

The Law of the Sea Treaty: Another Bush-Kennedy Deal?



Bush's base of support for the Law of the Sea Treaty includes Ted Kennedy and his fellow Democrats and the pro-world government World Federalists.

Senator Ted Kennedy gets an "A" from Citizens for Global Solutions (CGS), the new name of the World Federalist Association, for his voting record. CGS is now praising Bush for pushing ratification of the U.N. Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). In fact, after Bush released a statement endorsing the pact and calling for its urgent ratification, CGS said the following:

"Already sensing an opportunity two years ago, Citizens for Global Solutions first convened a remarkably diverse coalition to promote this treaty, including everyone from peace organizations to national security specialists to environmental groups and even the oil and gas industry. We pulled this group together again earlier this year and have steadily built up the political support for ratification. **For months now we've pushed for this kind of statement by President Bush.**

"And now that the president has - finally! - come out publicly in favor of the Law of the Sea, every right-wing isolationist in the country is foaming at the mouth!"

- **CGS email message, May 21, 2007**

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Our Shrunken Navy

U.S. Navy and Coast Guard support of the Law of the Sea Treaty is a sign of Weakness and Decline.

“...we're on the way to a 150-ship Navy...[China] is now building their 600-ship Navy, to fill the vacuum, and they're very good ships.”

- **John Lehman, former Secretary of the Navy.**
<http://www.nysun.com/article/40438>

“America faces a security crisis. The fleet of the U.S. Navy has dropped from 594 ships in 1987 to 276 ships today. This represents the smallest Navy in our Nation's history since 1917.”

- **Seapower Ambassador Program**
<http://www.seapowerambassador.org/>

Ships and Subs

Under President Reagan: **594 ships.**

On January 20, 2001, the day President George Bush was sworn into office: **315 ships**

September 2006: **276 ships.**

Projected under the Bush budget: **210 ships.**

Chinese Navy: producing 2.5 submarines per year.

Bush plan: one submarine per year through 2012.

Source: Office of Rep. Joe Courtney

“...the fast declining force levels of the US Navy, currently based around a fleet of 276 vessels. This is perhaps the lowest number in several decades and represents a third of the number of ships built annually during the Reagan-era...the US Navy's presence on the oceans is quite thin due to extensive deployments in the Persian Gulf, Arabian Sea, Mediterranean, and East Asia to support its growing commitments in Iraq, Afghanistan, Somalia, Latin America, South Korea, and Japan.”

- **Vijay Sahuja**, Visiting Senior Research Fellow at the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies.
<http://www.opinionasia.org/AnyAsiantakersfora1000shipnavy>

The World Federalists Despised Reagan and his Conservative Advisers

Sam and Miriam Levering, a husband and wife team, both Quakers and World Federalists, helped draft the Law of the Sea Treaty and lobbied for it through a non-governmental organization called the Neptune Group. Miriam Levering attended all nine sessions of the U.N. conference on the Law of the Sea. The Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL), a radical pacifist Quaker group, said that the Leverings, who were the subjects of the book, *Citizen Action for Global Change*, “worked out of FCNL's office as they diligently and patiently advocated to keep the oceans part of ‘the common heritage of mankind’ and negotiated with governments on the treaty's final language.” They worked closely with **Elliott Richardson**, who served President Carter as Special Representative of the President for the Law of the Sea Conference and headed the U.S. delegation to the Third U.N. Conference on the Law of the Sea.

An important figure in negotiations on the treaty was **Caitlyn L. Antrim**, daughter of Navy Admiral Richard Nott Antrim and expert on Law of the Sea matters. Caitlyn, once known as Lance Antrim, is a transsexual who now runs a pro-treaty organization, the Center for Leadership in Global Diplomacy.

In a letter posted on the “transsexual road map” website, Antrim declared:

“We simply seek our deserved recognition as women (and as men for those who transitioned from female to male). Justice cries out for us to be heard!”

Antrim further declared that her activities on U.N. matters were related to her struggle for “social justice” for transsexuals.

Antrim served as a technical advisor on the U.S. delegation to the Law of the Sea negotiations in 1979-1980, served on the Reagan Administration's policy review team, and then worked as a deputy U.S. representative “when we attempted to secure the changes in the convention sought by President Reagan in 1982.” She became a specialist in strategic materials and moved into the study of negotiation and diplomacy, before “coming full circle in the past couple years to examine the amendments” to UNCLOS.

Antrim worked with the Leverings on behalf of the treaty and also knew Elisabeth Mann Borgese, the radical socialist and “Mother of the Oceans” who played a role in crafting the treaty. But in the book, *Citizen Action for Global Change*, Caitlyn Antrim is Lance Antrim, reflecting her life as a man before his sex change.

The book, *Love, Mom*, by Miriam Levering, described the importance of the Church Center for the U.N., which sits across from U.N. headquarters in New York City, as a focus for lobbying for the treaty. Some of their effort in the early 1970s was dedicated to defeating bills that would have “allowed the federal government to grant licenses to vast fixed areas of the international seabed...before the Law of the Sea Treaty was completed,” according to the Miriam Levering book.

The book also reveals **Miriam Levering’s disdain for President Reagan**. She called him an “ideologue” who was not informed on treaty issues but “swept out most of the talented U.S. delegation and removed the U.S. from further negotiations on seabed mining.” A caption under some of the photos in the book is also revealing. It says:

“The Carter Administration supported the United States’ involvement with the Law of the Sea Conference. American leadership on LOS all but vanished when Ronald Reagan took office in 1981.”

The Leverings saw Reagan’s conservative advisers, including Edwin Meese and William Clark, as “determined enemies of compromise” on the treaty. Meese was described in their book as having a “hard-line position” that he would not soften. They also criticized then-Treasury Department under secretaries William Simon and George Shultz for opposing the idea of “licensing of U.S. seabed-mining corporations by the international seabed authority and the payment of a share of the profits to an international organization instead of to the U.S. Government.”

Passage of UNCLOS: A Tribute to World Government Advocate Louis Sohn

“And if US ratification of UNCLOS were not a strong enough incentive on its own, I ask for us all to redouble our efforts so that the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea can be made the law of the land as an honor to Louis Sohn and his contributions to the United States and the world.”

- Caitlyn (formerly Lance) Antrim, director, Center for Global Leadership

Note: Louis Sohn, professor Emeritus of International Law at Harvard University, was a U.S. delegate to the Law of the Sea Conference and helped write the draft of the treaty. Sohn's material has been published in Uniting the Peoples and Nations. Readings in World Federalism. He and Grenville Clark wrote World Peace Through World Law, which called for the elimination of "all national armaments," creation of a World Police Force, and a United Nations Revenue System.