

# National Defense Council Foundation

1600 Wilson Blvd. ■ Suite 960-A ■ Arlington, VA 22209 ■ (703) 243-0553

For Immediate Release: September 27, 2007

## Do Not Ratify Law of the Sea Treaty

Statement by NDCF Executive Director James L. Martin

Arlington, VA – “The Law of the Sea Treaty is a set of rules for the use of the world's oceans, which cover 70 percent of the Earth's surface. Ratifying or not ratifying the treaty, conceived by the United Nations in 1982 but that to date, the United States has not seen fit to join because it claims this treaty is unfavorable to America's economy and security.

“President Ronald Reagan opposed it. So should President George W. Bush.

“On behalf of the National Defense Council Foundation I join with so many other voices in registering our strongest rebuke for ratification.

“As Executive Director of the NDCF, I'm pleased to note that as far back as 1986, then Executive Director and former Army Special Forces officer, Major Andy Messing, as well as retired Admiral Mark Hill, military advisor to the NDCF, both testified before the House Foreign Affairs Committee extolling military and strategic reasons why the Law of the Sea Treaty was not in the best interests of the United States. I forcefully continue opposition today, 21 years later.

“Ratification of the treaty gives the United Nations more power and influence; it would likely create a new agency within the UN with power to resolve disputes over use of the seas, something that ought to concern every American who treasures our sovereignty. One can imagine the havoc to be wrought upon the United States whose interests in environmental policies, fishing, military passage and energy exploration rights, to name a few, would be impacted well outside of U.S. control.

“We urge President Bush to reconsider and oppose ratification just as President Reagan did.”