

INTRODUCTION

The passage of the Marine Resources and Engineering Development Act of 1966 marked a turning point in United States policy toward marine affairs. With the passage of this Act, the Congress laid the basis for a long-range program calling for greater use of the resources of the seas.

The oceans afford, as the Congress acknowledged, an asset of "immense potential significance" for mankind. Increased utilization of the marine resources is now becoming possible through new developments in vehicles, structures and technology. As these capabilities expand, the role of public policy in relation to the seas becomes increasingly significant.

The objectives set forth by the Congress in 1966 encompass a broad span of national interests. They look to expansion of knowledge of the seas, enhancement of commerce, navigation and national security, rehabilitation of commercial fisheries, encouragement of private investment for exploring and developing the mineral wealth in the oceans, advancement of education and training in marine science and engineering, and improvement of the capabilities, performance and use of vehicles and instruments for exploring the marine environment, recovering

its resources and transmitting energy.

These declarations reflect the determination of the Congress to have the country retain a leading role in marine activities. In addition it called for cooperation of the United States with other nations, groups of nations, and international organizations when this is found to be in the national interest.

The present collection of source materials, documents and cases has been assembled to facilitate study of policy issues relating to increased use of the marine environment.

The primary focus of this volume is on United States policy toward the oceans, this being the first concern of ocean engineers in this country. Numerous documents are included, nevertheless, relating to the policies of other states and to measures of international cooperation where these are particularly relevant to American interests or activities, or are instructive of other approaches to specific situations.

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Many streams of thought initiated by students in the Ocean Engineering course have gone into the organization of this volume. One of the satisfactions of teaching is the companionship of younger scholars eager to extend their knowledge and the help they invariably afford in untangling complicated problems. From these young men, drawn from a dozen disciplines and representing the principal national services, I have learned much and am indebted for their ideas.

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