The Permanent Representative of the Republic of the Fiji Islands to the United Nations presents his compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honour to refer to the latter's communication concerning the receipt of the submission made by New Zealand to the Commission on the Continental Shelf.

The Permanent Representative of the Republic of the Fiji Islands to the United Nations has the further honour to inform the latter that consistent with Article 76 paragraph 10 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, delimitation of boundaries negotiations are still ongoing between the Republic of the Fiji Islands and New Zealand in relation to continental shelf entitlements on the area referred to in the New Zealand Executive Summary as the Kermadec Ridge, Havre Trough, and Colville Ridge.

Consequently, the submission made by New Zealand and any recommendation to be made by the Commission on the Continental Shelf regarding the same ought to be without prejudice to any future submission to be made by the Republic of the Fiji Islands nor to the delimitation of the continental shelf of the Kermadec Ridge, Havre Trough, and Colville Ridge area between the Republic of the Fiji Islands and New Zealand.

The Permanent Representative of the Republic of the Fiji Islands to the United Nations avail himself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretary-General of the United Nations the assurances of his highest consideration.

H.E. Mr. Kofi Annan
Secretary-General
United Nations,
New York, N.Y. 10017