

# **Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea**

1973-1982

Concluded at Montego Bay, Jamaica on 10 December 1982

Document:-  
**A/CONF.62/40**

## **Letter dated 26 February 1975 from the representative of Greece to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General**

*Extract from the Official Records of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea, Volume IV (Summary Records, Plenary, General Committee, First, Second and Third Committees, as well as Documents of the Conference, Third Session)*

## DOCUMENT A/CONF. 62/40

Letter dated 26 February 1975 from the representative of Greece  
to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General[Original: English]  
[27 February 1975]

I have the honour to enclose herewith the text of a note dated 27 January 1975 from the Greek Embassy in Ankara to the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, proposing that the dispute over the delimitation of the continental shelf between the two countries be referred to the International Court of Justice at The Hague.

In formulating their proposal, the Greek Government was moved by the view that the Turkish position, resting on such considerations as “areas with special characteristics”, “enclosed” and “semi-enclosed” seas etc., did not offer a sound basis for a negotiated settlement, as unfounded both in international law and in practice.

I have the honour to request that this letter be circulated as an official document of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea.

(Signed) Denis CARAYANNIS  
Representative of Greece  
to the United Nations

Note dated 27 January 1975 from the Embassy of Greece  
at Ankara to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkey

The Greek Embassy presents its compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and, with reference to the exchange of notes regarding the continental shelf in the Aegean, has the honour to advise the Ministry as follows:

The Embassy wishes to remind the Ministry that by note No. 6243.II/44/AS 812 of 24 May 1974 the Greek Government had declared that, while reserving its position, it was not opposed to a delimitation of the continental shelf between the two countries, based on the provisions of

present day positive international law as codified by the Convention on the Continental Shelf, signed at Geneva in 1958.<sup>22</sup>

The Turkish Government stated in response that it was willing to discuss the matter in the framework of the rules of international law.

However, the Turkish Government’s position according to which “the Greek islands sited near the Turkish coast have no continental shelf of their own”—a position reiterated on 16 September 1974—raises considerable doubts as to the inclusion of all the provisions of said Convention on the Continental Shelf in their concept of the “rules of international law”.

In view of the foregoing and taking into additional consideration most recent authoritative clarifications given to the Greek Ambassador in Ankara to the effect that the Turkish Government is animated by a spirit of conciliation, the Greek Government proposes that the differences over the applicable law as well as over the substance of the matter be referred to the International Court of Justice. Indeed, the Greek Government, without prejudice to its right to initiate Court proceedings unilaterally, would see considerable advantage in reaching jointly with the Turkish Government a special agreement under which reference to the Court might be made, as befits two neighbouring countries and fellow Members of the United Nations Organization.

The Greek Embassy would be most obliged to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs if it could be advised in due time of the Turkish Government’s views on this proposal.

<sup>22</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 499, p. 312.

## DOCUMENT A/CONF. 62/41

## Reports submitted by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

[Original: English]  
[24 March 1975]

Note by the Secretary-General of the United Nations  
Conference on Trade and Development

1. The UNCTAD Committee on Commodities, at the first part of its eighth session, (Geneva, 10-21 February 1975) decided, in accordance with a decision of the Trade and Development Board at its thirteenth session,<sup>23</sup> to transmit two reports recently prepared by the UNCTAD secretariat, together with a summary of the views expressed thereon, to the third session of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea.

<sup>23</sup> Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 15, part III, paras. 57 and 58.

2. Accordingly, the following reports are transmitted for presentation to the third session of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea:

Title	Symbol	Date
Implications of the exploitation of the mineral resources of the sea-bed: issues of international commodity policy	TD/B/C.1/170 and Corr.1	8 January 1975
The effects of the production of nickel from the sea-bed, with particular reference to the impact on the export earnings of developing country producers of nickel	TD/B/C.1/172	4 December 1974