

**Presidential Proclamation of 15 January 1977 in pursuance  
of Maritime Zones Law No. 22 of 1 September 1976**

WHEREAS the national State Assembly has enacted the Maritime Zones Law, No. 22 of 1976, which provides for the declaration of the territorial sea and other maritime zones of Sri Lanka and all other matters connected therewith or incidental thereto;

AND WHEREAS it has become necessary to declare in accordance with the provisions of the said Maritime Zones Law the extends respectively, of the territorial sea, the contiguous zone, the exclusive economic zone, the pollution prevention zone and the historic waters;

NOW THEREFORE, I, William Gopallawa, President of the Republic of Sri Lanka, do by this Proclamation declare, in pursuance of the powers vested in me by section 2,4, 5, 7 and 9 respectively of the Maritime Zones Law, No. 22 of 1976:

(1) That the territorial sea of Sri Lanka shall, notwithstanding anything in any prior proclamation declaring the territorial sea of Sri Lanka, and except as provided in paragraph 7 (iii) hereof, extend to the sea to a distance of 12 nautical miles measured from the baselines described in paragraph (2);

(2) that the breadth of the territorial sea shall be measured from the low-water mark of ordinary spring tides along the coast of the mainland and along the seaward edge of islands:

Provided that for the purpose of determining the baselines for delimiting the territorial sea:

(i) a low-tide elevation which lies wholly or partly within the breadth of sea which would be territorial sea if all low-tide elevations were disregarded for the purpose of the measurement of the breadth thereof shall be treated as islands,

(ii) permanent installations further out to sea which form an integral part of a port system shall be considered as part of the coast of the mainland,

(iii) the method of straight baselines may be employed in drawing the baselines where there are deep bays and inlets in the coast or where there is a fringe of islands immediately adjacent to the coast, provided that such baselines shall not depart appreciably from the general direction of the coast and the areas of the sea lying landward from these lines shall be sufficiently closely linked to the land domain to be subject to the régime of internal waters;

Provided further that the baseline from which the breadth of the territorial sea shall be measured in the sea north of Point Pedro shall be the arc of Great Circle between the following positions defined by latitude and longitude in the Palk Strait:

(i) 09° 49' 8" North, 80° 15' 2" East,

(ii) 10° 05' 0" North, 80° 03' 0" East;

(3) That the contiguous zone of Sri Lanka shall extend 24 nautical miles seaward from the baselines from which the territorial sea is measured;

(4) that the exclusive economic zone of Sri Lanka shall extend to the sea to a distance of 200 nautical miles

from the baselines from which the territorial sea is measured;

(5) that the pollution prevention zone shall extend to the sea to a distance of 200 nautical miles from the baselines from which the territorial sea is measured;

(6) that notwithstanding anything in paragraphs (4) and (5), the exclusive economic zone and the pollution prevention zone of Sri Lanka in the Gulf of Manner and the Bay of Bengal shall extend to the sea up to the maritime boundary between Sri Lanka and India as defined in section 8 of the Maritime Zones Law No. 22 of 1976.

(7) (i) that the historic waters of Sri Lanka shall comprise the areas of sea in the Palk Strait, Palk Bay and the Gulf of Mannar bounded by:

- (a) the coast of the mainland of Sri Lanka;
- (b) the maritime boundary between Sri Lanka and India as defined in Section 8 of the Maritime Zones Law, No. 22 of 1976;
- (c) the arc of Great Circle between the following positions defined by latitude and longitude in the Gulf of Mannar:
  - (i) 08° 15' 0" North, 79° 44' 0" East,
  - (ii) 08° 22' 2" North, 78° 55' 4" East; and
- (d) the arc of Great Circle between the following positions defined by latitude and longitude in the Palk Strait:
  - (i) 09° 49' 8" North, 80° 15' 2" East,
  - (ii) 10° 05' 0" North, 80° 03' 0" East;

(ii) the historic waters in the Palk Bay and Palk Strait shall form part of the internal waters of Sri Lanka;

(iii) the historic waters in the Gulf of Mannar shall form part of the territorial sea of Sri Lanka.