(Translation)

CML/17/2009

New York, 7 May 2009

The Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and, with reference to the Joint Submission by Malaysia and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam dated 6 May 2009, to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (hereinafter referred to as "the Commission") concerning the outer limits of the continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles, has the honor to state the position as follows:

China has indisputable sovereignty over the islands in the South China Sea and the adjacent waters, and enjoys sovereign rights and jurisdiction over the relevant waters as well as the seabed and subsoil thereof (see attached map). The above position is consistently held by the Chinese Government, and is widely known by the international community.

The continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles as contained in the Joint Submission by Malaysia and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam has seriously infringed China's sovereignty, sovereign rights and jurisdiction in the South China Sea. In accordance with Article 5(a) of Annex I to the Rules of Procedure of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf, the Chinese Government seriously requests the Commission not to consider the Joint Submission by Malaysia and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam. The Chinese Government has informed Malaysia and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam of the above position.

The Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations requests that this Note Verbale be circulated to all members of the Commission, all States Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea as well as all Members of the United Nations.

The Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretary-General of the United Nations the assurances of its highest consideration.

H.E. Mr. BAN KI-MOON
Secretary-General
The United Nations
NEW YORK

CHINA

Taiwan Tao

Dongsha Qundao

Hainan Dao

LAOS

THAILAND

VIETNAM

LAOS

Xisha Qundao

Zhongsha Qundao

PHILIPPINES

CAMBODIA

SOUTH CHINA SEA

Nansha Qundao

BRUNEI

MALAYSIA

INDONESIA

km200   0   200   400   600km

1:10 600 000