

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

June 30, 2009

The Permanent Mission of the United States of America to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the United Nations (Office of Legal Affairs) and, referring to its communication on June 8, 2009, concerning receipt of the submission made by Cuba to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf, has the honor to submit the following observations by the Government of the United States.

The United States has taken note of the potential overlap in the Eastern Gap of the Gulf of Mexico between an area of continental shelf extending beyond 200 nautical miles from Cuba and an area of continental shelf extending beyond 200 nautical miles from the United States.

The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, including its Annex II, and the Rules of Procedure of the Commission, in particular Annex I thereto, provide that the actions of the Commission, in particular Annex I thereto, provide that actions of the Commission shall not prejudice matters relating to delimitation of boundaries between States with opposite or adjacent coasts.

DIPLOMATIC NOTE



With reference to the Executive Summary of Cuba's submission, the Government of the United States submits that it does not object to Cuba's request that the Commission consider the documentation in its submission related to the aforementioned area and make its recommendations on the basis of this documentation, to the extent that such recommendations are without prejudice to the establishment of the outer limits of its continental shelf by the United States, or to any final delimitation of the continental shelf concluded subsequently in this area between Cuba and the United States.

The Permanent Mission of the United States of America to the United Nations takes this opportunity to renew to the United Nations the assurances of its highest consideration.

