

**Third Review Conference
of the Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of
the Emplacement of Nuclear Weapons and Other
Weapons of Mass Destruction on the Sea-Bed and
the Ocean Floor and in the Subsoil Thereof**

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UNITED NATIONS
DEPARTMENT FOR DISARMAMENT AFFAIRS
~~REFERENCE IS MADE~~

**DECLARATION OF THE GREEK DELEGATION REGARDING ARTICLES I,
II, III AND IV OF THE SEA-BED TREATY OF 1971**

Regarding the implications of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 1982 to the Sea-Bed Treaty of 1971, the Greek delegation believes that the above-mentioned United Nations Convention of 1982 does not affect the rights and obligations, contained in the Sea-Bed Treaty of 1971. Moreover, article II of the Sea-Bed Treaty, is in conformity with article III of the United Nations Convention of the Law of the Sea of 1982 which stipulates that, at any time, every State has the right to establish the breadth of its territorial sea up to a limit not exceeding 12 nautical miles, measured from baselines determined in accordance with that Convention. This rule of international customary law has already been adopted by almost all coastal States.

In connection with articles I, II, III and IV of the Sea-Bed Treaty, the Greek delegation believes that nothing in these articles can be interpreted as prejudicing in any way, the sovereign rights of the coastal State over its continental shelf and its jurisdiction regarding the waters superjacent to that zone, as this zone is determined in the international law and the international practice. Consequently, this delegation takes it that no provision of the Sea-Bed Treaty can be interpreted as indicating that any State has the right to emplace nuclear weapons, or other weapons of mass destruction in the gap-zone, between the outer limit of the territorial sea of a coastal State and the 12 nautical miles, in case the territorial sea of the State is less than 12 nautical miles. The Greek delegation considers also that no provision of the Sea-Bed Treaty can be interpreted as giving the right to any State to emplace conventional weapons on the continental shelf of a coastal State. Such activities could be conducted only with the express consent of, and under the conditions set forth, by the coastal State. Consequently, Greece reserves the right to verify, inspect, remove or destroy any form of the above-mentioned weapons, structure, installations, facilities or equipments emplaced on the Greek Continental shelf in the South Adriatic Ionian Sea, Aegean Sea and Mediterranean Sea. As far as the military use of a coastal State's demilitarized maritime zones by international treaties is concerned, this delegation understands that such use can be made by the coastal State and is legitimate, for purposes of self-defence and that nothing in the international law, or in any treaty, can curtail the right of self-defence, in any way, a right which is confirmed in Article 51 of the United Nations Charter. Moreover, it is the understanding of this delegation that the observation which is referred to in paragraph 6 of article III of the Sea-Bed Treaty shall be conducted with due regard to the rights recognized by the international law, including the freedoms of the high seas, the sovereign rights of the coastal State for the purpose of exploring and exploiting its continental shelf, and its jurisdiction regarding the conduct of marine scientific research and activities on its continental shelf and in the waters superjacent to that zone.