

Mr. Chairman, I have attempted to draw some comparisons between the new revised single negotiating text and the previous Geneva negotiating text in order to provide some indication of the measure of progress achieved at the New York session. I think, however, that members of this Committee should be aware that the real significance of the New York negotiating text is that it reflects the great distances already travelled and maintains the needed momentum in the development of radical new concepts in international law. Canada, together with other states, set out to restructure some of the basic concepts of international law because of our conviction that they no longer reflected the needs of our times. I can say to this Committee that whatever occurs in the next session of the Conference and whether or not the Conference concludes in success or failure, radical changes are being effected in international law as a result of the multilateral negotiating process which has occurred within the Conference.

I think that members will agree from what I have said that now is the time to intensify our negotiating efforts at the Conference. Our goal of establishing a sound legal régime for the world's oceans is worth this effort.

I should now like to deal with another subject which is of great significance. There can be no doubt as to the present and growing importance of Western Europe to Canada. Our many and diverse links with the countries of Western Europe, political, economic, social and cultural, have been forged in part as a result of traditional ties with Canada's major "countries of origin", and more recently as a result of our perception of the importance of Europe's role in the modern world. In the multilateral context, we have been members of the Atlantic Alliance since its inception and have recently reaffirmed our commitment to it in unmistakable terms. We have in addition declared our strong support for the continuing efforts of Western European countries to achieve a high degree of integration within the framework of the European Community; and indeed for some time we have been engaged in the negotiation of an agreement providing for commercial and economic co-operation which should have extremely beneficial effects for the Canada-Europe relationship.

We are not of course unaware of the difficulties that confront the countries of Western Europe. As a highly industrialized area which has relatively few primary resources and is heavily dependent for its prosperity on exporting manufactures and services, Western Europe has been particularly hard hit by the economic recession of the past two years. Today there are five million unemployed Western Europeans. The existing instruments for monetary, economic, social and regional co-operation have proved unequal to the situation,