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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 documents A/AC.135/1 and Add.1, 2 and 3, the Secretary-General has now received replies from the Governments of Morocco and Brazil.
2. The substantive parts of these replies are reproduced in the present document, in the order in which they were received, for the information of members of the Committee.

MOROCCO

[Original: French]  
26 March 1968

The objectives assigned to the Ad Hoc Committee to Study the Peaceful Uses of the Sea-Bed and the Ocean Floor beyond the Limits of National Jurisdiction are definitely of interest to all countries which have a seacoast. Morocco is therefore in favour of the establishment of the Committee, on which many States are represented.

BRAZIL

[Original: English]  
29 March 1968

The position of the Brazilian Government in relation to the text of resolution 2340 (XXII) is, generally speaking, the following:

(1) It is our understanding that the expression "as contemplated in the title of the item" after "the sea-bed and ocean floor and the sub-soil thereof" represents merely a mechanical device to facilitate reference to the item without implying acceptance of any prejudgement of any of the aspects of the question. In this respect, we are in agreement with the interpretation given by the delegate of Belgium in the First Committee at the twenty-second session of the General Assembly when he submitted the draft on behalf of the co-sponsors;

(2) With reference to sub-paragraphs (a) and (b) of operative paragraph 2 of the resolution, it is our opinion that they do not envisage any specific recommendation by the Committee to the General Assembly, but rather that they assign important tasks to enable all Member States to obtain data for a thorough and careful analysis of the facts involved. In our view the objective of the provisions contained in sub-paragraphs (a) and (b) is not to recommend specifically any particular measure, but to make available information and analysis of possible alternatives that will be useful, in particular to the countries less able to obtain such information on their own;

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(3) With reference to sub-paragraph (c) of the same operative paragraph, we believe that the term "indication regarding practical measures" can include more specific data on the activities being carried out through international co-operation. We are particularly interested in stressing that references to international co-operation should lay emphasis on effective technical and scientific assistance to the less developed countries;

(4) As to the mandate of the Committee, we believe that although the subject-matter at issue is the exploration and exploitation of the resources of the sea-bed and ocean floor, the implications and consequences of this activity in the marine environment can be taken into account in so far as they are relevant to a more thorough understanding of the subject.

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