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LETTER DATED 14 MAY 1999 FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMISSION
ON THE LIMITS OF THE CONTINENTAL SHELF ADDRESSED TO THE
PRESIDENT OF THE NINTH MEETING OF STATES PARTIES

I would like to draw your attention that at the Eighth Meeting of States Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, under the agenda item entitled "Issues submitted to the Meeting of States Parties by the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf" in my capacity as Chairman of the Commission, I presented for consideration of States Parties, inter alia, the issue of financing the participation of members from the developing countries in the work of the Commission. The Commission requested the Meeting of States Parties to consider a recommendation for the establishment of a trust fund to be administered by the Secretary-General of the United Nations. Such a fund would be used to meet the travel and accommodation expenses of members of the Commission from developing countries (SPLOS/28, para. 5 (b)).

The Eighth Meeting of States Parties requested the Secretariat to explore the various possibilities that could be made available to allow all members to participate in the Commission, as well as the modalities for a trust fund, on the understanding that the Convention clearly sets out the principle that States Parties should defray the costs of the members they nominated (SPLOS/31, para. 55).

On behalf of the Commission I would kindly request you to propose to the States Parties to consider this item at their Ninth Meeting following the report of the Secretariat in response to the request of the Eighth Meeting.

(Signed) Yuri B. KAZMIN
Chairman of the Commission
on the Limits of the Continental Shelf
