



**Ständige Vertretung Deutschlands
bei den Vereinten Nationen**

Permanent Mission of Germany
to the United Nations
Mission permanente d'Allemagne
auprès des Nations Unies

871 United Nations Plaza
(1st Avenue, btw. 48th and 49th Street)
New York, N.Y. 10017
Tel.-Nr.: (212) 940-0400 (Samml.-Nr.)
(212) 940-0482 (Direktwahl)
Telefax: (212) 940-0402

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The Permanent Mission of Germany to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the United Nations and, with reference to the circular CLCS .03.2004.LOS (Continental Shelf Notification) dated 15 November 2004, concerning the receipt of the submission made by Australia 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 the Federal Republic of Germany with regard to the a.m. submission made by Australia:

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

Recalling Article IV of the Antarctic Treaty, Germany does not recognize any State's claim to territory in Antarctica and does not recognize that a State's claim to territorial sovereignty in Antarctica is capable of creating any rights over the seabed and subsoil of the submarine areas beyond and adjacent to the Continent of Antarctica.

To the
Secretariat of
the United Nations
Office of Legal Affairs
Division for Ocean Affairs
and the Law of the Sea
New York

From this standpoint, Germany stresses that balance of rights and obligations in the Antarctic Treaty should not be affected in any way in handling the information on the Limits of the Continental Shelf submitted by Australia to the Commission and request the Commission not to take any action on the portion of Australia's submission relating to the seabed and subsoil of the submarine areas adjacent to the Continent of Antarctica.

In this respect, Germany acknowledges with appreciation Australia's request to the Commission that it not take any action on that portion of its submission relating to continental shelf adjacent to Antarctica.

Germany requests that this note verbale be circulated to the members of the Commission and Member States of the United Nations, and be posted on the website of the United Nations Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea.

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

New York, 05 April 2005

