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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

SECRET

August 14, 1976

National Security Decision Memorandum 336

TO: The Secretary of State
 The Secretary of the Treasury
 The Secretary of Defense
 The Secretary of Interior
 The Secretary of Commerce
 The Chairman, NSC Under Secretaries Committee

SUBJECT: Instructions for the August-September 1976
 Session of the Third United Nations Conference
 on Law of the Sea

The President has reviewed the July 30, 1976 memorandum from the Acting Chairman of the NSC Under Secretaries Committee concerning instructions for the U. S. Delegation to the August-September session of the Third UN Conference on the Law of the Sea, together with the accompanying agency comments.

The President reiterates the importance of gaining broad international acceptance during the negotiations in 1976 of U.S. oceans policy positions on freedom of the high seas, unimpeded passage through and over international straits and archipelagos, access to seabed minerals, freedom of scientific research, and peaceful settlement of disputes. Subject to the consent of the senior Department of Defense representative on the Delegation, the Chairman of the U.S. Delegation is authorized to exercise existing authority on national security issues in the negotiations.

In this context, the President reaffirms the existing negotiating instructions as prescribed in NSDMS 260, 288, and 320 and concurs with the view of the Acting Chairman of the NSC Under Secretaries Committee that there is no need for change to existing instructions.

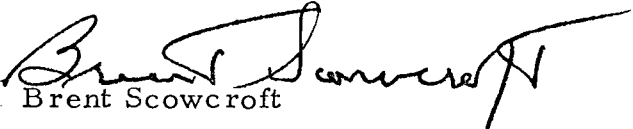
Should the Chairman of the U. S. Delegation deem it necessary to seek additional negotiating instructions during the August-September 1976 session, such requests should be forwarded for the President's consideration via the Chairman, NSC Under Secretaries Committee, who will continue to be responsible for backstopping the U. S. Law of the Sea negotiations.

DECLASSIFIED

SECRET (XGDS) (3) Authority NSC Ltr 4/13/98

By lt NLF Date 5/4/98

Upon conclusion of the August-September 1976 session, the Chairman of the U. S. Delegation is requested to submit a report to the President via the Chairman, NSC Under Secretaries Committee on the results of the negotiations.


Brent Scowcroft

cc: The Secretary of Transportation
The Director, Office of Management and Budget
Assistant to the President for Economic Policy
The Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff
The Director of Central Intelligence
Director, Office of Science and Technology Policy

