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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

Note by the Secretariat

In his statement of 27 March 1968 (document A/AC.135/5), the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee suggested, inter alia, that the Secretary-General be requested to furnish papers for the information of the Economic and Technical Working Group of the following subjects: "(a) present state of knowledge of the characteristics and resources of the sea-bed and ocean floor and its subsoil including full estimates of the extent of such resources and the economic implications of their exploitation with particular reference to world trade and prices; (b) the present state of knowledge of methods of exploration and exploitation of these resources and foreseeable developments in this field; (c) the effect of such exploitation on the superjacent waters and on other uses of the marine environment; (d) account of present state of exploratory and exploitative activities in the sea-bed and ocean floor and its subsoil."

The Secretariat wishes to inform the members of the Ad Hoc Committee that basic information can be found in document E/4449/Add.1 in pages 5-37 with respect to the first part of (a), namely "present state of knowledge...", and in pages 38-86 with respect to (b).

As far as the second part of (a) is concerned, namely "economic implications of their exploitation with particular reference to world trade and prices", as well as (c) and (d), studies as requested could not be prepared without the help of highly specialized consultants, the recruitment of which proved to be impossible during the short time left between the first and the second meetings of the Committee.

The Secretariat, however, was able to prepare two preliminary notes relating to the second part of (a) and to (c) for the consideration of the Economic and Technical Working Group.

These notes are contained in documents A/AC.135/14 and A/AC.135/15.

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