

41.

PCO

*Extrait des conclusions du Cabinet**Extract from Cabinet Conclusions*

SECRET

[Ottawa], January 16, 1958

Present:

The Minister of Finance (Mr. Fleming) in the Chair,
 The Minister of Veterans Affairs (Mr. Brooks),
 The Solicitor General (Mr. Balcer),
 The Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Churchill),
 The Minister of Justice and
 Acting Minister of Citizenship and Immigration (Mr. Fulton),
 The Minister of National Revenue (Mr. Nowlan),
 The Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Harkness),
 The Minister of Labour (Mr. Starr),
 The Postmaster General (Mr. William Hamilton),
 The Minister without Portfolio (Mr. Macdonnell),
 The Minister without Portfolio (Mr. Browne),
 The Minister of National Health and Welfare (Mr. Monteith),
 The Minister of Northern Affairs and
 National Resources (Mr. Alvin Hamilton),
 The Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Smith).
 The Secretary to the Cabinet (Mr. Bryce),
 The Assistant Secretaries to the Cabinet (Mr. Fournier), (Mr. Martin).

. . .

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE LAW OF THE SEA
 (PREVIOUS REFERENCE AUG. 27)

18. *The Secretary of State for External Affairs* reported that an International Conference on the Law of the Sea would open in Geneva on February 24th and was expected to last for about nine weeks. Approximately 70 countries would be represented. He recalled that the government had submitted its views to the Secretary General of the United Nations on certain of the draft articles on the law of the sea prepared by the International Law Commission. Regarding the breadth of the territorial sea, Canada had stated that the 3-mile limit was no longer adequate for the protection and control of fisheries and had suggested that one solution to this problem might be to extend the territorial limit to 12 miles. An alternative would be to retain the old 3-mile territorial limit and grant to coastal states the exclusive control over fisheries in the 12-mile contiguous zone which was already widely accepted for the purpose of exercising customs, fiscal, and sanitary jurisdiction.

In connection with the composition of the delegation, the Minister submitted the following suggestions:

(a) *Chairman*—Because decisions of substance might have to be made on short notice, it would be desirable to have a member of the government as chairman of the delegation. If this were not feasible, a parliamentary assistant might be designated. Another possibility would be to use the High Commissioner for Canada in the United Kingdom.

(b) *Vice-Chairman*—This should be a senior official. Owing to the length of the conference, it was suggested that all of the following might be named delegates on the understanding that each would serve as vice-chairman as available: