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The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation presents its compliments to the Registrar of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea and with reference to the Order of the Tribunal on the prescription of the provisional measures dated 25 May 2019 has the honour to convey the following.

The Order was translated into Russian and communicated to the competent authorities in charge of the criminal proceedings in respect of 24 Ukrainian servicemen and 3 warships.

In light of the ongoing criminal proceedings in the Russian Federation against 24 Ukrainian servicemen, the legitimate and founded nature of which has not been contested by the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea Order of 25 May 2019 (para 119), the abovementioned competent authorities proposed specific procedural measures that, within the framework of the Russian legislation, would allow to release the servicemen from custody and hand over the vessels to Ukraine. These proposals were communicated to the Ukrainian side on 25 June 2019 via note verbale of the MFA of the Russian Federation.

INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNAL
FOR THE LAW OF THE SEA
Hamburg

Nothing in the present note can be interpreted as prejudicing the position of the Russian Federation regarding the illegality of actions of the Ukrainian military vessels in the Kerch Strait area on 24-25 November 2018 as well as inapplicability of the dispute settlement procedures under the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea to the situation, in particular, due to the declarations made by the Russian Federation and Ukraine upon its signature and ratification.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Registrar of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea the assurances of its highest consideration.



Moscow, 25 June 2019