneer investors as defined by Resolution II of the Law of the Sea Convention, including companies in private consortia which may at a later stage register sites under the Law of the Sea Convention.

Human rights and social affairs

Efforts to promote and protect human rights have become a well-established element in Canadian foreign policy. In 1984-85, human rights objectives were pursued multilaterally mainly through continuing, active representation in the proceedings of the appropriate United Nations bodies — the UN Commission on Human Rights, the Economic and Social Council and the Third Committee of the General Assembly. The role of these bodies in establishing agreed international standards on human rights has continued, and their efforts to encourage member states to observe these standards are growing.

Significant progress was achieved by the adoption by the General Assembly on December 10, 1985, (Human Rights Day) of the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. This Convention gives a better definition of the crime of torture, contains an element of universal jurisdiction that enlarges the possibility of prosecuting alleged torturers in a state other than the one