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UN ARCHIVES

SERIES 0885

BOX 1

FILE 1

ACC. DAG 1/5.2.7

Files of the S-G: U Thant: Speeches, Messages, Statements, Addresses

18/03/1968-18/03/1968

Ad-Hoc Committee for Sea-Bed and Ocean Floor Study, 18 Mar 1968



S-0885-0001-01-00001

Expanded Number **S-0885-0001-01-00001**

Title **Items-in-Ad-Hoc Committee for Sea-Bed and Ocean Floor Study,  
18 March 1968**

Date Created **18/03/1968**

Record Type **Archival Item**

Container **S-0885-0001: Operational Files of the Secretary-General: U Thant: Speeches, Messages,  
Statements, and Addresses - not issued as press releases**

Print Name of Person Submit Image

Signature of Person Submit

18 March 1968

*Shaw  
12/2/68*

**STATEMENT BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL**

I declare open the first meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee to study the peaceful uses of the sea-bed and the ocean floor beyond the limits of national jurisdiction.

Before ~~proceeding with the business of the Committee~~ <sup>*the Committee proceeds*</sup>, I would like to say a few words about the importance of the work assigned to you.

The work of this Committee concerns most of the solid surface and sub-surface of this planet. The seas and oceans are estimated to cover approximately five-sevenths of the total surface of the earth and the vast areas underlying the high seas beyond the limits of present national jurisdiction are a common heritage of mankind. The pace of progress in the development of science and technology is such that it is clear that more and more of the sea-bed and ocean floor is becoming accessible in one way or another and can be exploited for scientific, economic, military and other purposes. This is therefore a subject of great consequence.

By the consideration of the item and the establishment of the Ad Hoc Committee by a unanimous vote, the General Assembly has demonstrated its awareness of the interest and concern of all Members of the United Nations in this field.

It appears from the views expressed during the debate that a careful study of the question ought to be undertaken. This is a complex matter. Many questions are involved touching on various spheres of human activity and national interests. Some of the questions raised require urgent decisions and answers. Failure to come to grips with these in good time would undoubtedly increase the magnitude of the problems.

International co-operation in this field is indispensable. Any exploration and exploitation of the sea-bed and ocean floor should be conducted in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, in the interest of maintaining international peace and security, and for the benefit of all mankind.

The task of the Ad Hoc Committee is heavy and challenging. I am sure that the progress of your deliberations will be followed closely by the international community. I am happy to see the representatives of the Specialized Agencies and of the International Atomic Energy Agency present at this meeting. I hope that they will be able to assist the Committee in its task. I have no doubt that their co-operation in this field is vital. I should like to extend my best wishes for your success.

18 March 1968

STATEMENT BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I declare open the first meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee to study the peaceful uses of the sea-bed and the ocean floor beyond the limits of national jurisdiction.

Before the Committee proceeds with its business, I would like to say a few words about the importance of the work assigned to you.

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(Alternative 1)

The representative of \_\_\_\_\_ on a point of order has moved the adjournment of the meeting to allow more time for consultations regarding the election of officers. If I hear no objections, I will take it that the Committee agrees. It is so decided. The next meeting of the Committee will be announced in the Journal. The meeting is adjourned.

I understand that consultations regarding the election of officers are still ~~in~~ in progress. In the circumstances and if there is no objection, we shall adjourn this meeting and meet again tomorrow morning at 10.30.

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