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SECOND COMMITTEE
Agenda item 60

UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

Note by the Secretariat

At its 85th plenary meeting, on 15 December 1978, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Second Committee, 1/ decided (decision 33/421) to transmit the draft resolution entitled "Marine pollution", 2/ set forth below, to the Assembly at its thirty-fourth session for its consideration:

"MARINE POLLUTION

"The General Assembly,

"Mindful of the grave dangers posed to the marine environment by the shipping of oil and other dangerous substances,

"Recalling that the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization has adopted a number of comprehensive international conventions, recommendations, traffic separation schemes and codes of practices specifically for the purpose of enhancing maritime safety, ensuring efficiency of navigation and protecting the marine environment,

"Recalling further the adoption by the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization of additional international instruments during 1978, providing for comprehensive standards dealing with tanker safety and pollution prevention and also with training, certification and watch-keeping for seafarers,

"Bearing in mind also that the International Labour Organisation has been dealing for many years with matters concerning training and certification for seafarers,

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-third Session, Annexes, agenda item 63, document A/33/412, para. 23.

2/ A/C.2/33/L.11.

"Regretting that the various measures to ensure the safety of navigation by the observance of the existing international regulations are not applied stringently by all Member States,

"Considering that the conservation of the marine environment represents a basic objective for mankind,

"1. Urges that the competent international institutions and organizations expedite and intensify their activities relating to the prevention of pollution and the determination of responsibilities in this matter;

"2. Calls upon States parties to the 1954 International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution of the Sea by Oil 3/ to discharge fully their obligations under the Convention and in particular to ensure that national legislation adopted is sufficiently stringent to have a genuine deterrent effect;

"3. Urges all States which have not already done so to examine the possibility of ratifying at the earliest opportunity the international conventions and protocols designed to ensure better protection of the marine environment and improve the safety of navigation, inter alia:

"(a) Convention on the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea, 1972; 4/

"(b) International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974; 5/

"(c) Convention concerning Minimum Standards in Merchant Ships, 1976; 6/

"(d) Protocol of 1978 Relating to the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974. 7/

3/ United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 327, No. 4714, p. 4.

4/ Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization, International Conference on Revision of the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea, 1972, Final Act of the Conference, with attachments (Sales No. IMCO.1973.1), p. 36.

5/ Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization, International Conference on Safety of Life at Sea, 1974, Final Act of the Conference, with attachments (Sales No. IMCO.75.01.E), p. 1.

6/ International Labour Office, Official Bulletin, vol. LX, 1977, Series A, no. 1, Convention No. 147.

7/ Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization, International Conference on Tanker Safety and Pollution Prevention, 1978, Final Act of the Conference, with attachments (Sales No. IMCO.78.09.E), p. 11.

"(e) International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973; 8/

"(f) Protocol of 1978 Relating to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973; 9/

"(g) International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watch-keeping for Seafarers, 1978; 10/

"4. Urges all States to co-operate in order to implement material measures for the effective combating of marine pollution;

"5. Requests the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme to continue to consider the problems relating to marine pollution and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its thirty-fifth session through the Economic and Social Council."

8/ Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization, International Conference on Marine Pollution, 1973, Final Act of the Conference, with attachments (Sales No. IMCO.77.14.E), p. 19.

9/ Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization, International Conference on Tanker Safety and Pollution Prevention, 1978, Final Act of the Conference, with attachments (Sales No. IMCO.78.09.E), p. 37.

10/ Adopted by the International Conference on Training and Certification of Seafarers, 1978 (Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization document STW/CONF/13 of 5 July 1978).