

UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL
ASSEMBLY



Distr.
GENERAL

A/9721
4 September 1974

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Twenty-ninth session
Item 27 of the provisional agenda*

THIRD UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE LAW OF THE SEA

Letter dated 29 August 1974 from the President of the Third
United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea to the
President of the General Assembly

With reference to item 27 of the provisional agenda of the twenty-ninth session of the General Assembly, I have the honour to inform you of the following decisions, pursuant to operative paragraph 4 of General Assembly resolution 3067 (XXVIII), taken by the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea at its second session held in Caracas, Venezuela, from 20 June to 29 August 1974:

On 27 August, the Conference decided that its next session should be held at Geneva from 17 March to 3 or 10 May 1975, the closing date to depend upon arrangements to be made with the World Health Organization. In response to a widely expressed desire within the Conference that when matters reached that stage its final session be held at Caracas for the signing of the Final Act and other instruments of the Conference, the Government of Venezuela extended an invitation to that effect. The Conference decided that this kind invitation be accepted.

I have the honour to request that these decisions be placed before the General Assembly for its approval in accordance with the above-mentioned provision of resolution 3067 (XXVIII).

The Conference has further requested me to inform you of another matter which the Conference considers should be brought to the attention of the General Assembly. This concerns invitations addressed by the Conference to national liberation movements recognized by the Organization of African Unity and the League of Arab States to participate in its proceedings as observers. A decision to issue these invitations was adopted by the Conference at its 38th meeting on 11 July 1974. In so doing, members of the Conference took account of the spirit of the action taken by the General Assembly and by the Economic and Social Council in regard to these national liberation movements in respect of other conferences, subsequent to the adoption by the General Assembly of resolution 3067 (XXVIII).

* A/9700.

Finally, I wish to inform you that the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea decided to recommend to the General Assembly that:

(a) Papua New Guinea, which is already conducting its own relations as an independent nation, should be invited, if independent, to attend any future session of the Conference as a participating State or, if not yet independent, to attend as an observer;

(b) The Cook Islands, Surinam, the Netherlands Antilles and the West Indies Associated States should be invited to attend any future session of the Conference as observers or, should they by that time be independent, to attend as participating States.

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