

was Elton Killan, president of Northumberland Cable Co. Ltd., of Petitcodiac, N.B. Mr. Killan had cooperated with an RCMP security service investigation (*Globe and Mail*, April 3).

Fibre-optic technology involves the transmission of a signal by passing light through a glass fibre. Certain fibre-optic materials and related technology cannot be exported to eastern bloc countries without federal government approval, according to terms agreed upon by NATO (*Globe and Mail*, April 3).

The Embassy of the USSR in Ottawa responded to the action in a press release on the same day, calling the accusations absurd and groundless. The press release stated that Mr. Abromov "has never attempted any illegal procurement of any items of high technology [whose export] is restricted by Canadian law. Equally groundless are accusations that he tried to suborn a Canadian citizen with an alleged offer of large financial payments."

According to the Soviet Embassy statement, Mr. Killam had approached Mr. Abromov with an offer to sell the Soviet Union outdated telecommunications technology, which was refused. The Soviet Embassy concluded that the events surrounding Mr. Abromov's expulsion were

a "carefully planned, crass provocation, seeking to cast a shadow over the activities of a Soviet official" and "to whip up the spyomania campaign." Along with the press release, the Soviet Embassy provided copies of letters between the two men, which it says refute the statement that Abromov was engaged in activities incompatible with his official status.

WEST GERMANY

Exhibit in Berlin

A multi-disciplinary presentation of Canadian art and culture is scheduled to be held at the Akademie der Künste (Academy of Fine Arts) in West Berlin between Dec. 5, 1982, and Jan. 30, 1983. An April 21 External Affairs press release stated that the project is the most ambitious undertaking of its kind mounted abroad by the Department of External Affairs. Along with the Canada Council, External Affairs will coordinate the presentation of visual and performing arts, film and literary readings.

Multilateral Relations

UNITED NATIONS

Law of the Sea

The United Nations adopted a Law of the Sea treaty April 30 after nine years of "the most intensive negotiations in UN history" (*Citizen*, May 1). The Treaty was passed by a vote of 130 to 4, with 17 abstentions. The US, Israel, Turkey and Venezuela voted against the treaty. Abstaining countries included the USSR, Britain and several European countries.

The terms of the Treaty include the legalization of 12-mile territorial and 200-mile economic zones, the establishment of fishing and shipping rights and oil and gas offshore drilling rights. The Treaty also begins to establish a regime for developing deep-seabed mining of nickel, cobalt, copper and manganese (*Citizen*, May 1). This provision was supported by Canada, as it establishes production ceilings which will protect Canadian nickel mining concerns in Sudbury and Thompson.

An editorial in the *Globe and Mail* (May 10) stated that "Canada played a significant role in the lengthy negotiations and Canadian diplomats did an excellent job for their country." Canada was represented by Law of the Sea Ambassador Alan Beesley, who believes that Canadians

have reason to be happy with the main features of the complex agreement (*Citizen*, May 1). For Canada, the treaty "puts an international stamp on Canadian sovereignty in Arctic waters and recognizes our guardianship role over Atlantic salmon," according to the *Globe and Mail* (May 10). Canada will also benefit from the 200-mile fishing zone provision and the rights given to countries over oil, gas and other resources on their continental shelves.

Some opponents rejecting or abstaining from the vote did so in disagreement with the proposal for an international seabed mining authority which would consider seabed minerals to belong to the global community. Since many of the opposing countries are considered major industrial powers, it has been speculated that some may seek a "mini-treaty" to serve their interests in deep-sea mining (*Citizen*, May 1; *Globe and Mail*, May 10). The Law of the Sea Treaty is expected to be signed at a final conference in Caracas, Venezuela, in December 1982.

Namibian Contact Group

Canada's role in a United Nations-sponsored contact group which is working to facilitate the independence of Namibia was questioned during the Canadian Conference in Solidarity with the Liberation Struggles of the People's of