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Agenda item 12(c)

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EXTERNAL RELATIONS

(c) Report on World Maritime Day

Note by the Secretary-General

SUMMARY

<i>Executive summary:</i>	This document reports on the celebration of World Maritime Day 2007; on the 'Parallel Event' organized in Brazil; and on arrangements for the celebration of World Maritime Day in 2008
<i>Action to be taken:</i>	Paragraph 13
<i>Related documents:</i>	C/ES.24/12(c), C/ES.24/12(c)/Add.2 and C/ES.24/12(c)/Add.3

2007 World Maritime Day celebration at IMO

1 As reported in document C/ES.24/12(c), World Maritime Day 2007 was celebrated at the Banqueting House, Whitehall, London, on 27 September, where the Secretary-General held an evening reception attended by numerous members of the diplomatic corps and maritime community in London, representatives of various organizations and bodies associated with the work of the Organization, shipowner and seafarer representative organizations and the Secretariat.

2 For the occasion, a special pamphlet highlighting the 2007 World Maritime Day theme "**IMO's response to current environmental challenges**" was produced for distribution to the guests attending the reception, along with several other brochures on related topics, including "OPRC-HNS Protocol", "HNS Convention", "Civil Liability for Bunker Oil Pollution Damage, 2001", "BWM Convention", "AFS Convention", "One Sea - Many States: IMO, The Round Table and the Environment", "Education and Training - A Key Strategic Environmental Objective for the International Maritime Organization".

3 As in previous years, the Secretary-General received numerous messages of congratulations from many Governments and organizations as well as information on special arrangements and ceremonies organized by them for the celebration of the Day. A list of Governments and other entities from which messages and information were received is given in the annex to this document. Any further messages and information received after the issue of this document will be reported to the Council in an appropriate manner.

For reasons of economy, this document is printed in a limited number. Delegates are kindly asked to bring their copies to meetings and not to request additional copies.

4 A special message from United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon was given wide publicity.

5 The Secretary-General wishes to express his appreciation to the UN Secretary-General, Member Governments, international organizations and other entities, the IMO staff and all others who so generously lent their support and assistance to the commemoration of World Maritime Day 2007 and, especially, to all those Members and organizations, which informed the Secretariat of activities they undertook in connection with the Day.

World Maritime Day ‘Parallel Event’

6 With reference to paragraph 5 of document C/ES.24/12(c), referring to the ‘parallel event’ in the city of Salvador, Bahia (Brazil), the Council may note that this took place, as stated, on 14 September 2006. It was organized by the Brazilian Navy and consisted of a series of pertinent speeches delivered by the Brazilian Defence Minister, the Secretary-General and other dignitaries. Among the guests were the Chairmen of the Council and the Marine Environment Protection Committee and the Director of the Maritime Safety Division. A full report on the event is provided in document C/ES.24/12(c)/Add.2 (Brazil). The Secretary-General wishes to take this opportunity to thank the Government of Brazil for its efforts to host a successful ‘parallel event’ and for its contribution to increasing awareness of the importance of shipping in the region.

Special event organized by HCMM/IMPA in London

7 The Secretary-General is also pleased to report that the historic ship **HQS Wellington**, berthed in central London, was, again this year, the venue for a special event, jointly organized by the Honourable Company of Master Mariners (HCMM) and the International Maritime Pilots’ Association (IMPA), in co-operation with IMO, to celebrate World Maritime Day 2007. This event was opened by HRH Prince Andrew The Duke of York on the morning of 27 September, with the participation of IMO and 38 leading international organizations based in London. The Secretary-General participated in the afternoon session and formally closed the proceedings of the Day with the ringing of **HQS Wellington’s** bell. A full report on this event is to be found in document C/ES.24/12(c)/Add.3, which has been submitted by the International Maritime Pilots’ Association (IMPA).

8 The Secretary-General also wishes to take this opportunity to thank the Honourable Company of Master Mariners and the International Maritime Pilots’ Association, as well as all the participating organizations, for organizing this special event which has also contributed to the success of the Day.

Special event organized by the North American Maritime Ministry Association (NAMMA) for the World Maritime Day Observance in New York

9 The North American Maritime Ministry Association (NAMMA) organized a special event for World Maritime Day Observance in New York on 25 October 2007, which was attended by the Secretary-General, the United States Coast Guard Vice Commandant, the MARAD Deputy Head, the Heads of HELMEPA and other notable personalities. This is the second such event hosted by NAMMA for the observance of the Day in the United States.

10 The event began with a non-denominational worship service during which a prayer was made to “guide all in positions of leadership in the shipping industry and international agencies, in particular the International Maritime Organization; for an awareness throughout the industry of

the sanctity of human life; for those responsible for safety at sea; and for those involved in the training and welfare of seafarers”. The service was followed by a luncheon presentation of NAMMA awards, conferred by the Secretary-General to personalities recognized for their commitment to seafarer welfare. This was followed by two panel discussions, the first focusing on regulatory development and compliance issues, and the second (led by IMO’s Director of the Marine Environment Division) on “Industry’s Perspective on Environmental Challenges”. Another highlight of the day was the launch of the North American Marine Environment Protection Association (NAMEPA).

11 The Secretary-General wishes to take this opportunity to also thank NAMMA and all responsible for organizing the aforementioned special World Maritime Day Observance in New York.

World Maritime Day 2008

12 The Council, at its ninety-eighth session (in June 2007), endorsed the Secretary-General’s proposed theme for World Maritime Day in 2008, namely, “**IMO: 60 years in the service of shipping**”, as an appropriate way in which to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the adoption of the IMO Convention (1948) and the 50th anniversary of its entry into force (1958). The celebrations will coincide with the 100th session of the Council (scheduled to take place in June 2008) and, at the same time, with the Organization’s return to its refurbished Headquarters building. Appropriate arrangements to celebrate the Day will be made in due course and Member States will be advised accordingly in good time for their preparations.

Action requested of the Council

13 The Council is invited to take note of the information provided in this document and to comment as it may deem appropriate.

ANNEX

A MESSAGES OF CONGRATULATIONS RECEIVED IN CONNECTION WITH WORLD MARITIME DAY**(i) Messages received from IMO Member Governments**

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|--------------------|---|---|
| ARGENTINA | - | from the General Prefect, Argentine Naval Prefecture |
| BOLIVIA | - | from the Director General of Maritime, River and Lake Interests and Merchant Marine |
| EGYPT | - | from the Head of Maritime Transport Sector |
| GERMANY | - | from the Federal Minister for Transport, Building and Urban Affairs |
| GREECE | - | from the Minister of Mercantile Marine, the Aegean and Island Policy |
| INDONESIA | - | from the Minister for Transportation |
| ITALY | - | from the General Commandant of the Italian Coast Guard |
| | - | from the Maritime Attaché and Liaison Officer of Italy to IMO, London |
| JAPAN | - | from the Director-General, Maritime Bureau, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport |
| NETHERLANDS | - | from the Deputy Director-General Civil Aviation and Freight Transport on behalf of the State Secretary for Transport, Public Works and Water Management |
| PANAMA | - | from the Administrator of the Panama Maritime Authority |
| RUSSIAN FEDERATION | - | from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to IMO, London |
| TURKEY | - | from the Minister of Transportation and Communications |
| UKRAINE | - | from His Excellency the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Ukraine to IMO, London |

(i) Messages received from IMO Member Governments (cont'd)

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|----------------|---|--|
| UNITED KINGDOM | - | from the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State,
Department for Transport |
| VENEZUELA | - | from the Venezuelan representative on the WMU
Board of Governors |

(ii) Messages received from IMO Non-Members

- | | | |
|--------------|---|---|
| COOK ISLANDS | - | from the Special Representative of the
Government of the Cook Islands to IMO |
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(iii) Messages received from intergovernmental organizations

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|---|---|-------------------|
| International Mobile
Satellite Organization (IMSO) | - | from the Director |
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(iv) Messages received from international organizations

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|---|---|----------------------------|
| International Chamber of Shipping
Limited (ICS)/
International Shipping Federation
Limited (ISF) | - | from the Secretary General |
| International Ship Suppliers
Association (ISSA) | - | from the Secretary |
| International Parcel Tankers
Association (IPTA) | - | from the Chairman |

(v) Messages received from national organizations

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|--|---|---|
| Hellenic Marine Environment
Protection Association
(HELMEPA) | - | from the Secretariat |
| National Iranian Tanker Co. | - | from the Chairman and Managing Director |
| Russian Maritime Register of
Shipping | - | from the Director General |

(vi) Miscellaneous

- Academy of Maritime Education and Training, Chennai, India - from the CEO & Director
- Maritime Rights Advocacy Centre (MARIAC), Nigeria - from the President
- Universidad Nacional Experimental Marítima del Caribe, Venezuela - from the Rector

B INFORMATION ON SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE CELEBRATION OF WORLD MARITIME DAY

In addition to the above, notifications have been received from several Member Governments in response to the Secretary-General's request for information on the special activities they were planning for their celebrations. Information on same activities gathered by the Secretariat (from newspaper and magazine articles and the Internet) concerned:

Argentina
Bahamas
Bolivia
Brazil
Canada
Côte d'Ivoire
Egypt
Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Madagascar
Nicaragua
Panama
Portugal
Saudi Arabia
Turkey
United Kingdom
United States
Uruguay
International Maritime Law Institute (IMLI)
The Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI)
Baltic and International Maritime Council (BIMCO)
UK Port of London Authority
UK Chamber of Shipping
