



No. NYV/2009/2458

The Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honor to refer to the Continental Shelf Submission of Norway to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf in respect of Bouvetøya and Dronning Maud Land, and the accompanying note of the Permanent Mission of Norway to the United Nations to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, dated 4 May 2009.

Taking note that the submission of Norway includes information relating to continental shelf adjacent to Antarctica, the Kingdom of the Netherlands wishes to reiterate its long-standing position that the Kingdom of the Netherlands does not recognize any claim to territories in Antarctica and does not recognize that a claim to territorial sovereignty in Antarctica is capable of creating any sort of rights over continental shelf adjacent to Antarctica. It is well-established that the principle of sovereign rights over continental shelf adjacent to the coast, for the purposes of exploring and exploiting the natural resources of the shelf, derives from sovereignty of the coastal State over adjacent land territory. Accordingly, the Kingdom of the Netherlands does not consider that the continental shelf adjacent to Antarctica is subject to the sovereign rights of any State.

The Kingdom of the Netherlands notes that there is an unresolved land dispute in relation to Norway's claim to territory in Antarctica. It understands the reference to Article IV of the 1959 Antarctic Treaty in Norway's note to be information to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf of said dispute in accordance with paragraph 2 of Annex I of the Rules of Procedure of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf. Therefore, the Kingdom of the Netherlands requests the Commission to act pursuant to paragraph 5(a) of Annex I of the Rules of Procedure of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf insofar the submission of Norway includes information relating to continental shelf adjacent to Antarctica. In this respect, the Kingdom of the Netherlands acknowledges with appreciation Norway's request to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf that it not take any action on the portion of its submission relating to continental shelf adjacent to Antarctica.



Permanente Vertegenwoordiging van het
Koninkrijk der Nederlanden

The Kingdom of the Netherlands requests that this *note verbale* be circulated to the members of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf and be posted on the web site of the United Nations Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea.

The Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the United Nations avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretary-General of the United Nations the assurances of its highest considerations.

New York, 30 September 2009

Secretary General
Mr. Ban Ki-Moon
United Nations
UN Secretariat
S-3800
New York, NY 10017

*C.c. Under-Secretary-General
The Legal Counsel
Ms. Patricia O'Brien*

