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GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT: DUMPING OF RADIOACTIVE WASTES

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. On 7 December 1988, the General Assembly adopted resolution 43/75 T entitled "Dumping of radioactive wastes", paragraphs 1 to 7 of which read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"...

"1. Condemns all nuclear-waste dumping practices that would infringe upon the sovereignty of States;

"2. Expresses profound concern regarding practices of dumping nuclear and industrial wastes in Africa, which have grave implications on the national security of African countries;

"3. Calls upon all States to ensure that no radioactive waste is dumped in the territory of other States in infringement of their sovereignty;

"4. Requests the Conference on Disarmament to take into account, in the ongoing negotiations for a convention on the prohibition of radiological weapons, the dumping of radioactive wastes in the territory of other States;

"5. Requests the Secretary-General to transmit to the Conference on Disarmament all documents relating to the consideration of the present item by the General Assembly at its forty-third session;

"6. Requests the Conference on Disarmament to include in its report to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session the developments on the ongoing negotiations on this subject;

"7. Further requests the Secretary-General to prepare a report, in consultation with relevant international organizations, on the dumping of radioactive wastes in all its aspects in Africa, including all steps taken or envisaged to monitor, control and put a halt to such activities, and to submit his report to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session".

2. Pursuant to paragraph 7 of resolution 43/75 T, relevant international organizations, that is, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the Organization of African Unity (OAU), were requested to provide information they might wish to furnish on this matter and which could be included in the report of the Secretary-General. Their replies are reproduced in section II of the present report.

II. REPLIES RECEIVED FROM INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

[Original: English]

[25 September 1989]

1. The Conference of Plenipotentiaries convened at Basel, Switzerland, adopted on 22 March 1989 the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal. Article 1, paragraph 3, of the Convention provides that wastes which, as a result of being radioactive, are subject to other international control systems, including international instruments, applying specifically to radioactive materials, are excluded from the scope of the Basel Convention.
2. At the same time, however, the Conference adopted a resolution by which it requested the Executive Director of UNEP to bring to the attention of the Director-General of IAEA the need to harmonize procedures of the Basel Convention and the internationally agreed code of practice for international transactions involving nuclear wastes, which is under preparation by IAEA, with a view to ensuring that the provisions of the Basel Convention are taken into full account during the elaboration by the Agency of procedures for international transactions involving nuclear wastes.
3. IAEA established a Technical Working Group of Experts on a Code of Practice for International Transactions Involving Radioactive Wastes, which held its first meeting from 22 to 25 May 1989. The Working Group reviewed a working paper containing elements for possible inclusion in a code of practice. The Working Group agreed to meet again early in 1990. It is the intention of UNEP to participate in that meeting.
4. UNEP is in touch with IMO with the purpose of reviewing the existing rules, regulations and practices with respect to dumping of hazardous and other wastes at sea in the light of the Basel Convention with a view to recommending any additional measures needed within the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter, 1972 (London Dumping Convention), including its annexes, in order to control and prevent dumping of hazardous and other wastes at sea. IMO, in close co-operation with IAEA, has been dealing extensively with the question of the disposal (dumping) of radioactive wastes at sea in the implementation of relevant provisions of the London Dumping Convention and its annexes.
5. In view of the above, both IAEA and IMO are competent to provide information relevant to the preparation of the Secretary-General's report on the dumping of radioactive wastes in all its aspects in Africa pursuant to General Assembly resolution 43/75 T. The illegal dumping of radioactive wastes in Africa is identified in the report UNEP assisted in preparing entitled "Illegal traffic in toxic and dangerous products and wastes", to be submitted by the Secretary-General to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session (A/44/362 and Corr.1).

INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION

[Original: English]

[20 June 1989]

1. The dumping of radioactive wastes within a comprehensive waste management scheme includes the option of disposal at sea and it is in this connection that attention is drawn to the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter, 1972 (London Dumping Convention).
2. IMO is responsible for carrying out secretariat duties in relation to that Convention, and a short note prepared by the IMO Office for the London Dumping Convention is annexed describing the basic requirements of the Convention, the status of sea disposal of radioactive wastes, decisions made under the Convention concerning the export of wastes for sea disposal, and activities carried out by the secretariat with a view to increasing the number of contracting parties to the Convention. As will be noted, the responsibilities of IMO with regard to this important matter are global and cover Africa as well as other parts of the world (see annex and appendices).
3. In the light of the concerns expressed in General Assembly resolution 43/75 T and elsewhere regarding the transboundary movement of hazardous wastes for disposal, it seems particularly important to continue our efforts in urging States that are not yet contracting parties to the London Dumping Convention to join it. Within the framework of the London Dumping Convention a number of procedures have been developed that provide effective guidance concerning the various waste management options.

ANNEX

Note by the International Maritime Organization on the Convention
on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and
Other Matter, 1972
(London Dumping Convention)

Basic requirements

1. The dumping of wastes at sea as well as the sea disposal of any other matter is regulated under the terms of the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter, 1972 (London Dumping Convention). IMO performs secretariat duties in relation to the Convention. As at 15 June 1989, 63 Governments had ratified or acceded to the Convention.
2. The London Dumping Convention defines "dumping at sea" as the deliberate disposal at sea of material and substances of any kind, form and description, which have been loaded on board vessels for that purpose.
3. The Convention covers all marine waters beyond the baseline defining the outer limits of the internal waters of the States.
4. Wastes and other matters are divided into three groups. The most hazardous materials, from an environmental point of view, are listed in annex I to the Convention. The disposal at sea of these substances is prohibited. Substances listed in annex II to the Convention may be dumped only after a prior special permit has been issued requiring that special care is taken in the selection of the dumpsite and in the execution of the dumping operation. Materials not listed in the annexes may be dumped at sea after a prior general permit has been issued.

Sea disposal of radioactive wastes

5. High-level radioactive wastes or other high-level radioactive matter which is unsuitable for dumping at sea are included in annex I to the London Dumping Convention and are therefore prohibited from being dumped at sea. Under the terms of the Convention, IAEA has the responsibility for defining high-level radioactive materials unsuitable for sea disposal.
6. Low-level radioactive wastes requiring a special permit for disposal at sea are listed in annex II to the Convention. IAEA is the competent international body to recommend a basis for the issue of such special permits.
7. IAEA developed the above-mentioned definition and recommendations. The latest revised version was approved by the Board of Governors of the Agency in September 1985 and transmitted to the Consultative Meeting of Contracting Parties to the London Dumping Convention later that year. In this connection the Board of Governors requested IMO to inform the contracting parties that the revised definition and recommendations, which should not be construed as encouraging in any way the dumping at sea of radioactive wastes or other radioactive matter, will continue to be subject to review and revision by IAEA, as and when appropriate, in

the light of technological developments and increased scientific knowledge. The revised definition and recommendations adopted in 1985 by IAEA are published in IAEA Safety Series No. 78, Vienna, 1986.

8. The Seventh Consultative Meeting of Contracting Parties held in 1983, owing to concerns expressed by a number of contracting parties regarding the hazards and risks posed by the dumping of radioactive wastes at sea, adopted a moratorium on further dumping of such wastes, pending the review by a panel of experts of the relevant scientific and technical considerations. In 1985 the Ninth Consultative Meeting of Contracting Parties again requested contracting parties to the Convention to suspend radioactive waste dumping at sea pending the completion of scientific and technical studies and assessments, as well as of additional studies on the wider political, legal, economic and social aspects (resolution LDC.21 (9)) (see appendix I). An Inter-Governmental Panel of Experts on Radioactive Waste Disposal at Sea was established to carry out such studies and assessments. The Panel expects to finalize its work in 1992.

9. Although the decisions made so far by the Consultative Meeting are not legally binding but are of a recommendatory character only, all contracting parties have, since the adoption of the moratorium in 1983, abstained from the dumping of radioactive wastes at sea.

Co-operation with other organizations in the field of radioactive waste disposal

10. IMO, being responsible for secretariat duties in connection with the London Dumping Convention, assists and co-operates with regional bodies in establishing regional agreements on the protection of the marine environment from waste disposal at sea and in the implementation of such agreements. Several regional agreements include an outright ban on the dumping of any radioactive waste; others follow the requirements as set out in the London Dumping Convention.

11. Member States of the Permanent South Pacific Commission at a working group meeting in March 1989 prepared, with the assistance of IMO, the draft regional convention for the protection of the South-East Pacific against radioactive pollution. Any dumping of radioactive wastes or other radioactive substances in the sea and/or on the sea-bed within the 200-mile zone of maritime sovereignty and jurisdiction of the contracting parties shall be prohibited.

12. IMO also participated in an IAEA Working Group meeting, convened at Vienna from 22 to 25 May 1989, which considered the establishment of a code of practice on international transactions of radioactive wastes [for their disposal]. The meeting had been convened in accordance with IAEA General Conference resolution GC (XXXII)/RES/490 on dumping of nuclear wastes.

Transboundary movements of wastes

13. The problem of the movement of wastes across boundaries was considered by the Tenth Consultative Meeting in 1986. A resolution on the export of wastes for disposal at sea was adopted (resolution LDC.29 (10)) (see appendix II), requesting contracting parties not to export wastes for sea disposal, especially those containing annex I and annex II substances "unless there are both compelling

reasons for such export and clear evidence that the wastes would be disposed of in compliance with the requirements of the London Dumping Convention".

14. Contracting parties exporting wastes for sea disposal should provide advance notification of an intended movement of such wastes to the receiving country and obtain the prior consent of the appropriate national authorities in any country receiving wastes and issuing the required sea disposal permit.

15. For the full text of resolution LDC.29 (10), see appendix II.

West and Central African Seminar on Waste Management and Waste Disposal at Sea (planned for February/March 1990)

16. The Consultative Meeting of Contracting Parties to the London Dumping Convention, noting that the Secretary-General of IMO had been requested on several occasions by West African countries for advice on matters related to the transport and disposal of hazardous wastes, agreed that a seminar on waste management and waste disposal at sea should be arranged by IMO in West Africa. Plans have been developed accordingly (see IMO Circular letter No. 1341, appendix III).

Action to increase the number of contracting parties to the London Dumping Convention

17. The Consultative Meeting of Contracting Parties to the London Dumping Convention at all its meetings emphasized the need for more States to become parties to the London Dumping Convention, taking into account that the Convention provides a global basis for the application of sea disposal principles as well as practices with regard to waste management.

18. A resolution on action to increase the number of contracting parties to the London Dumping Convention was adopted by the Consultative Meeting in 1983 (resolution LDC.13 (77)), emphasizing the value and importance of a State to join the Convention. At the request of the Consultative Meeting the Secretary-General of IMO invited the Executive Director of UNEP and the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to bring the resolution to the attention of their respective governing bodies.

19. The response to the efforts made by the Secretary-General of IMO has not been altogether satisfactory. Since the adoption of the resolution in 1983 and in spite of the many other additional efforts made by IMO during the past 6 years (e.g. the organizing of regional and national seminars), only 11 States have become contracting parties to the London Dumping Convention since 1983.

20. From the 22 countries of the West and Central African region, only 5 countries are contracting parties to the London Dumping Convention: Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon, Nigeria and Zaire.

21. IMO will continue its efforts and also further assist regional bodies and individual countries in the development of legal instruments on the prevention and control of marine pollution by waste disposal at sea. It will also continue to provide any assistance needed for the effective implementation of the London Dumping Convention.

APPENDIX I

Ninth Consultative Meeting of Contracting Parties to the London
Dumping Convention

Resolution LDC.21 (9): Dumping of radioactive wastes at sea

The Ninth Consultative Meeting,

Recognizing that the marine environment and the living resources of the sea are of vital importance to all nations and that the objective of the London Dumping Convention is to prevent the pollution of the seas by dumping,

Considering that the Convention should continue to provide an effective global forum for the contracting parties in which to pool the advances of science and technology in their effort to combat marine pollution,

Taking note of the increasing concern of a growing body of public opinion, and in particular among the populations living near present or potential dumping sites, with regard to the dumping of radioactive wastes at sea,

Recognizing that dumping of radioactive wastes at sea may adversely affect the environment of other nations and of regions located beyond the limits of national jurisdiction in contravention with principle 21 of the United Nations Declaration on the Human Environment adopted at Stockholm in June 1972,

Recognizing that, under article 1 of the Convention, contracting parties have pledged themselves specially to take all practicable steps to prevent the pollution of the seas by the dumping of wastes and other matter that is liable to create hazards to human health, to harm living resources and marine life, to damage amenities or to interfere with other legitimate uses of the sea,

Recalling that the Seventh Consultative Meeting in February 1983 adopted resolution LDC.14 (7), which called for the suspension of all dumping at sea of radioactive materials pending the presentation to the contracting parties of the final report of an expert meeting on radioactive matters related to the London Dumping Convention,

Recognizing that the practice of dumping radioactive wastes at sea has been limited to a few States which have halted such dumping since the adoption of resolution LDC.14 (7) of February 1983,

Noting the findings of the Expert Panel on the Disposal at Sea of Radioactive Wastes contained in document LDC 9/4, Annex 2, and expressing its appreciation to the experts involved in the preparation of this report,

Noting that the Expanded Panel of Experts recognizes deficiencies in scientific information that need to be resolved for a rigorous and precise assessment of the consequences of sea dumping of radioactive wastes,

Accepting that, as noted by the Expert Panel, in the comparison between options, social, economic, scientific and technological factors are difficult to quantify on a common basis, especially where the social factors have international dimensions; and that, as also noted by the Expert Panel, in the final analysis social and related factors may outweigh those of a purely scientific and technical nature,

Noting also the absence of comparison between land-based and sea dumping options,

1. Agrees to a suspension of all dumping at sea of radioactive wastes and other radioactive matter to permit time for the further consideration of issues which would provide a broader basis for an informed judgement on proposals for the amendment of the annexes of the Convention. This suspension will continue pending the completion of the studies and assessments referred to in paragraphs 2 to 5 hereunder;

2. Requests that additional studies and assessments of the wider political, legal, economic and social aspects of radioactive waste dumping at sea be undertaken by a panel of experts to complement the existing expanded panel report;

3. Requests that further assessments examine the issue of comparative land-based options and the costs and risks associated with these options;

4. Requests that studies and assessments examine the question of whether it can be proven that any dumping of radioactive wastes and other radioactive matter at sea will not harm human life and/or cause significant damage to the marine environment;

5. Requests IAEA to advise contracting parties with respect to certain outstanding scientific and technical issues relating to the sea dumping of radioactive wastes, specifically:

(a) To determine whether additional risks to those considered in the revised IAEA definition and recommendations justify re-examination of the definition of radioactive wastes and other radioactive matter unsuitable for dumping at sea for certain individual radionuclides;

(b) To establish source (dose) upper bounds appropriate to the practice of radioactive waste dumping under the Convention;

(c) To define quantitatively the exempt levels of radionuclides for the purposes of the Convention;

6. Requests the Organization to approach appropriate international agencies to establish and maintain an inventory of radioactive wastes from all sources entering the marine environment;

7. Calls upon contracting parties to develop, as envisaged in article X, procedures for the assessment of liability in accordance with the principles of international law regarding State responsibility for damage to the environment of other States or to any other area of the environment resulting from dumping.

APPENDIX II

Tenth Consultative Meeting of Contracting Parties to the
London Dumping Convention

Resolution LDC.29 (10): Export of wastes for disposal at sea

The Tenth Consultative Meeting,

Recognizing the obligation of contracting parties to promote, individually and collectively, the effective control of all sources of pollution of the marine environment,

Recognizing further the increasing movement of wastes across national boundaries for a variety of purposes such as storage, recycling, treatment or final disposal,

Recalling the recommendation of the London Dumping Convention Task Team 2000 Report (LDC 8/4) that contracting parties address the problem of the transboundary movement of wastes for disposal at sea,

Recalling further resolution LDC Res.11 (V) concerning the export of wastes for incineration at sea,

Acknowledging that protection of the marine environment in connection with the transboundary movement of wastes for disposal at sea is a shared responsibility between exporting and receiving countries,

Noting the activities of such organizations as the United Nations Environment Programme, the European Community, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and the Oslo Commission in developing rules and guidelines on the transboundary movement of hazardous wastes, and their value in advancing the objectives of the London Dumping Convention,

Bearing in mind that the work undertaken in some of these organizations may ultimately lead to an international convention on all aspects of the transboundary movement of hazardous wastes,

Believing that pending the creation of such an international convention it is useful to make recommendations to Contracting Parties on transboundary movements of hazardous wastes destined for disposal at sea,

Recognizing the right of individual States to apply rules governing the export of wastes for sea disposal that are more stringent than international rules and guidelines,

Desiring that any disposal at sea be conducted in accordance with the requirements of the London Dumping Convention and appropriate regional conventions,

1. Agrees to work towards the widespread acceptance and effective application of the Convention;

2. Agrees further to recommend that contracting parties not export wastes for sea disposal, particularly those containing substances listed in annexes I and II of the London Dumping Convention, to States not party to the Convention or to an appropriate regional convention unless there are both compelling reasons for such export and clear evidence that the wastes would be disposed of in compliance with the requirements of the London Dumping Convention and such regional conventions;

3. Calls on contracting parties exporting wastes for sea disposal to:

(a) Provide advance notification of any intended movement of such wastes to the receiving country and any other country which may exercise authority over their transport or disposal in sufficient time for an informed assessment;

(b) Obtain the prior consent of the appropriate national authorities in any country receiving wastes and issuing the required permit for sea disposal;

4. Urges contracting parties to endeavour to ensure that wastes exported for a purpose other than sea disposal are not ultimately disposed of at sea unless done in compliance with the requirements of the Convention;

5. Requests that contracting parties provide the Organization with the names of the national authorities in their country responsible for receiving advance notification of the transboundary movement of wastes for sea disposal, and requests the Organization to circulate this information among the contracting parties;

6. Urges contracting parties to take account of this resolution when negotiating any future international convention on the transboundary movement of hazardous wastes.

APPENDIX III

International Maritime Organization

Circular letter No. 1341

27 April 1989

To: All countries in the West and Central African Region (Angola, Benin, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mauritania, Namibia, Nigeria, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo, Zaire)
United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Food and Agriculture
Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Intergovernmental
Oceanographic Commission (IOC)
cc: UNEP Focal Points in the Region
UNDP Resident Representatives in the Region

Subject: West and Central African Seminar on Waste Management and Waste Disposal at Sea (tentatively planned for February/March 1990)

Background and objectives

The Seminar has been initiated by Contracting Parties to the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by dumping of Wastes and Other Matter, 1972 (London Dumping Convention), as part of their initiative to increase membership in the Convention and to respond to requests for technical assistance on waste management and waste disposal at sea.

The London Dumping Convention regulates the sea disposal of wastes on a global basis. Article I of the London Dumping Convention pledges contracting parties to take effective measures to prevent marine pollution by dumping at sea and to promote control of all sources of marine pollution. Article IX of the Convention also calls for promoting technical co-operation and assistance in furthering the aims and purposes of the Convention.

The Seminar will be supported by the IMO/Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) Programme for the Protection of the Marine Environment. The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC), the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) have also indicated their willingness to support the Seminar.

The principal objective of the Seminar is to provide an opportunity for countries of the West and Central African Region to learn of progress at the global level in reducing marine pollution through the control of waste disposal at sea. The London Dumping Convention provides a comprehensive framework for evaluating the role of disposal at sea in which the practical availability of alternative land-based methods of treatment, disposal or elimination, or treatment to render the waste less harmful for dumping at sea is considered. If the foregoing analysis shows the ocean alternative to be less preferable, the Convention recommends that a licence for sea disposal should not be given.

Programme

The following is a preliminary list of topics which are planned to be addressed at the Seminar:

- State of the marine environment in West and Central Africa;
- Trends in marine resource utilization;
- Waste sources, disposal practices and problems in West and Central Africa (to be limited to identified priorities and national presentation);
- Legislation and programmes for waste management and marine pollution control (in West and Central Africa and globally);
- Waste treatment and disposal options (to be limited to identified priorities);
- Montreal Guidelines for Land-Based Discharges to Marine Environment;
- Application of the London Dumping Convention to disposal at sea;
- Hazard evaluation (e.g. assessment approaches of the least developed countries and International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973, and the Protocol of 1978);
- Workshop on dumpsite selection and monitoring (e.g. dredged material);
- Workshop on developing a local waste management plan;
- Workshop on waste management (e.g. comparative assessment of disposal options);
- Future developments.

Note: Other topic suggestions will be considered.

Participation

Participation will be open to senior administrators and technical advisory staff involved in the disposal of wastes at sea, marine environment protection or waste management. For practical reasons the total number of participants will be restricted to approximately 50. Selection of nominees, in particular for those requiring financial assistance, will be made by the IMO secretariat, taking into account the needs and interests of the countries. If more than one participant from one country is nominated (two may be possible), please indicate the order of priority.

To assist in this selection, the attached questionnaire should be completed and returned to the IMO secretariat not later than 1 August 1989.*

Financial assistance for participation is limited to the return economy air fare by the economic and direct route and daily subsistence allowances for participants' stay during the Seminar or in transit elsewhere at the prevailing United Nations rate. Insurance for attendant risk in travelling or for illness, etc., must be arranged by the participants.

Questionnaire

Recipients are invited to complete the questionnaire, in as much detail as possible, to assist the IMO secretariat in establishing topics of particular concern, to decide on the optimum composition of the panel of speakers and also to select participants.

Upon receipt of the responses to the questionnaire and after further consultation with interested parties, a final notification will be given on the programme, dates, venue and other arrangements for the Seminar.

* Mr. J. H. Karau
Senior Technical Officer
Office for the London Dumping Convention
Marine Environment Division
International Maritime Organization
4, Albert Embankment
LONDON SE1 7SR
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Circular letter No. 1341

ATTACHMENT I

Questionnaire to Governments of West and Central African
States wishing to participate in the Regional Seminar on
Waste Management and Waste Disposal at Sea

FOREWORD

This questionnaire forms part of a circular announcing an IMO/Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) Seminar on Waste Management and Waste Disposal at Sea. Recipients are invited to complete the questionnaire, in as much detail as possible, to assist the IMO secretariat in establishing topics of particular concern, to decide on the optimum composition of the panel of speakers, and also to select participants, keeping in mind that for practical purposes their numbers will be restricted.

1. ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

1.1 Title and address of agency(ies) supplying information on this questionnaire:

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

Telephone No.:

Telex/Telefax No.:

1.2 General areas of responsibility of agency(ies) listed in 1.1 above, in particular the responsibilities related to waste management, treatment or disposal:

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

1.3 Contact for further communications regarding the seminar if different to 1.1 above:

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

Telephone No.:

Telex/Telefax No.:

2 PRODUCTION, TREATMENT AND DISPOSAL OF WASTES

Note: For the purposes of this questionnaire a waste is any discarded solid, sludge or liquid material (including dredged material) which is transported from its source to a site of permanent disposal).

2.1 What are the major sources of wastes generated within the State?

<u>Source</u>	<u>Approximate tonnages of production per year</u>
Domestic sewage:
Agricultural and fisheries (including food processing and drink manufacturing):
Wood processing:
Power generation:
Tanneries:
Textiles:
Iron and steel:
Chemical industry:
Shipping:
Oil and gas:
Mining:
Other:

2.2 Which sources and types of waste are likely to show the greatest increase in quantity within the foreseeable future?

2.3 What proportion of domestic sewage is subject to treatment?

Percentage

Primary treatment:

Secondary treatment:

Other form of treatment:

Total:

2.4 What proportion of domestic sewage sludge is subject to:

Percentage

Disposal by landfill:

Spreading on agricultural land:

Disposal by dumping at sea:

Digestion for energy production (biogas):

Incineration:

2.5 What are the major types of industrial waste produced (metallic, food processing, chemical, packaging, etc.)?

Industrial waste type Approximate tonnages of waste (if known)

2.6 Which methods of waste disposal are used for industrial wastes?

Method of disposal

Types of wastes

Landfill:

Discharge to inland water:

Discharge to sea:

Dumping at sea:

Incineration:

Export:

Recycling:

Other (please specify):

2.7 How many ports and harbours are subject to maintenance dredging operations regularly or in the last five years?

If possible, give the dredged material tonnages (or cubic metres), for the three largest ports subject to maintenance dredging:

Name of port

Dredged material amounts

1.

2.

3.

2.8 Please briefly describe major ongoing or planned port and harbour expansion programmes.

2.9 Are there any particular sources or types of waste which currently present environmental problems? If so, are such problems related to human health, the terrestrial environment, freshwater or marine environments?

2.10 Would it be possible to present at the Seminar a "case-study" which would demonstrate clearly adverse environmental, health or other consequences of improper waste disposal at sea and the lessons learned?

3 REGULATORY ASPECTS OF WASTE DISPOSAL

3.1 Has the State developed a policy of waste management, taking into account all categories of waste and all methods of waste disposal?

3.2 Has the State enacted legislation to control waste disposal activities? If so, please specify.

3.3 Has the State enacted legislation to control the input of pollutants to the marine environment? If so, please specify.

- 3.4 Has the State established a single agency to regulate waste disposal activities or is this responsibility distributed between a number of agencies? Please provide details.
- 3.5 Does the State sponsor research into new and improved methods of waste disposal? If so, please specify.
- 3.6 Are the estuarine and coastal waters of the State subject to routine monitoring of environmental quality? If so, please specify.

ATTACHMENT II

Nomination form

Name:

Position:

Mailing address:
.....
.....
.....

Telex/Telefax Nos.:

Telephone Nos.: (Office) (Home)

Training and experience:
.....
.....
.....

Responsibilities/interests:
.....
.....

Is financial assistance required for participation? YES/NO (delete as appropriate)

Notes: If more than one person is to be nominated or proposed for participation, please indicate priorities.

If there are any additional comments, suggestions, copies of relevant documents etc. which are considered relevant to the Seminar or this questionnaire, the Secretariat would be pleased to receive them.

Kindly return completed questionnaire as soon as possible, and at the latest before 1 August 1989 to Mr. John Karau, Marine Environment Division, International Maritime Organization, 4, Albert Embankment, London SE1 7SR, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY

[Original: English]

[8 June 1989]

1. The General Conference of IAEA, at its thirty-second session, adopted resolution GC (XXXII)/RES/490, entitled "Dumping of nuclear wastes", which the Director-General brought to the attention of the Secretary-General of the United Nations.
2. That resolution, inter alia, condemns all nuclear waste dumping practices which would infringe upon the sovereignty of States and requests each member State to take necessary measures to ensure that its international nuclear waste transactions take place in accordance with appropriate requirements of the exporting, importing and transit States. The resolution also requested the Director-General to establish a representative technical working group of experts with the objective of elaborating an internationally agreed code of practice for international transactions involving nuclear waste. The international group of experts held its first meeting from 22 to 25 May 1989 at IAEA headquarters at Vienna.
3. In June 1988, at the request of an African member State, IAEA sent an expert to discover whether waste illegally disposed of in that country was radioactive; the result was negative. So far, no case of dumping of radioactive waste is known to IAEA.
4. The development of a comprehensive régime for the safe management of radioactive waste constitutes one of the IAEA's important programme priorities. The Agency serves as a centre for assistance and advice and for the development of standards and criteria in the field of nuclear waste management. For some time it has been providing assistance to developing countries under its waste management advisory programme and as a part of its technical assistance programme.

ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY

[Original: English]

[19 June 1989]

The Organization of African Unity enclosed the OAU resolution on the matter (see A/43/398, annex I), and stated that its implementation as outlined in the resolution had been fully carried out. OAU also enclosed the text of a resolution of the Economic Community of West African States on the matter (annex I) and a copy of a letter from the Director-General of IAEA (annex II).

ANNEX I

Economic Community of West African StatesEleventh session of the Authority of the Heads of
State and Government, Lomé, 23-25 June 1988Resolution A/RES.1/6/88: Dumping of nuclear and industrial wasteThe Authority of Heads of State and Government,

Mindful of article 5 of the Treaty of the Economic Community of West African States establishing the Authority and defining its composition and functions,

Aware that the West African subregion faces serious problems of ecological degradation principally brought about by drought and desertification,

Conscious of the efforts of the countries of the subregion to re-establish the natural ecological balance through the implementation of environmental protection programmes at both national and community levels,

Alarmed at the increasing reports of the incidence of acts of or attempts at dumping nuclear and other harmful industrial waste within the territories of member States of the Economic Community of West African States,

Determined to continue to protect, preserve and improve the natural environment of the subregion for the benefit of the present and future generations of West Africans and other people,

Hereby resolves as follows:

1. We condemn in no uncertain terms all acts of or attempts at dumping of nuclear and other industrial waste in the territory or territorial waters of any member State of the Economic Community of West African States;
2. We undertake to enact laws in our respective countries to make it a criminal offence for anybody, group of persons or firms or organizations to take part in any act that facilitates the dumping of nuclear and industrial waste in any of our territories;
3. Each member State is urged to take all possible measures to prevent the involvement of the Government or its officials, any corporate body or private citizen in any act that could lead to the dumping of toxic and other harmful waste in its territory;
4. We undertake to establish a "dump watch". The Council of Ministers, with the assistance of the Executive Secretary, shall ensure the effective establishment of this system of surveillance to ensure that the West African subregion is kept free of nuclear and industrial waste;

5. The Governments of the industrialized countries are called upon to take the necessary measures to ensure the safe disposal of nuclear and other industrial waste and to strengthen their procedures for enforcing such measures, so as to prevent the export of these waste materials to other countries.

(Signed) H.E. General Ibrahim Badamasi BABANGIDA
Chairman

ANNEX II

Letter dated 12 July 1988 from the Director-General
of the International Atomic Energy Agency addressed
to the Secretary-General of the Organization of
African Unity

I have received your letter of 17 June 1988 about the problem of dumping nuclear and toxic waste in Africa and I am aware of the recent incidents which have caused widespread concern. IAEA has organized regional seminars and training courses on radiation protection and nuclear safety in Africa and a course on nuclear law and radiation protection is planned for 1990. The Agency has also been able to offer expert advice to individual African member States in the preparation of nuclear safety laws and regulations, in establishing national radiation protection centres, as well as in a variety of other nuclear safety related areas. Several radiation protection advisory team missions have been sent to requesting African member States. We shall continue to keep the situation under our close attention.

In connection with the problem covered by the OAU resolution on dumping of nuclear and industrial waste in Africa, the Agency sent a mission upon request of one African country and expressed its readiness to assist two other countries that approached us.

I have circulated the text of the resolution enclosed with your letter to all of the member States of the Agency. I can assure you that I shall certainly lend my support to the view of our African member States in any discussion on this problem in international forums, and I plan to address the issue in my statement to the forthcoming session of the IAEA General Conference in September this year.

Within the limits of our financial resources we shall give priority consideration to any further requests for assistance directed to us by our African members States in the field of nuclear waste. However, it is important to bear in mind that the Agency's responsibility and expertise is confined to nuclear waste and does not extend to toxic industrial waste.

(Signed) Hans BLIX
Director-General
