



REPUBLIC OF VANUATU

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11 July 2007

Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf  
Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea  
Office of Legal Affairs  
United Nations

2 United Nations Plaza, DC20450  
New York, NY 10017  
United States of America

Your Excellency,

I have great honour in bringing to the distinguished Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS), copy of the letter from the Prime Minister of Vanuatu, Hon

Lini Vanuatavu, to the President of the Commission, dated 20 June 2007, and subsequently over the recent submission of France to the Commission under article 76 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

UNCLCS/

The submission by France to the Commission under the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) covering an area to the south-east of New Caledonia will have serious implications and islands, south of Vanuatu.

The Commission will take note that as a party to UNCLOS Vanuatu has complied with Articles 55-75 of the UNCLOS by establishing an Exclusive Economic Zone and accordingly enacted its national law which specifies that:

In this respect, the Vanuatu national parliament in recognizing the two islands as forming part of the entire archipelago of the country, enacted the Maritime Zones Act Cap 158, subsection 5(2) specifically states that:

*"The baselines from which the territorial sea is measured shall be the archipelagic*



**JAMES BULE**  
Minister of Trade and Acting Foreign Minister

