

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/C.1/SR.18

18th meeting of the First Committee

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)*

FIRST COMMITTEE

18th meeting

Tuesday, 18 March 1975, at 10.55 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. S. M. THOMPSON-FLORES (Brazil).

Organization of work

1. The CHAIRMAN reported that at the 52nd plenary meeting on the previous day the President of the Conference had said that, since the general debate had been concluded, the Committees should start work as soon as possible. The Bureau of the Committee had recommended that it should be convened in order to begin discussing substantive questions allocated to it immediately.

2. At its 14th meeting on 19 August 1974 the Committee had set up a Working Group to pursue negotiations on articles 1 to 21 relating to principles of the régime (A/CONF.62/C.1/L.3),¹ and particularly on article 9, and on the subject of conditions of exploration and exploitation. The Working Group had 50 members, under the chairmanship of Mr. Pinto (Sri Lanka), but it was under-

¹ See *Official Records of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea*, vol. III (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.75.V.5).

stood that any delegation which was interested could participate in its work.

3. He proposed that the Committee should request the Working Group to begin work as soon as possible.

It was so decided.

4. Mr. PINTO (Sri Lanka) said that he had not yet had time to consult the members of the Working Group as to the method of work to be followed. His own view was that it should meet on 19 March 1975 to review the documentation and texts that had been before it at the end of the second session, assess the situation, and plan the rest of its work on that basis.

5. The CHAIRMAN said that at the second session the Committee had asked the Secretariat to prepare a number of reports. Some of them had already been distributed, and others would be distributed shortly. The Committee could deal with them at a later stage.

The meeting rose at 11.10 a.m.

19th meeting

Wednesday, 26 March 1975, at 11 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. P. B. ENGO (United Republic of Cameroon).

Tribute to the memory of King Faisal of Saudi Arabia

1. The CHAIRMAN announced that a special plenary meeting of the Conference would be held on Thursday, 27 March, to pay tribute to King Faisal of Saudi Arabia, who had died tragically.

At the suggestion of the Chairman, the representatives observed a minute of silence in tribute to the memory of King Faisal.

Officers of the Committee

2. The CHAIRMAN said that at the current session there would be no further statement of principle or of national positions. The time had come to negotiate a convention within the framework of the Declaration of Principles adopted by the General Assembly in resolution

2749 (XXV). There were major political—and possibly, for some, revolutionary—decisions to be taken. Participants should endeavour to negotiate on the basis of the proposals before the Committee—and negotiation did not mean reiterating conflicting views—views that were in any event well known. Those who disagreed about a given issue should meet privately to discuss it. Every agreement would be welcome, from whatever source it emerged.

3. He therefore suggested that the formal work of the Committee and the number of its informal meetings should be curtailed and the work of small negotiating groups intensified.

4. He regretted that Mr. Mott's government duties at home compelled him to give up his office as Rapporteur of the Committee, in which he had served with great ability, competence, understanding and dedication.