

Statement by Mr. J.A. Beesley, representative of
Canada to the United Nations Preparatory Committee
for the Third Law of the Sea Conference, in Sub-
Committee III, August 18, 1971, Palais des Nations
Geneva

Mr. Chairman,

The Canadian Government has on many occasions made known its long standing opposition to the continuance of nuclear weapons tests of any sort in any environment. We have the closest and friendliest relations with all of the countries conducting such tests. However, we were a strong advocate as a matter of principle of the partial nuclear test ban treaty, to which we are a party, and we are an equally strong advocate of the banning of underground nuclear tests. As it happens, Canada may be more directly affected by the proposed underground tests which will occur closer to Canada than the atmospheric tests in question. We consider however that any such tests carrying with them potential damage to any part of the biosphere, particularly the marine environment, is of concern to all humanity. For this reason we must join in this expression of anxious concern over any such tests, particularly those which could have serious effects on the marine environment.