

DECLARATION BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT
OF 20 JANUARY 1964

1. In the light of the development of general international law, as expressed in the recent practice of States and especially in the signing of the Geneva Convention on the Continental Shelf, the Federal Government regards the exploration and exploitation of the natural resources of the sea-bed and subsoil of the submarine area adjacent to the German coast but outside the area of the German territorial sea to a depth of 200 metres and, beyond that limit, to where the depth of the superjacent waters admits of the exploitation of the natural resources as an exclusive sovereign right of the Federal Republic of Germany. The detailed delimitation of the German continental shelf in relation to the continental shelf of foreign States shall be the subject of agreements with those States.
2. The Federal Government regards as inadmissible any activities undertaken within the area of the German continental shelf for the purpose of exploring and exploiting its natural resources without the express approval of the competent German authorities. It will, if necessary, take appropriate measures against such activities.