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THIRD UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE LAW OF THE SEA

Awarding of a fellowship in memory of Hamilton Shirley Amerasinghe

Report of the Secretary-General

1. By its resolution 35/116 of 10 December 1980, the General Assembly, inter alia, expressed its deep sense of loss at the death of Hamilton Shirley Amerasinghe, President of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea since its inception, and placed on record its great appreciation both of his remarkable personal qualities as a diplomat and leader and of his unique contribution to the work of the Conference. It also requested the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its thirty-sixth session on the question of awarding a memorial fellowship or scholarship in the field of the law of the sea and related matters, in recognition of the unique contribution made by Hamilton Shirley Amerasinghe to the work of the Conference.
2. In order to comply with the request made by the General Assembly in that resolution, the Secretary-General recommended that the Hamilton Shirley Amerasinghe Memorial Fellowship be established as an activity to be carried out by the secretariat of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea within the framework of the United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law, 1/ and brought the matter to the attention of the Advisory Committee on the Programme at its sixteenth session, held on 26 October 1981. (See A/36/633, paras. 55 and 56.)
3. The Secretary-General further recommended that the funds for the Memorial Fellowship should be from voluntary financial contributions so earmarked by Member States, universities, philanthropic foundations and other interested national and international institutions and organizations which were invited by the Secretary-General periodically to make such contributions for financing the Programme or

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1/ Established by the General Assembly under its resolution 2099 (XX) of 20 December 1965 and continued under relevant annual and biannual resolutions.

otherwise assisting in its implementation and possible expansion (see A/36/633, para. 57). Financial and administrative implications are avoided by the utilization of the existing organizational framework in this way.

4. The Advisory Committee fully agreed with the recommendation of the Secretary-General and endorsed the inclusion of the Hamilton Shirley Amerasinghe Memorial Fellowship as an activity to be carried out by the Conference secretariat under the Programme of Assistance during the 1982-1983 biennium and in subsequent years (see A/36/633, paras. 84-86).

5. In accordance with the Committee's endorsement, and after further consultations, the Secretary-General recommends that the Fellowship be awarded annually by the Conference secretariat. The President of the Conference would be consulted in connexion with its award.

6. The Fellowship would provide the opportunity for specialized training, based on the applicable academic qualifications and experience, with an academic component. Thus, upon the completion of the academic component at an appropriate university or other institution of higher education, a period of specialized training in matters relating to the law of the sea would be provided within the Conference secretariat.

7. The Conference secretariat, in co-operation with the Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, would take such action as was necessary to invite contributions to the endowment of the Fellowship in the form recommended.

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