

Translated from French

Permanent Mission of France to the United Nations

TS/MSM/No. 622

The Permanent Mission of France to the United Nations presents its compliments to the United Nations Secretariat and, with reference to note No. 894 of the Permanent Mission of Canada to the United Nations, dated 3 September 2014, has the honour to request the Secretariat to draw the attention of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf to the points set out below.

France notes that the Government of Canada, referring to paragraph 5 (a) of annex I to the Rules of Procedure of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf, has requested the Commission not to consider the submission made on 16 April 2014 by the French Republic on its rights to the continental shelf beyond 200 miles from Saint Pierre and Miquelon.

France recalls, however, that the arbitral decision issued on 10 June 1992 in the case concerning the delimitation of maritime areas between Canada and the French Republic did not include a determination on the merits of French claims to the continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles from Saint Pierre and Miquelon, because the Court of Arbitration declared that that question did not fall within its competence. In addition, those claims do not run counter to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea or any rule of international law. They have a scientific basis clearly established in the documents supporting the French submission.

France notes that, as matters stand, the existence of a maritime dispute arising from the partial overlapping of its claims and those of Canada to the continental shelf in the region of Nova Scotia constitutes an obstacle to the consideration of the Canadian submission relating to that region.

Nevertheless, in a spirit of cooperation, France is in favour of a mutually agreed solution being sought with Canada to allow consideration of their submissions relating to the region.

It requests that the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf draw the attention of the States parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and the members of the Commission to the present note.

United Nations Secretariat
Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea
2 United Nations Plaza
New York, NY 10017

The Permanent Mission of France to the United Nations takes this opportunity to convey to the Secretariat the renewed assurances of its highest consideration.

(Signed and stamped)

New York, 17 December 2014