

worthy both of our support and that of this Committee. It is in our view not only a most successful compromise but also a genuinely useful resolution which will actively carry forward the consideration of this item in the United Nations context. It is for this reason that we are glad to be among the co-sponsors.

Mr. Chairman, certain matters relating to this item still remain to be clarified. And chief among them is, of course, the question of the size and the composition of the Ad Hoc Committee which is to be established under the provisions of operative paragraph one. Clearly the subject matter with which this Committee will have to deal is of such interest that the membership should be sufficiently broad-based to reflect the interests both of the various geographical and of the various political groupings within the United Nations. In addition, however, it should in our view also reflect the fact that such activities as may be carried out on the seabed by member states, whether exploratory or by way of exploitation, will necessarily reflect a very high degree of technological capability. Canada, as a nation which has one of the longest coast lines and largest continental shelf^{VES}, and which has in addition an already long-established interest in oceanography, is therefore vitally interested in the work which the Committee will perform. We believe that we would be able to make a genuinely useful contribution towards the fulfilment of its tasks. We are therefore desirous of being able to serve on it.