

THE WHITE HOUSE

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WASHINGTON

March 8, 1977

Presidential Directive/NSC-4

TO: The Vice President
 The Secretary of State
 The Secretary of Defense

ALSO: The Secretary of the Treasury
 The Attorney General
 The Secretary of the Interior
 The Secretary of Commerce
 The Secretary of Transportation
 The Acting Director of Central Intelligence
 The Director, Office of Management and
 Budget
 The Assistant to the President for Energy
 The President's Special Representative
 for the Law of the Sea Conference
 The Chairman, Council of Economic Advisors
 The Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff
 The Director, National Science Foundation
 The Administrator, Environmental
 Protection Agency
 Assistant to the President for Domestic
 Affairs and Policy

SUBJECT: The Law of the Sea Policy Review (PRM/NSC-18) (U)

I have reviewed the Presidential Review Memorandum/NSC-18, Part 1, response including specifically the recommendations and agency views on LOS negotiating and legislative postures. The decisions set forth below are intended as interim guidance for the intersessional sessions only. An assessment of the results of these meetings, as well as a full analysis of strategic options and acceptable treaty packages, are to be submitted through the Policy Review Committee for full interagency consideration and my decision prior to the next LOS Conference (May 23-June 8). The study on seabed mining legislation continues to be due to the Policy Review Committee by March 21, 1977.

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Declassify on: OADR

Declassified/Released - 9.16.94
under provisions of E.O. 12356
by D. Van Tassel, National Security Council

(F88-186)

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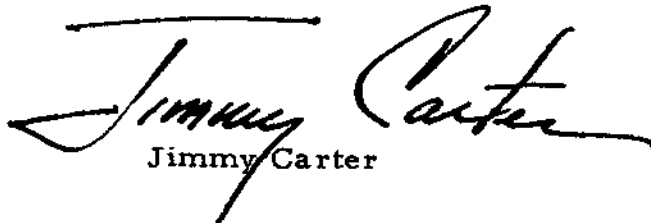
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Pending my further review and decision, existing instructions are reaffirmed as modified below:

1. I approve the recommendation that the U. S. should continue to seek agreement on a comprehensive treaty which accommodates our essential international, security, commercial navigation, resource, environmental and scientific interests.
2. With respect to the deep seabeds, the U. S. should continue to seek an international regime for the deep seabeds which will facilitate rational investment in deep seabed mining and production and which will include a system which provides assured U. S. access on a non-discriminatory basis to these minerals. In furthering this objective and while continuing to support the U. S. proposals for a parallel system of mining which includes both states and their nationals as well as an international enterprise, my special representative may informally consider other mechanisms which protect our interests, and permit qualified states and private parties to obtain assured access on a non-discriminatory basis to seabed resources.
3. I approve the recommendation that the delegation be granted the flexibility to explore various kinds of interim regimes which would fully protect U. S. resource interests.
4. With respect to deep seabed mining legislation, I direct that the Administration will: work with Congress in a manner which would optimally contribute to accelerating progress on seabeds at the next conference session; not support enactment of deep seabed legislation prior to the end of the next session; indicate that it prefers non-site specific legislation. All these decisions may be modified due to the results of the intersessional meetings, or the findings of Part 3 of the LOS PRM/NSC-18 review. Final decisions on detailed substance and appropriate timing of possible legislation are reserved until that study is completed.


Jimmy Carter

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