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4/21/75

LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE

Q: Mr. President, in your recent address to Congress, you said: "The world's oceans, with their immense resources and strategic importance, must become areas of cooperation rather than conflict. American policy is directed to that end." With the Law of the Sea Conference in Geneva half over, what progress has been made to date toward reaching a treaty agreement?

A: As you note, the Conference is at mid point. From the reports I have been receiving from the U.S. Delegation at Geneva, substantial progress has been registered in a number of important areas -- hard work remains to be done. In the weeks remaining in the Conference, I would hope that all the nations represented will devote every effort to reaching accommodation on outstanding issues and to producing a comprehensive and widely accepted oceans treaty. In this regard, I can assure you that the United States will continue to play a role of leadership.

May 12, 1975

White House Announcement of the Resignation of
Ambassador John R. Stevenson, Special Representative
to the Law of the Sea Conference

The President accepted today with regret the resignation of Ambassador John R. Stevenson as Special Representative of the President to the Law of the Sea Conference and Chief of Delegation.

The President indicated his deep appreciation for Ambassador Stevenson's valuable contribution to the substantial progress of the Law of the Sea negotiations, which are of vital concern to our national interest and the international community.

* * * *

Q: Does the resignation of Ambassador Stevenson indicate that the President is dissatisfied with the progress of the Law of the Sea negotiations?

A: On the contrary. The President believes that Ambassador Stevenson has made an invaluable contribution to the Law of the Sea negotiations and is accepting his resignation with regret.

Q: Does the resignation of Ambassador Stevenson indicate a declining interest or a change in policy on the part of the U.S. Government toward the Law of the Sea negotiations?

A: Ambassador Stevenson's resignation does not signal any change in U.S. policy in these negotiations. The United States remains committed to the successful conclusion of a comprehensive and widely accepted law of the sea treaty.

Q: Who will replace Ambassador Stevenson?

A: This is under active consideration. The decision on a successor to Ambassador Stevenson has not yet been taken.

WHITE HOUSE PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT

August 29, 1975

10:00 a.m. EDT

The President today appointed Carlyle E. Maw as his Special Representative for the Law of the Sea Conference and Chief of Delegation. This is an interim appointment until such time as the President names a permanent Special Representative. Mr. Maw will continue to serve as Under Secretary of State for Coordinating Security Assistance Programs.

* * * * *

Q: Who is Secretary Maw replacing as Special Representative?

A: Secretary Maw will be replacing Ambassador John R.

Stevenson who resigned last May after the Geneva session of the Law of the Sea Conference in order to resume his private law practice.

Q: When and where will the next session of the Law of the Sea Conference be held?

A: The next session will convene at New York in March 1976 for an eight week period.

Q: Isn't there another ambassador already working on LOS matters?

A: John Norton Moore is serving as the President's Deputy Special Representative for the Law of the Sea Conference. He will continue as Secretary Maw's deputy.

August 29, 1975

KISSINGER TO ADDRESS U. N.

As the Department of State indicated yesterday, we do not know when Secretary Kissinger will be returning from the Middle East, but he is scheduled to address the U. N. General Assembly Special Session next week.

Q. What is the purpose of this Special Session?

A. This is the seventh Special Session of the General Assembly of the U. N. , and it is devoted to Development and International Economic Cooperation.

Q. What will the Secretary be speaking about?

A. I have not seen the speech, but I would imagine his remarks will address the theme of the Special Session; that is , development and international economic cooperation.

March 15, 1976

LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE

Q: Mr. President, the third substantive session of the Third UN Conference on the Law of the Sea opened in New York on Monday, March 15, for an eight week period. In a recent editorial, the New York Times commented that this was a "make or break" negotiating session. How do you view the prospects for reaching agreement on an international oceans treaty in 1976?

A: I strongly support the work now underway in the UN Conference aimed at producing a timely, comprehensive and widely acceptable law of the sea treaty. The establishment of an orderly legal regime for the oceans will lessen the prospects of confrontation and conflict and contribute to the prospects for international peace and stability.

As in the past, I will keep a careful eye on developments in the Conference. I can assure you that the United States will continue to work earnestly in the Conference to reach timely agreement on an international oceans treaty. Much has been accomplished in the past two negotiating sessions; much work remains to be completed in New York.

Q: Do the recent changes in the membership of the U.S. Delegation signal a shift in priorities for the U.S. in the Conference? Specifically, does the appointment of a former head of IBM, Ambassador T. Vincent Learson, as Head of Delegation mean that we will be giving more attention to economic issues than national security matters?

A: The U.S. Delegation has been shaped to insure that the wide range of U.S. interests and objectives relating to the oceans are fully

represented in all aspects of the negotiations -- national security issues including navigation rights, the economic zone, scientific research, pollution control, the regime for the deep seabed, and peaceful dispute settlement. I have full confidence that the U.S. position on these important issues will be well represented by the members of the U.S. Delegation.

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TAGS: PGDV, PINT, UK
SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER WILSON RESIGNS

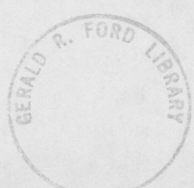
PRIME MINISTER WILSON ADVISED CABINET AT 11:00 THIS MORNING OF HIS INTENTION TO RESIGN LEADERSHIP OF LABOR PARTY AS SOON AS PARLIAMENTARY LABOR PARTY (PLP) CAN ELECT NEW LEADER. WILSON THEN WENT TO BUCKINGHAM PALACE TO ADVISE QUEEN OF HIS DECISION AND, UPON RETURN TO 10 DOWNING STREET, TOLD PRESS. ACCORDING TO PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT, WILSON HAD ADVISED QUEEN IN DECEMBER OF HIS INTENTION TO RESIGN IN MARCH. WILSON ATTRIBUTED HIS DECISION TO HIS DESIRE TO RETIRE FROM ACTIVE POLITICAL LIFE AT AGE 64, AND HE PASSED THAT MILESTONE LAST WEEK. HE WILL APPARENTLY REMAIN IN COMMONS AS BACKBENCHER.

2. PLP SOURCES TELL US THAT IT WILL PROBABLY TAKE AT LEAST TWO WEEKS FOR NEW LEADER TO BE ELECTED -- ONE WEEK ALLOWED FOR NOMINATIONS AND ANOTHER WEEK FOR MPS TO CAST THEIR BALLOTS. WILSON WILL REMAIN AS PM DURING

*****WHSR COMMENT*****

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May 21, 1976

LAW OF THE SEA -- DEEP SEABED RESOURCES

Q: Mr. President, why is it that when the United States is virtually the only country in the world capable of mining the mineral resources of the deep seabed we are giving away our preeminent position in this area -- our rights to these riches -- through the negotiations in the UN Law of the Sea Conference? Shouldn't we be moving toward unilateral legislative action to protect our resource interests on the ocean floor?

A: In the negotiations at the UN Law of the Sea Conference, the United States is safeguarding and advancing the wide range of important interests that we have in the oceans, including with regard to the issue you raise, the right of U. S. companies to mine the deep seabed.

This is no giveaway. U. S. interests in the deep seabed are being carefully attended to in these international negotiations.

The U. S. position in the Law of the Sea Conference protects the rights of U. S. deepsea mining companies to mine the deepsea floor -- it is a position which provides for non-discriminatory access by U. S. firms to deep seabed minerals under reasonable conditions coupled with security of tenure and with a fair and reasonable profit or rate of return.

U. S. unilateral legislation in this area at this time would serve to complicate rather than facilitate our objective of creating a legal framework for deep seabed mining which avoids potential international difficulty. We will continue, however, to consult closely with the Congress on ways to best achieve U. S. interests in deep seabed mining, particularly after we examine the results of the August/September negotiating session of the LOS Conference.

I continue to believe that successful conclusion of the Law of the Sea negotiations offers the best prospect for advancing and protecting all U.S. oceans interests, including our national security and our resource interests.

(See attached fact sheet on U.S. deep seabed ocean mining legislation.)

July 20, 1976

LAW OF THE SEA

Q: Yesterday's New York Times carried an article by Leslie Gelb in which former Deputy Special Assistant to the President John Norton Moore charged that the Administration had neglected the Law of the Sea negotiations and the President had violated existing treaties by signing the legislation declaring a 200-mile fisheries conservation zone. Do you have any comment?

A: President Ford has kept in close touch with the Law of the Sea negotiating process through the NSC structure.

To my knowledge, Secretary Kissinger has also participated consistently in the formulation of the Administration's policy in this area. In April, Secretary Kissinger announced that at the President's request, he would lead the delegation to the New York session of the negotiations scheduled to resume August 2, underscoring the importance the President attaches to^a timely and successful conclusion of the negotiations. The President will continue to give close attention to the law of the sea negotiations.

Q: How about the illegality of the 200-mile fishery bill?

A: I would first note that this legislation had strong support in both Houses of Congress. The President signed the legislation for at least four reasons: 1) the fish stocks off our coasts were being seriously depleted and decisive action was required, 2) the legislation contained a delayed effective date of March 1, 1977, which the President hoped

would give the negotiators time to complete an acceptable international treaty, 3) the legislation was generally consistent with the consensus that has emerged in these international negotiations on the subject of fishery resources, and 4) the other approach -- relying on provisions of a 1958 Convention on Fishery Conservation -- was not feasible because the countries most engaged in fishing off our coast were not a party to that Convention. The President did note when he signed the bill that there were problems with it and he has instructed the agencies to review it for possible amendments.

Again, it is the President's firm hope that the nations involved in the law of the sea negotiations will show the resolve required to bring the negotiations to a successful conclusion this year.

LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE

Q: The Law of the Sea Conference ended today. After seven weeks of negotiations, the Conference produced the same negotiating text which emerged from the earlier spring session. Many people have argued that that text does not protect our interests in the oceans. Was the Conference a failure?

A: First, it is my understanding that Secretary of State Kissinger may be issuing a statement today on the Conference and that representatives of the U.S. Delegation will be meeting with the press in New York.

The United States went into the recent law of the sea negotiating session with the hope of maintaining the momentum generated at the spring session. We are disappointed that the momentum was not maintained, but in terms of the overall negotiations we are not discouraged.

The Law of the Sea Conference leadership has chosen to retain the Revised Single Negotiating Text, which was produced by the March-May 1976 session, as the negotiating text for the next session scheduled for May 1977. While this text has several major flaws, it is not yet acceptable to the United States as a similar treaty text which does satisfy many important U.S. interests. Additional improvements regarding seabed mining, marine scientific research, the nature of the economic zone and other important issues will be required.

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At the President's request, Secretary Kissinger visited the Conference on September 1-2 and made a number of important proposals in an effort to break the deadlock on seabed mining. A number of delegations have indicated that Secretary Kissinger's proposals represented a constructive contribution to advancing negotiations and there is now broad support among the delegations for concluding negotiations at the next session.

Our objective in this negotiation continues to be an equitable treaty which safeguards and advances the broad range of important U.S. oceans interests and which does so in the framework of a treaty in the best interests of the international community. The President strongly supports a continued U.S. effort to this end.

4. Kissinger meeting with Vorster:

F.Y.I. : State will announce at noon today that the Secretary
ONLY will meet with South African Prime Minister in
Zurich on September 6.

5. Arab Boycott :

(If asked about the Evans & Novak column today)

Guidance: I have little new to say on this subject. Administration witnesses have frequently testified to the fact that we consider such legislation as unnecessary and unwarranted.

because of G.F.'s 2x disapproval Nov 20. Real solution is to work with Congress on the Ribicoff or Stevenson amendments, you should only say that we consider any legislation unnecessary and that Administration representatives will be following closely the progress of this legislation as it moves through Congress.)

6. Law of the Sea Talks:

(If asked for reaction to today's New York Times Editorial)

Guidance: No comment on those editorial views. President Ford is following closely the negotiations in New York because he is aware of their great importance. He has asked Secretary Kissinger to personally attend the talks again this week, Wednesday -- Thursday, to further the negotiations.

7. Readout of Scranton Meeting:

The President met with Ambassador to the UN William Scranton for 30 minutes today to review a range of issues for the upcoming UN General Assembly Session (opens Sept. 27) and other UN Committee meetings. [Among the subjects discussed were Puerto Rico, the Korean situation, Southern African issues, and UN membership for Vietnam.]

F.Y.I.: You are not prepared to discuss details of these issues and with regard to Vietnam, particularly, our position on membership will be made known at an appropriate time.