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

Malta: Suggested statement of views
by Sub-Committee III

Sub-Committee III request their Chairman to convey to the Chairman of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of the Sea-bed and Ocean Floor and through the latter to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, their anxious concern at the continuance of atmospheric nuclear weapon tests in the ocean environment which has again been brought to public attention by the explosion by the Government of France of a prototype thermo-nuclear device in the Pacific region as part of a continuing series of nuclear weapon test explosions at Mururoa.

The Sub-Committee have noted the assurances given by the representative of France that effective measures were taken by the Government of France to prevent harmful consequences arising from the particular activities to which reference has been made.

In expressing their anxious concern the Sub-Committee have in mind their special responsibility to propose legal norms for the preservation of the marine environment, including the preservation of marine life, which is a vital element in the subsistence and economy of the Pacific Islanders.

The Sub-Committee believe that it is also desirable to address an urgent appeal to the Government of France that, in view, inter alia, of the possibility of serious harm to the marine environment and to marine life, it cease atmospheric nuclear weapon test explosions.