

**UNITED STATES MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS  
NEW YORK**

December 3, 2004

The Deputy Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations presents her compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and refers to the recent Australian submission to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (the Commission). The United States recalls the principles and objectives shared by the Antarctic Treaty and the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (the Convention), and the importance of the Antarctic system and the Convention working in harmony and thereby ensuring the continuing peaceful cooperation, security and stability in the Antarctic area. The United States wishes to inform you that, recalling Article IV of the Antarctic Treaty, the United States does not recognize any State's claim to territory in Antarctica and consequently does not recognize any State's rights over the seabed and subsoil of the submarine areas beyond and adjacent to the continent of Antarctica. The United States acknowledges with appreciation Australia's request to the Commission that it not take any action on that portion of its submission relating to areas of the seabed and subsoil adjacent to Antarctica. The United States requests that this note be posted on the United Nations Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea web site and made available to the Commission.

The Deputy Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations avails herself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretary-General the assurances of her highest consideration.

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**DIPLOMATIC NOTE**