

legislation is put into effect, then the governments which passed it will be violating a UN moratorium adopted unanimously by the General Assembly in 1970 against unilateral exploitation. Congressman Breaux argues that the U.S. does not need a treaty: "In the absence of the (draft) treaty, many things dealing with navigational and territorial seas already have become international law." There is no need to regulate internationally deep-sea mining because its requirements of capital and technology limit the number of state which can engage in it. "There aren't going to be a great number of nations that are going to be doing

deep-sea mining. It would be easy to make bilateral agreements with other developed nations such as Great Britain, West Germany and France."

Elliot Richardson, the former chief of the U.S. delegation to UNCLOS dismissed by the Reagan administration, told the *New York Times* he believes mining companies will not be able gain universally respected rights to exploit any area of the deep seabed by national action. "We can agree with Germany or Japan to each other's claims, but no other country would be required to respect them; seabed mining companies could face decades of litigation."

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