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

Sub-Committee II

Note by the Chairman

1. Under the terms of the "Agreement Reached on Organization of Work" as read by the Chairman of the Main Committee at its forty-fifth meeting held on 12 March 1971, Sub-Committee II was requested:

"To prepare a comprehensive list of subjects and issues relating to the law of the sea, including those concerning the regimes of the high seas, the continental shelf, the territorial sea (including the question of its breadth and the question of international straits) and contiguous zone, fishing and conservation of the living resources of the high seas (including the question of the preferential rights of coastal States) and to prepare draft treaty articles thereon. It is understood that the Sub-Committee may decide to draft articles before completing the comprehensive list of subjects and issues related to the law of the sea."

2. To accomplish its mandate the Sub-Committee may adopt various procedures. All procedures that are customary in the United Nations practice are open to its choice.

3. The Sub-Committee may wish to commence its work with an exchange of views concerning the subjects and matters allocated to it, including the question of the preparation of a comprehensive list of subjects and issues relating to the law of the sea and the preparation of draft treaty articles thereon. In due time, when appropriate, the Sub-Committee may establish working groups to consider in detail specific aspects of the Sub-Committee's work programme.

4. The agenda and work programme represent a general outline which will cover the period of the current session and the summer session in Geneva.
5. A large amount of documentation was produced in connexion with earlier United Nations Law of the Sea Conferences. Some of the documentation previously prepared for the Sea-Bed Committee and the Ad Hoc Committee may also be relevant for our work. The full Bureau of the Main Committee and Sub-Committees has requested the Secretariat to prepare a list of the most significant United Nations documents.
6. In view of the limited time for substantive work during this session it may be more appropriate to prepare the report of the Sub-Committee to the Main Committee at the conclusion of the summer session. A progress report, in the form of a letter to the Chairman of the Main Committee, prepared by the Bureau of the Sub-Committee, will be made stating the Sub-Committee's progress during this session.
7. I state that this Note of the Chairman has the full approval and endorsement of the Bureau of the Sub-Committee.