

into force. As his delegation has stated at an informal meeting of the Committee on 28 April, such a suggestion must be considered in the light of the distance from the coastline of the base points for the future baselines; the effect which the new baselines would have on the general direction of the coastline; the possibility that the baselines would be used in fixing the outer limits of the territorial sea or exclusive economic zone, or maritime boundaries with neighbouring coastal States; and the effects on navigation in the enclosed internal waters. It was therefore gratified that Bangladesh was willing to discuss its suggestion with the other States interested in the matter and to raise it again at the Conference's next session. That attitude on the part of Bangladesh showed that its suggestion could not be regarded as having already obtained the substantial support to which reference was made in subparagraph 2 of paragraph 9 of document A/CONF.62/L.28.⁴⁰

3. The suggestion of Bangladesh was not discussed with India after the aforementioned statement, nor has the Bangladesh suggestion been raised at the Conference since 1978, except at the present session and particularly in the form of the letter dated 28 April 1982, referred to at the outset.

⁴⁰*Ibid.*, vol. IX (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.79.V.3).

4. In view of the above, it will not be correct to say that article 7 of the draft convention (A/CONF.62/L.78)⁴¹ cannot preclude the founding of a baseline on depth criteria and bathymetric factors, as stated by the representative of Bangladesh. In fact, the Conference has not accepted the suggestion of Bangladesh.

5. Article 7, paragraph 2, of the draft convention reads as follows:

"2. Where because of the presence of a delta and other natural conditions the coastline is highly unstable, the appropriate points may be selected along the furthest seaward extent of the low-water line and, notwithstanding subsequent regression of the low-water line, the straight baseline shall remain effective until changed by the coastal state in accordance with this Convention."

I shall be grateful if you will kindly arrange to have this communication registered and distributed to the delegations as an official document of the Conference.

(Signed) S. P. JAGOTA
Representative of India
to the Third United Nations Conference
on the Law of the Sea

⁴¹*Ibid.*, vol. XV (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.83.V.4).

DOCUMENT A/CONF.62/L.149

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

[Original: English]
[30 April 1982]

In his letter dated 28 April 1982 addressed to you and circulated to all delegations in document A/CONF.62/L.140 of the same date, the representative of Bangladesh asserts that his delegation's proposal concerning the establishment of a straight baselines system on the depth criteria and bathymetric factors had received, and continues to enjoy "substantial and favourable support from a large number of delegations" and further that his Government considers that "article 7 of the draft convention (A/CONF.62/L.78)⁴¹ cannot preclude the founding of its baselines" on such a basis.

In this connection, my delegation is of the view that the above-mentioned assertions are not borne out by the history of negotiations on the proposal at the Conference, particularly in the broadly representative informal negotiating group on baselines established during the third session. Nor are they supported by the text of article 7, paragraph 2 of the draft convention embodying the results of the said negotiations, which specifies in precise and unambiguous terms the fundamental rule that straight baselines may be drawn only from land-point to land-point, and not from sea-point to sea-point.

I should be grateful if you would kindly arrange to have this letter distributed to all delegations as an official document of the Conference.

(Signed) S. HLAING
Representative of Burma
to the Third United Nations Conference
on the Law of the Sea

DOCUMENT A/CONF.62/L.150

Letter dated 28 April 1982 from the representative of Ecuador
to the President of the Conference

[Original: Spanish]
[30 April 1982]

In accordance with the letter dated 13 April 1982 which I addressed to you and which is contained in document A/CONF.62/L.128, I am to inform you, as Chairman of the Ecuadorian delegation to the eleventh session of the Third United Nations Conference on the

Law of the Sea and on the instructions of my Government, that Ecuador will not participate in the voting for the adoption of the convention on the law of the sea, should it be adopted by that procedure.

At the plenary meeting in which a decision is taken on the adoption of the convention, the Ecuadorian delegation wishes to make a statement on the National Government's reasons for proceeding in the manner indicated in the foregoing paragraph.

These reasons are related to the position repeatedly maintained by my country throughout all sessions of the Conference.

To that end, I should be grateful if you would in due course place Ecuador on the list of speakers for the said meeting.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have this communication registered and distributed to delegations as an official document of the Conference.

(Signed) A. J. LUCIO PAREDES
Representative of Ecuador
to the Third United Nations Conference
on the Law of the Sea

DOCUMENT A/CONF.62/L.151

Letter dated 30 April 1982 from the representative of the Federal Republic of Germany to the President of the Conference

[Original: English]
[7 May 1982]

As Chairman of the Delegation of the Federal Republic of Germany to the eleventh session of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea, I would like to inform you that in the Federal Republic of Germany state-sponsored programmes for research, development of exploration equipment and prospecting relating to polymetallic nodules deposits have been conducted since 1970. These activities have been undertaken by Arbeitsgemeinschaft meeresstechnischgewinnbare Rohstoffe (AMR), its predecessors and other companies and institutions, in particular the Geological Survey of the Federal Republic of Germany (Bundesanstalt für Geowissenschaften und Rohstoffe) with the research ships RS Valdivia and RS Sonne in various parts of the deep sea, specifically in the North and South Pacific.

AMR was formed in December 1972 as an entity under the law of the Federal Republic of Germany. The head office is in Frankfurt, its partners are Metallgesellschaft AG, Preussag AG and Salzgitter AG.

I would appreciate it if this information would be made available to other delegations in the form of a Conference document.

(Signed) E. F. JUNG
Representative of the Federal Republic of Germany
to the Third United Nations Conference
on the Law of the Sea

DOCUMENT A/CONF.62/WS/17

Statement by the delegation of Argentina dated 1 April 1982

[Original: Spanish]
[2 April 1982]

During the debate at the 164th plenary meeting held on 1 April 1982, the delegation of Chile made a statement concerning the definition of the straits used for international navigation and its application to the specific case of Chile.

My delegation wishes formally to reserve the position of the Argentine Government on that statement, since it considers that it is erroneous to assert that the strait mentioned by that delegation, which Argentina also borders, is the only strait used for international navigation on which Chile has a coast.