

It would also, in our view, be premature to attempt to reach decisions as to how our essentially land-based principles should be transposed into appropriate under-the-sea rules. For example, it is difficult to imagine that what is possible within a single domestic legislative system would equally be a rational proposition under a complex international regime. Imaginative efforts will therefore undoubtedly be required before the United Nations can possibly arrive at practical approaches and solutions. Careful studies of particular conditions under which the exploration and exploitation of abyssal depths take place will have to be carried out. So far, our experience has been limited to relatively shallow depths and to the production of oil, gas, sulphur and a few other minerals. We can only speculate as to what will be required for the exploitation of other mineral resources. Surely it would be advisable to take a flexible but careful approach in seeking to solve problems which involve a variety of technical matters about which we as yet know little.

If we are to establish, as one of our main objectives at the present time, the examination of principles whereby the exploitation of the resources of the abyssal depths will be open to all, so that all countries, including in particular the developing states, will have opportunities of deriving benefits from such areas, economic considerations of a complexity yet unknown will play a very important part. On the one hand, the question will have to be examined of giving due regard to