



UNITED NATIONS  
GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY



Distr.  
GENERAL

A/9350  
27 November 1973  
ENGLISH  
ORIGINAL: FRENCH

---

Twenty-eighth session  
Agenda item 40

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 USE OF THEIR RESOURCES IN THE INTERESTS OF MANKIND, AND CONVENING OF A CONFERENCE ON THE LAW OF THE SEA

Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit herewith, for the information of the members of the General Assembly, the text of a cable which he has received in reply to the invitation he addressed to the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam to participate in the third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea in pursuance of paragraph 7 of General Assembly resolution 3067 (XXVIII), as also the text of the cable which he has sent in reply to the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam.

A. Cable dated 22 November 1973 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam addressed to the Secretary-General

I thank you for your message of 16 November 1973, in which you kindly invited the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam to participate in the United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea. I feel obliged, however, to draw your attention to the following. Under the Paris Agreement on Viet-Nam, there are two administrations in South Viet-Nam, i.e. two zones of control from the international point of view. The Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet-Nam is a signatory of the Paris Agreement and the Act of the International Conference on Viet-Nam. It is also an official member of the Summit Conference of Non-Aligned Countries. Consequently, it has full legal competence to participate in the work of all international conferences and organizations affecting the destiny of nations. The fact that no invitation has been sent to the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet-Nam to participate in the United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea, in which all the Viet-Nameese parties should participate, is therefore not in accordance with the Paris Agreement on Viet-Nam, in particular, or in keeping with the international status of the aforesaid Government in general. Accordingly, the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam considers itself unable to participate in the Conference in question and reserves the right to consider null and void any resolutions that may be adopted there which affect the national interests of the Viet-Nameese people without the participation of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet-Nam. The Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam deplures this discriminatory action on the part of the United Nations.

NGUYEN DUY TRINH

/...

B. Cable dated 26 November 1973 from the Secretary-General  
addressed to the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the  
Democratic Republic of Viet-Nam

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your cable of 22 November concerning the invitation to your Government to participate in the United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea, as also of your statement that, in view of the fact that the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet-Nam has not been invited, your Government considers itself unable to participate in the Conference. I am arranging for the reproduction of the text of your cable, and of this cable that I am sending you in reply, in an official document of the General Assembly, for the information of the members of the Assembly.

Kurt WALDHEIM

-----