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KEY WORD: CONTINENTAL SHELF BOUNDARY DELIMITATION/ ADJACENT OR OPPOSITE STATES/ PRINCIPLE OF EQUIDISTANCE/ EQUITABLE SOLUTION.

NILOBON HIRANRAS : (THE PRINCIPLES OF LAW RELATING TO THE CONTINENTAL SHELF BOUNDARY DELIMITATION BETWEEN ADJACENT OR OPPOSITE STATES : A CASE STUDY ON THE JUDGMENTS OF THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE (1969-1985). THESIS ADVISOR : ASSO.PROF. CHUMPORN PATCHUSANONTRA, Ph.D. THESIS COADVISOR : ADMIRAL THANOM CHAREONLARP. 184 pp. ISBN 974-332-307-4.

The legal principles relating to the continental shelf boundary delimitation between adjacent or opposite states contained in Article 6 of the 1958 Geneva Convention on the continental shelf required the states in dispute to delimit the boundaries of the continental shelf appertaining thereto by entering into agreement between them. Failing such agreement, and unless justified by special circumstances, the boundary shall be determined by application of the principle of equidistance. When the 1982 United Nations Convention on the law of the sea has come into being, Article 83 relating to the continental shelf or Article 74 relating to the exclusive economic zone stipulate that the delimitation shall be effected by agreement on the basis of international law, as referred to in Article 38 of the Statute of the International Court of Justice , in order to achieve an equitable solution. Yet, the provisions therein contained in the Convention are not clear. Thus, further study from adjudication, whether judicial or arbitration, is called for. This thesis is confined to study certain cases, namely North Sea Continental Shelf Cases 1969 , Tunisia - Libya Case 1982, Gulf of Maine Case 1984, Libya - Malta 1985 and Anglo - French Arbitration 1977.

Although the aforementioned Judgments and Arbitral Award give us a better more understanding of the principles and rules for maritime boundary delimitation, there were some limitations because many factors including geographical circumstances had to be considered on a case by case basis. However, it can form guidelines for states to consider with a view to reaching an agreement on maritime boundary delimitation.

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