



June 28, 2007

Dear Senator Lugar,

I understand that the Law of the Sea Treaty is once again likely to be considered by the Senate for consent to ratification. I am writing to let you know that I support ratification.

I have had a long history with this treaty. When I was Secretary of the Treasury in 1973, we got word of this negotiation and discovered the language on control of mining in the deep sea-beds. We blew every whistle we could find to call attention to the undesirable features of what was being negotiated. Nevertheless, negotiations proceeded.

The question of ratification arose once again during the Reagan administration. President Reagan, fully aware of the many desirable aspects of the treaty, nevertheless opposed ratification, fundamentally on the same grounds that led us to blow the whistle in the early 1970s.

The treaty has been changed in such a way with respect to the deep sea-beds that it is now acceptable, in my judgment. Under these circumstances, and given the many desirable aspects of the treaty on other grounds, I believe it is time to proceed with ratification.

It surprises me to learn that opponents of the treaty are invoking President Reagan's name, arguing that he would have opposed ratification despite having succeeded on the deep sea-bed issue. During his administration, with full clearance and support from President Reagan, we made it very clear that we would support ratification if our position on the sea-bed issue were accepted.

With my respect and admiration for the sustained high quality of your public service,

Sincerely yours,

George P. Shultz

The Honorable Richard Lugar  
United States Senate  
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