THE LAW OF THE SEA
Part XI of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, 1982,\(^1\) articles 133 to 191, with its related annexes III and IV, deals with the seabed and ocean floor and its subsoil beyond the limits of national jurisdiction and the exploitation of their natural resources. Through the combination of articles 76 on the definition of the continental shelf, 83 on the delimitation of the continental shelf between States with opposite or adjacent coasts, article 84 on charts and lists of geographical co-ordinates, and 134, paragraph 3, on the scope of Part XI of the Convention, the outer limits of the continental shelf constitute the landward limit of the international sea-bed area beyond the limits of the national jurisdiction. The Convention, conceived as a “package deal”, was adopted despite the opposition of the principal maritime and industrialized States, who objected principally to the provisions of Part XI. The Conference adopted the Convention as a whole together with some ancillary instruments at its 182nd meeting on 30 April 1982 by a recorded vote of 130 to 4, with 17 abstentions.\(^2\) Israel, Turkey, the United States of America and Venezuela cast negative votes. Israel explained its negative vote as due to the standing that the Convention gave to the Palestine Liberation Organization, and to certain other difficulties which it then had.\(^3\) The negative votes of Turkey and Venezuela were explained by reference to maritime delimitation disputes with neighbouring States. The United States explained its negative vote as due to its firm opposition to certain aspects of Part XI. In this, the United States was joined by the abstaining States: Belgium, Bulgaria, Byelorussian SSR, Czechoslovakia, German Democratic Republic, Federal Republic of Germany, Hungary, Italy, Luxembourg, Mongolia, the Netherlands, Poland, Spain, Thailand, Ukrainian SSR, USSR, and the United Kingdom. This includes all the industrialized States of both Western and Eastern Europe (except Canada, France and Japan), three of the permanent members of the Security Council, and all

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3. Ibid. at 158. Fuller in the concluding statement by the representative of Israel at the 190th meeting on 8 December 1982, ibid. vol. XVII at 84.