

learn fluent German and French. But Als thinks, is the country's size and lack

other technologically advanced countries were not consulted in the last-minute drafting of key articles in the section on seabed mining.

# U.S. Envoy Calls Proposed Regulations on Ocean Mining Unacceptable

Special to The New York Times  
 UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., July 20—Elliott L. Richardson, the chief American negotiator at the Law of the Sea Conference, charged today that a "handful of people" had devised proposals for regulating deep seabed mining that were fundamentally unacceptable to the United States.

Consequently, he said he was recommending to President Carter that the Government review whether it was in its interest to continue such negotiations.

Mr. Richardson said he would not rule out the possibility that the United States might consider withdrawing from the conference. The negotiations, which have been going on for five years, are for a comprehensive treaty that would cover regulations for mining ocean floor minerals, navigation and maritime issues, pollution and scientific research.

An eight-week session of the conference ended inconclusively here last Friday with the participants from 150 countries agreeing that the conference president, Hamilton Shirley Amerasinghe of Sri Lanka, and the heads of three committees would put together a "composite" proposed treaty.

The State Department has been urging Congress not to take such unilateral action, arguing that it could jeopardize the treaty. The department is emphasizing that the sealaw treaty is conceived as a "package," covering other issues of great concern to the United States, including freedom of navigation, military security matters and scientific research.

One well-placed negotiator at the recent conference expressed dismay at the vigorous American criticism of the proposed

Mr. Engo, replying to the criticism from the United States, said tonight that it was "ridiculous" to charge that there had not been adequate discussion with all the parties and said he had consulted members of the American delegation as recently as a week ago before completing his committee text on Friday.

The United States criticism of seabed mining provisions is likely to have immediate impact on Congress, which is considering legislation sought by American mining companies that would permit them to begin exploitation of mineral-rich nodules on the Pacific Ocean floor in the 1980's. A House Merchant Marine subcommittee yesterday approved a measure which could open the way for such action.

Among the specific objections to the proposed text raised by Mr. Richardson were the following:

¶The proposed text could be interpreted as making it a condition that companies transfer technology to the seabed authority in return for permission to mine the seabed.

¶The proposed regulations fail to set did not accept the treaty.

reasonable limits on the financial burdens to be borne by contractors.

¶An artificial limit would be set on seabed production.

¶The authority would be given broad and open-ended powers to regulate seabed production "as appropriate," and might receive authority to regulate scientific research in the deep sea area under its control.

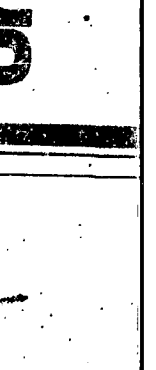
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