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**REQUEST FOR THE INCLUSION OF A SUPPLEMENTARY SUB-ITEM  
IN THE AGENDA OF THE FORTY-FOURTH SESSION**

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION OF EXTRATERRITORIAL SPACES  
FOR PRESENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS**

Letter dated 11 August 1989 from the Permanent Representative of  
Malta to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to request, on behalf of the Government of Malta, in accordance with rule 14 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the inclusion, under item 83, entitled "Development and international economic co-operation", of a supplementary sub-item entitled "Environmental protection of extraterritorial spaces for present and future generations" in the agenda of the forty-fourth session of the General Assembly. The Government of Malta proposes that this supplementary sub-item be considered in conjunction with sub-item 83 (f), entitled "Environment".

In accordance with rule 20 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, an explanatory memorandum concerning my Government's request is attached hereto.

(Signed) Dr. Alexander BORG OLIVIER  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Explanatory memorandum

1. The effective and comprehensive environmental protection of "extraterritorial spaces", such as the high seas, is vital in order to safeguard the global environment. The human urge to improve, coupled with increased population growth, and the remarkable developments in technology may cause substantial, irreparable environmental harm to an increasing number of "extraterritorial spaces". This harm, to a greater or lesser extent, would adversely affect all States and would prejudice the interests which the international community as a whole may have in the said spaces.

2. In view of the magnitude and complexity of the issue, the Government of Malta proposes that at its forty-fourth session the General Assembly should request the Secretary-General to establish, through the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, a group of eminent persons to prepare a study, which would, inter alia, make recommendations with respect to the identification and extent of "extraterritorial spaces", the state of the environment in such spaces, the rights and duties of States and the international community therein, and possible strengthening of relevant existing legal instruments, and which would make proposals on how the effective and comprehensive environmental protection of such spaces can be best achieved.

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