



UNITED NATIONS  
GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY



Distr.  
GENERAL

A/AC.138/9  
11 March 1969

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

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COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF THE  
SEA-BED AND THE OCEAN FLOOR BEYOND  
THE LIMITS OF NATIONAL JURISDICTION

SUPPLEMENT TO THE SURVEY OF NATIONAL LEGISLATION CONCERNING  
THE SEA-BED AND THE OCEAN FLOOR, AND THE SUBSOIL THEREOF  
UNDERLYING THE HIGH SEAS BEYOND THE LIMITS OF PRESENT  
NATIONAL JURISDICTION

(A/AC.135/11, A/AC.135/11/Corr.1, A/AC.135/11/Add.1)

Document prepared by the Secretariat

## CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
Note . . . . .	3
I. Limits of the territorial sea . . . . .	4
II. Limits and scope of national jurisdiction over the continental shelf <u>1/</u>	
III. Protection of submarine cables and pipelines <u>1/</u>	
IV. Prevention of pollution of the sea <u>1/</u>	
V. Prohibition of broadcasting from ships, aircraft and marine structure <u>1/</u>	
VI. List of national laws, orders and regulation comprising exploration and exploitation procedures and safety practices . .	7

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1/ No additional information has been received by the United Nations Secretariat.

## NOTE

At its third meeting on 7 February 1969, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of the Sea-Bed and the Ocean Floor beyond the Limits of National Jurisdiction requested the Secretariat to bring the documents that had been submitted to the Ad Hoc Committee up to date.

The present document was prepared in accordance with this request and contains recent information provided or indicated by Governments in response to circular notes sent to them by the Secretary-General on 16 March 1967, 26 January 1968 and 9 April 1968.

# I. Limits of the territorial sea

Recent information received by the United Nations is given below.

1. Burma 12 nautical miles  
(1968)

2. Colombia

The United Nations Secretariat received from the Government of Colombia the following legislative texts:

- (a) Decree of 6 November 1886 - Defining the sea area over which the jurisdiction of the Government extends

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Article 1. The entire sea skirting the Colombian coast from the highest tides up to a distance of one marine league from the coast itself is hereby declared to belong to the territory of Colombia and to be under its jurisdiction.

...

- (b) Act 14 of 31 January 1923 - Amplifying and amending Act 120 of 1919 on hydrocarbons

...

Article 17. For the purpose of article 38 of Act 120 of 1919 on hydrocarbon deposits, and of Act 96 of 1922 on fishing in the coastal waters of the Republic, the territorial sea shall be deemed to be the area skirting the coasts of the mainland and island territory of the Republic up to a distance of twelve sea miles.

...

- (c) Act 79 of 1931 - On customs

...

Article 363. Customs or coastguard officials, and persons duly authorized by the Director-General of Customs or designated for the purpose in writing by any Customs Administration, may at any time board a vessel, vehicle or aircraft in the territory of the Republic or in its territorial waters up to a distance of twenty kilometres from the coast, whether inside or outside their respective districts, for the purpose of examining the

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cargo and making a careful inspection of the vessel, vehicle, or aircraft and of each of its parts, as well as of the persons, luggage or packages on board. To this end they may order the vessel, vehicle or aircraft to stop, if it is in motion, and to resort to whatever enforcement action may be necessary to ensure compliance with the order. Should it appear that there has been violation of the laws of the Republic, incurring the penalty of confiscation of the vessel, vehicle or aircraft, or of all or part of the merchandise on board, such officials shall confiscate it, or arrest or, in case of flight or attempted flight, pursue and arrest any person guilty of the violation.

...

- (d) Decree 3183 of 20 December 1952 - Organizing the Greater Colombian Merchant Marine

...

Article 8

...

Paragraph 1. For the purpose of the present Decree, territorial waters shall be deemed to mean the sea area skirting the mainland and island territory of the Republic up to a distance of three (3) sea miles measured from the lowest tide mark.

Paragraph 2. For the purposes of maritime vigilance, national security, protection of national interests and the exercise of fishing rights, the distance of three sea miles referred to in the foregoing paragraph shall be extended in contiguous waters up to nine (9) sea miles from the outer limit of the territorial sea.

The Colombian Mission to the United Nations also explained that

"... the concept relating to the exploitation of hydrocarbons in the subsoil of the sea-bed should be divorced from the question of the breadth of the territorial sea, since this concept is now included under the idea of the continental shelf; and, in respect of this, Colombia is applying the Convention on the Continental Shelf signed at Geneva on 29 April 1958 following the First United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea."

3. Philippines

Section I of Republic Act No. 3046, 17 June 1961 was amended by Republic Act No. 5446, 18 September 1968. (See document A/AC.135/11, page 8, foot-note No. 4 and document A/AC.135/11/Corr.1, note No. 2.)

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4. Portugal

The United Nations Secretariat received from the Government of Portugal the following legislative text:

"Act No. 2130 of 22 August 1966.

...

Article 5

1. Without prejudice to historic titles, conventions or other international agreements, the Portuguese State exercises exclusive fishing rights and exclusive jurisdiction over fishing in zones of the high seas contiguous to its territorial sea to a distance of twelve miles measured from the baseline of the latter.

2. In the zone between six and twelve miles measured from the baseline of its territorial sea, the Portuguese State has competence to regulate fishing and enforce those regulations, provided they do not result in any discrimination against foreign ships having the right to fish in that zone.

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VI. List of national laws, orders and regulations comprising exploration and exploitation procedures and safety practices

1. Portugal

(a) Decree No. 47973 of 30 September 1967

(b) Legislative Decree No. 47947 of 18 August 1967

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