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THE CANADIAN DELEGATION TO THE RESUMED TENTH SESSION OF THE LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Mark MacGuigan, announces that the Canadian Delegation to the Resumed Tenth Session of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea, which opens in Geneva on August 3 and runs until August 28 will be under the direction of J. Alan Beesley, Canada's Ambassador to the Conference.

The Resumed Session will be a crucial one in determining the success or failure of these longrunning negotiations. The first part of the session in New York in March was to have been the concluding session but just prior to it the new U.S. Administration announced that they were not prepared to conclude negotiations and were undertaking a review of the results of the negotiations to date. As a result, the March session was disappointing and largely unproductive.

The Conference agreed to try once again at the Resumed Session to resolve the few outstanding issues and conclude negotiations. The U.S. Government has advised, however, that its review will not be completed until the fall but that it is prepared to discuss its results to date with other delegations in Geneva. It appears that the USA continues to have substantive difficulties with the draft Convention.

Canada supports the multilateral treaty process as the best means of solving Law of the Sea problems. Canada has encouraged the USA to renew its commitment to the process, to complete its review expeditiously and return as a full partner to the negotiations, avoiding far-reaching demands which would upset the consensus which has been achieved to date on many important questions. For many years Canada has stressed the importance of achieving a new, comprehensive and universal Law of the Sea Convention. The success of the Conference is important to Canada, not only in terms of our own national interest, but from the broader perspective of peace and security