

## Law of the Sea Conference

A Canadian delegation is currently attending the eleventh session of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea being held in New York.

Canada's Ambassador to the Conference J. Alan Beesley led the delegation to the session, which is scheduled to be the final negotiating session of the conference. It is hoped that negotiations can be concluded so that the Law of the Sea Convention might be ready for signature in September, in Caracas.

### Comprehensive convention needed

Canada has stressed the importance of achieving a comprehensive and universal Law of the Sea Convention for many years. The success of the conference is important to Canada, not only in terms of national interests as a major coastal state with a broad continental shelf but also from the broader perspective of peace and security on the oceans.

The United States has endorsed the multilateral treaty-making process as the best means of solving law of the sea problems, but is seeking changes to the provisions on deep seabed mining in the draft Law of the Sea Convention. Canada has encouraged the United States to put forward realistic proposals for changes in the draft convention which would not upset the fundamental agreements achieved over the past nine years of negotiations.

## Somalian president visits Canada

Somalian President Mohamed Siad Barré visited Canada, March 16-17, at the invitation of Governor General Edward Schreyer.

While in Ottawa the President met with Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau, other ministers and parliamentarians to discuss international issues and bilateral questions such as Canada's humanitarian relief assistance to refugees in Somalia.

### Funds for university

During his visit, Secretary of State for External Affairs Mark MacGuigan announced approval of a \$2.16-million project to assist in upgrading the Somali National University. The University of Saskatchewan will participate in the venture with Canadian funding being provided by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).

The primary objective of the project is to train and upgrade Somalian graduate students and faculty members in the areas of agriculture, education, health and veterinary medicine. CIDA will provide financing for fellowships, training, equipment, library books and journals, transport vehicles and laboratory materials.

### Feasibility study

In addition, CIDA has approved in principle a contribution of \$150 000 to two Canadian companies, Ontel Communications Limited and Alberta Government Telephones, to conduct a feasibility study of a pilot rural radio system in Somalia. The study would determine the technical, economic, financial and social factors involved in improving communication links between major centres in Somalia. The \$3-million project will also receive funds from Arab financial institutions.

Canadian assistance to Somalia will reach about \$10 million in the current fiscal year, including food aid, refugee relief and other types of humanitarian assistance. Since 1979, a number of Canadian church and voluntary groups have been active in providing assistance to refugees in Somalia, most notably World Vision and the Mennonite Central Committee.

## Mining incentives proposed

A review of mineral policy in Canada, stressing the need for measures to help junior mining companies and promote Canadian mining machinery manufactur-

ing, has been released by Mines Minister Judy Erola.

The review sets out a proposed framework for policies to be developed and implemented in support of the government's economic development strategy for the 1980s.

It notes specific needs in the areas of government research, employment opportunities for natives and women, enhanced international markets and provision of infrastructure for new mines. The review acknowledges provincial government ownership of resources and the importance of private sector initiative in mining.

Mrs. Erola said the study comes at a time when international mineral markets are depressed. Since the Canadian industry exports the great bulk of its production, the results are being felt in lower returns, production cuts and unemployment.

### Small companies uncover deposits

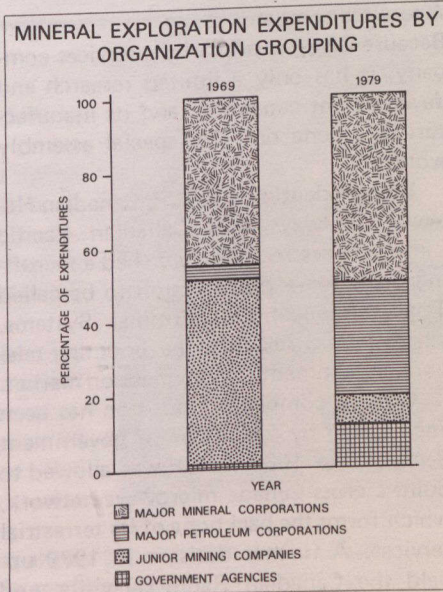
Small junior mining companies, largely Canadian-owned, have a solid record of making mineral discoveries in this high-risk sector, where only one hole in 1 000 drilled yields a significant deposit, said Mrs. Erola.

To aid this sector, the review suggests revamped tax incentives geared to companies with smaller incomes and more government research into new techniques to explore and develop mineral deposits. It proposes encouragement for custom milling operations and a speedier transfer to the whole industry of geological information collected from individual firms by the government.

### Mines ministers meet

A federal-provincial mines ministers meeting was held in Ottawa, January 18 — the first such meeting in four years. At that gathering, the review was thoroughly discussed, a first step in the process of consultation being pursued by the federal government. The views of industry and labour have also been sought.

The meeting decided to have an existing federal-provincial working group of officials analyze the tax system to see what tools are available to help mining companies and to strike a special task force to identify the particular needs of communities dependent on mining for their economic life, especially those hardest-hit by the recession. All provinces agreed to study the feasibility of a national mining accident data base. The ministers will meet again in September.



Help needed for junior mining companies.

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