

Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea

1973-1982

Concluded at Montego Bay, Jamaica on 10 December 1982

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193rd Plenary meeting

Extract from the *Official Records of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea, Volume XVII (Plenary Meetings, Summary Records and Verbatim Records, as well as Documents of the Conference, Resumed Eleventh Session and Final Part Eleventh Session and Conclusion)*

225. I hope that at an appropriate stage the Sierra Leone delegation will be able to submit a more lengthy statement on its views on the Convention.

226. Mr. NAKAYAMA (Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands): When the General Assembly in December 1974 extended an invitation to the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands to be a separate observer delegation, it was done on the grounds that the Trust Territory's interests in the law of the sea were in some respects different from those of its Administering Authority. Since 1974 our observer delegation has attended each session of the Conference and has acted and spoken only for itself. It continues to do so today.

227. In 1974 the constitutional development of the governmental entities within the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands had only just commenced. Since that time three separate constitutional Governments have evolved in the Trust Territory, their Constitutions have become effective and they now enjoy and exercise full constitutional self-government. They are the Republic of Palau, the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia. Each has since 1977 declared a 200-mile zone; each has since 1977 regulated its own 200-mile zone; and each has concluded international treaties relating to the law of the sea and to other matters within the Convention.

228. We support the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. We wish to state today that we shall sign the Final Act on Friday, and, at an appropriate time in the near future, in accordance with our constitutional processes, we expect to become parties to, and to ratify, the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

229. Lastly, like other delegations that have already spoken, my delegation expresses its gratitude to and admiration of you, Mr. President, and your colleagues; we honour the memory of your predecessor; and we thank the Government and the people of Jamaica for their most generous hospitality.

230. The PRESIDENT: Reflecting the sentiments which all representatives have expressed in their statements, I have taken the liberty of preparing a draft resolution in order to convey our collective appreciation to the Government and the people of Jamaica. May I ask whether representatives would agree to adopt that draft resolution by acclamation?

The draft resolution was adopted.

231. The PRESIDENT: I shall instruct the secretariat to annex this resolution to the Final Act.

The meeting rose at 6.10 p.m.

193rd meeting*

Friday, 10 December 1982, at 9 a.m.

President: Mr. T. T. B. KOH (Singapore)

Report of the Credentials Committee

1. The PRESIDENT: I invite representatives to turn to paragraph 10 of the report of the Credentials Committee, which is contained in document A/CONF.62/123 of 9 December 1982. In that paragraph the Credentials Committee, taking into account the views expressed during its debate,

"Accepts the formal credentials of the representatives that have been received;"

and

"Accepts, as an exceptional measure and subject to later validation, the communications referred to in paragraphs 5 and 6 [of the report] in lieu of formal credentials."

2. May I take it that the Conference is prepared to accept the report of the Credentials Committee by consensus?

It was so decided.

Signature of the Final Act and opening of the Convention for signature

3. The PRESIDENT: I now declare that the Final Act of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea and the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, having been adopted by the Conference, are open for signature. In accordance with the provisions of the Final Act, it will

be signed first by the President of the Conference, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and the Executive Secretary of the Conference.

*The Conference proceeded to the signature ceremony.***

4. The PRESIDENT: I should like to announce that so far there have been 119 signatures of the Convention. We have also received the first instrument of ratification, from the Government of Fiji.

5. I shall now request the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Bernardo Zuleta, and the Legal Counsel, Mr. Erik Suy, to hand over a copy of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea to the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Jamaica, Mr. Frank Francis.

6. Ambassador Francis having now received a copy of the Convention, I shall suspend the meeting until 4 p.m., when the closing ceremony will be held.

The meeting was suspended at 11.45 a.m. and resumed at 4.10 p.m.

Tribute to the memory of Mr. H. S. Amerasinghe, former President of the Conference, and to the memory of Mr. M. Yasseen and other former participants in the Conference

7. The PRESIDENT: I ask participants in the Conference to stand and observe a minute's silence in tribute to the memory of the late President Hamilton Shirley Amerasinghe, and to

*On 17 February 1983, an addendum to this meeting (A/CONF.62/PV.193/Add.1) was issued reading as follows:

"Pursuant to the announcement made by the President of the Conference at the 185th plenary meeting on 6 December 1982, the statements of representatives and observers who were unable to take the floor or who had delivered an abridged version of their text will appear in a document of the Conference (A/CONF.62/WS/36). Statements made in the exercise of the right of reply will appear in another document of the Conference (A/CONF.62/WS/37)."

**During the signature ceremony, the following Vice-Presidents took the Chair: at 9.20 a.m., Mr. Ul-Haque (Pakistan); at 9.50 a.m., Mr. Sahnoun (Algeria); at 10.15 a.m., Mr. Arias Schreiber (Peru); at 10.40 a.m., Mr. Ballah (Trinidad and Tobago); and at 10.50 a.m., Mr. Evensen (Norway). At 11.15 a.m., the President returned to the Chair.

the memory of Mr. Yasseen and other colleagues who have departed from us.

On the proposal of the President, the representatives observed a minute of silence.

Statement by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Jamaica

8. The PRESIDENT: It is with great pleasure that I invite the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Jamaica, Mr. Hugh Shearer, to address us.

9. Mr. SHEARER (Jamaica): We have at last come to the end of a process which began in 1967 with the momentous statement by the Permanent Representative of Malta, Mr. Arvid Pardo,¹ on the need to proclaim the sea-bed and ocean floor beyond national jurisdiction the common heritage of mankind. Little did we anticipate that the seminal ideas then expressed would take such a long time to bear fruit in the Convention which has just been signed today in Montego Bay.

10. Now the concept of the sea-bed and ocean floor beyond national jurisdiction as the common heritage of mankind has become part of the conscience of the international community. It is here to stay. The interrelation of all aspects of ocean space, requiring that they be treated integrally, is now unquestioned.

11. After nine years of negotiations, during which there have been 193 plenary meetings and innumerable less formal meetings involving some 165 States and territories, 8 liberation movements, 12 specialized agencies and other organizations, 19 intergovernmental organizations and 57 non-governmental organizations, a Convention of 320 articles, nine annexes, together with four associated resolutions and annexes, has been adopted almost entirely on a basis of consensus.

12. The work we have performed during these many years, culminating in this Convention, represents the most important and ambitious attempt at managing the greater portion of the surface of the earth for the benefit of all peoples. The Convention is without a doubt the most far-reaching international document negotiated since the United Nations Charter.

13. It establishes a legal régime for the territorial sea and exclusive economic zone, the continental shelf, transit passage through straits, pollution, marine scientific research, conservation and the optimum use of the living resources of the seas, exploitation of the resources of the area beyond national jurisdiction and revenue-sharing of the proceeds of that exploitation, and procedures for the peaceful settlement of disputes.

14. As universality of participation was characteristic of the Conference, so must universality of observance be essential for the integrity of the régime. It admits of no partial or conveniently selective implementation. We recall the words of the Declaration of Principles Governing the Sea-Bed and the Ocean Floor, and the Subsoil Thereof, beyond the Limits of National Jurisdiction, which was adopted without dissent by the United Nations General Assembly on 17 December 1970:

"No State or person, natural or juridical, shall claim, exercise or acquire rights with respect to the area and its resources incompatible with the international régime to be established and the principles of this Declaration" [*resolution 2749 (XXV)*, para. 3].

15. Today 119 States have signed the Convention; 150 States, territories and liberation movements have signed the Final Act. What is the significance of these signatures? With respect to the Final Act they are an acknowledgement that the proceedings leading up to the events of today took place.

The signatures on the Convention mean considerably more. First, they represent a commitment to bring into force a new integrated legal régime for the ocean space; secondly, they trigger the establishment of the Preparatory Commission, which will have important work to do pending the formal entry into force of the Convention.

16. We note the caution which has prevented some Governments from signing the Convention now. However, it is expected that in time they will be more attracted to its virtues than dissuaded by their disappointments. There can be none among them that is not convinced of the need for a legal régime for the oceans, and that what has been signed today defines that régime.

17. However, the task has not ended. There is still the need to get the requisite ratifications to bring the Convention into force. Meanwhile the Preparatory Commission, which is required to be convened within 90 days, will begin its deliberations in Jamaica in March 1983 with the exception that as early as possible there will be sufficient ratifications to enable the International Sea-Bed Authority to be established. We must always bear in mind that although we have come a long way we still have a long way to go.

18. We must pursue the implementation of this historic treaty with the same dedication and commitment with which we pursued its elaboration. In so doing we must inspire the confidence and goodwill of all peoples, so that those who fail to avail themselves of joining today in this noble endeavour will be convinced of the wisdom and justice of our common cause and join the rest of us soon.

19. As we come to the end of this stage, Jamaica wishes to pay the highest tribute to Mr. Arvid Pardo, whose vision, eloquence and persistence started it all; to the late Mr. Hamilton Shirley Amerasinghe, the first President of the Conference, whose urbane dynamism kept things going through some difficult periods; to Mr. Tommy Koh, our current President, who has skillfully brought us where we are; and to Mr. Bernardo Zuleta, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General. They were not alone of course: we pay a tribute to the Committee Chairmen, the Chairman of the Drafting Committee, the Rapporteur-General and the staff, who were all essential parts of the unique negotiating experience known as UNCLOS-III.

20. As we bring these truly historic proceedings to a close, let us remind ourselves that this is really only the end of one process and the beginning of another—the beginning of a new relationship among the community of nations, a new relationship inspired by the consciousness that in the ocean space, in the sea-bed area, the common heritage of mankind, there is room enough and wealth enough to be equitably shared among the peoples of the world. The consensus of mankind as reflected in the negotiating process of the Montego Bay Convention has been confirmed by the overwhelming inscription of the community of nations to the Convention and the Final Act. These 119 signatures of the Convention bear eloquent testimony to the special legal character of the Convention. The voice of mankind has been heard with thunderous applause.

21. As we extol the significance of this history-making signing session, let us also acknowledge that the occasion of this Conference in Montego Bay gave us an opportunity to strengthen old friendships and forge new relationships. I express the hope that everyone here will return again and again in the cause of international brotherhood and co-operation as the Preparatory Commission starts its work in Jamaica. In due course we shall meet in a new edifice—the permanent headquarters of the International Sea-Bed Authority—somewhere in Jamaica; this will symbolize the practical implementation of the concept of the common heritage of mankind.

¹Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-second Session, First Committee, vol. I, 1516th meeting.

22. On behalf of the Government and people of Jamaica, I acknowledge with humility the expression of appreciation by the Conference for the arrangements for this historic session, as recorded yesterday in the resolution of the Conference.

23. As you leave our shores, I wish, on behalf of the Government and people of Jamaica, to express our profound appreciation for the honour bestowed upon us by your visit and to assure you that the bonds of friendship and fraternity that unite us will continue to be far stronger than the oceans and seas that separate us. We will for ever cherish with fond recollection this historic occasion. As you journey home, I wish you Godspeed.

24. The PRESIDENT: On behalf of the Conference, I thank the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Jamaica, the Right Honourable Mr. Hugh Shearer, for his important statement.

Statement by the Secretary-General

25. The PRESIDENT: It is now my privilege to call on our beloved Secretary-General, Mr. Javier Pérez de Cuéllar.

26. The SECRETARY-GENERAL: I consider it a great honour to be able to participate in my capacity as Secretary-General of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea in this occasion of the Conference's successful conclusion of its work. It is a cause for deep gratification for the Organization to have sponsored this Conference, as it is also for me to be present in the country in which the headquarters of the International Sea-Bed Authority is to be situated. The place selected for this closing ceremony is of truly exceptional beauty. The close proximity of the sea is a pleasant reminder to us of the reason for our meeting. We must thank the Government and people of Jamaica most sincerely for their generous gesture of hospitality in inviting us to assemble here. This gesture bodes very well for the future.

[The speaker continued in Spanish.]

27. With the signing of the Final Act of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea, and with the opening for signature of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, the efforts begun almost 14 years ago to establish a new legal order for ocean space are now reaching their culmination. In order to affirm that international law is now irrevocably transformed, so far as the seas are concerned, we need not wait for the process of ratification of the Convention to begin.

28. Many of those present today in this hall participated in the initial stages of the lengthy negotiations which are ending today. They will remember that there were some who reacted with scepticism when the possibility of embarking upon a fundamental revision of sometimes age-old institutions was first suggested. There were also some who reacted with open hostility to the prospect of going even further in certain fields by establishing completely new legal institutions. The earlier efforts of the United Nations in connection with the law of the sea, the merits of which it is not for us to judge today, provided little encouragement for this new undertaking, since the international community which decided to convene this Third Conference was, in quantitative terms, much larger than the community which drew up the 1958 Conventions, and the kaleidoscopic diversity of its members made it, in qualitative terms, a new and different entity.

29. The six years of work done by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of the Sea-Bed and the Ocean Floor beyond the Limits of National Jurisdiction encompassed negotiations of a scope that constituted a challenge for some and a Utopia for others. It is easy to understand the state of mind which prevailed when the Conference opened almost nine years ago. It oscillated between hope and fear, between the concern to

agree on new ways of peaceful coexistence and the constraints imposed by national interests, by ideological and economic differences, and in some cases by undue attachment to traditional principles and concepts. In convening this Conference, the General Assembly recognized that all the problems concerning ocean space were closely interrelated and that they should therefore be considered and solved together.

30. The Conference complied rigorously with this premise of its mandate. It departed from traditional procedures and sought new working methods which, through patient effort, would gradually lead first to informal texts that brought consensus increasingly closer and finally to the adoption of a draft convention on which all States could decide officially. The rules of procedure of the Conference, which often appeared to be a strait-jacket, turned out in practice to be a helpful factor in the search for consensus on individual parts of the Convention and on the Convention as a whole. These methods were devised in recognition of the indivisibility of the single whole which the law of the sea must constitute; this was the only way of reconciling divergent interests and promoting compromise, thereby ensuring as full participation as possible in the final agreement.

31. However, the innovative method adopted by the Conference would not in itself have advanced the negotiations had not the various regions of the world been determined vigorously to pursue ways of reconciling interests and harmonizing different legal and political systems.

32. The convening of the Conference set in motion not only a complex negotiating process at several levels but at the same time an accelerated process of change in the conduct of States vis-à-vis the uses of the sea. The orderly process of change in the legal order of the oceans that took place through the United Nations responded in fact to an urgent need, felt in every region of the world, which manifested itself in a multiplicity of international declarations and agreements bearing the names of the cities of various continents in which they were adopted, thereby testifying to the universal character of this evolutionary process. Every one of those documents represents a new contribution, an attempt at rapprochement and, above all else, an expression of the determination of States to find formulae of collective agreement designed to bring about the peaceful uses of the seas and their resources.

33. The new law of the sea thus created is not simply the result of a process of action and reaction among the most powerful countries, but the product of the will of an overwhelming majority of nations from all parts of the world, at different levels of development and having diverse geographical characteristics in relation to the oceans, which combined to make a wind of change blow at the universal level.

34. I should like to refer briefly to the nature of the results of the Conference, because it seems to me that such an analysis can provide important lessons for the multilateral negotiating system in general and for treaty-making in particular.

35. The novel process for the drawing up of this important multilateral treaty met with frequent criticism for being prolonged, slow and cumbersome. However, the fact that 119 countries have signed the Convention today, the very day of its opening for signature, is the most convincing response to such criticism. Never in the history of international relations have such a large number of countries immediately signed the result of their deliberations, thereby committing themselves to act in accordance with their obligations. This is a particularly important lesson to emerge from this Conference.

36. The Conference has produced agreements which are essentially non-denominational, devoid of partisan doctrine. Its decisions derive in the final analysis from a pragmatic reconciliation of interests rather than from comparisons of doctrines. This work necessarily has had to go beyond declared positions, although these at times appeared to be

carved in stone; to venture outside Plato's cavernous spaces in order to endeavour to grapple with and satisfy the basic needs underlying national ideas and at times national laws—which are, after all, made by man.

37. 'It is my hope that States, when contemplating in their sovereign capacity the signature and ratification of this Convention, will be guided by this approach of the Conference and will thus disregard all myths in their own decision-making.

38. The Convention, which was opened for signature today, contains generally acceptable solutions with respect to the maritime spaces under the sovereignty and jurisdiction of States, the rational utilization of living and non-living resources, the rights of land-locked States, the promotion of marine scientific research as an instrument for the economic and social development of all peoples, the conservation of the marine environment, respect for the freedoms which have traditionally been observed in so far as the community as a whole is concerned and the settlement by peaceful means of disputes concerning ocean space. The effectiveness of these principles, which constitute a balanced and harmonious whole, will be enhanced if States can co-ordinate their action, compare their experience and make the new legal régime an incentive for new forms of international co-operation. This requires equally co-ordinated action by the United Nations and the specialized agencies, an objective which as Secretary-General I shall henceforth promote as part of my functions under the United Nations Charter and the Convention itself.

39. I must make reference to the very special challenge represented by the inauguration of the régime and machinery that the Convention has established for the administration of the sea-bed and ocean floor beyond national jurisdiction, which constitute the common heritage of mankind. By a happy coincidence this innovative concept, designed to serve mankind, which must be the beneficiary of the law, and embodied in the Declaration of Principles Governing the Sea-Bed and the Ocean Floor, and the Subsoil Thereof, beyond the Limits of National Jurisdiction adopted by the General Assembly in 1970, comes to a legal fruition on Human Rights Day.

40. At the same time as it adopted the Convention the Conference decided to establish a Preparatory Commission, empowered to grant certain rights to persons who have made preparatory investments compatible with the new legal régime, with a view to subsequent exploitation of the resources of the sea-bed, and to take the necessary measures to ensure the entry into operation of the International Sea-Bed Authority and the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea as soon as the Convention enters into force. This fact alone creates a situation without precedent in the history of international law. The Preparatory Commission now has the opportunity to produce rules and procedures that will remove uncertainties regarding the rights and obligations of all parties concerned and thus facilitate the decision-making process that will promote universal acceptance of the new legal régime.

41. Since more than 100 signatures have today been affixed to the Convention, I am gratified to announce here and now, in accordance with the provisions of the resolution establishing the Preparatory Commission for the International Sea-Bed Authority and the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, that within the next 15 days the Commission will be officially brought into being and will meet at Kingston beginning on 15 March 1983.

42. The international community owes a debt of deep gratitude to you, Mr. President, and to your illustrious predecessor, whose memory is with us on this historic afternoon, to the Chairmen of the three main Committees, to the Chairman of the Drafting Committee, to the Rapporteur-General and to all the representatives who have worked together in the

difficult negotiations and whose names are recorded on the Final Act. You and all of them, together with the secretariat headed by my Special Representative, have set an example of perseverance, of devotion to a cause in which they believe with profound conviction, and of objectivity in the search for solutions acceptable to all. Today one phase is successfully concluded and a new one, equally demanding and difficult, begins. This Convention is like a breath of fresh air at a time of serious crisis in international co-operation and of decline in the use of international machinery for the solution of world problems. Let us hope that this breath of fresh air presages a warm breeze from North to South, South to North, East to West and West to East, for this will make clear whether the international community is prepared to reaffirm its determination to find, through the United Nations, more satisfactory solutions to the serious problems of a world in which the common denominator is interdependence.

43. The PRESIDENT: On behalf of the Conference I thank our Secretary-General, Mr. Pérez de Cuéllar, for his important address.

Closing statement by the President

44. The PRESIDENT: Today we have created a new record in juridical history. Never in the annals of international law has a Convention been signed by 119 countries on the very first day on which it is opened for signature. Not only is the number of signatories a remarkable fact: just as important is the fact that the Convention has been signed by States from every region of the world—from the North and from the South, from the East and from the West, by coastal States as well as by land-locked and geographically disadvantaged States. I believe that the overwhelming support for this Convention is a vindication of the consensus procedure by which this Conference has worked. I am happy to inform the Conference that Fiji has ratified the Convention, the first State to have done so. I urge all the other signatories to ratify the Convention as soon as possible so that we shall have the required 60 ratifications within two years. I must also urge the States which will become parties to this Convention to ensure that their domestic laws are brought into compliance with the Convention.

45. During the last four days I have sat here and listened attentively to the statements made by 121 delegations. I should like to highlight the major themes which I have found in those statements.

46. First, delegations said that the Convention does not fully satisfy the interests and objectives of any State. Nevertheless they were of the view that it represents a monumental achievement of the international community second only to the adoption of the United Nations Charter in San Francisco in 1945. The Convention is the first comprehensive treaty dealing with practically every aspect of the uses and resources of the seas and the oceans. It has successfully accommodated the competing interests of all nations.

47. The second theme which has emerged from the statements is that the provisions of the Convention are closely interrelated and form an integral package. Thus it is not possible for a State to pick what it likes and to disregard what it does not like. It was also said that rights and obligations go hand in hand and it is not permissible to claim rights under the Convention without being willing to shoulder the corresponding obligations.

48. The third theme I have heard is that this Convention is not a codification convention. The argument that, except for Part XI, the Convention codifies customary law or reflects existing international practice is factually incorrect and legally insupportable. The régime of transit passage through straits used for international navigation and the régime of archipelagic sea lanes passage are only two examples of the many

new concepts in the Convention. Even in the case of article 76, on the continental shelf, the article contains new law in that it has expanded the concept of the continental shelf to include the continental slope and the continental rise. This concession to the broad-margin States was in return for their agreement to revenue-sharing on the continental shelf beyond 200 miles. It is therefore my view that a State which is not a party to this Convention cannot invoke the benefits of article 76.

49. The fourth theme relates to the lawfulness of any attempt to mine the resources of the international area of the sea-bed and ocean floor. Speakers from every regional and interest group expressed the view that the doctrine of the freedom of the high seas can provide no legal basis for the grant by any State of exclusive title to a specific mine site in the international area of the sea-bed. Many are of the view that article 137 of the Convention has become as much a part of customary international law as the freedom of navigation. Any attempt by any State to mine the resources of the deep sea-bed outside the Convention will therefore earn the universal condemnation of the international community and will incur grave political and legal consequences. All speakers have addressed an earnest appeal to the United States to reconsider its position. The United States is a country which has throughout its history supported the progressive development of international law and has fought for the rule of law in relations between States. The present position of the United States Government towards this Convention is therefore inexplicable in the light of its history, in the light of its specific law-of-the-sea interests and in the light of the leading role which it has played in negotiating the many compromises that have made this Convention possible.

50. A final theme which has emerged from the statements concerns the Preparatory Commission. Now that the required number of States have signed the Convention, the Preparatory Commission for the establishment of the International Sea-Bed Authority and the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea will begin its work in March of next year. Many speakers have attached importance to the work of the Commission. The Commission will have to adopt the rules and procedures for the implementation of resolution II of the Conference, relating to pioneer investors. It will, *inter alia*, draft the detailed rules, regulations and procedures for the mining of the deep sea-bed. If the Commission carries out its work in an efficient, objective and business-like manner, we will have a viable system for the mining of the deep sea-bed. This will induce those who are standing on the sidelines to come in and support the Convention. If, on the other hand, the Preparatory Commission does not carry out its tasks in an efficient, objective and practical manner, then all our efforts in the last 14 years will have been in vain. In carrying out its work the Commission should pay strict regard to economy, to

the avoidance of waste and to efficiency. In order to enable the Commission to get off to an early start, I shall request the Secretary-General and his staff to assist the Commission by undertaking the necessary preparatory work.

51. Dear colleagues, today is a day for celebration. We celebrate the successful conclusion of our collective endeavour. We have strengthened the United Nations by proving that with political will nations can use the Organization as a centre to harmonize their actions. We have shown that with good leadership and management the United Nations can be an efficient negotiating forum on even the most complex of issues. We celebrate today the victory of the rule of law and the principle of the peaceful settlement of disputes. Finally, we celebrate human solidarity and the reality of interdependence between nations, which is symbolized by the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

52. As a matter of human interest, it may be relevant for me to mention that there are among us today a few colleagues who attended the first and the Second United Nations Conferences on the Law of the Sea, in 1958 and in 1960. They have requested me to announce that immediately following the close of this meeting they would like to gather for a group photograph for sentimental reasons.

53. I have also met a few colleagues from land-locked countries who, prior to their coming to Montego Bay, had never swum in the sea. I hope that their stay in Montego Bay has made them acquire an appetite for seafood as well, and that they will make full use of the provisions of the Convention giving land-locked countries access to the living resources of the economic zones of their neighbouring States.

54. I would also like to mention as a matter of human interest that we have another colleague among us, Minister Gouzenko of the Soviet Union, who has actually led a scientific expedition to the North Pole. Indeed he told me that he has set foot on the North Pole.

55. I cannot conclude without expressing once again, on behalf of the entire Conference, our gratitude to the Government and the people of Jamaica for the warm hospitality they have extended to us during our memorable stay in Montego Bay. I am sure that I speak for all my colleagues when I say that we look forward with great relish and expectation to returning to Jamaica in March next year to begin a new phase of our work.

Conclusion of the Conference

56. The PRESIDENT: I now declare the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea closed.

The meeting rose at 4.55 p.m.