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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

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 to 6, the Secretary-General has now received a reply from the Government of Greece.

The substantive part of this reply is reproduced in the present document.

GREECE

[Original: English]
20 May 1968

... has the honour to communicate below the views of the Greek Ministry of Merchant Marine on the reservation, exclusively for peaceful purposes of the sea-bed and the ocean floor and subsoil thereof underlying the high seas beyond the limits of present national jurisdiction and the use of their resources in the interests of mankind.

"1. In view of anticipated developments in the technological field, the usefulness of the sea-bed and the ocean floor and subsoil thereof is fully recognized.

"2. The reservation of the geophysical resources exclusively for peaceful purposes is a fundamental prerequisite.

"3. The great importance of this subject and its manyfold aspects with respect to the sectors referred to in paragraph 2(b) of General Assembly resolution 2340 (XXII) and, more specifically, its economic and legal aspects, should be recognized.

"4. It is deemed advisable that the attention of the Committee be drawn to the possibility that the proposed arrangement may prompt certain states arbitrarily to extend their territorial waters zone thereby neutralizing the anticipated beneficial results and, at the same time, causing damage to the interests of the world fishing industry.

"5. It should also be stressed that any arrangements regarding exploration should not affect the existing status of the freedom of navigation in the high seas.

"6. It is proposed that any products secured from the sea-bed and ocean floor and the subsoil thereof be by priority used for the benefit of the states bordering the sea area being exploited and then for other purposes in general.

"7. It is imperative that in the course of exploiting the geophysical resources referred to above the application of any methods which might cause harm to marine flora or fauna be avoided."
