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REFERENCE: CLCS. 03. 2004. LOS/JPN

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**United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea
concluded at Montego Bay, Jamaica
on 10 December 1982**

Japan: Notification regarding the submission made by Australia to the
Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf

The Secretary-General of the United Nations communicates the following:

On 25 January 2005, the Secretary-General received from the Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations a note dated 19 January 2005, referring to the submission to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf, made by Australia on 15 November 2004, pursuant to article 76, paragraph 8, of the Convention.

The text of the note is attached for information.



PERMANENT MISSION OF JAPAN
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
NEW YORK

SC/05/039

The Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations presents his compliments to the Secretary-General 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 Japan with regard to the submission made by Australia relating to the seabed and subsoil of the submarine areas adjacent to the continent of Australia, and requests that this note verbale be circulated to the members of the Commission and Member States of the United Nations, be posted on the web site of the Divisions for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (DOALOS) of the Secretariat of the United Nations, and be 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 on 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 claims 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 in handling the information on the limits of the continental shelf, submitted by Australia to the Commission.

Japan requests 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.

The Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations avails himself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretary-General of the United Nations the assurances of his highest consideration.

19 January 2005

