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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

PROGRAMME OF WORK: STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN
OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE AT ITS TENTH MEETING
ON 17 JUNE 1968

In commenting on the time schedule for our work at this second session in my statement of 27 March 1968 at the ninth meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee, I stated that it was expected that sufficient material would be ready in time to permit the two Working Groups to start their work by Monday, 17 June, and that this date was, therefore, proposed for the commencement of the second session of the Ad Hoc Committee.

We have before us sufficient documents containing some of the material which the Secretary-General was requested to furnish to permit the two Working Groups to start work. These documents are with the members of the Committee and I do not, therefore, need to enumerate them in detail.

As regards the material required for the Legal Working Group, one statement is already with the members of the Committee and a second is in the course of preparation and is likely to be ready very shortly.

I look forward to hearing from the Secretariat from time to time as and when the rest of the material required for both Working Groups is likely to be ready or is in fact ready.

On behalf of the Committee I should like to convey our sincere thanks to the Secretary-General and his staff for the assistance they have so far rendered us in preparing this material. I also wish to thank the Inter-Governmental Oceanographic Commission for the paper on the scientific aspects of this item which I understand will be ready in the English version within a few days.

An important aspect of the documentation is the supply of documents in the working languages. The Secretariat will no doubt keep this Committee informed of the progress made in regard to the translation work.

The Secretariat has had a heavy burden imposed on it in preparing such a volume of documentation in so short a period of time and I am sure I am voicing the sentiments of all delegations in expressing our deep appreciation of the work done by the Secretariat.

In regard to the work to be performed by the two Working Groups, I would suggest that they determine their own programmes of work themselves in accordance with the terms of reference as set forth in General Assembly resolution 2340 (XXII) and as agreed upon at the last session of the Ad Hoc Committee.

The scientific aspects of the item, on which a paper has been prepared by the IOC as just mentioned by me, will be considered by the Ad Hoc Committee itself in due course. The Committee has also reserved to itself the consideration of the political, military and other aspects of the item. These would have to be dealt with at an appropriate time either at the end of the present session or during the third session.

The Ad Hoc Committee has also agreed that the question of the practical means of promoting international co-operation as set forth in operative paragraph 2 (c) of General Assembly resolution 2340 (XXII) should be considered by the Committee itself though the Working Groups would be free in their reports on their respective spheres of work to include any indications in regard to this aspect of the question that might emerge during their discussions.

Generally, in regard to any aspects of the item the Working Groups would be free irrespective of whether they have been referred to them or not to take them into consideration if they impinge on or have a bearing on any aspect of their own work.

As regards the co-ordination of the work of the two Working Groups, it was agreed at the last session that the Working Groups could hold formal or informal meetings as desirable, and that they would meet alternately in mornings and afternoons according to a schedule. As far as co-ordination between the two Working Groups is concerned, it may well prove to be difficult to avoid some overlapping. Since co-ordination between the two is to be the responsibility of

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the Ad Hoc Committee itself, I would suggest that in cases where any such problems arise, the Chairmen of the two Groups consult with the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee in order to arrive at a satisfactory resolution of any problems confronting them.

I wish the two Working Groups success in their tasks. I trust that they will be in a position to furnish their reports early enough to enable the Ad Hoc Committee itself to devote a few working days to the consideration of these reports before the date fixed for the conclusion of the session.

There may be certain delegations that wish to make statements on matters of substance. If any delegations so desire, I shall make arrangements for the Ad Hoc Committee to meet to enable such statements to be made. I should like such delegations to indicate their wishes in this regard to the Secretariat as early as possible. This need not hold up the work of the two Working Groups which, I suggest, should arrange to start their work tomorrow.

STATUS OF DOCUMENTATION FOR THE SECOND SESSION OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE
ON THE SEA-BED AND THE OCEAN FLOOR AS OF 17 JUNE 1968

(list prepared by the Secretariat)

<u>Symbol</u>	<u>Title</u>	
A/AC.135/7	Resources of the Sea (E/4449)	- Circulated
A/AC.135/9	Marine Science and Technology (E/4487)	- Circulated
A/AC.135/10	Survey of Existing International Agreements concerning the Sea-Bed and the Ocean Floor, and the Sub-Soil thereof, Underlying the High Seas beyond the Limits of Present National Jurisdiction	- Circulated
A/AC.135/11	Survey of National Legislation on Sea-Bed	- Expected to be circulated on 21 June
A/AC.135/12	Summary of Views of Member States	- Expected to be circulated on 21 June
A/AC.135/13	Note by the Secretariat	- Circulated
A/AC.135/14	Economic Implications of the Exploitation of Mineral Resources on and Underlying the Sea-Bed and Ocean Floor and its Sub-Soil with particular reference to World Trade and Prices	- Circulated
A/AC.135/15	Effect of the Exploitation of Mineral Resources on the Superjacent Waters and on Other Uses of the Marine Environment	- Circulated
A/AC.135/17	Scientific Aspects of Peaceful Uses of the Ocean Floor (final text received today)	- English available on 24 June. Translations may need more than 2 weeks
	Legal aspects of the question of the reservation exclusively for peaceful purposes of the sea-bed and the ocean floor, and the subsoil thereof, underlying the high seas beyond the limits of present national jurisdiction, and the use of their resources in the interests of mankind	- In preparation