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Circular Letter No.3477  
21 July 2014

To: IMO Member States  
Intergovernmental organizations  
Non-governmental organizations in consultative status with IMO

Subject: **Communication from the Government of Ukraine**

On 21 July 2014, the Embassy of Ukraine sent the attached communication which it has requested to be circulated by the Organization.



**EMBASSY OF UKRAINE**

No. 6124/35-327/2-950

The Embassy of Ukraine to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the International Maritime Organisation and, referring to the Note of the Mission of the Russian Federation to the IMO No. 003/106 of June 26, 2014, which was circulated with the Secretariat of the IMO letter No. 3471 on July 7, 2014, has the honour to inform of the following.

The Ukrainian Side would like to draw the attention of the Secretariat, Member States of the International Maritime Organization and representatives of foreign shipping companies accredited to the IMO to the fact that the United Nations General Assembly Resolution A/RES/68/262 entitled "Territorial Integrity of Ukraine" dated March 27, 2014, affirmed its commitment to Ukraine's sovereignty, political independence, unity and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders calling on States, international organizations and specialized agencies not to recognize any change in the status of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea or the City of Sevastopol, and to refrain from actions or dealings that might be interpreted as such.

We should underscore the fact that a part of the land territory, territorial sea and exclusive economic zone in the Black Sea and Sea of Azov and the Kerch Strait is currently being used by the Russian Federation and its government illegally.

By its actions the Russian Federation as a state-occupier made it impossible for Ukraine on its sovereign territory to comply with a number of international commitments under international conventions, of which it was notified by the Embassy of Ukraine in the UK with its notes No. 6124/35-327/2-534 and No. 6124/35-327/2-535 dated May 5, 2014.

**Secretariat  
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Accordingly, all communications of the Russian Federation regarding control over the generally recognized part of the sovereign territory of Ukraine are to be deemed inconsistent with the provisions of the international law, maritime law inclusive, as regards the entire jurisdiction and guarantee of the activities of the State in its territory, the territorial sea and exclusive maritime economic zone.

The Russian Side "taking over" the responsibility for the international shipping issues, including the safety of navigation, protection of marine environment from ship pollution, search and rescue, ship registration, certification of crew members of seagoing vessels in maritime areas adjacent to the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol as an integral part of the territory of Ukraine does not comply with the basic principles and norms of the international law and effective legislation of Ukraine and shall be deemed illegal.

In addition, The Embassy of Ukraine to the UK would like to draw the attention of the IMO Secretariat and IMO Member States on the official closure of the seaports of Ukraine in the cities of Yevpatoria, Feodosia, Yalta, Kerch and Sevastopol starting from July 15, 2014 and until the restoration of the constitutional order in Ukraine in the temporarily occupied territory pursuant to the Order No. 255 "On the Closure of Seaports" dated June 16, 2014. The information on closing seaports was also published in the "Notices to Mariners of Ukraine".

Taking into consideration the abovementioned, the Ukrainian Side would like to emphasise once again on the issues of the liability, criminal liability inclusive, of the ship owners and vessel masters for the violation of the provisions of the legislation of Ukraine and entry to the closed seaports of Ukraine in the territory of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea.

The right to re-register the specified ports as required by the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS), 1974, with amendments (SOLAS-74), and the International Ship and Port Facility Security Code (ISPS Code) shall be vested solely with Ukraine.

The Embassy of Ukraine to the UK requests the Secretariat to bring this Note to the attention of the IMO Member States, international organisations which have concluded agreements of cooperation with the IMO and non-governmental organisations in consultative status with the IMO.

The Embassy of Ukraine avails itself of the opportunity to renew to the Secretariat of the International Maritime Organisation the assurances of its highest consideration.



London, July 21, 2014



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