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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MARCH 13, 1975

CANADIAN DELEGATION TO THE THIRD SESSION
OF THE LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE
GENEVA, MARCH 17 - MAY 10, 1975

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
MINISTÈRE DES AFFAIRES EXTÉRIEURES

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Allan J. MacEachen, assisted by the Honourable Ron Basford, Minister of National Revenue, the Honourable Jeanne Sauvé, Minister of the Environment, and the Honourable Roméo LeBlanc, Minister of State (Fisheries), will head the Canadian Delegation to the third session of the United Nations Law of the Sea Conference which is to take place in Geneva from March 17 to May 10, 1975. Mr. J.A. Beesley, Q.C., Ambassador to Austria, will be Deputy-Head of the Delegation.

The Canadian Delegation will be composed of Members of Parliament, representatives of the provinces and the fisheries, oil, mineral and shipping industries and fishermen's unions, and officials of the interested federal departments.

In Geneva, the Conference will take up the work commenced in Caracas in the summer 1974 with a view to concluding an overall agreement on the Law of the Sea. From the previous session, it is already evident that the main elements of the future Treaty will be the concept of the common heritage of mankind for the international seabed area and the concept of the economic zone whereby coastal states would be accorded extensive powers within a 200-mile zone over the living and mineral resources and for the protection of the marine environment. Canada wholeheartedly subscribes to both of these fundamental concepts. Of special concern to the Canadian Delegation in Geneva will be the preservation of the rights of coastal states over the whole of their continental margins, management control of salmon by the state of origin and the elaboration of effective provisions for the protection of the marine environment.