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AD HOC COMMITTEE TO STUDY THE PEACEFUL  
USES OF THE SEA-BED AND THE OCEAN  
FLOOR BEYOND THE LIMITS OF NATIONAL  
JURISDICTION  
Third session

SURVEY OF NATIONAL LEGISLATION CONCERNING THE SEA-BED AND THE OCEAN  
FLOOR, AND THE SUBSOIL THEREOF, UNDERLYING THE HIGH SEAS BEYOND THE  
LIMITS OF PRESENT NATIONAL JURISDICTION

Document prepared by the Secretariat

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<sup>1/</sup> No additional information has been received by the United Nations Secretariat.

NOTE

The present document contains legislative texts recently provided or indicated by Governments in response to circular notes sent to them by the Secretary-General on 16 March 1967, 26 January 1968 and 9 April 1968.

I. Limits of the territorial sea<sup>1/</sup>

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<sup>1/</sup> Although the present study deals with the Sea-Bed and the Ocean Floor beyond the Limits of Present National Jurisdiction, there are included in this and the following section materials relating to the limits of the Territorial Sea and the Continental Shelf, which may have an indirect bearing on the subject. Recent information provided by Governments concerning national legislation on the limits of the territorial sea has been summarized in the table appearing under this section.

Recent information received by the United Nations is given below:

Brazil	6 nautical miles (1966)
Dahomey	12 nautical miles (1968)
Dominican Republic	6 nautical miles (1967)
Guinea <sup>1/</sup>	
Ivory Coast	6 nautical miles (1967)
Nigeria	12 nautical miles (1967)
Senegal <sup>2/</sup>	6 nautical miles (1961)
Togo <sup>3/</sup>	
Tunisia <sup>4/</sup>	
Venezuela	12 nautical miles (1956)

1/ The United Nations Secretariat received from the Government of Guinea the following legislative text:

Decree No. 224 of 3 June 1964 - Delimiting the territorial waters of the Republic of Guinea.

...

Article 1. The territorial waters of the Republic of Guinea shall be delimited as follows:

- in the north, by latitude 10° 56' 42" North, and
- in the south, by latitude 9° 03' 18" North to a distance of 130 nautical miles seawards from a straight line running south-west of the Island of Sène the TRISTAO group and south via the south-west tip of the Island of TAMARA to the low tide level.

...

2/ Under Act No. 61-51 of 21 June 1961 provided by the Senegalese Government together with the following information:

(Foot-notes continued on following page)

/...

Foot-notes (continued)2/ (continued)

"The Government of Senegal plans to amend this Act, which it no longer finds adequate to protect the traditional fishing grounds of its nationals. A bill was recently introduced under which the territorial sea would be extended to twelve nautical miles and a contiguous zone of six nautical miles would be added in respect of which the Senegalese State would be fully authorized, as formerly, to make regulations for the protection of its resources."

3/ The United Nations Secretariat received from the Government of the Togolese Republic the following information:

"Togo, for its part, has not yet defined in any general way the width of its territorial sea. However, Act No. 64-14 of 11 July 1964, which regulates fishing activities, provides as follows in article 4:

'Fishing is prohibited to foreign vessels in Togolese territorial waters inside a boundary fixed at twelve nautical miles from the low-water mark.'

4/ The United Nations Secretariat received from the Government of Tunisia the following legislative text:

Act No. 62-35 of 16 October 1962 (18 Jumada I 1382) amending the decree of 26 July 1951 (22 Shawwal 1370), which revised the legislation on the supervision of marine fisheries and the delimitation of the territorial waters of the Republic of Tunisia.

"Sole Article. Article 3 of the decree of 26 July 1951 (22 Shawwal 1370) is hereby repealed and replaced by the following provisions:

Article 3 (new).

The following shall constitute Tunisia's territorial sea:

(a) from the Tunisian-Algerian frontier to Ras-Kapoudia and around the adjacent islands, the area of the sea lying between the low-water line and a line drawn parallel to it six miles seaward, excluding the Gulf of Tunis, the whole of which, on the landward side of the line Cap-Parina, Ile Plane, Ile Zembra and Cap Bon, is included in the said sea;

On the seaward side of the territorial sea so delimited there shall be a reserved zone in which only vessels flying the Tunisian flag shall be permitted to fish;

The fishing zone shall extend twelve miles from the baseline from which the breadth of the territorial sea as defined in paragraph (a) is measured;

(b) from Ras-Kapoudia to the Tunisian-Libyan frontier, the area of the sea delimited by a line drawn from the end of the twelve-mile line described above to the fifty-metre isobath on the Ras-Kapoudia parallel and along that isobath to the point where it meets a line running in the direction NE-Zv from Ras Aghdir at an angle of 45°.

II. Limits and scope of national jurisdiction  
over the continental shelf <sup>1/</sup>

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<sup>1/</sup> It should be noted that national legislation on the continental shelf prior to 1958 was published in the following United Nations publications:

1. Laws and Regulations on the Régime of the High Seas, vol. I  
(ST/LEG/SER.B/1 and Add.1) (United Nations publication,  
Sales No.: 1951.V.2).
2. Supplement to Laws and Regulations on the Régime of the High Seas,  
vols. I and II and Laws concerning the Nationality of Ships  
(ST/LEG/SER.B/8) (United Nations publication, Sales No.: 59.V.2).

/...

1. Brazil

DECREE 28.840 of 8 November 1950 -

Declares the underwater shelf adjacent to national territory to be an integral part of it and sets forth other provisions.

The President of the Republic,

Considering that the underwater shelf, which borders on the continents and islands and juts out into the high seas, is in fact a submerged territory, and, together with the land to which it lies adjacent, constitutes a single geographic unit;

Considering that the interests of a declaration of sovereignty, or of the domain and jurisdiction of nations, over the part thus added to their national territory, have become more vital as a consequence of the ever-increasing possibility, of the investigation or application of the natural wealth there to be found;

Considering that, as a result, several States of the Americas, by means of Presidential declarations or decrees, have affirmed their just rights of domain and jurisdiction, or of sovereignty, over the part of the underwater shelf, contiguous and corresponding to their national territory (declarations of the President of Mexico, 29 October 1945, of the President of the United States of America, 28 September 1945, and of the President of Chile, 25 June 1947; decrees of the President of Argentina, 11 October 1946, and of the President of Peru, 1 August 1947);

Considering that, in these circumstances, it is incumbent upon the Brazilian Government to safeguard the rights of Brazil over the underwater shelf where it corresponds to our continental and insular territory, by formulating an equivalent declaration;

Considering that a declaration of Brazilian rights has become urgent and admits of no delay;

Considering that fishing, in the territorial waters and on the high seas, has been the object of national laws and of international conventions, and that it may be to the interest of Brazil to participate in new conventions or to promulgate new laws on the subject;

/...



Considering that, under the terms of the Federal Constitution, it falls within the competence of the President of the Republic to act promptly and zealously on behalf of the country's national integrity and internal security, without prejudice, however to the competence of the Legislative Power in this matter;

DECREES:

Art. 1 - Express recognition is hereby taken that the underwater shelf, where it corresponds to the continental and insular territory of Brazil is an integral part of that same territory, under the jurisdiction and exclusive dominion of the Federal Government.

Art. 2 - The use and exploitation of the products or natural riches which are found in this part of the national territory are in all cases subject to federal concession or authorization.

Art. 3 - Rulings on navigation in the waters above the shelf mentioned above continue in full force, without prejudice to those rulings which may later be established, especially as concerns fishing in the region.

Art. 4 - The present decree will enter into force on the date of its publication.

Art. 5 - All dispositions to the contrary are hereby revoked.

2. Dahomey

DECREE NO. 74

Delimiting the Territorial Waters of the Republic of Dahomey  
(7 March 1968)

...

Article 3. Beyond this zone of twelve nautical miles, defined in article 1, and to a further distance of eighty-eight nautical miles, or in other words for a total of 100 nautical miles seawards from the low-tide level or from the first obstacle to navigation, the Republic of Dahomey reserves all rights to the exploitation of the subsoil under the sea.

...

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3. Dominican Republic

ACT NO. 186 on the Territorial Sea of the Dominican Republic

(6 September 1967)

...

Article 7. The Dominican State shall exercise sovereign rights over the continental shelf for the purpose of exploring it and exploiting its natural resources. Accordingly no one shall undertake these activities without the express consent of the Dominican State.

Sole paragraph. For the purpose of this article, the term "continental shelf" refers (a) to the sea-bed and subsoil of the submarine areas adjacent to the coast but outside the area of the territorial sea, to a depth of 200 metres or, beyond that limit, to where the depth of the superjacent waters admits of the exploitation of the natural resources of the said areas; (b) to the sea-bed and subsoil of similar submarine areas adjacent to the coasts of islands under Dominican sovereignty.

...

4. Guatemala

CONSTITUTION OF THE REPUBLIC

(15 September 1965)

...

Article 3. Guatemala exercises full sovereignty and dominion over its territory which includes soil, subsoil, continental shelf, territorial waters, and the space above these, and the natural resources and wealth existing therein, without prejudice to free navigation by sea and air in conformity with law and the provisions of international treaties and agreements.

...

Article 129. The following belong to the nation:

...

/...

4. The maritime and land zone, the continental shelf and the air space above, to an area and in the manner laid down by law or ratified international treaties.

5. The subsoil, deposits of hydrocarbons and minerals and any other organic or inorganic substance in the subsoil.

...

## 5. India

### (a) Constitution (Fifteenth Amendment) Act

...

Article 297. Things of value lying within territorial waters or continental shelf to vest in the Union - all lands, minerals and other things of value underlying the ocean within the territorial waters or the continental shelf of India shall vest in the Union and be held for the purposes of the Union.

### (b) Petroleum and Natural Gas Rules, 1959

#### Chapter I - Preliminary

...

Article 3. Definitions: In the rules, unless the context otherwise requires:

...

"continental shelf" means the sea-bed and sub-soil of submarine areas adjacent to the coast of India including its islands but outside the area of its territorial waters, to a depth of 200 metres, or beyond that limit to where the depth of superjacent water admits of the exploitation of natural resources of the areas;

...

/...

6. Iran

ACT CONCERNING THE CONTINENTAL SHELF

(19 June 1955)

Article 1. The term "continental shelf" as used in this Act shall have the same meaning as the English term "continental shelf" and the French term "plateau continental".

Article 2. The area and the natural resources of the sea-bed and the subsoil thereof to the limits of the continental shelf extend from the coasts of Iran and the coasts of the Iranian islands in the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman, belong to the Iranian Government, and are under the sovereignty of the Government of Iran.

Note: The rules of international law in respect of inland seas shall apply to the Caspian Sea.

Article 3. Where the continental shelf as referred to in the foregoing article extends to the coasts of another country or coincides with that of a neighbouring country, and if disputes arise concerning the limits of Iran's continental shelf, such disputes shall be settled in conformity with the rules of equity, and the Government shall take the necessary steps for the settlement of any disputes through the diplomatic channel.

Article 4. This Act shall in no way affect the provisions of the Act of 24 Tir 1313 concerning the delimitation of Iran's territorial sea and zone of maritime control, and the said Act shall remain in force.

Article 5. This Act shall in no way affect the régime of the waters of the continental shelf with respect to the right of freedom of navigation and arrangements concerning submarine cables. The Government may establish the facilities required for the exploration and exploitation of the natural resources of the continental shelf and it shall take the necessary steps to guarantee the safety of those facilities.

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7. Ivory Coast

DECREE NO. 67-334

Delimiting the Territorial Sea of the Ivory Coast

(1 August 1967)

...

Article 3. Throughout the extent of the continental shelf, comprising the zone lying between the low-water line and the isobath marking depths of 200 metres, the Ivory Coast reserves all rights in respect of exploitation of the subsoil of the ocean floor.

...

8. Nicaragua

POLITICAL CONSTITUTION, 1 NOVEMBER 1950

...

Article 5. The national territory extends between the Atlantic and the Pacific Oceans and the Republics of Honduras and Costa Rica. It also comprises: the adjacent islands, the subsoil, the territorial waters, the continental shelf, the submerged foundations (zócalos submarinos), the air space and the stratosphere.

Such frontiers as may not yet be determined shall be fixed by treaties and by law.

...

9. Senegal

ACT NO. 61-51

ACT providing for the delimitation of the territorial sea, the contiguous zone and the continental shelf adjacent to the coast of Senegal.

(21 June 1961)

Article 3. Senegal reserves all rights to exploitation of the marine subsoil throughout the extent of the continental shelf, that is, the area situated between the low-water line and the 200-metre isobath.

...

## 10. Spain

### (a) ACT OF 26 DECEMBER 1958 INSTITUTING THE LEGAL RÉGIME FOR THE EXPLORATION AND EXPLOITATION OF OIL AND GAS

#### CHAPTER I

##### General Provisions

1. This Act institutes the legal régime for the exploration and exploitation of oil and gas, the deposits of which in Spanish territory constitute an inalienable and imprescriptible national asset in accordance with the traditional provisions of Spanish mining law.

This Act shall apply to the following three zones:

Zone I. Peninsular territory, the Balearic Islands, the Canary Islands and Spanish territories in North Africa.

Zone II. Territories of Guinea.

Zone III. Territories of Spanish West Africa.

Each zone includes the corresponding territorial waters and continental shelf.

...

### (b) DECREE 2615/1966 OF 7 SEPTEMBER 1966 PUBLISHING THE OFFICIAL GRID MAP OF SEA AREAS ON ZONE III (SAHARA)

Article 1 of this Act of 26 December 1958 instituting the legal régime for the exploration and exploitation of oil and gas includes the corresponding waters and continental shelf under Spanish jurisdiction in each of the three Zones into which, for all purposes of the Act, Spanish territory is considered to be divided.

Article 15, paragraph 1, sub-paragraph (b), of the regulations of 12 June 1959 for implementing the Act of 26 December 1958 instituting the legal régime for the exploration and exploitation of oil and gas provides the areas applied for in

/...

Zones II and III and expressed in terms of square numbers shall be defined in accordance with the plan referred to in article 172 which also indicates the boundaries of the squares.

Since the techniques and methods of exploring and exploiting oil and gas in the subsoil of the sea-bed at low depths were at the experimental stage, the grid map did not initially cover sea areas in Zone III (Sahara), even though most of these areas were allotted and deemed to be incorporated, although their boundaries were not defined, in the corresponding coastal squares. However, since the aforesaid methods and techniques have been greatly improved and since most of the areas allotted have reverted to the State as reserves because the areas have been renounced by the concessionnaires, it is advisable to publish the grid of the official map of Zone III for the sea areas under Spanish jurisdiction and the continental shelf.

By virtue whereof, on the proposal of the Minister of Industry and following deliberation by the Council of Ministers at its meeting on 12 August 1966.

I HEREBY ORDER AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1. (I) Article 172 of the regulations for implementing the Act of 26 December 1958 instituting the legal régime for the exploration and exploitation of oil and gas, approved by Decree of 12 June 1959, is hereby amended so as to include the following provision:

"The squares corresponding to sea areas in Zone III (Sahara) shown in the annexed map and with the boundaries indicated below shall also be deemed to be included in the grid referred to in article 15:

"No. 1-a. - Northern boundary:  $27^{\circ} 40' N$ ; southern boundary:  $27^{\circ} 20' N$ ; eastern boundary: the coastline; western boundary: the line joining the point of intersection of latitude  $27^{\circ} 40' N$  and longitude  $13^{\circ} 28' W$  to the point of intersection of latitude  $27^{\circ} 20' N$  and longitude  $13^{\circ} 38' W$ ; total area 101,686 hectares.

"No. 8-a. - Northern boundary:  $27^{\circ} 20' N$ ; southern boundary:  $27^{\circ} 00' N$ ; eastern boundary: the coastline; western boundary: the line joining the point of intersection of latitude  $27^{\circ} 20' N$  and longitude  $13^{\circ} 38' W$  to the point of intersection of latitude  $27^{\circ} 00' N$  and longitude  $13^{\circ} 42' W$ ; total area 108,722 hectares.

/...

- "No. 15-a. - Northern boundary:  $27^{\circ} 00' N$ ; southern boundary:  $26^{\circ} 40' N$ ; eastern boundary: the coastline; western boundary: the line joining the point of intersection of latitude  $27^{\circ} 00' N$  and longitude  $13^{\circ} 42' W$  to the point of intersection of latitude  $26^{\circ} 40' N$  and longitude  $14^{\circ} 10' W$ ; total area 153,132 hectares.
- "No. 22-a. - Northern boundary:  $26^{\circ} 40' N$ ; southern boundary:  $26^{\circ} 20' N$ ; eastern boundary: the coastline; western boundary: the line joining the point of intersection of latitude  $26^{\circ} 40' N$  and longitude  $14^{\circ} 10' W$  to the point of intersection of latitude  $26^{\circ} 20' N$  and longitude  $14^{\circ} 39' W$ ; total area 168,505 hectares.
- "No. 30-a. - Northern boundary:  $26^{\circ} 20' N$ ; southern boundary:  $26^{\circ} 00' N$ ; eastern boundary: the coastline; western boundary: the line joining the point of intersection of latitude  $26^{\circ} 20' N$  and longitude  $14^{\circ} 39' W$  to the point of intersection of latitude  $26^{\circ} 00' N$  and longitude  $15^{\circ} 07' W$ ; total area 164,756 hectares.
- "No. 39-a. - Northern boundary:  $26^{\circ} 00' N$ ; southern boundary:  $25^{\circ} 40' N$ ; eastern boundary: the coastline; western boundary: the line joining the point of intersection of latitude  $26^{\circ} 00' N$  and longitude  $15^{\circ} 07' W$  to the point of intersection of latitude  $25^{\circ} 40' N$  and longitude  $15^{\circ} 38' W$ ; total area 322,661 hectares.
- "No. 43-a. - Northern boundary:  $25^{\circ} 40' N$ ; southern boundary:  $25^{\circ} 20' N$ ; eastern boundary: the coastline; western boundary: the line joining the point of intersection of latitude  $25^{\circ} 40' N$  and longitude  $15^{\circ} 38' W$  to the point of intersection of latitude  $25^{\circ} 20' N$  and longitude  $16^{\circ} 04' W$ ; total area 413,151 hectares.
- "No. 47-a. - Northern boundary:  $25^{\circ} 20' N$ ; southern boundary:  $25^{\circ} 00' N$ ; eastern boundary: the coastline; western boundary: the line joining the point of intersection of latitude  $25^{\circ} 20' N$  and longitude  $16^{\circ} 04' W$  to the point of intersection of latitude  $25^{\circ} 00' N$  and longitude  $16^{\circ} 14' W$ ; total area 477,868 hectares.
- "No. 51-a. - Northern boundary:  $25^{\circ} 00' N$ ; southern boundary:  $24^{\circ} 20' N$ ; eastern boundary: the coastline; western boundary: the line joining the point of intersection of latitude  $25^{\circ} 00' N$  and longitude  $16^{\circ} 14' W$  to the point of intersection of latitude  $24^{\circ} 20' N$  and longitude  $16^{\circ} 42' W$ ; total area 1,104,275 hectares.
- "No. 60-a. - Northern boundary:  $24^{\circ} 20' N$ ; southern boundary:  $24^{\circ} 00' N$ ; eastern boundary: the coastline; western boundary: the line joining the point of intersection of latitude  $24^{\circ} 20' N$  and longitude  $16^{\circ} 42' W$  to the point of intersection of latitude  $24^{\circ} 00' N$  and longitude  $16^{\circ} 47' W$ ; total area 460,568 hectares.

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- "No. 65-a. - Northern boundary:  $24^{\circ} 00' N$ ; southern boundary:  $23^{\circ} 20' N$ ; eastern boundary: the coastline; western boundary: the line joining the point of intersection of latitude  $24^{\circ} 00' N$  and longitude  $16^{\circ} 47' W$  to the point of intersection of latitude  $23^{\circ} 20' N$  and longitude  $17^{\circ} 05' W$ ; total area 841,338 hectares.
- "No. 77-a. - Northern boundary:  $23^{\circ} 20' N$ ; southern boundary:  $23^{\circ} 00' N$ ; eastern boundary: the coastline; western boundary: the line joining the point of intersection of latitude  $23^{\circ} 20' N$  and longitude  $17^{\circ} 05' W$  to the point of intersection of latitude  $23^{\circ} 00' N$  and longitude  $17^{\circ} 13' W$ , total area 377,994 hectares.
- "No. 82-a. - Northern boundary:  $23^{\circ} 00' N$ ; southern boundary:  $22^{\circ} 40' N$ ; eastern boundary: the coastline; western boundary: the line joining the point of intersection of latitude  $23^{\circ} 00' N$  and longitude  $17^{\circ} 13' W$  to the point of intersection of latitude  $22^{\circ} 40' N$  and longitude  $17^{\circ} 19' W$ ; total area 379,273 hectares.
- "No. 82-b. - Northern boundary:  $22^{\circ} 40' N$ ; southern boundary:  $22^{\circ} 20' N$ ; eastern boundary: the coastline; western boundary: the line joining the point of intersection of latitude  $22^{\circ} 40' N$  and longitude  $17^{\circ} 19' W$  to the point of intersection of latitude  $22^{\circ} 20' N$  and longitude  $17^{\circ} 27' W$ ; total area 361,186 hectares.
- "No. 91-a. - Northern boundary:  $22^{\circ} 20' N$ ; southern boundary:  $22^{\circ} 00' N$ ; eastern boundary: the coastline; western boundary: the line joining the point of intersection of latitude  $22^{\circ} 20' N$  and longitude  $17^{\circ} 27' W$  to the point of intersection of latitude  $22^{\circ} 00' N$  and longitude  $17^{\circ} 29' W$ ; total area 267,118 hectares.
- "No. 97-a. - Northern boundary:  $22^{\circ} 00' N$ ; southern boundary:  $21^{\circ} 40' N$ ; eastern boundary: the coastline; western boundary: the line joining the point of intersection of latitude  $22^{\circ} 00' N$  and longitude  $17^{\circ} 29' W$  to the point of intersection of latitude  $21^{\circ} 40' N$  and longitude  $17^{\circ} 30' W$ ; total area 213,288 hectares.
- "No. 97-b. - Northern boundary:  $21^{\circ} 40' N$ ; southern boundary:  $21^{\circ} 20' N$ ; eastern boundary: the coastline; western boundary: the line joining the point of intersection of latitude  $21^{\circ} 40' N$  and longitude  $17^{\circ} 30' W$  to the point of intersection of latitude  $21^{\circ} 20' N$  and longitude  $17^{\circ} 32' W$ ; total area 197,824 hectares.
- "No. 97-c. - Northern boundary:  $21^{\circ} 20' N$ ; southern boundary:  $21^{\circ} 00' N$ ; eastern boundary: the coastline; western boundary: the line joining the point of intersection of latitude  $21^{\circ} 00' N$  and longitude  $17^{\circ} 32' W$  to the point of intersection of latitude  $21^{\circ} 00' N$  and longitude  $17^{\circ} 36' W$ ; total area 198,274 hectares.

/...

"No. 97-d. - Northern boundary:  $21^{\circ} 00'$  N; southern boundary:  $20^{\circ} 46'$  N; eastern boundary: the coastline; western boundary: the line joining the point of intersection of latitude  $21^{\circ} 00'$  N and longitude  $17^{\circ} 36'$  W to the point of intersection of latitude  $20^{\circ} 46'$  N and longitude  $17^{\circ} 48'$  W; total area 165,970 hectares.

"All longitudes are in relation to the Greenwich meridian.

"The zone of sovereignty over the continental shelf of the above-mentioned territory not covered by the squares specified about may be the subject of later demarcation."

(II) The map referred to in the added provision constitutes the annex to this Decree, and shall be published as a map annexed to the regulations.

Article 2. Squares Nos. 1-a, 8-a, 15-a, 22-a, 30-a, 39-a, 43-a, 60-a, 77-a, 97-a, 97-b, 97-c and 97-d are included in areas which have reverted to the State as reserves, having been renounced by the concessionnaires, and shall continue to be reserves.

Squares Nos. 82-a, 82-b and 91-a, which have never been allotted, shall continue to be free and subject to registration.

Squares No. 47-a, 51-a and 65-a, the perimeters of which are included in the concessions granted to the Spanish Gulf Company and the Compañía Española de Petróleos, S.A., jointly, under Decree 195 of 11 February 1960 and Decree 1608 of 10 August 1960 shall continue to be allotted to those companies.

...

# 11. United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

## (a) CONTINENTAL SHELF ACT 1964

### AN ACT

To make provision as to the exploration and exploitation of the continental shelf; to enable effect to be given to certain provisions of the Convention on the High Seas done in Geneva on 28 April 1958; and for matters connected with those purposes.

(15 April 1964)

/...

...  
1. - (1) Any rights exercisable by the United Kingdom outside territorial waters with respect to the sea-bed and subsoil and their natural resources, except so far as they are exercisable in relation to coal, are hereby vested in Her Majesty. Exploration and exploitation of continental shelf.

(2) In relation to any coal with respect to which those rights are exercisable the Coal Industry Nationalisation Act 1946 shall apply as it applies in relation to coal in Great Britain, but with the modification that the National Coal Board shall not engage in any operations for the purpose of working or getting the coal without the consent of the Minister of Power, which may be given on such terms and subject to such conditions as he thinks fit.

...  
(7) Her Majesty may from time to time by Order in Council designate any area as an area within which the rights mentioned in subsection (1) of this section are exercisable, and any area so designated is in this Act referred to as a designated area.

...  
(b) THE CONTINENTAL SHELF (DESIGNATION OF ADDITIONAL AREAS)  
ORDER 1968

Whereas by the Continental Shelf (Designation of Areas) Order 1964 (a) and by the Continental Shelf (Designation of Additional Areas) Order 1965 (b), certain areas outside the territorial waters of the United Kingdom are designated as areas within which the rights of the United Kingdom with respect to the sea-bed and subsoil and their natural resources may be exercised:

Now, therefore, Her Majesty in exercise of the powers conferred upon Her by the Continental Shelf Act 1964 (c), and of all other powers enabling Her in that behalf is pleased, by and with the advice of Her Privy Council, to order, and it is hereby ordered, as follows:

1. This Order may be cited as the Continental Shelf (Designation of Additional Areas) Order 1968.

- (a) S.I. 1964/697 (1964 II, p. 1340).  
(b) S.I. 1965/1531 (1965 II, p. 4447).  
(c) 1964 c. 29.

2. The rights exercisable by the United Kingdom outside territorial waters with respect to the sea-bed and subsoil and their natural resources may be exercised in the area defined in the Schedule to this Order.

#### SCHEDULE

Article 2 of this Order applies to the area bounded:

(a) on the North and East by a line starting at the following co-ordinates on European Datum:

(1)  $55^{\circ} 20' 26''$  N:  $6^{\circ} 00' 00''$  W, and thence following the seaward limit of the territorial waters off the west coast of Scotland to the co-ordinates numbered (40) in the Schedule to the Continental Shelf (Designation of Additional Areas) Order 1965, and by a line joining the co-ordinates numbered (40), (39) and (38) in the aforesaid Schedule and thence following the seaward limits of the territorial waters off the west coast of England to latitude  $50^{\circ}$  North;

(b) on the South by a line joining the following co-ordinates on European Datum:

(2)  $50^{\circ} 00' 00''$  N;  $5^{\circ} 44' 23''$  W (3)  $50^{\circ} 00' 00''$  N;  $6^{\circ} 10' 54''$  W; thence following the seaward limit of the territorial waters north of the Isles of Sicily and by a line joining the following co-ordinates on European Datum:

(4)  $50^{\circ} 00' 00''$  N:  $6^{\circ} 25' 53''$  W (5)  $50^{\circ} 00' 00''$  N:  $7^{\circ} 00' 00''$  W;

(c) on the West by lines joining the following co-ordinates on European Datum:

(5)  $50^{\circ} 00' 00''$  N:  $7^{\circ} 00' 00''$  W; (6)  $50^{\circ} 50' 00''$  N:  $7^{\circ} 00' 00''$  W;  
 (7)  $50^{\circ} 50' 00''$  N:  $6^{\circ} 48' 00''$  W; (8)  $51^{\circ} 00' 00''$  N:  $6^{\circ} 48' 00''$  W;  
 (9)  $51^{\circ} 00' 00''$  N:  $6^{\circ} 36' 00''$  W; (10)  $51^{\circ} 20' 00''$  N:  $6^{\circ} 36' 00''$  W;  
 (11)  $51^{\circ} 20' 00''$  N:  $6^{\circ} 24' 00''$  W; (12)  $51^{\circ} 30' 00''$  N:  $6^{\circ} 24' 00''$  W;  
 (13)  $51^{\circ} 30' 00''$  N:  $6^{\circ} 12' 00''$  W; (14)  $51^{\circ} 40' 00''$  N:  $6^{\circ} 12' 00''$  W;  
 (15)  $51^{\circ} 40' 00''$  N:  $6^{\circ} 00' 00''$  W; (16)  $51^{\circ} 50' 00''$  N:  $6^{\circ} 00' 00''$  W;  
 (17)  $51^{\circ} 50' 00''$  N:  $5^{\circ} 48' 00''$  W; (18)  $52^{\circ} 00' 00''$  N:  $5^{\circ} 48' 00''$  W;  
 (19)  $52^{\circ} 00' 00''$  N:  $5^{\circ} 36' 00''$  W; (20)  $52^{\circ} 10' 00''$  N:  $5^{\circ} 36' 00''$  W;  
 (21)  $52^{\circ} 10' 00''$  N:  $5^{\circ} 24' 00''$  W; (22)  $52^{\circ} 20' 00''$  N:  $5^{\circ} 24' 00''$  W;  
 (23)  $52^{\circ} 20' 00''$  N:  $5^{\circ} 12' 00''$  W; (24)  $54^{\circ} 00' 00''$  N:  $5^{\circ} 12' 00''$  W;  
 (25)  $54^{\circ} 00' 00''$  N:  $5^{\circ} 57' 28''$  W;

and thence following the seaward limit of territorial waters off the east coast of Northern Ireland to the following co-ordinates on European Datum:

(26)  $55^{\circ} 14' 08''$  N:  $6^{\circ} 00' 00''$  W

and thence following the meridian of  $6^{\circ}$  W Longitude to co-ordinates No. 1 in this Schedule.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This Note is not part of the Order)

The purpose of this Order is to designate areas of the Continental Shelf in the Irish Sea, St. George's Channel and the Bristol Channel as areas in which the rights of the United Kingdom with respect to the sea-bed and subsoil and their natural resources may be exercised.

12. Venezuela

ACT OF 27 JULY 1956 CONCERNING THE TERRITORIAL SEA, CONTINENTAL SHELF, FISHERY PROTECTION AND AIR SPACE

TITLE II

The continental shelf

Article 4. The Republic of Venezuela shall own and have sovereignty over the sea-bed and subsoil of the submarine shelf adjacent to the territory of the Republic of Venezuela outside the area of the territorial sea; to a depth of 200 metres or, beyond that limit, to where the depth of the waters admits of the exploitation of the resources of the sea-bed and subsoil in accordance with technical progress in exploration and exploitation. Channels, depressions or irregularities in the sea-bed of the continental shelf shall not constitute a break in the continuity of that shelf, and banks which by position or natural conditions are related to the continental shelf shall be comprised therein.

The continental shelf of the Republic of Venezuela shall include the continental shelf, as just defined, of the islands of the Republic.

Article 5. Installations necessary for the exploration and exploitation of the continental shelf shall be subject to the sovereignty of the Republic, and the Republic shall, in the safety zones which it establishes around such installations, take such measures for the protection of those installations as it considers necessary.

Article 6. In the exploration and exploitation of its continental shelf, the State shall ensure that no interference is caused to navigation, fishing or the development of fish resources. The State shall also ensure that appropriate precautions are taken with regard to the installation of electric power cables, oil pipelines and the like.

TITLE III

Fishery protection

Article 7. The exploration and exploitation of the sedentary fisheries of the continental shelf of Venezuela shall be subject to the prior authorization and to the control of the national executive.

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VI. List of national laws, orders and regulations comprising exploration  
and exploitation procedures and safety practices

/...

1. Australia

New South Wales

- (a) Petroleum (Submerged Lands) Act, 1967.
- (b) Petroleum (Submerged Lands) Taxation Act, 1967.
- (c) Petroleum (Further Amendment) Act, 1967.
- (d) Mining Act, 1906-1967.
- (e) Petroleum Act, 1955-1963.
- (f) Fisheries and Oyster Farms Act, 1935-1966.

Queensland

- (a) Petroleum (Submerged Lands) Act, 1967.
- (b) Mineral Resources (Adjacent Submarine Areas) Act, 1964.
- (c) Fisheries Act, 1957-1962.

South Australia

- (a) Mining (Petroleum) Act, 1940-1967.
- (b) Mining (Petroleum) Act, 1940 - General Regulations.
- (c) Fisheries Act, 1917-1967.
- (d) Regulations under the Fisheries Act, 1917-1967.
- (e) Fibre and Sponges Act, 1909-1937.

Tasmania

- (a) Petroleum (Submerged Lands) Act, 1967.

Victoria

- (a) Petroleum (Submerged Lands) Act, 1967.
- (b) Underseas Mineral Resources Act, 1963.
- (c) Fisheries Act, 1958.

Western Australia

- (a) Pearling Act, 1912-1949.
- (b) Fisheries Act, 1905-1966.



2. France

- (a) Draft Act concerning the exploration of the continental shelf and the exploitation of its natural resources.<sup>1/</sup>

3. Guatemala

- (a) Mining Code, Legislative Decree No. 342.
- (b) Regulations of the Mining Code, Legislative Decree No. 342.
- (c) Petroleum Code, Decree No. 345.
- (d) Regulations of the Petroleum Code, Decree No. 445.

4. India

- (a) Petroleum and Natural Gas Rules, 1959.
- (b) Oilfields (Regulation and Development) Act, 1948, as modified up to 1 June 1958.

5. Iran

- (a) Act on Survey, Exploration and Exploitation of the Oil Resources in the Iranian Territory and its continental shelf.
- (b) Agreement between National Iranian Oil Company and Pan American American Petroleum Corporation, 24 April 1958.
- (c) Agreement between National Iranian Oil Company and Farsi Petroleum Company (FPC), 19 January 1965.
- (d) Joint Structure Agreement between National Iranian Oil Company and Iranian Marine International Oil Company, 17 January 1965.
- (e) Joint Structure Agreement between National Iranian Oil Company and:
  - Tidewater Oil Company
  - Skelly Oil Company
  - Sunray DX Oil Company
  - The Superior Oil Company
  - Kerr-McGee Oil Industries, Inc.
  - Cities Service Company
  - Richfield Oil Corporation, 16 January 1965.

<sup>1/</sup> This draft act which has been proposed by the Government of France for adoption by the French Parliament was received by the United Nations Secretariat in reply to the circular note of the Secretary-General of 9 April 1968.

(f) Joint Structure Agreement between National Iranian Oil Company and:

Wintershall Aktiengesellschaft

Deutsche Schatbau - UND

Tiefbohrgesellschaft M.B.H.

Gelsenkirschener Bergwerks - Aktiengesellschaft

Gewerkschaft Elwerath

Scholven - Chemie Aktiengesellschaft

Deutsche Erdoel - Aktiengesellschaft

Preussag Aktiengesellschaft, 16 June 1965

(g) Joint Structure Agreement between National Iranian Oil Company and:

Atlantic Refining Company

Murphy Oil Corporation

Sun Oil Company

Union Oil Company of California, 18 January 1965

(h) Joint Structure Agreement between National Iranian Oil Company and

Bataafse Petroleum Maatschappij N.V., 16 January 1965.

6. Kuwait

(a) Oil Concession Agreement between the Ruler of Kuwait and Kuwait

Shell Petroleum Development Co. Ltd., 16 January 1961.

7. New Zealand

(a) Petroleum Act, 1937-1967.

(b) Petroleum Regulations, 1939-1964.

(c) Fisheries Act, 1908-1967.

8. Nicaragua

(a) General Act on the Exploitation of Natural Resources, Decree No. 316 of 12 March 1958.

(b) Special Act on the Exploration and Exploitation of Petroleum, Decree No. 372 of 26 November 1958.

(c) Special Act on the Exploitation of Fisheries, Decree No. 557 of 20 December 1960.

(d) Special Act on the Exploration and Exploitation of Mines and Quarries, Decree No. 1067 of 25 February 1965.

9. Nigeria

- (a) Mineral Oils Ordinance, 1914-1958.
- (b) Mineral Oils Act, 1962.
- (c) Mineral Oils (Safety) Regulations, 1963.
- (d) Sea Fisheries (Lagos) Act, 1961.

10. Spain

- (a) Act of 26 December 1958 instituting the Legal Regime for the Exploration and Exploitation of Oil and Gas.
- (b) Regulations for implementing the Act Instituting the Legal Regime for the Exploration and Exploitation of Oil and Gas, approved by Decree 977/1959 of 12 June 1959.

11. United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

- (a) Coal Industry Nationalisation Act, 1946.
- (b) Code of Safe Practice for Drilling, Production and Pipeline Operations in Marine Areas, 1964.<sup>1/</sup>
- (c) Continental Shelf (Protection of Installations) (No. 1) Order, 1967.
- (d) Continental Shelf (Protection of Installations) (No. 2) Order, 1968.
- (e) Continental Shelf (Jurisdiction) Order, 1968.<sup>2/</sup>

12. Yugoslavia

- (a) Basic Law on Mineral Ores, 18 February 1966.
- (b) Basic Law on the Sea Fishing Industry, 27 February 1965.

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<sup>1/</sup> This Code has been provided by the Government of the United Kingdom in reply to the circular note of the Secretary-General of 9 April 1968 with the explanation that, although the Code is not a Government document and has no force in law, it is mentioned in the Note of the Minister of Power of the United Kingdom, on 13 June 1968.

<sup>2/</sup> This order revoked the Continental Shelf (Jurisdiction) Order, 1965.