

Speech of Mr. A. Beasley
(Chairman of the Drafting Committee)
16 April 1981

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I only have few points to make. Firstly, the formal part of our report will bring out that we held of 5 Drafting Committee meetings, 8 meetings of the co-ordinators ^{under} and the direction of the Chairman of the Drafting Committee and 98 Language Group meetings. It also makes clear how much work has been done by the Language groups on Part XI. ~~and~~ although I made that point in the Informal Plenary, I would like to underline it here: Namely that those proposals relating to Part XI which has ^{now} been approved by the Drafting Committee and Informal Plenary are significant and indeed a landmark and a historic event. They are merely the first of a series of proposals which are under very active consideration in the Drafting Committee. I would like to underline that although we are aware in the Drafting Committee of political difficulty ⁱⁿ the Conference, those difficulties have not disturb ^{the} effective functioning of the Drafting Committee which ^{has} operated as ^{on a} very high level of professionalism and ^{has} involved the active cooperation of all delegations and particularly the devoted work of the co-ordinators of the language groups. At the same time, I would like to take this opportunity to give the gratitude of the Drafting Committee to the Secretariat who have worked long hours in giving us a kind of assistance support that we need. And I would like to give a special tribute to the Secretary of the Committee Dolliver Nelson as well as the executive secretary Mr. David Hall and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General Mr. Bernardo Zuleta. The time-table for the proposed intersessional meeting has already been outlined and we will include it in the formal written report which would be circulated shortly. The only other part of my proposal I wish to make is the more formal part of it which relates to the work actually carried out in the Informal Plenary and that is the part of the report that I will now present. It is unusual report and it is the first of its kind and I have been asked by you Mr. President to submit it on behalf of yourself, the Chairman of Committees I, II and III and on my own behalf as Chairman of the Drafting Committee. The report is as follows: during Informal Meetings of Plenary held on the 23rd of March to 25th of March and from the 26th of March

to 1st of April consideration was given to the recommendations of the Drafting Committee of Parts II to X inclusive and Parts XII to XIV inclusive of the Draft Convention document A/CONF.62/WP.10/Rev.3 and a series of addenda which are listed as a footnote in the document which will be circulated and which are also set out in the report of the Chairman of the Drafting Committee to the Plenary dated the 2nd of March 1981 of document L.67/Rev.1 and in addenda 1/Rev.1 and 3 to 12. I might just mention Mr. President that this consist of approximately a thousand recommendations which represents a tremendous amount of work for all concern. During an Informal Plenary meeting held on 15th of April consideration was given to the further report of the Drafting Committee relating to those recommendations of the Drafting Committee deferred by the Plenary at its Informal meeting pending further consideration by the Drafting Committee. At the same time Informal Plenary meeting consideration was given to the first of the series of recommendations of the Drafting Committee on Part XI of the Draft Convention and I refer here to document A/CONF.62/WP.10/Rev.3 set out in the document. Certain other proposals on Parts X to XIII and Part XI are still pending on the Drafting Committee and will require some further attention in due course. My final comment in this formal part of my report is that the recommendations of the Drafting Committee approved during the Informal Meetings of Plenary at the 10th Session of the Third United Nations Law of the Sea Conference held in New York will be listed in a document which will be circulated. In other words, we are going to ensure that a document will be presented which will make quite clear exactly what recommendations has been made, which few were still deferred and which has been reaffirmed now as result of further consideration in the Drafting Committee. It is intended in other words that the document will be produced and which will not be only clear but as usefull as can possibly be made in consideration in capitals and elsewhere. Thank you very much Mr. President.

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Chairman of the
Report of the Drafting Committee

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Meetings

1. During the Tenth Session of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea the Drafting Committee continued its article-by-article textual review of the Draft Convention on the Law of the Sea (Informal Text)^{1/} which it had begun at the informal intersessional meeting held in New York from 12 January to 27 February 1981.^{2/}
2. *During the Drafting Session*
There were 98 meetings of the language groups open to all delegations, 8 meetings of the co-ordinators of the language groups under the direction of the Chairman of the Drafting Committee and 5 *informal* meetings of the Drafting Committee.

Textual review progress

3. During *the 10th* session the Drafting Committee made a series of proposals on Part XI^{3/} some of which have already been accepted by the Informal Plenary,^{4/} *and* *presented* *to the Plenary* *Chairman* *of the* *Drafting* *Committee* *and* *the* *Informal* *Plenary* *of* *proposals* *relating* *to* *Part* *XI* *is* *of* *the* *greatest* *significance* *and* *indeed* *represents* *an* *historic* *land* *mark* *in* *the* *history* *of* *Third* *United* *Nations* *Conference* *on* *the* *Law* *of* *the* *Sea*. The Drafting Committee still has under very active considerations a series of proposals relating to Part XI.
4. The Drafting Committee is well aware of the political difficulties the Conference faces. Nevertheless these difficulties have not disturbed the effective functioning of the Committee which has at all time operated at a very high level of professionalism.
5. The language groups with the active co-operation of several delegations have worked intensively and have already produced a *large number* *of* *proposals* relating to Part XI which the co-ordinators of the language groups have not yet considered.

^{1/} A/CONF.62/WP.10/Rev.3*

^{2/} See Report to the Plenary on the recommendations of the Drafting Committee presented by the Chairman of the Drafting Committee on behalf of the President and the Chairman of the First, Second and Third Committees (A/CONF.62/L.72)

^{3/} CG/WP 15 and CG/WP 16

^{4/} CG/WP 15

The co-ordinators of the language groups under the direction of the Chairman of the Drafting Committee have maintained their high level of devotion and dedication. It should also be stated that the Committee owes a debt of gratitude to the Secretariat for its assistance and support at this session.

Future work

An informal intersessional meeting of the Drafting Committee will be held in Geneva from 29 June to 28 July 1981 in accordance with a decision taken by the Conference at the meeting on 1981.

A time-table is appended (annex I) to ensure the effective use of the time available for the informal intersessional meeting.

Annex I

Proposed time-table for 5-week informal intersessional meeting of the Drafting Committee.

Week 1	-	Part XV and annexes V, VI, VII and VIII
Week 2	-	Part XV and annexes V, VI, VII and VIII
Week 3	-	Parts XVI and XVII, Preamble and article 1
Week 4	-	Part XI and annexes III and IV
Week 5	-	Part XI and annexes III and IV