

INTRODUCTION

This volume in the *United Nations Legislative Series* is intended to complete, by reproducing up-to-date legal texts, the contents of the previous volumes in the *United Nations Legislative Series* devoted to the law of the sea which were issued prior to the 1958 and 1960 United Nations Conferences on the Law of the Sea, in particular:

- (a) *Laws and Regulations on the Régime of the High Seas*, volume I (Continental Shelf, Contiguous Zones, Supervision of Foreign Vessels on the High Seas) (ST/LEG/SER.B/1, U.N. Sales No.: 1951.V.2);
- (b) *Supplement to Laws and Regulations on the Régime of the High Seas*, volume I (ST/LEG/SER.B/8, U.N. Sales No.: 1959.V.2); and
- (c) *Laws and Regulations on the Régime of the Territorial Sea* (ST/LEG/SER.B/6, U.N. Sales No.: 1957.V.2).

The adoption of four Conventions at the 1958 United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea, namely the Convention on the Territorial Sea and the Contiguous Zone, the Convention on the Continental Shelf, the Convention on the High Seas and the Convention on Fishing and Conservation of the Living Resources of the High Seas, all of which are now in force, gave rise to a new series of legislative texts and treaties concerning different aspects of the law of the sea.

The present volume will, it is hoped, be of assistance to individual Governments and to United Nations bodies which may be concerned with the law of the sea or with various aspects of marine developments, in particular those bodies engaged in the study of the question of the reservation exclusively for peaceful purposes of the sea-bed and ocean floor, and the subsoil thereof, beyond the limits of national jurisdiction. It may also be recalled that, in resolution 2574 (XXIV) of 15 December 1969, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to ascertain the views of Member States "on the desirability of convening at an early date a conference on the law of the sea to review the régimes of the high seas, the continental shelf, the territorial sea and contiguous zones, fishing and conservation of the living resources of the high seas, particularly in order to arrive at a clear, precise and internationally accepted definition of the area of the sea-bed and ocean floor which lies beyond national jurisdiction, in the light of the international régime to be established for that area".

In order to compile the present volume, the Secretary-General addressed notes, dated 16 March 1967 and 26 January 1968, to States members of the United Nations, States members of the specialized agencies and States parties to the Statute of the International Court of Justice, requesting them to transmit to him the text of "laws, regulations,

treaties and other sources of evidence of international law, from the period between 1958 and the present time, and which relate to the delimitation and control of the territorial sea, of contiguous zones and of the continental shelf, and to the exploitation of the resources of the sea, sea-bed and subsoil outside of internal waters". In a further note, dated 9 April 1968, the Secretary-General requested Governments to furnish him also with "National legislation programmes concerning exploitation procedures, and research in natural resources of the sea-bed, ocean floor and subsoil, including available legislation on safety practices in connexion with oil drilling and mining in marine areas".

The present volume reproduces the texts received in response to the Secretary-General's inquiries.¹ The texts have been arranged in two parts: Part I reproduces the texts of national legislation and other acts of national regulation; and Part II comprises treaty provisions. Each Part is divided into four Divisions, as follows:

Division I: Territorial Sea and the Contiguous Zone

Division II: Continental Shelf

Division III: High Seas

Division IV: Fishing and Conservation of the Living Resources of the Sea.

The material contained in Division I of Part I is further divided into sub-divisions and chapters, as indicated in the table of contents. The texts contained in the chapters of Part I, Division I, are arranged, so far as possible in chronological order, under the name of the country concerned. In Part II a distinction has been made between multilateral and bilateral treaties, which are arranged separately in each division.

Charts and maps are not reproduced for technical reasons.

When it was not considered necessary to reproduce a text, the title of the text is marked by an asterisk (*). As in the case of other volumes in the *United Nations Legislative Series*, texts in English or French have been reproduced in the original version only. Texts in other languages have been translated into English; when such translations have been made by the United Nations Secretariat, the titles of the texts concerned have been marked with two asterisks (**).

¹ Some of the texts received by the Secretary-General in response to the above notes have already been published, in whole or in part, in various United Nations documents, in order to supply promptly the appropriate United Nations body with relevant information. See for example the "Survey of Existing International Agreements concerning the Sea-Bed and the Ocean Floor, and the Subsoil thereof, underlying the High Seas beyond the Limits of Present National Jurisdiction" (A/AC.135/10/Rev.1) and the "Survey of National Legislation concerning the Sea-Bed and the Ocean Floor, and the Subsoil thereof, underlying the High Seas beyond the Limits of Present National Jurisdiction" (A/AC.135/11, and Corr.1, and A/AC.135/11/Add.1).