09-0/80/09/15.

EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE

The Resumed Ninth Session of the Third United Nations
Conference on the Law of the Sea has just ended at Geneva. From
the results of the Session, it would appear that the Conference
is now drawing to a close and a new Convention on the Law of the
Sea is likely to be concluded soon.

One of the trends emerging from the Conference is the
endorsement of a 12-nautical mile limit for the territorial
sea, with assurances of unimpeded transit passage through straits,
and for a 200-nautical mile Exclusive Economic Zone beyond the
territorial sea where coastal States will have jurisdiction and
rights over resources. The practice of States in recent years
has also been consistent with this trend. Among others, Malaysia
and Indonesia have already declared a 12-nautical mile territorial
sea and a 200-nautical mile Exclusive Economic Zone.

Since 1878, Singapore has adhered to the concept of a
three-nautical mile territorial sea. In certain areas, Singapore
can extend its territorial sea beyond three nautical miles and
can also claim an Exclusive Economic Zone. In the light of the
said international developments, Singapore will exercise its
rights to extend its territorial sea limit up to a maximum of 12
nautical miles. Likewise, Singapore will also establish an
Exclusive Economic Zone.

The precise coordinates of any extensions of the
territorial sea and the establishment of any Exclusive Economic
Zone will be announced at an appropriate time. Should such
extensions and the establishment of an Exclusive Economic Zone
overlap with claims of neighbouring countries, Singapore will
negotiate with these countries with a view to arriving at an agreed
delimitation in accordance with international law.

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
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