



United States Department of State

*Bureau of Oceans and International  
Environmental and Scientific Affairs*

Washington, D.C. 20520

September 26, 1990

Dear Mr. Ambassador:

I want to thank you for the recent opportunity for Department representatives to meet with representatives of New Zealand and other Forum members to discuss State Department plans with respect to the Wellington Convention. The United States Government's view, like that of other Governments in the South Pacific, is that driftnet fishing poses a grave threat to the marine environment and that the Wellington Convention represents an important initiative to meet that threat. We applaud the work of the Forum countries on this issue.

As discussed, the United States intends to sign the Convention in its own name and on its own behalf because a portion of its exclusive economic zone is located within the Convention Area. Upon becoming Party to the Convention, the United States will be obligated to prohibit driftnet fishing in all areas of its EEZ within the Convention Area, and to prohibit all U.S. nationals and vessels documented under U.S. laws from fishing with driftnets in the Convention Area.

We will also consider signing Protocol I, assuming it is adopted in a form substantially similar to the current draft. For the reasons discussed previously, we have no immediate plans to sign Protocol II. Thank you again for the opportunity to discuss these and other matters related to the Convention and its Protocols.

Sincerely,

David A. Colson  
Deputy Assistant Secretary  
Oceans, International Environmental  
and Scientific Affairs

His Excellency  
Harold Huyton Francis,  
Ambassador of New Zealand.



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27 September 1990

Mr David A Colson  
Deputy Assistant Secretary  
Bureau of Oceans, International Environmental  
and Scientific Affairs  
United States Department of State  
Washington DC 20520-7818

Dear Mr Colson

Thank you for your letter of 26 September 1990. We have taken note of the views expressed in your letter regarding signature of the Wellington Convention and look forward to the United States signing and becoming party to the Convention. We also welcome your willingness to consider signing Protocol 1 and hope that your present difficulties in respect of Protocol 2 might be overcome in due course.

Yours sincerely

*Kind regards*

*Tim Francis*

(H H Francis)  
Ambassador