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Canada's aims at the Geneva conference on Law of the Sea

In a recent address to the Halifax Board of Trade, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Allan J. MacEachen, described the fundamental objects of the Canadian delegation at the continued session of the Law of the Sea Conference which opened in Geneva on March 17.

The External Affairs Minister, Environment Minister Jeanne Sauv  and other federal ministers will attend some of the meetings that continue till May 10, which, said Mr. MacEachen, indicated "the importance we all attach to this next round of international negotiations. Passages from his address follow:

* * * *

There was, as you all know, a first substantive session of the Law of the Sea Conference, last summer in Caracas. For ten weeks, 138 sovereign nations – each with one vote, let me stress – attempted to draft an all-encompassing convention to regulate all of man's activities in, below, and above the sea, that is, 70 per cent of the earth's surface. Little wonder that they could not finish their immense task, even though preparations had been going on for six years in the United Nations Seabed Committee. Some observers were quick to conclude that Caracas had been a failure for the simple reason that not a single text was approved. That is, in my view, a simplistic judgment. It ignores the real nature of the conference – its methods of work, its over-all objectives and, in a very real sense, the substantial progress made.

The conference has more than 100 major items and sub-items on its agenda. It must legislate on matters relating to the security and sovereignty of states, fisheries, mineral resources, both hydrocarbons and hard minerals, marine pollution, marine scientific research, navigation, both commercial and military, international straits, archipelagoes and islands, off-shore installations, land-locked and geographically disadvantaged states, to name but the more important questions. All of these questions are inter-related and the balance of interests within the 138 participating states is such that final resolution of one particular issue must of necessity await progress on all other issues. This is usually referred to as the "package approach".

* * * *

There is a clear trend towards the acceptance of a three-tier concept: that is, an economic zone out to 200 miles; an international area beyond the economic zone reserved for the benefit of all mankind; and the application throughout the oceanic space of sound management principles for the use and preservation of the sea.

Economic zone

First, the economic zone, that is certainly the area where progress was most evident at Caracas. I believe I can safely say that whether or not the conference is altogether successful, the economic-zone concept is here to stay. That is to say that within 200 miles of its coasts, a coastal state will have very substantial rights over the mineral and living resources of that zone and more extensive rights over the mineral and living resources of that zone and more extensive rights than it now possesses over marine pollution and scientific research.

For Nova Scotians and Canadians in general, that is a most encouraging development. It means that in the very near future Canada will be able to exercise full control over the most important economic activities now taking place or that may take place in the future in our off-shore waters. To be realistic, I must point out that this does not amount to an automatic remedy to all the economic ills of our coastal areas. Such a panacea does not exist. But it does mean that we will have the legal means and the necessary tools to put into effect sound management and conservation practices for the benefit of our own citizens, a power we have not had.

Let us consider for a moment what a 200-mile zone would do for Canada as

far as fishing is concerned.

First, we will acquire the exclusive right to manage all living resources within 200 miles from our shores. We will have the final say in determining maximum or optimum sustainable yields for each species. We will have the final say in establishing quotas, closed seasons, the size and nature of gear and the numbers, sizes and types of fishing vessels that may be used. We will have the final say in licensing foreign fishermen, fishing vessels and equipment. In short, we will have the exclusive power to prescribe any terms, conditions or regulations we consider necessary to govern the harvesting of all living resources and their proper management and conservation.

Secondly, and this is perhaps the most important feature of the concept for the future development of our fishing industry, we will have the right to reserve to our own fishermen that portion of the total resource which they have the capacity to catch in any given year. In practice, this means that as our capacity increases, so does our percentage of the total catch. In principle, this percentage could reach 100 per cent.

We will, therefore, manage the whole and be guaranteed our fair share of the proceeds. It does not mean, of course, the immediate exclusion of all foreign fishing vessels from our 200-mile zone. That would simply mean a waste of close to 70 per cent of the living resources now being exploited. It does mean, however, *control* of foreign fishing on Canadian terms....

* * * *

Such are some of the benefits which can accrue to Canada if the 200-mile economic zone is accepted. That is good news. That is progress. But a 200-mile limit does not fully cover the Canadian case.

We must obtain recognition of our rights and needs beyond that limit, if we want to protect adequately our natural resources in three particular situations. A strict 200-mile limit would leave out over 400,000 square miles of continental margin, mostly on the East Coast, 10 per cent to 15 per cent of our fish stocks, also on the East Coast, and would leave all of our salmon unprotected during that part of their lives they spend in the open sea.

* * * *

International zone

A second major trend has also emerged at the conference in favour of establishing the international area of the oceans as a zone reserved for the benefit of mankind. Almost all nations agree that the exploitation of manganese nodules, those potato-shaped rock formations which lie all over the ocean seabed at depths of 15 to 20,000 feet and which are rich in nickel, copper, cobalt and manganese, should be carried out for the benefit of the whole world and not solely for the advantage of the technologically advanced states. That is a concept which Canada wholeheartedly supports.

Unfortunately, the conference has not gone very far beyond accepting this very basic concept. The practical implementation of the concept, that is the creation of a new international authority, has given rise to a most serious confrontation between developed and developing nations.

This may seem to some Canadians as a controversy so far removed from our essential preoccupations that it should not cause us to worry. There are on the contrary two very basic concerns which trouble us.

One is that the two opposing factions on this issue attach such importance to its resolution that failure on this item might undo the whole conference.

Our second concern is that if a proper international legal regime is not established over the international area, we will not only find ourselves faced with conflict between developing and developed states but we, as Canadians, might also suffer from an uncontrolled exploitation of mineral resources, in particular of nickel, which constitute a good part of our hard minerals exports and on which entire Canadian communities depend.

Both for reasons of world-wide equity and our own domestic interests, we must do everything we can to set up a strong and economically viable international authority.

Importance of controls

Finally, the third major trend at the conference can be expressed in terms of a growing realization by all states that the oceans must be managed in a rational manner as opposed to the *laissez-faire* attitudes of the past. While it is desirable to maintain the

(Continued on P. 6)

Montreal Olympics will be on schedule

A well-documented and complete report on planning for the Olympic Games in Montreal in 1976 was presented to the International Olympic Committee members last October in Vienna, including a budget figure of \$310 million.

Since then, the construction program has been delayed by strikes and greatly increased costs have affected the budget now estimated at about \$650 million. Because of these serious problems, the President and Chairman of the Organizing Committee, Roger Rousseau, Mayor Jean Drapeau of Montreal and Harold Wright, President of the Canadian Olympic Association, presented a further progress report to Lord Killanin, President, and members of the IOC Executive Board in Lausanne, Switzerland, on February 20. After this meeting, Lord Killanin said the IOC was satisfied that the Olympic Games would take place as scheduled.

Columbian workers may relocate

Manpower and Immigration Minister Robert Andras has announced that no action would be taken to force 38 Columbian textile workers and their families to leave Canada until their case had been thoroughly reviewed.

The Columbians, all textile experts, were employed by a plant in Louiseville, Quebec. Recently, due to market conditions, they, along with other workers were laid off. The Columbians, in Canada temporarily on employment visas would normally be returned to their homeland.

Mr. Andras said that officials of his Department were checking to see whether jobs demanding the Columbian workers' skills were available elsewhere in Canada and, should such jobs exist, and no Canadians were available with the specific skills needed, new employment visas would be issued.

Prince of Wales to visit

Prince Charles will be in Canada from April 20 to April 30. He will stay in Ottawa at Rideau Hall until April 20 then leave for a tour of the Arctic Islands and other points in the Northwest Territories.

Another prize for Canada's contribution to Spokane world fair

The 1974 Environmental Improvement Grand Award presented to Canada by the Associated Landscape Contractors of America in St. Petersburg, Florida, on January 29, is the third prize earned by Canada's permanent contribution to the environmental theme of last summer's Expo '74 in Spokane, Washington, U.S.A.

Canada, by turning a derelict industrial site into what proved to be one of Expo '74's most environmentally-oriented exhibits, created a miniature woodland park on a 45,000-square foot rocky island using over 50 varieties of the trees and shrubs usually found in the Pacific Northwest. The park, re-named "Canada Island" was given to the people of Spokane as a permanent wilderness area.

Families of native Canadian animals underwent inoculation and an incubation period before being allowed to cross the U.S. border to live among the trees and rocky caves of the island; and a score of dinosaur-size imaginary prairie animals created by Saskatchewan artist Russell Yuristy, lumbered safely, in tractor trucks, over



the Selkirk mountains and along the Oregon Trail onto Canada Island to become a children's playground.

All summer long, these fantasy animals, made of recycled materials, delighted children; the nature trails provided a haven for people from all over the world who came to the fair and discovered that, as well as talking about "environment" Canada had done something about it. Alberta's amphi-

theatre was a popular meeting place for those who loved listening to music, while British Columbia's on-site creative artists ranged from a Renaissance musical instrument-maker to Pacific Northwest carvers and silversmiths. "This is the only place where they are really protecting the environment instead of just telling people to protect it", one Spokane resident was quoted as saying.

Andrew J.H. Kuhlmann, landscape architect for Canada Island, a member of Information Canada/Expositions Division, has assumed the major design responsibility for many Canadian Government trade and cultural expositions both in Canada and abroad.

Among Mr. Kuhlmann's award-winning projects were the Canadian exhibit at the Brussels World Fair 1958; two gold medal awards for his exhibit design at the Barcelona International Trade Fair; and a gold medal won at the New York Furniture Show. Now, the top 1974 award for environment improvement has been added to the landscape award earned from the Washington State Nurserymen's Association and a Certificate of Merit from the American Association Nurserymen to honour Canada's island in Spokane.



Dr. George Mraz, airport veterinarian for Agriculture Canada, gives a final

check to a Hereford about to embark for Czechoslovakia.

Canadian cattle in Czechoslovakia

The people of Czechoslovakia are not likely to see cowboys galloping over their hills, but they will be seeing red and white Herefords grazing on ranches in western Canadian style.

Czechoslovakia recently took delivery of 1,105 polled Herefords (1,054 heifers and 51 bulls) purchased from Canadian cattle producers for a pilot project aimed at using the hillside rangeland in southwestern and eastern Czechoslovakia.

The hill country, similar to the Alberta foothills but with a slightly milder climate, is mostly in the Sudetenland.

Most European beef comes from dual-purpose cattle raised on typical dairy farms, says Dr. W.H.J. Davis, import-export supervisor for Agriculture Canada's Health of Animals Branch in Ontario. He said that one of his problems was persuading the buyers that Canadian Herefords could take care of themselves on the open range.

"As long as they have forage and a little shelter from the elements they don't need to be brought into barns every night," he explained.

"The whole point of the project is to develop a Canadian ranch-type operation using a minimum of manpower."

A team of buyers from Czechoslovakia visited Canada in early autumn and arranged to buy the cattle from 63 farms in Manitoba, Alberta and Saskatchewan at an average price of \$550 each. The whole project, including air transportation from Toronto to Czechoslovakia, was worth more than \$1 million to Canada.

The project will be monitored carefully and, if successful, could lead to purchases of up to 10,000 head of Canadian beef cattle.

Province increases interest in Bricklin

Premier Richard Hatfield of New Brunswick announced recently that the province would offer a loan of \$7.5 million to the Bricklin car company.

Bricklin Canada Ltd needs the additional financing to cover start-up costs, improve supplier lines of credit, improve the parts situation and bring the assembly line to a break-even production level of about 30 cars a day.

Following discussion with the company and the consultants, the government decided a further investment of \$7.5 million was needed to meet these problems and to place the company in a viable position. The government does not expect to invest any further in this project nor does it anticipate any further requests by the company for financial assistance from the province, Mr. Hatfield said.

The Premier pointed out that Bricklin Canada Ltd employed some 575 people at union wages in Saint John and Minto. The annual payroll of the company is in excess of \$5 million.

The general opinion from all sources in the North American market place is that the Bricklin enjoys high consumer demand and the car has been acknowledged by automobile experts as having first-rate performance.

"The province owns 67 per cent of Bricklin Canada Ltd and as a result of its additional financial commitment the province will assume increased involvement in the entire Bricklin organization. The province will take the

majority position on Bricklin Canada's board of directors; and will increase its managerial involvement in General Vehicle Inc., the parent company, and its marketing subsidiary, Bricklin Vehicle Corp.," said Mr. Hatfield.

"The province will have invested in Bricklin Canada Ltd \$1 million in equity; \$4 million in guaranteed loans; with the rest as direct advances by Provincial Holdings."

Gull Island hydro development

Donald S. Macdonald, Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources and Don Jamieson, Minister of Regional Economic Expansion, announced last month that the Federal Government had agreed to provide loans to the Newfoundland and Labrador Power Corporation, at Crown corporation rates, of up to \$343 million for the Gull Island hydroelectric development in Labrador. The loans will represent 50 per cent of the estimated cost of high voltage direct-current transmission facilities between the Gull Island site on the Churchill River in Labrador and load centres in Newfoundland and will include a tunnel cable crossing under the Strait of Belle Isle. Also included is an alternating current transmission tie to the Churchill Falls power project, thereby connecting the Newfoundland power system to that of Quebec.

Important link with Quebec

The development of the Gull Island hydroelectric project, together with the proposed transmission system, represents the long-term best option for the expansion of electrical energy supply to the island of Newfoundland. Important additional advantages will accrue from the extension of the transmission system to tie in with the Hydro Quebec system. Discussions are taking place between the Newfoundland and Quebec utilities on arrangements to exchange surplus energy over this transmission link to the mutual advantage of both provinces.

Annual output

The proposed installation on Gull Island will have an installed capacity of 1,800 megawatts and an annual energy output of 11.65 billion kilowatt hours a year. The transmission system to Newfoundland will be nearly 640 miles long to a terminal station near

St. John's. Present plans call for an 800-KV high voltage direct-current system capable of delivering 1,600 megawatts to the island of Newfoundland.

The Gull Island hydroelectric generating station will be located on the Churchill River some 140 miles downstream of the now completed 5,225-megawatt Churchill Falls generating station and will use the same water supply. The development, based on a renewable resource, provides an option to increased dependence on oil-fuelled electrical energy generation and in energy an equivalent to Newfoundland's current total oil consumption of 50,000 barrels a day.

Upon the completion of the Gull transmission link and of the cable interconnection to Prince Edward Island for which federal financial support was announced on February 10, all provinces will have electrical power systems which are interconnected with a neighbouring province.

Native alcohol-abuse program

The Federal Government is increasing its efforts to deal with the problems of alcohol abuse among native people. A new program, announced by Health and Welfare Minister Marc Lalonde and Indian Affairs Minister Judd Buchanan, will be a joint effort by the two Departments to assist the Indian and Inuit people in fighting alcohol abuse and its harmful effects on health and on family and community life.

Federal funds for the program in 1975-76 and the two following fiscal years will be in excess of \$3 million yearly, compared to an amount of about \$1 million provided for native alcohol-abuse activities in 1974-75.

Under the new program native people will be invited to formulate projects, which they would mainly implement themselves, in the areas of prevention, treatment, rehabilitation and counselling. A national advisory board in Ottawa will provide guidance and direction to the program. Membership will comprise senior members of the two Departments and representatives of national Indian and Inuit associations. Regional advisory boards will be set up on the same basis in each province and territory, with invitations also extended to provincial and territorial governments to participate.

Arctic Circle national park

Auyuittuq has been chosen as the name of Canada's first national park above the Arctic Circle on Baffin Island in the Northwest Territories.

A search for an Inuit (Eskimo) name that would reflect the nature of the 8,300-square mile park on the Cumberland Peninsula had been under way since its creation was announced in February 1972.

Auyuittuq (pronounced Ow-you-e-took) means "land of the big ice" or literally, "the place which does not melt". The name, chosen after consultation with communities in the area, is suitable since the park region is dominated by the 2,200-square-mile Penny Ice Cap. Glaciers have formed the main characteristics of the park, which is also noted for its spectacular mountain scenery and fjords, the cliffs of which tower 3,000 feet above sea level. The largest glacier, Coronation, is 20 miles long and two miles wide.

Auyuittuq National Park received more than 400 visitors last year, almost triple that of the previous year. Many were

Pangnirtung Pass on Baffin Island, Northwest Territories, is in one of Canada's most spectacular national



John Olson

hikers or mountain-climbers from Canada and abroad.

Pangnirtung, the park's headquarters near its southwest boundary, is accessible by air from Montreal, some 1,500

parcs — Auyuittuq National Park — an area of some 8,300 square miles above the Arctic Circle.

miles away.

Archaeologists have found the ruins of several communities of the 1,000-year-old Thule Eskimo culture in the Cumberland Sound area of Baffin Island.

Oscar nominations for NFB films

Two animation productions from the National Film Board of Canada, *Hunger, (La faim)*, and *The family that dwelt apart*, have been nominated for Academy Awards. The two NFB films, which have already won international competitions, will vie for the honour of best animated short film.

Hunger, a film by Peter Foldes, has already taken awards at Cannes, Edinburgh, Chicago and Barcelona. This 11-minute story of the gluttony of man, cited as "one of the most interesting films in recent years" at the Cannes Film Festival, was produced with the help of the National Research Council computer.

The Family that dwelt apart, a light-hearted story of overkill with kindness, was directed by Yvon Malette and is based on a story by E.B. White. Both the Canadian Film Awards and the Chicago International Film Festival have honoured this animated short.

The Oscar winners will be announced by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences on April 8 in Hollywood.

New directions in Canadian publishing

An increase in financial assistance to Canada's publishing industry of more than 25 per cent, along with federal initiatives to promote greater exposure and distribution of Canadian books and magazines, was announced in February by Secretary of State J. Hugh Faulkner.

The Canada Council's assistance program will be raised by \$1.5 million, an increase of 40 per cent from its current budget of \$4 million. The annual amount now provided to the industry by the Federal Government and its agencies is \$5.5 million.

Current assistance to publishing in Canada is in the form of translation of books from one official language to another (\$275,000); buying Canadian books for free distribution at home and abroad (\$600,000); Canada Council grants to authors to write (\$600,000); further Canada Council grants (\$650,000) for the publication of learned manuscripts; (\$450,000) for the *Dictionary of Canadian Biography*; and (\$300,000) for other forms of assist-

ance to writers and publishers.

The Government also supports the sale of Canadian books abroad: \$150,000 to help publishers attend international bookfairs; \$350,000 to support the Association for the Export of Books; and \$500,000 to the Montreal Book Fair. The National Library spends a further \$400,000 a year on the production and distribution of its *Canadiana* catalogue.

Included in the new programs, which begin on April 1, are:

—Support to book-reviewing and other forms of information about books (for example the production of taped reviews for wide distribution on the broadcast media, of literary supplements for the print media and of more specialized bulletins for librarians and teachers).

—Support for common distribution and sales services developed by publishers (for example, jointly-produced catalogues, sales-development consortia, joint use of marketing consultants and projects aimed at improving market information and developing managerial skills).

Fewer prisoners fewer tensions

A reduction of more than 6 per cent in prison population in 1974 has resulted in less tension in Canadian penitentiaries, federal Commissioner André Therrien stated recently.

The decline is a reversal from the figure in 1973, when the number of inmates climbed more than 10 per cent, jamming prisons and creating conditions that led to high tension.

At the end of December, the federal prison population was 8,636, compared to 9,219 at the same time the previous year — a reduction of 6.33 per cent.

The only increase was in community corrections centres — “half-way houses” operated in cities; the population increase of almost 10 per cent in these reflects the increasing number of such centres being established.

Wind power

British Columbia Hydro has ordered a pair of windmills for experiments aimed at using alternative energy sources.

A spokesman says that the two 2,000-watt units will be located in Clinton, B.C., and in Massett, on the Queen Charlotte Islands, and will be mounted atop 40-foot steel towers. They will include a battery storage system and be equipped with instruments to measure wind-power potential.

“Windmills would have application in areas where you have substantial wind on a constant basis,” the spokesman says.

But, he adds, it's unlikely they would ever be used in the Vancouver area. “You'd have to have the whole city surrounded by them.”

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Algunos números de esta publicación parecen también en español bajo el título Noticiario de Canadá.

Ahnliche Ausgaben dieses Informationsblatts erscheinen auch in deutscher Sprache unter dem Titel Profil Kanada.

New machines to help the blind

Canadian Press (Vancouver) reports that a University of British Columbia professor has developed two machines to bring blind persons into closer contact with the world around them.

Professor Michael Beddoes, of the university's electrical engineering department, has produced a talking typewriter, which speaks each letter as the operator types it, and an electronic reader, which gives a blind person access to material not published in braille.

The typewriter's voice, which has a clipped, somewhat mechanical accent, gets information required to make the sounds of 45 letters, numbers and special characters from storage in two inch-square solid-state “chips” similar to those used in computers.

To squeeze in all the information, engineers recorded separate speech sounds and, using a slowed-down playback, simplified and edited the sounds.

If the typist hears an error, it can be corrected by pressing two keys on the typewriter, a standard IBM erasing model.

The reader, similar in size and shape to a cassette tape recorder, uses a tiny camera to pick up the image of a printed letter. The image is transmitted to 144 pulsating pins that form the outline of the letter which the operator “reads” with his finger.

The machine, called on Optacon, short for optic to tactile converter, allows a blind person to read printed material without using braille or relying on outside help.

So far, only a few have been able to take advantage of this new technology as cost prevents it from being accessible to all blind people.

The Canadian National Institute for the Blind recently purchased five Optacons for \$18,975.

Senate TV debut

For the first time in history, television cameras were allowed to film regular proceedings of Canada's Parliament on March 4. As a result, footage of the Senate Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs, which was reviewing a bill to lighten penalties for the possession of marijuana, was shown on the national news broadcast.

Law of the Sea Conference

(Continued from P. 2)

ocean as a major thoroughfare for commerce, communications and general exchanges between nations, the time of unfettered freedom which has so often led to abuse is over. Navigation, fishing, research and exploration must be permitted and encouraged but they must also be made subject to appropriate controls, rules and standards.

Much of the debate that is going on has to do precisely with the reasonableness of such rules, their source and their enforcement. Canada has led the way in the protection of the marine environment. We have already legislated to control pollution in the Arctic and in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, the Bay of Fundy, Queen Charlotte Sound, Dixon Entrance and Hecate Strait. For all practical purposes we are already managing these coastal areas as we would like to see economic zones managed. We hope that the conference will endorse these concepts and will apply them universally, taking into account the interest of the world community in international navigation and the special ecological or geographical circumstances that prevail in certain parts of the world.

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...What we are seeking is an internationally-negotiated solution to a series of interrelated problems of great political and economic importance. Such an international solution is by far preferable to unilateral or even regional action. But time is of the essence, not only for Canada, but for a lot of other countries.

We will not stand for a simple referral of the issues to one or more sessions unless we have reason to be confident in an early successful conclusion. That is a judgment which the Government will have to make at the end of the Geneva session. As my colleagues and I have said repeatedly since Caracas, should the conference fail or procrastinate, we will reassess all options and decide how best we can cope with our most urgent problems — and the fisheries question is obviously high on the list — in the light of prevailing circumstances.

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