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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 SECRETARY-GENERAL

1. In addition to the replies of Member Governments under operative paragraph 3 (a) of General Assembly resolution 2340 (XXII), communicated to the Ad Hoc Committee in document A/AC.135/1 and Add.1 and 2, the Secretary-General has now received a reply from the Government of Japan.
2. The substantive part of this reply is reproduced in the present document.

JAPAN

[Original: English]  
20 March 1968

The following are the tentative observations of the Government of Japan in response to the Secretary-General's note dated 5 January 1968. It may wish to make additional observations upon further study.

The Government of Japan favours the principle that the sea-bed and the ocean floor beyond the limits of national jurisdiction should be preserved from national appropriations and that their exploration and use should be conducted for the benefit of all mankind.

It considers that the study and discussion in the Ad Hoc Committee should be confined to the sea-bed and the ocean floor so that the long established principles of freedom of high seas should not be affected in any way. In this connexion it wishes to point out that the provisions of the Continental Shelf Convention of 1958 should not be taken as international customary laws.

The Government of Japan would wish that deliberations in the Ad Hoc Committee would not lead to discouraging or delaying exploration of the sea-bed and the ocean floor and exploitation of their resources by States including those who have advanced marine technology.

It is the view of the Government of Japan that it will be appropriate and desirable to include in the subjects of study the prohibition of utilization of the sea-bed and the ocean floor for any military purposes.

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