DRAFT UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION
ON
THE INTERNATIONAL SEABED AREA

The attached draft of a United Nations Convention on the International Seabed Area is submitted by the United States Government as a working paper for discussion purposes.

The draft Convention and its Appendices raise a number of questions with respect to which further detailed study is clearly necessary and do not necessarily represent the definitive views of the United States Government. The Appendices in particular are included solely by way of example.
ARTICLE 8

Exploration and exploitation of the natural resources of the International Seabed Area must not result in any unjustifiable interference with other activities in the marine environment.

ARTICLE 9

All activities in the International Seabed Area shall be conducted with strict and adequate safeguards for the protection of human life and safety and of the marine environment.

ARTICLE 10

All exploration and exploitation activities in the International Seabed Area shall be conducted by a Contracting Party or group of Contracting Parties or natural or juridical persons under its or their authority or sponsorship.

ARTICLE 11

1. Each Contracting Party shall take appropriate measures to ensure that those conducting activities under its authority or sponsorship comply with this Convention.

2. Each Contracting Party shall make it an offence for those conducting activities under its authority or sponsorship in the International Seabed Area to violate the provisions of this Convention. Such offences shall be punishable in accordance with administrative or judicial procedures established by the Authorizing or Sponsoring Party.

3. Each Contracting Party shall be responsible for maintaining public order on manned installations and equipment operated by those authorised or sponsored by it.

4. Each Contracting Party shall be responsible for damages caused by activities which it authorizes or sponsors to any other Contracting Party or its nationals.

5. A group of States acting together, pursuant to agreement among them or through an international organization, shall be jointly and severally responsible under this Convention.

ARTICLE 12

All disputes arising out of the interpretation or application of this Convention shall be settled in accordance with provisions of Section E of Chapter IV.