

Canada to sign the Law of the Sea Convention

Canada will sign the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea when it is opened for signature at the final session of the third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea in Jamaica from December 6 to 10, Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs Allan J. MacEachen announced recently.

Mr. MacEachen will head Canada's delegation to the final session and Minister of Fisheries and Oceans Pierre De Bané will be alternate head of the delegation. Canada's ambassador to the conference Alan Beesley will be deputy head of the delegation.

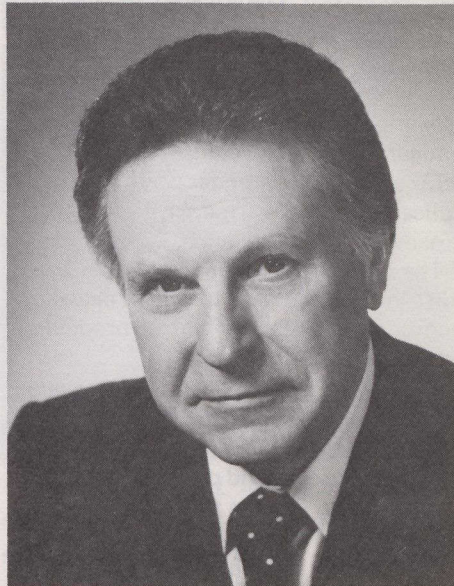
The Conference on the Law of the Sea, which began in 1973, was preceded by five years of negotiations in the United Nations Seabed Committee. In making the announcement Mr. MacEachen underscored the important role Canada played in the conference in providing leadership and generating ideas to resolve the broad range of issues put to the conference. These included: the limits of the territorial sea; the establishment of exclusive economic zones providing coastal state control over important fish stocks; the limits of the continental shelf; marine scientific research; protection of the marine environment; and deep seabed mining.

The Secretary-General of the United Nations has called the convention "possibly the most significant legal instrument this century". Canada as a leading coastal state is a major beneficiary of the conference, having obtained recognition of its right to control offshore living and non-living resources as well as to take measures for the prevention of marine pollution, particularly in Arctic waters. The convention, in its 320 articles and nine annexes, provides a clear set of rules for the management of ocean affairs, for the protection of the interests of developing as well as developed states, and for the resolution of any disputes which might arise. A major benefit of the Law of the Sea Convention is the important contribution it can make to world peace and security.

The majority of nations, from all regions of the world, are expected to sign the convention in Jamaica.

Territorial sea

In 1970 Canada declared a 12-mile territorial sea, a limit now adopted by more



External Affairs Minister MacEachen leads Canada's delegation to the final session of the Law of the Sea Conference in Jamaica.

than 80 coastal states and included in the convention. The Law of the Sea Convention spells out the rights and obligations of vessels engaged in innocent passage in the territorial sea, as well as the categories of rules and regulations which the coastal state can adopt with respect to foreign vessels. The convention also includes specific rules on the passage of ships through international straits and the waters of archipelagic states.

Exclusive economic zone

One of the most novel concepts to emerge from the Conference on the Law of the Sea has been the 200-mile Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). The EEZ does not give a coastal state sovereignty over the waters but recognizes its jurisdiction for certain functional needs, in particular fisheries, marine scientific research, environmental protection and seabed resources. As a result of the conference negotiations, Canada declared a 200-mile fishing zone on January 1, 1977. From the fisheries point of view the convention is important for Canada because it provides a clear basis in international law for control of the fishery within 200 miles of Canada's coasts. The total product value for Canada of fish from this zone is approaching \$2 billion annually.

At the initiative of Canada, there is a special article recognizing the rights of a

coastal state over the salmon which have spawned in its rivers. The article provides for a basic prohibition on fishing for salmon outside the 200-mile zone, with limited exceptions. This fishery alone is worth \$300 million annually to Canada.

Canada successfully negotiated an article in the convention which recognizes the right of a state to adopt special provisions for the protection of the marine environment in ice covered waters, providing international acceptance of Canada's Arctic Waters Pollution Prevention Act.

Ontario-New York power contract

Ontario Hydro has signed a power contract with the Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation of New York to provide 400 megawatts of round-the-clock exports to the United States utility over the next four years. Niagara Mohawk is the major electrical utility in the Buffalo area and most of upper New York State.

The \$600-million contract was to begin this month subject to National Energy Board of Canada approval.

The power exports from Ontario Hydro have gone to the Niagara Mohawk for the past four years and according to Hydro chairman Hugh Macaulay, the new deal would assure the utility of a long-term customer. Ross Tebo, marketing engineer for Hydro's interconnections department, which negotiated the deal, said the contract was important as a guarantee of a market for surplus power.

Marketing scheme

In announcing the new contract Mr. Macaulay outlined a new marketing scheme for Ontario Hydro. Designed to cope with a worsening glut of generating capacity, he said the utility would be "working with customers to get the best use out of existing facilities".

The corporate strategy, approved by the utility's board of directors, also involves spending restraints and diversification into fields related to electricity production. Under the restraints Hydro has deferred a number of construction projects and all capital construction projects have been reviewed "to determine which ones can be reduced or stretched out", said Mr. Macaulay.

In addition, Hydro plans to reduce its inventory costs by \$75 million next year and cut costs in operations, administration and maintenance.