



COUNCIL
90th session
Agenda item 29(b)

C 90/29(b)/Add.1
9 May 2003
Original: ENGLISH

RELATIONS WITH NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

(b) Review of organizations in consultative status

Note by the Secretary-General

SUMMARY

<i>Executive summary:</i>	Periodic review of the list of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with IMO
<i>Action to be taken:</i>	Paragraph 3
<i>Related documents:</i>	A.22/Res.903, C 86/22(b), C 86/D, paragraphs 22(b).3 and 22(b).4, LEG 83/14, C/ES.21/D, paragraphs 21(b).1 to 21(b).3, C 89/26, C 89/D, paragraph 26.2 and C 90/29(b)

Outstanding matters arising from the eighty-ninth session of the Council: Greenpeace International

1 As indicated in document C 90/29(b), paragraphs 4 and 5, the Council decided to review the matter of Greenpeace International. Since the eighty-ninth session of the Council, the Secretary-General has received a letter from the Chief Executive Officer of the Australian Maritime Safety Administration (AMSA), attached at annex, referring to two incidents in Australia related to the activities of Greenpeace that impact on the safe operation of ships, as follows:

1. the boarding and occupation by Greenpeace activists of the Australian registered tanker **Stolt Australia**, at Port Stanvac, South Australia, on 23 January 2003; and
2. the boarding and occupation by Greenpeace activists of the Marshall Islands bulk carrier **Despina** in the Port of Melbourne, on 15 March 2003.

2 The Secretary-General has requested the comments of Greenpeace International and when received they will be drawn to the attention of the Council.

Action requested of the Council

3 The Council is invited to take note of the information provided in this document in considering its decisions under document C 90/29(b).

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ANNEX



Chief Executive Officer

Mr Bill O'Neill
Secretary-General
International Maritime Organisation
4 Albert Embankment
LONDON SE1 7SR
UNITED KINGDOM

Dear Mr O'Neill

The 89th session of the IMO Council discussed certain protest actions of Greenpeace International affecting shipping. Council asked the secretariat to monitor the activities of Greenpeace that impact on the safe operation of ships. In this context, I would like to draw to your attention two incidents in Australia in the past few months.

The vessel *Stolt Australia*, an Australian registered tanker, was the subject of Greenpeace action at Port Stanvac, South Australia on 23 January 2003. The tanker was approached by several Greenpeace inflatable craft, whose occupants secured a steel bar to prevent weighing of the anchor. Several protestors boarded the vessel and rigged banners protesting against a shale oil project in Queensland. The vessel was delayed from sailing for several hours until local police cleared the demonstrators from the vessel.

Stolt-Neilsen Transportation Group, the vessel's operators, have since arranged for State police to enforce a 100 metre exclusion zone around the tanker at subsequent port visits to prevent similar boardings. The company has expressed its concern that in today's world wide security climate it is irresponsible of Greenpeace to approach tankers in small craft, as ship operators may interpret such actions as potential terrorist attacks and react accordingly.

On 15 March 2003, about 15 Greenpeace protestors boarded the *Despina*, a bulk carrier flagged in the Marshall Islands, in the Port of Melbourne, claiming the vessel was carrying genetically modified soyabean from the United States. Protesters chained themselves to gear used to open the ship's holds in an attempt to prevent it from unloading, and some also climbed onboard cranes to place banners. Police were called and arrested six protestors.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Clive Davidson', written over a horizontal line.

CLIVE DAVIDSON

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