

PERMANENT MISSION OF JAPAN  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS  
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The Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the United Nations and, with reference to the circular CLCS.05.2006.LOS (Continental Shelf Notification) dated 21 April 2006, concerning the receipt of the submission made by New Zealand to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (hereinafter referred to as “the Commission”), has the honour to express the position of the Government of Japan with regard to the submission made by New Zealand, and requests that this note verbale be circulated to the members of the Commission and Member States of the United Nations, posted on the Web site of the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (DOALOS) of the Secretariat of the United Nations, and made available to the Member States and the Commission.

Japan confirms the importance of keeping harmony between the Antarctic Treaty and the United Nations Convention of the Law of the Sea and thereby ensuring the continuing peaceful cooperation, security and stability in the Antarctic area.

Recalling Article IV of the Antarctic Treaty, Japan does not recognize any State’s right of or claim to territorial sovereignty in the Antarctic, and consequently does not recognize any State’s rights over or claims to the water, seabed and subsoil of the submarine areas adjacent to the continent of Antarctica.

From this standpoint, Japan stresses that the balance of rights and obligations in the Antarctic Treaty should not be affected in any way by the intention to submit to the Commission information on the outer limits of the continental shelf adjacent to the continent of Antarctica expressed by New Zealand.

The Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretariat of the United Nations the assurances of its highest consideration.

28 June 2006

