

Declaration by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of 14 September 1985
(on Easter Island and Sala y Gomez Island,
Extension of undersea sovereignty)

Whereas:

"1. On 23 June 1947 the President of Chile, Gabriel González Videla, in his official statement on maritime jurisdiction, on behalf of his Government confirmed and proclaimed national sovereignty over the entire continental shelf adjacent to the continental and insular coasts of the national territory, at whatever depth they lie, claiming thereby, all the natural wealth existing on said shelf, in it and below it, whether known or undiscovered.

"2. The third paragraph of item 3 of the declaration on the maritime zone, signed on 18 August 1952 at the first conference on the conservation and exploitation of maritime wealth of the South Pacific, between the Governments of Chile, Ecuador and Peru, proclaimed that: 'the exclusive jurisdiction and sovereignty over the maritime zone indicated (up to a distance of 200 nautical miles) also include exclusive sovereignty and jurisdiction over the soil and subsoil thereof'.

"3. Article 77, paragraph 1, of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, to which our country is a signatory, states that the coastal State exercises over the continental shelf sovereign rights for the purpose of exploring it and exploiting its natural resources.

"4. Article 76, paragraph 6 of the above-mentioned Convention stipulates that 'notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 5, on submarine ridges, the outer limit of the continental shelf shall not exceed 350 nautical miles from the baselines from which the breadth of the territorial sea is measured'.

"5. Under the terms of article 121 of the aforementioned Convention on the Law of the Sea, 'the territorial sea, the contiguous zone, the exclusive economic zone and the continental shelf of an island are determined in accordance with the provisions of this Convention applicable to other land territory'.

"It is hereby stated:

"(1) That the Government of Chile, holder of sovereignty over Easter Island and Sala y Gomez Island in the Pacific Ocean, declares and communicates to the international community that its sovereignty over their respective shelves extends up to a distance of 350 nautical miles, measured from the baselines from which their respective territorial seas are measured.

"(2) That the Government of Chile reserves its right to make, at the appropriate time, any declarations which it deems relevant regarding Chilean sovereignty over its other oceanic possessions.