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## INTRODUCTION

The long silence of the Arctic has been shattered not only by the snarl of the snowmobile and the whine of the oil rig. As the search for resources has turned northward, so too has the attention of lawyers, diplomats, politicians and journalists, and today their voices are all loud in the land. Questions of Arctic sovereignty, ecology and resource development policy which not long ago were subjects of quiet study by a few specialists have become matters of keen public interest and lively debate at both the national and international levels. That debate centers on the impact and implications of the economic development of the Arctic, which has become a present reality as well as a future hope. As Legal Adviser to Canada's Department of External Affairs I am, of course, especially concerned with the international legal aspects of the debate and it is with these aspects that I propose to deal here. In doing so, I should like to begin by identifying the legal issues in question and distinguishing them from certain non-issues which too often have been allowed to obscure discussions of Arctic problems.