

PERMANENT MISSION OF FINLAND
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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No. YKEC032-46

The Permanent Representative of Finland to the United Nations presents his compliments to His Excellency the Secretary-General of the United Nations and, referring to His Excellency's note MZ/SP/13 dated 24 July 1996, has the honour to transmit herewith a set of charts (9 charts in triplicate) indicating, on one hand, the baseline and the external limit of Finland's territorial sea and, on the other hand, the median line separating Finland's continental shelf and fisheries zone from the continental shelves and exclusive economic zones of Estonia and Sweden, respectively. The geographical coordinates of the base points and of the external limit of the territorial sea have been notified to His Excellency by note no. 3392 of 9 August 1995.

Regarding His Excellency's note SLTSS/SP/7 of 24 July 1996, it is to be added that the sea lanes established in Finland's territorial sea are also indicated in the charts. There are no traffic separation schemes in the territorial sea.

With regard to His Excellency's note TS/IP/SP/11 of 24 July 1996, the Permanent Representative has the honour to inform that the provisions of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea concerning innocent passage through the territorial sea have been incorporated in the internal legislation of Finland. There are no other laws or decrees concerning innocent passage.

His Excellency
Mr. Kofi Annan
Secretary General
of the United Nations

New York

With regard to His Excellency's note SIN/TP/SP/4 of 24 July 1996 concerning transit passage in international straits, it is submitted that Finland's territorial sea borders the territorial sea of a neighbouring country, thus forming an international strait between one part of the high seas or an exclusive economic zone and another part of the high seas or an exclusive economic zone only in the strait between the Åland Islands and Sweden (Ahvenanrauma). Since in that strait, as has been stated in the declaration deposited by Finland upon the ratification of the 1982 Law of the Sea Convention, the passage is regulated in part by a long-standing international convention in force, the legal regime of innocent passage in the strait has remained unchanged after the entry into force of the Convention.

The Permanent Representative of Finland to the United Nations avails himself of this opportunity to renew to His Excellency the Secretary-General of the United Nations the assurance of his highest consideration.

August 22, 1997

