

Declaration on the continental shelf, 19 September 1985

Leon Febres Cordero Ribadeneyra, Constitutional President of the Republic, BEARING IN MIND:

That on the sea-bed lying between the continental territorial sea of Ecuador and the territorial sea which surrounds the Galápagos Islands, the Carnegie Ridge lies at depths of less than 2,500 metres;

That scientific research has revealed the presence of significant natural resources existing in the sea-bed and subsoil of that marine area;

That the international law of the sea recognizes that the coastal States have the power to delineate the limits of their continental shelves up to a distance of 100 miles from the 2,500 metre isobath;

That the national Government has a duty to protect the sovereign rights of the Ecuadorian State over the continental shelf and its resources,

DECLARES:

That, in addition to the continental and insular shelf within its territorial sea of 200 miles, the sea-bed and subsoil located between Ecuador's continental territorial sea and its insular territorial sea around the Galápagos Islands, up to a distance of 100 miles measured from the 2,500 metre isobath, also form part of the continental shelf of Ecuador. The Ecuadorian authorities will therefore propose the appropriate legal reform to protect the sovereign rights of the Republic with respect to the above-mentioned continental shelf, consistent with further subsequent development of both national legislation and the principles of the international law of the sea accepted by Ecuador and the international community.