

Kingdom, Australian and United States officials.) The advantage in putting comments forward is that the Canadian position will be included in the report on the provisional positions of Governments which the Secretary-General proposes to make available as part of the preparatory work for the proposed conference. This will facilitate any consultation with other Governments before the Conference which it may be deemed expedient to undertake. Since in his request for comments the Secretary-General has asked for "provisional" comments the Government would not be precluded from adopting modified views at a later date.

8. I recommend:<sup>32</sup>

(a) that comments along the lines set forth in paragraph 5 be submitted to the Secretary-General of the United Nations as the provisional views of Canada on the four points concerned, (a draft note for the purpose is attached);

(b) that the Interdepartmental Committee be directed to proceed with preparations for the International Conference and to submit a complete commentary for consideration by the Cabinet at a later date in regard to policy generally.

DOUGLAS S. HARKNESS

[PIÈCE JOINTE/ENCLOSURE]

*Projet d'une note*

*Draft Note*

No. \_\_\_\_\_ August \_\_\_\_ , 1957

The Secretary of State for External Affairs presents his compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honour to refer to Note No. LE 130(3)-9-2 dated March 25, 1957 from the Director of the Codification Division requesting any provisional comments which the Canadian Government might wish to make on the International Law Commission's final report on the Law of the Sea and related matters.

The Canadian Government desires to say that it considers that the increased interest of States in the exploitation of the resources of the sea and the consequent need for conservation and regulation of these resources along with the need to preserve the principle of the freedom of the seas calls for a reappraisal of the existing Law of the Sea and subsequent agreement on generally accepted rules, whether they be existing rules reaffirmed or revised or entirely new rules. Accordingly the Canadian Government welcomes the convoking of an international Conference to examine the Law of the Sea and proposes to be represented at this Conference, as the Secretary of State for External Affairs informed the Secretary-General on April 17, 1957. Regarding the International Law Commission's Report on the Law of the Sea, the following are the views of the Canadian Government on *some* of the recommendations of the Commission:

(a) *Breadth of the Territorial Sea and Contiguous Zone*

The relevant recommendations of the International Law Commission are as follows:

<sup>32</sup> Approuvé par le Cabinet le 27 août 1957. Pour le texte officiel de la lettre adressée au Secrétaire général le 10 septembre 1957, voir Chambre des Communes, *Débats*, volume II, 1957-1958, pp. 1737 à 1740.

Approved by Cabinet on August 27, 1957. For the official text of the letter to the Secretary-General dated September 10, 1957, see House of Commons, *Debates*, Volume II, 1957-58, pp. 1653-1656.