

6. *Notes* that the United Nations forces which were sent to Korea in accordance with United Nations resolutions have in greater part already been withdrawn, that the sole objective of the United Nations forces at present in Korea is to preserve the peace and security of the area, and that the Governments concerned are prepared to withdraw their remaining forces from Korea whenever such action is requested by the Republic of Korea or whenever the conditions for a lasting settlement formulated by the General Assembly have been fulfilled.

*1751st plenary meeting,
20 December 1968.*

2467 (XXIII). Examination of the question of the reservation exclusively for peaceful purposes of the sea-bed and the ocean floor, and the subsoil thereof, underlying the high seas beyond the limits of present national jurisdiction, and the use of their resources in the interests of mankind

A

The General Assembly,

Recalling the item entitled "Examination of the question of the reservation exclusively for peaceful purposes of the sea-bed and the ocean floor, and the subsoil thereof, underlying the high seas beyond the limits of present national jurisdiction, and the use of their resources in the interests of mankind",

Having in mind its resolution 2340 (XXII) of 18 December 1967 concerned with the problems arising in the area to which the title of the item refers,

Reaffirming the objectives set forth in that resolution,

Taking note with appreciation of the report prepared by the *Ad Hoc* Committee to Study the Peaceful Uses of the Sea-Bed and the Ocean Floor beyond the Limits of National Jurisdiction,²⁸ keeping in mind the views expressed in the course of its work and drawing upon its experience,

Recognizing that it is in the interest of mankind as a whole to favour the exploration and use of the sea-bed and the ocean floor, and the subsoil thereof, beyond the limits of national jurisdiction, for peaceful purposes,

Considering that it is important to promote international co-operation for the exploration and exploitation of the resources of this area,

Convinced that such exploitation should be carried out for the benefit of mankind as a whole, irrespective of the geographical location of States, taking into account the special interests and needs of the developing countries,

Considering that it is essential to provide, within the United Nations system, a focal point for the elaboration of desirable measures of international co-operation, taking into account alternative actual and potential uses of this area, and for the co-ordination of the activities of international organizations in this regard,

1. *Establishes* a Committee on the Peaceful Uses of the Sea-Bed and the Ocean Floor beyond the Limits of National Jurisdiction, composed of forty-two States;

2. *Instructs* the Committee:

(a) To study the elaboration of the legal principles and norms which would promote international co-opera-

tion in the exploration and use of the sea-bed and the ocean floor, and the subsoil thereof, beyond the limits of national jurisdiction and ensure the exploitation of their resources for the benefit of mankind, and the economic and other requirements which such a régime should satisfy in order to meet the interests of humanity as a whole;

(b) To study the ways and means of promoting the exploitation and use of the resources of this area, and of international co-operation to that end, taking into account the foreseeable development of technology and the economic implications of such exploitation and bearing in mind the fact that such exploitation should benefit mankind as a whole;

(c) To review the studies carried out in the field of exploration and research in this area and aimed at intensifying international co-operation and stimulating the exchange and the widest possible dissemination of scientific knowledge on the subject;

(d) To examine proposed measures of co-operation to be adopted by the international community in order to prevent the marine pollution which may result from the exploration and exploitation of the resources of this area;

3. *Also calls upon* the Committee to study further, within the context of the title of the item, and taking into account the studies and international negotiations being undertaken in the field of disarmament, the reservation exclusively for peaceful purposes of the sea-bed and the ocean floor without prejudice to the limits which may be agreed upon in this respect;

4. *Requests* the Committee:

(a) To work in close co-operation with the specialized agencies, the International Atomic Energy Agency and the intergovernmental bodies dealing with the problems referred to in the present resolution, so as to avoid any duplication or overlapping of activities;

(b) To make recommendations to the General Assembly on the questions mentioned in paragraphs 2 and 3 above;

(c) In co-operation with the Secretary-General, to submit to the General Assembly reports on its activities at each subsequent session;

5. *Invites* the specialized agencies, the International Atomic Energy Agency and other intergovernmental bodies including the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to co-operate fully with the Committee in the implementation of the present resolution.

*1752nd plenary meeting,
21 December 1968.*

B

The General Assembly,

Recognizing that it is in the common interest of all nations that the exploration and exploitation of the resources of the sea-bed and the ocean floor, and the subsoil thereof, should be conducted in such a manner as to avoid infringement of the other interests and established rights of nations with respect to the uses of the sea,

Mindful of the threat to the marine environment presented by pollution and other hazardous and harmful effects which might result from exploration and exploitation of the areas under consideration,

²⁸ *Ibid.*, *Twenty-third Session*, agenda item 26, document A/7230.

Desiring to promote effective measures of prevention and control of such pollution and to allay the serious damage which might be caused to the marine environment and, in particular, to the living marine resources which constitute one of mankind's most valuable food resources,

Recognizing the complex problem of ensuring effective co-ordination in the wide field of environmental pollution and in the more specific area of prevention and control of marine pollution,

Noting with satisfaction the measures being undertaken by the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization to prevent and control pollution of the sea by preparing new draft conventions and other instruments for that purpose,

Recalling, in this regard, the progress achieved towards such concerted action by intergovernmental bodies and the establishment, by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and its Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization and the World Meteorological Organization, of a joint group of experts on the scientific aspects of marine pollution,

Recalling further the competence and continuing valuable contributions of the other intergovernmental organizations concerned,

1. *Welcomes* the adoption by States of appropriate safeguards against the dangers of pollution and other hazardous and harmful effects that might arise from the exploration and exploitation of the resources of the sea-bed and the ocean floor, and the subsoil thereof, beyond the limits of national jurisdiction, notably in the form of concrete measures of international co-operation for the purpose of realizing this aim;

2. *Considers* that, in connexion with the elaboration of principles underlying possible future international agreements for the area concerned, a study should be made with a view to clarifying all aspects of protection of the living and other resources of the sea-bed and the ocean floor, the superjacent waters and the adjacent coasts against the consequences of pollution and other hazardous and harmful effects arising from various modalities of such exploration and exploitation;

3. *Considers further* that such a study should take into consideration the importance of minimizing interference between the many means by which the wealth of the ocean space may be harvested, and that it should extend to the examination of the circumstances in which measures may be undertaken by States for the protection of the living and other resources of those areas in which pollution detrimental to those resources has occurred or is imminent;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in co-operation with the appropriate and competent body or bodies presently undertaking co-ordinated work in the field of marine pollution control, to undertake the study referred to in paragraphs 2 and 3 above and to submit a report thereon to the General Assembly and the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of the Sea-Bed and the Ocean Floor beyond the Limits of National Jurisdiction.

*1752nd plenary meeting,
21 December 1968.*

C

The General Assembly,

Having considered the item entitled "Examination of the question of the reservation exclusively for peaceful purposes of the sea-bed and the ocean floor, and the subsoil thereof, underlying the high seas beyond the limits of present national jurisdiction, and the use of their resources in the interests of mankind",

Reaffirming that exploration and exploitation of the resources of the sea-bed and the ocean floor, and the subsoil thereof, should be carried out for the benefit of mankind as a whole, taking into special consideration the interests and needs of the developing countries,

Recalling that international co-operation in this field is of paramount importance,

Bearing in mind its resolution A above establishing the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of the Sea-Bed and the Ocean Floor beyond the Limits of National Jurisdiction, and the mandate entrusted to it,

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to undertake a study on the question of establishing in due time appropriate international machinery for the promotion of the exploration and exploitation of the resources of this area, and the use of these resources in the interests of mankind, irrespective of the geographical location of States, and taking into special consideration the interests and needs of the developing countries, and to submit a report thereon to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of the Sea-Bed and the Ocean Floor beyond the Limits of National Jurisdiction for consideration during one of its sessions in 1969;

2. *Calls upon* the Committee to submit a report on this question to the General Assembly at its twenty-fourth session.

*1752nd plenary meeting,
21 December 1968.*

D

The General Assembly,

Convinced that the nations of the world should join together, with due respect for national jurisdiction, in a common long-term programme of exploration of the ocean as a potential source of resources, which should eventually be used for meeting the needs of all mankind with due recognition of those of developing countries and irrespective of the geographical location of States,

Recalling also that in its resolution 2172 (XXI) of 6 December 1966 the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to prepare proposals for ensuring the most effective arrangements for an expanded programme of international co-operation to assist in a better understanding of the marine environment through science, and for initiating and strengthening marine education and training programmes,

Recalling further the proposals made by the Secretary-General in his report,²⁹ pursuant to resolution 2172 (XXI), as well as the various views expressed during the consideration of this subject by the General Assembly at its twenty-third session,

Noting that the Bureau and Consultative Council of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural

²⁹ E/4487 and Corr.1-6, and Add.1.

Organization considered the proposed international decade of ocean exploration a useful initiative for broadening and accelerating investigations of the oceans and for strengthening international co-operation,

Endorsing the objectives expressed in Economic and Social Council resolutions 1380 (XLV), 1381 (XLV) and 1382 (XLV) of 2 August 1968 and recalling particularly the invitation to the General Assembly to endorse the concept of a co-ordinated long-term programme of oceanographic research, taking into account such initiatives as the proposal for an international decade of ocean exploration and international programmes already considered, approved and adopted by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission for implementation in co-operation with other specialized agencies,

Aware of the consideration given to the proposal in the *Ad Hoc* Committee to Study the Peaceful Uses of the Sea-Bed and the Ocean Floor beyond the Limits of National Jurisdiction, arising from the contribution which the international decade of ocean exploration would make to scientific research and exploration of the sea-bed and ocean floor, as an important part of a co-ordinated long-term international programme of oceanographic research,

Seeking to enrich the knowledge of all mankind by encouraging a free flow of scientific information on the oceans to all States,

1. *Welcomes* the concept of an international decade of ocean exploration to be undertaken within the framework of a long-term programme of research and exploration, including scientific research and exploration of the sea-bed and the ocean floor, under the ægis of the United Nations on the understanding that all such activities falling under the national jurisdiction of a State shall be subject to the previous consent of such State, in accordance with international law;

2. *Invites* Member States to formulate proposals for national and international scientific programmes and agreed activities to be undertaken during the international decade of ocean exploration with due regard to the interests of developing countries, to transmit these proposals to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization for the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission in time to begin the decade in 1970, and to embark on such activities as soon as practicable;

3. *Urges* Member States to publish as soon as practicable the results of all activities which they will have undertaken within the framework of the international decade of ocean exploration as part of a long-term co-ordinated programme of scientific research and exploration, and at the same time to communicate these results to the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission;

4. *Requests* the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization that its Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission:

(a) Intensify its activities in the scientific field, within its terms of reference and in co-operation with other interested agencies, in particular with regard to co-ordinating the scientific aspects of a long-term and expanded programme of world-wide exploration of the oceans and their resources of which the international decade of ocean exploration will be an important element, including international agency programmes, an expanded international exchange of data from national programmes, and international efforts to strengthen the research capabilities of all interested nations with particular regard to the needs of the developing countries;

(b) Co-operate with the Secretary-General, in accordance with paragraph 4 of General Assembly resolution 2414 (XXIII) of 17 December 1968 on the resources of the sea in the preparation of the comprehensive outline of the scope of the long-term programme of oceanographic research of which the international decade of ocean exploration will be an important element, making available its views as to the appropriate relationship between the several international programmes already considered, approved and adopted by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission for implementation, the decade, and the long-term programme;

(c) Keep the Secretary-General informed of all proposals, programmes and activities of which it is informed in accordance with paragraphs 2 and 3 above together with any comments it may consider appropriate;

(d) Report through appropriate channels to the General Assembly at its twenty-fourth session on progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.

*1752nd plenary meeting,
21 December 1968.*

* * *

In accordance with the decision taken by the First Committee at its 1648th meeting, on 19 December 1968, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of the Sea-Bed and the Ocean Floor beyond the Limits of National Jurisdiction, established under paragraph 1 of resolution A above, will consist of the following Member States: ARGENTINA, AUSTRALIA, AUSTRIA, BELGIUM, BRAZIL, BULGARIA, CAMEROON, CANADA, CEYLON, CHILE, CZECHOSLOVAKIA, EL SALVADOR, FRANCE, ICELAND, INDIA, ITALY, JAPAN, KENYA, KUWAIT, LIBERIA, LIBYA, MADAGASCAR, MALAYSIA, MALTA, MAURITANIA, MEXICO, NIGERIA, NORWAY, PAKISTAN, PERU, POLAND, ROMANIA, SIERRA LEONE, SUDAN, THAILAND, TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS, UNITED ARAB REPUBLIC, UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND, UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA and YUGOSLAVIA.

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Other decisions

Elimination of foreign military bases in the countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America

(Item 29)

At its 1750th plenary meeting, on 20 December 1968, the General Assembly took note of paragraph 6 of the report of the First Committee.²⁹

²⁹ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-third Session, Annexes, agenda items 27, 28, 29, 94 and 96, document A/7443.*