Davidson explains, the UN system was littered with obstacles that inhibited proper co-ordination of effort.

Negotiations for a comprehensive Law of the Sea began during this decade, and Canada's persevering chief negotiator Alan Beesley tells how this important conference managed, against many odds, to succeed. James Harrison, who served more than three years as an assistant director-general in UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) in charge of its science program, tells of his particular concern about ocean sciences.