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

Kuwait: draft decision

The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of the Sea-bed and the Ocean Floor beyond the Limits of National Jurisdiction,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 2574 D (XXIV), which declares that pending the establishment of an international régime for the sea-bed area States and persons, physical or juridical, are bound to refrain from all activities of exploitation of the resources of the area,

Bearing in mind the provisions of the Declaration of Principles contained in General Assembly resolution 2749 (XXV), which declares that the area shall not be subject to appropriation by any means by States or persons, natural or juridical, and that no State shall claim or exercise sovereignty or sovereign rights over any part thereof, and that no State or person shall claim, exercise or acquire rights with respect to the area or its resources incompatible with the international régime to be established and the principles of the Declaration,

Gravely concerned over the evidence adduced before Sub-Committee I which revealed that a number of nations, organizations and consortia were already engaged in operational activities in the area,

Having noted the assurances that some of these companies or consortia were engaged in experiments and were not acting as a commercial enterprise,

Recognizing that scientific research and experimental activities in the area are necessary for the development of technology and the promotion of the exploration of the area and its resources,

Decides in conformity with the provisions of the two aforecited resolutions to call upon all States engaged in activities in the sea-bed area to cease and desist from all commercial activities therein and to refrain from engaging directly or through their nationals in any operations aimed at the commercial exploitation of the area before the establishment of the régime,

Decides also that all arrangements made or to be made for the commercial exploitation of the resources of the area prior to the establishment of the régime shall have no legal validity and shall not form the legal basis for any claims with respect to any part of the area or its resources.