

Victory Institute Fact Sheet

28 May 2010

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Law of the Sea Treaty

President Obama and numerous White House officials have declared their intent to sign the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea Treaty (LOST), which will weaken the U.S. military, strip U.S. sovereignty, and massively redistribute American wealth.

- Known officially as the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea
- Gives U.N. control over “all ocean space, its uses and resources”
- Establishes international governing bodies
 - International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea
 - International Seabed Authority
- President Reagan rejected LOST in 1982 due to threats to American security and sovereignty
 - Proponents claim Reagan’s objections were “fixed” in 2004, but that is not true as the changes have not been agreed to by the member nations
 - Proponents also say that the unfavorable parts can be vetoed
- America does not need LOST to exploit our resources:
 - The U.S. has already secured rights to the resources on our continental shelf when President Truman signed Presidential Proclamation No. 2667
 - U.S. even has a claim to the North Pole thanks to the Doctrine of Discovery
- LOST doesn’t grant the U.S. any rights we do not currently possess
- President Barack Obama has expressed his support

Weakens American military

- LOST severely impacts our military's ability to operate, gather intelligence, even train
 - Forces submarines to travel on the surface
 - Prohibits training with weapons
 - Prohibits aircraft operations
 - Prohibits loading or unloading of equipment or personnel

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- Limits our ability to board ships believed to be carrying WMD, even if there was compelling evidence
- There is an exemption for “military activities,” but it is not defined, leaving interpretation up to international authorities

Massive income redistribution

- Gives the International Seabed Authority (ISA) control over revenue and “other economic benefits” - stripping state sovereignty
 - U.N.’s first independent revenue source
 - Private U.S. companies can mine resources, but are taxed by the ISA in order to redistribute American wealth
 - ISA will levy international taxes on private U.S. companies for extracting resources from the seabed
 - U.S. consumers will then pay higher prices
 - Each country gets 1 vote - over 150 nations
 - Most of which are hostile toward the U.S.
 - No guarantee that the U.S. would have a judge on the tribunal
 - In the case of a Dispute Resolution:
 - U.N. Secretary-General will choose the arbitrators
 - Will require U.S. to hand over sensitive civilian or military information and technology in dispute resolution tribunals
 - Provides back door to enact environmental measures such as those found in the Kyoto Protocol
 - Amendments to LOST will be implemented without our consent
 - LOST has sat in Senate Subcommittee on Foreign Relations, chaired by Joe Biden, who is a supporter
 - U.S. will be isolated by bloc voting of countries with an interest in limiting U.S. freedom of action and sovereignty
 - While decisions of our activist judges can be appealed, the U.N. Cannot
 - Under the Bush Administration, the Joint Chiefs all supported LOST, but they couldn't go against the commander in chief
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To contact the Victory Institute, email us at info@victoryinstitute.net or call (888) 740-6990