

DOCUMENT A/CONF.62/L.146

Letter dated 29 April 1982 from the representative of Sierra Leone to the President of the Conference

[Original: English]
[29 April 1982]

I take this opportunity to underscore the importance my Government attaches to the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea and to its equitable and just outcome. As evidence of this, my Government, at great cost and sacrifice, has sent a delegation to every one of the sessions of the Conference since its inception.

My delegation is constrained to register serious reservations to some of the proposals contained in document A/CONF.62/L.132, in particular with respect to annex IV of draft resolution II governing preparatory investment in pioneer activities relating to polymetallic nodules. The decision to allocate 150,000 square kilometres as the size of the exploratory area is not based on objective criteria and, given the number of areas to be allocated to the so-called "pioneer investors", considerably reduces that area of the sea-bed that could be exploited by the Authority.

My delegation also believes that the decision to allocate a minimum of eight sites to the "pioneer investors", as against one to the Enterprise, is inequitable.

It is the considered conclusion of my delegation that the draft resolution relating to preparatory investment grants implicit recognition to the unilateral legislations enacted by certain participants of the Conference and which the Conference has declared illegal. The draft resolution in its present form would delay the coming into operation of the parallel system of exploration and exploitation of the sea-bed resources or at least reduce the Authority to a licensing agent. As regards Part XI, the draft resolution in a way makes the draft convention superfluous. For all these reasons, we have come to the conclusion that this resolution is too high a price to pay to get the industrialized countries to become parties to the convention.

I will respectfully request you to circulate this letter as a document of the Conference.

(Signed) A. C. KOROMA
Representative of Sierra Leone
to the Third United Nations Conference
on the Law of the Sea

DOCUMENT A/CONF.62/L.147

Report to the plenary of the Conference on the recommendations of the Drafting Committee presented by the Chairman of the Drafting Committee on behalf of the President and the Chairman of the First Committee

[Original: English]
[29 April 1982]

1. At an informal plenary meeting of the Conference held on 16 April 1982 consideration was given to the recommendations of the Drafting Committee contained in documents A/CONF.62/L.93 and A/CONF.62/L.94, together comprising approximately 800 proposals.
2. The recommendations of the Drafting Committee approved during the informal plenary meeting of the Conference held on 16 April 1982 are set out in the addendum to the report of the Drafting Committee (A/CONF.62/L.142/Add.1).

DOCUMENT A/CONF.62/L.148

Letter dated 30 April 1982 from the representative of India to the President of the Conference

[Original: English]
[30 April 1982]

1. The Indian delegation to the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea has seen on 29 April 1982 the text of the letter dated 28 April 1982, from the representative of Bangladesh addressed to you, which was circulated to all delegations as document A/CONF.62/L.140 on the same date.

2. In this connection, I have the honour to state as follows:

The proposal concerning the drawing of baselines in the deltaic area referred to in the aforementioned letter by the representative of Bangladesh was made as an informal suggestion with respect to the contents of paragraph 2 of article 7 of the informal composite negotiating text³⁹ at the

seventh session of the Conference held at Geneva from 28 March to 19 May 1978. Their proposal would have allowed the establishment of straight baselines joining base points at sea rather than base points located along the coastline. With reference to their suggestion, and the claim that it had received substantial support, I, as representative of India at the Conference, had made the following statement at the 104th plenary meeting on 18 May 1978:

"54. . . . the informal suggestion made by Bangladesh with respect to the content of paragraph 2 of article 7 (C.2/Informal meeting/6) would have the effect of establishing a new rule of international law, under which a coastal State would be able to establish straight baselines from base points at sea, and would therefore require wide acceptance by the international community before it could come

³⁹ See *Official Records of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea*, vol. VIII (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.78.V.4).