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THIRD UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE LAW OF THE SEA

Letter dated 4 September from the President of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea addressed to the President of the General Assembly

I have the honour to inform you that, on the basis of a time-table for its work under which it is to complete the preparation of a convention on the Law of the Sea in 1980, the Conference at its 119th meeting decided to recommend to the General Assembly that provision be made for it to hold two sessions in 1980 apart from a possible final session in Caracas for signature. The first, which would include three days at the outset allocated to group meetings, would run from 27 February to 4 April at United Nations Headquarters in New York, and the second from 28 July to 29 August at Geneva. It would be appreciated if this recommendation could be brought to the attention of the General Assembly.

Since the Conference, under the agreed time-table, will be continuing its work from where it stopped at the close of its session on 24 August 1979, certain matters which it could not deal with prior to adjourning were not fully dealt with and will have to be taken up when it meets next year. Among these are comments in connexion with the reports before the Conference at that point. One of these matters, however, that of the study of training of nationals of developing countries in deep sea mining, should have been the subject of a recommendation, which the Conference was unable to reach due to lack of time, to the General Assembly to provide for the necessary budgeting and other action to carry matters on to the next stage. I take the liberty of mentioning this since I am sure that delegations to the Conference would have wished to have the General Assembly advised of needs in this regard.

(Signed) Hamilton Shirley AMERASINGHE
President of the
Third United Nations Conference
on the Law of the Sea

* A/34/150.