SITUATION REPORT

STATE

DISTO/SALT

SUBJECT: Revised Seabeds Treaty Draft

REF: GENEVA 1145, GENEVA 1146

1. US NATO should circulate to other delegations text of revised Seabeds Arms Control Treaty contained GENEVA 1145 which was presented to US Co-Chairman by Soviet Co-Chairman at Geneva on April 13 and which US prepared to table at CCD as new joint co-chairmen draft. In view of fact that most of changes in revised draft were discussed in NATO and with Allies in New York last fall, you should seek to obtain concurrence at special
Council meeting on April 21, or at latest at regular meeting April 22, for Co-Chairmen tabling April 23.

2. To expedite considerations revised treaty by NATO govts, embassies at NATO capitals should convey text to FonOffs. Following points will serve as partial basis for explanatory material to be circulated to NATO delegations with draft text by US NATO:

(a) Soviet response is gratifying since it represents virtually complete acceptance of changes which we proposed to Sovs at UNGA last fall and elaborated on at CCD this February. New text incorporates, with few modifications, amendments contained in working papers tabled at UNGA by Argentina, Canada, and Mexico. These in turn were designed to meet concerns of various countries that had found October 30 draft Co-Chairmen treaty text (GENEVA 39805, NOTAL) lacking in certain respects. Canadian and
Argentine amendments were circulated with explanations to all NATO allies last fall and should be available in capitals. Additional minor and editorial changes in new draft reflect various improvements suggested by UK, Belgium, Japan, and others.

(b) In view of fact that new text contains substantial improvements desired by many other govs, we are hopeful that tabling of new text, after further discussion in Geneva, will result in achievement of treaty that will be broadly acceptable.

3. For GENEVA: You should call meeting Western Five plus Japan to make new draft and explanations available to CCD dels of our allies. Re proposed USSR statement on UAR problem, we are prepared go along with Roshchin text since first sentence of text makes clear that right under Charter to go directly to Security Council is not
prejudiced. However, we would not ourselves wish to make statement in identical terms. You should include in speech presenting treaty to CCD, following statement parallel to Roshchin's: BEGIN TEXT. The procedures provided for in Art III do not, of course, prejudice or limit the right of any State to apply directly to the Security Council in accordance with the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations. END TEXT.

4. For TOKYO: Embassy may draw on above in advising Japanese govt of new developments and our desire to table revised Co-Chairmen draft soonest.

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END