

CANADA

STATEMENT IN PLENARY BY H.E. MR. J. ALAN BEESLEY, Q.C.  
ON COMMITTEE I REPORT - APRIL 26, 1979  
DEEP SEABED MINING

Mr. Chairman,

I wish to comment very briefly on the encouraging report we have heard this afternoon on the work of Committee I.

I would like first to compliment the Chairman of Committee I and also the respective Chairmen of Negotiating Groups 1, 2 and 3 and of the Group of Legal Experts and of the nickel production negotiating group on the very substantial progress made during this Session on the total package of First Committee items as reflected in Document WG21/1. I should also compliment the Principal Co-ordinator as well as the other Co-ordinators of the Group of 21 on their individual and collective contributions and support the continuation of the Group of 21 as a new and useful negotiating mechanism.

The report we have just heard indicates significant advances towards the attainment of consensus on the following difficult issues, amongst others. I refer to the new text from Negotiating Group 1 on Transfer of Technology, particularly on processing technology and on plans of work; the new text of Negotiating Group 2 on Financing of the Enterprise and on Financial Arrangements for Contractors; clarifications and additions concerning the Organs of the Authority and Secretariat emanating from Negotiating Group 3; and the clarification and new proposals relating to Dispute Settlement concerning the seabed emanating from the Group of Legal Experts; and last but not least, on a matter of particular importance to Canada, the report and new textual proposals emanating from the Special Negotiating Group on the nickel production ceiling.

These proposals and clarifications together constitute a significant step towards concensus. There are serious differences still to be resolved but our task will be much alleviated in the view of our Delegation by the progress we have made at this Session.

I have listened also with interest to the statements of the Distinguished Representative of the Federal Republic of Germany concerning the provisions on production policy in general and the nickel production ceiling in particular. I find that I cannot disassociate myself from the critical observations made on his statement by the Distinguished Delegates of Chile and Australia. I should like to comment, in contrast, on the balanced statements made by the Distinguished Representatives of Norway, Japan, the USA and Australia.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, I wish to make clear the view of my Delegation that the text contained in Working Group 21 should be sent forward for inclusion in the revised text.