

*Translated from French*

## **Permanent Mission of France to the United Nations**

BC/aa

No. 163

The Permanent Mission of France to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the United Nations (Office of Legal Affairs) and has the honour to refer to its communication No. CLCS.03.2004.LOS of 15 November 2004 concerning the submission made by Australia to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf, in which that country mentions France's position with regard to the outer limits proposed by Australia for the Kerguelen Plateau and New Caledonia regions.

France has taken note of the potential overlap between the areas of extended continental shelf of the two States in the aforementioned two regions. France has also noted that Australia emphasizes in its submission that its claim for an extended continental shelf is without prejudice to any subsequent delimitation between the two States (see, *inter alia*, pages 17-18 and 35 of the "Executive Summary of the Continental Shelf Submission of Australia").

The Permanent Mission confirms that France has no objection to the Commission considering and making recommendations on those parts of Australia's submission that concern areas bordering on French territories to the extent that such recommendations, in accordance with article 76, paragraph 10, of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, are without prejudice to any final delimitation of the continental shelf concluded subsequently in these areas between France and Australia.

The Permanent Mission of France to the United Nations thanks the Secretariat of the United Nations (Office of Legal Affairs) in advance for acknowledging receipt of this note verbale and takes this opportunity to convey to it the renewed assurances of its highest consideration.

New York, 28 March 2005

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United Nations Secretariat  
Office of Legal Affairs  
Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea  
Room DC2-0450