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MARITIME
LAW



Treaty Series No. 13 (1990)

Convention

on Limitation of Liability for Maritime Claims, 1976

(Opened for signature at the Headquarters of the International Maritime
Organization, London, from 1 February 1977 until 31 December 1977)

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*Presented to Parliament
by the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs
by Command of Her Majesty
January 1990*

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**CONVENTION ON LIMITATION OF LIABILITY
FOR MARITIME CLAIMS, 1976**

The States Parties to this Convention,

Having Recognized the desirability of determining by agreement certain uniform rules relating to the limitation of liability for maritime claims.

Have decided to conclude a Convention for this purpose and have thereto agreed as follows:

CHAPTER I

The Right of Limitation

ARTICLE 1

Persons entitled to limit liability

1. Shipowners and salvors, as hereinafter defined, may limit their liability in accordance with the rules of this Convention for claims set out in Article 2.
2. The terms "shipowner" shall mean the owner, charterer, manager and operator of a seagoing ship.
3. Salvor shall mean any person rendering services in direct connexion with salvage operations. Salvage operations shall also include operations referred to in Article 2, paragraph 1 (d), (e) and (f).
4. If any claims set out in Article 2 are made against any person for whose act, neglect or default the shipowner or salvor is responsible, such person shall be entitled to avail himself of the limitation of liability provided for in this Convention.
5. In this Convention the liability of a shipowner shall include liability in an action brought against the vessel herself.
6. An insurer of liability for claims subject to limitation in accordance with the rules of this Convention shall be entitled to the benefits of this Convention to the same extent as the assured himself.
7. The act of invoking limitation of liability shall not constitute an admission of liability.

ARTICLE 2

Claims subject to limitation

1. Subject to Articles 3 and 4 the following claims, whatever the basis of liability may be, shall be subject to limitation of liability:
 - (a) claims in respect of loss of life or personal injury or loss of or damage to property (including damage to harbour works, basins and waterways and aids to navigation), occurring on board or in direct connexion with the operation of the ship or with salvage operations, and consequential loss resulting therefrom;
 - (b) claims in respect of loss resulting from delay in the carriage by sea of cargo, passengers or their luggage;
 - (c) claims in respect of other loss resulting from infringement of rights other than contractual rights, occurring in direct connexion with the operation of the ship or salvage operations;
 - (d) claims in respect of the raising, removal, destruction or the rendering harmless of a ship which is sunk, wrecked, stranded or abandoned, including anything that is or has been on board such ship;
 - (e) claims in respect of the removal, destruction or the rendering harmless of the cargo of the ship;

- (f) claims of a person other than the person liable in respect of measures taken in order to avert or minimize loss for which the person liable may limit his liability in accordance with this Convention and further loss caused by such measures.

2. Claims set out in paragraph 1 shall be subject to limitation of liability even if brought by way of recourse or for indemnity under a contract or otherwise. However, claims set out under paragraph 1 (d), (e) and (f) shall not be subject to limitation of liability to the extent that they relate to remuneration under a contract with the person liable.

ARTICLE 3

Claims excepted from limitation

The rules of this Convention shall not apply to:

- (a) claims for salvage or contribution in general average;
- (b) claims for oil pollution damage within the meaning of the International Convention on Civil Liability for Oil Pollution Damage, dated 29 November 1969¹ or of any amendment or Protocol thereto which is in force¹;
- (c) claims subject to any international convention or national legislation governing or prohibiting limitation of liability for nuclear damage;
- (d) claims against the shipowner of a nuclear ship for nuclear damage;
- (e) claims by servants of the shipowner or salvor whose duties are connected with the ship or the salvage operations, including claims of their heirs, dependants or other persons entitled to make such claims, if under the law governing the contract of service between the shipowner or salvor and such servants the shipowner or salvor is not entitled to limit his liability in respect of such claims, or if he is by such law only permitted to limit his liability to an amount greater than that provided for in Article 6.

ARTICLE 4

Conduct barring limitation

A person liable shall not be entitled to limit his liability if it is proved that the loss resulted from his personal act or omission, committed with the intent to cause such loss, or recklessly and with knowledge that such loss would probably result.

ARTICLE 5

Counterclaims

Where a person entitled to limitation of liability under the rules of this Convention has a claim against the claimant arising out of the same occurrence, their respective claims shall be set off against each other and the provisions of this Convention shall only apply to the balance, if any.

CHAPTER II

Limits of Liability

ARTICLE 6

The general limits

1. The limits of liability for claims other than those mentioned in Article 7, arising on any distinct occasion, shall be calculated as follows:

- (a) in respect of claims for loss of life or personal injury,
 - (i) 333,000 Units of Account for a ship with a tonnage not exceeding 500 tons,

¹ Treaty Series No. 106 (1975), Cmnd. 6183, Treaty Series No. 26 (1981), Cmnd. 8238 and Miscellaneous No. 8 (1986), Cmnd. 9927.

- (ii) for a ship with a tonnage in excess thereof, the following amount in addition to that mentioned in (i):
 - for each ton from 501 to 3,000 tons, 500 Units of Account;
 - for each ton from 3,001 to 30,000 tons, 333 Units of Account;
 - for each ton from 30,001 to 70,000 tons, 250 Units of Account; and
 - for each ton in excess of 70,000 tons, 167 Units of Account,
 - (b) in respect of any other claims,
 - (i) 167,000 Units of Account for a ship with a tonnage not exceeding 500 tons,
 - (ii) for a ship with a tonnage in excess thereof the following amount in addition to that mentioned in (i):
 - for each ton from 501 to 30,000 tons, 167 Units of Account;
 - for each ton from 30,001 to 70,000 tons, 125 Units of Account; and
 - for each ton in excess of 70,000 tons, 83 Units of Account.
2. Where the amount calculated in accordance with paragraph 1 (a) is insufficient to pay the claims mentioned therein in full, the amount calculated in accordance with paragraph 1 (b) shall be available for payment of the unpaid balance of claims under paragraph 1 (a) and such unpaid balance shall rank rateably with claims mentioned under paragraph 1 (b).
 3. However, without prejudice to the right of claims for loss of life or personal injury according to paragraph 2, a State Party may provide in its national law that claims in respect of damage to harbour works, basins and waterways and aids to navigation shall have such priority over other claims under paragraph 1 (b) as is provided by that law.
 4. The limits of liability for any salvor not operating from any ship or for any salvor operating solely on the ship to, or in respect of which he is rendering salvage services, shall be calculated according to a tonnage of 1,500 tons.
 5. For the purpose of this Convention the ship's tonnage shall be the gross tonnage calculated in accordance with the tonnage measurement rules contained in Annex I of the International Convention on Tonnage Measurement of Ships, 1969¹.

ARTICLE 7

The limit for passenger claims

1. In respect of claims arising on any distinct occasion for loss of life or personal injury to passengers of a ship, the limit of liability of the shipowner thereof shall be an amount of 46,666 Units of Account multiplied by the number of passengers which the ship is authorized to carry according to the ship's certificate, but not exceeding 25 million Units of Account.
2. For the purpose of this Article "claims for loss of life or personal injury to passengers of a ship" shall mean any such claims brought by or on behalf of any person carried in that ship:
 - (a) under a contract of passenger carriage, or
 - (b) who, with the consent of the carrier, is accompanying a vehicle or live animals which are covered by a contract for the carriage of goods.

ARTICLE 8

Unit of Account

1. The Unit of Account referred to in Articles 6 and 7 is the Special Drawing Right as defined by the International Monetary Fund. The amounts mentioned in Articles 6 and 7 shall be converted into the national currency of the State in which limitation is sought, according to the value of that currency at the date the limitation fund shall have been constituted, payment is made, or security is given which under the law of that State is equivalent to such payment. The value of a national currency in terms of the Special Drawing Right, of a State Party which is a member of the International Monetary Fund,

¹ Treaty Series No. 50 (1982), Cmnd. 8716.

shall be calculated in accordance with the method of valuation applied by the International Monetary Fund in effect at the date in question for its operations and transactions. The value of a national currency in terms of the Special Drawing Right, of a State Party which is not a member of the International Monetary Fund, shall be calculated in a manner determined by that State Party.

2. Nevertheless those States which are not members of the International Monetary Fund and whose law does not permit the application of the provisions of paragraph 1 may, at the time of signature without reservation as to ratification, acceptance or approval or at the time of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession or at any time thereafter, declare that the limits of liability provided for in this Convention to be applied in their territories shall be fixed as follows:

- (a) in respect of Article 6, paragraph 1 (a) at an amount of:
 - (i) 5 million monetary units for a ship with a tonnage not exceeding 500 tons;
 - (ii) for a ship with a tonnage in excess thereof, the following amount in addition to that mentioned in (i):
 - for each ton from 501 to 3,000 tons, 7,500 monetary units;
 - for each ton from 3,001 to 30,000 tons, 5,000 monetary units;
 - for each ton from 30,001 to 70,000 tons, 3,750 monetary units; and
 - for each ton in excess of 70,000 tons, 2,500 monetary units; and
- (b) in respect of Article 6, paragraph 1 (b), at an amount of:
 - (i) 2.5 million monetary units for a ship with a tonnage not exceeding 500 tons;
 - (ii) for a ship with a tonnage in excess thereof, the following amount in addition to that mentioned in (i):
 - for each ton from 501 to 30,000 tons, 2,500 monetary units;
 - for each ton from 30,001 to 70,000 tons, 1,850 monetary units; and
 - for each ton in excess of 70,000 tons, 1,250 monetary units; and
- (c) in respect of Article 7, paragraph 1, at an amount of 700,000 monetary units multiplied by the number of passengers which the ship is authorized to carry according to its certificate, but not exceeding 375 million monetary units.

Paragraphs 2 and 3 of Article 6 apply correspondingly to sub-paragraphs (a) and (b) of this paragraph.

3. The monetary unit referred to in paragraph 2 corresponds to sixty-five and a half milligrammes of gold of millesimal fineness nine hundred. The conversion of the amounts referred to in paragraph 2 into the national currency shall be made according to the law of the State concerned.

4. The calculation mentioned in the last sentence of paragraph 1 and the conversion mentioned in paragraph 3 shall be made in such a manner as to express in the national currency of the State Party as far as possible the same real value for the amounts in Articles 6 and 7 as is expressed there in units of account. State Parties shall communicate to the depositary the manner of calculation pursuant to paragraph 1, or the result of the conversion in paragraph 3, as the case may be, at the time of the signature without reservation as to ratification, acceptance or approval, or when depositing an instrument referred to in Article 16 and whenever there is a change in either.

ARTICLE 9

Aggregation of claims

- 1. The limits of liability determined in accordance with Article 6 shall apply to the aggregate of all claims which arise on any distinct occasion:
 - (a) against the person or persons mentioned in paragraph 2 of Article 1 and any person for whose act, neglect or default he or they are responsible; or
 - (b) against the shipowner of a ship rendering salvage services from that ship and the salvor or salvors operating from such ship and any person for whose act, neglect or default he or they are responsible; or

(c) against the salvor or salvors who are not operating from a ship or who are operating solely on the ship to, or in respect of which, the salvage services are rendered and any person for whose act, neglect or default he or they are responsible.

2. The limits of liability determined in accordance with Article 7 shall apply to the aggregate of all claims subject thereto which may arise on any distinct occasion against the person or persons mentioned in paragraph 2 of Article 1 in respect of the ship referred to in Article 7 and any person for whose act, neglect or default he or they are responsible.

ARTICLE 10

Limitation of liability without constitution of a limitation fund

1. Limitation of liability may be invoked notwithstanding that a limitation fund as mentioned in Article 11 has not been constituted. However, a State Party may provide in its national law that, where an action is brought in its Courts to enforce a claim subject to limitation, a person liable may only invoke the right to limit liability if a limitation fund has been constituted in accordance with the provisions of this Convention or is constituted when the right to limit liability is invoked.

2. If limitation of liability is invoked without the constitution of a limitation fund, the provisions of Article 12 shall apply correspondingly.

3. Questions of procedure arising under the rules of this Article shall be decided in accordance with the national law of the State Party in which action is brought.

CHAPTER III

The Limitation Fund

ARTICLE 11

Constitution of the fund

1. Any person alleged to be liable may constitute a fund with the Court or other competent authority in any State Party in which legal proceedings are instituted in respect of claims subject to limitation. The fund shall be constituted in the sum of such of the amounts set out in Articles 6 and 7 as are applicable to claims for which that person may be liable, together with interest thereon from the date of the occurrence giving rise to the liability until the date of the constitution of the fund. Any fund thus constituted shall be available only for the payment of claims in respect of which limitation of liability can be invoked.

2. A fund may be constituted, either by depositing the sum, or by producing a guarantee acceptable under the legislation of the State Party where the fund is constituted and considered to be adequate by the Court or other competent authority.

3. A fund constituted by one of the persons mentioned in paragraph 1 (a), (b) or (c) or paragraph 2 of Article 9 or his insurer shall be deemed constituted by all persons mentioned in paragraph 1 (a), (b) or (c) or paragraph 2 respectively.

ARTICLE 12

Distribution of the fund

1. Subject to the provisions of paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of Article 6 and of Article 7, the fund shall be distributed among the claimants in proportion to their established claims against the fund.

2. If, before the fund is distributed, the person liable, or his insurer, has settled a claim against the fund such person shall, up to the amount he has paid, acquire by subrogation the rights which the person so compensated would have enjoyed under this Convention.

3. The right of subrogation provided for in paragraph 2 may also be exercised by persons other than those therein mentioned in respect of any amount of compensation which they may have paid, but only to the extent that such subrogation is permitted under the applicable national law.

4. Where the person liable or any other person establishes that he may be compelled to pay, at a later date, in whole or in part any such amount of compensation with regard to which such person would have enjoyed a right of subrogation pursuant to paragraphs 2 and 3 had the compensation been paid before the fund was distributed, the Court or other competent authority of the State where the fund has been constituted may order that a sufficient sum shall be provisionally set aside to enable such person at such later date to enforce his claim against the fund.

ARTICLE 13

Bar to other actions

1. Where a limitation fund has been constituted in accordance with Article 11, any person having made a claim against the fund shall be barred from exercising any right in respect of such a claim against any other assets of a person by or on behalf of whom the fund has been constituted.

2. After a limitation fund has been constituted in accordance with Article 11, any ship or other property, belonging to a person on behalf of whom the fund has been constituted, which has been arrested or attached within the jurisdiction of a State Party for a claim which may be raised against the fund, or any security given, may be released by order of the Court or other competent authority of such State. However, such release shall always be ordered if the limitation fund has been constituted:

- (a) at the port where the occurrence took place, or, if it took place out of port, at the first port of call thereafter; or
- (b) at the port of disembarkation in respect of claims for loss of life or personal injury; or
- (c) at the port of discharge in respect of damage to cargo; or
- (d) in the State where the arrest is made.

3. The rules of paragraphs 1 and 2 shall apply only if the claimant may bring a claim against the limitation fund before the Court administering that fund and the fund is actually available and freely transferable in respect of that claim.

ARTICLE 14

Governing law

Subject to the provisions of this Chapter the rules relating to the constitution and distribution of a limitation fund, and all rules of procedure in connexion therewith, shall be governed by the law of the State Party in which the fund is constituted.

CHAPTER IV

Scope of Application

ARTICLE 15

1. This Convention shall apply whenever any person referred to in Article 1 seeks to limit his liability before the Court of a State Party or seeks to procure the release of a ship or other property or the discharge of any security given within the jurisdiction of any such State. Nevertheless, each State Party may exclude wholly or partially from the application of this Convention any person referred to in Article 1 who at the time when the rules of this Convention are invoked before the Courts of that State does not have his habitual residence in a State Party or does not have his principal place of business in a State Party or any ship in relation to which the right of limitation is invoked or whose release is sought and which does not at the time specified above fly the flag of a State Party.

2. A State Party may regulate by specific provisions of national law the system of limitation of liability to be applied to vessels which are:

- (a) according to the law of that State, ships intended for navigation on inland waterways;
- (b) ships of less than 300 tons.

A State Party which makes use of the option provided for in this paragraph shall inform the depositary of the limits of liability adopted in its national legislation or of the fact that there are none.

3. A State Party may regulate by specific provisions of national law the system of limitation of liability to be applied to claims arising in cases in which interests of persons who are nationals of other States Parties are in no way involved.

4. The Courts of a State Party shall not apply this Convention to ships constructed for, or adapted to, and engaged in, drilling:

- (a) when the State has established under its national legislation a higher limit of liability than that otherwise provided for in Article 6; or
- (b) when that State has become party to an international convention regulating the system of liability in respect of such ships.

In a case to which sub-paragraph (a) applies that State Party shall inform the depositary accordingly.

5. This Convention shall not apply to:

- (a) air-cushion vehicles;
- (b) floating platforms constructed for the purpose of exploring or exploiting the natural resources of the sea-bed or the subsoil thereof.

CHAPTER V

Final Clauses

ARTICLE 16

Signature, ratification and accession

1. This Convention shall be open for signature by all States at the Headquarters of the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization (hereinafter referred to as "the Organization") from 1 February 1977 until 31 December 1977 and shall thereafter remain open for accession.

2. All States may become parties to this Convention by:

- (a) signature without reservation as to ratification, acceptance or approval; or
- (b) signature subject to ratification, acceptance or approval followed by ratification, acceptance or approval; or
- (c) accession.

3. Ratification, acceptance, approval or accession shall be effected by the deposit of a formal instrument to that effect with the Secretary-General of the Organization (hereinafter referred to as "the Secretary-General").

ARTICLE 17

Entry into force

1. This Convention shall enter into force on the first day of the month following one year after the date on which twelve States have either signed it without reservation as to ratification, acceptance or approval or have deposited the requisite instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession¹.

¹ The Convention entered into force on 1 December 1986.

2. For a State which deposits an instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, or signs without reservation as to ratification, acceptance or approval, in respect of this Convention after the requirements for entry into force have been met but prior to the date of entry into force, the ratification, acceptance, approval or accession or the signature without reservation as to ratification, acceptance or approval, shall take effect on the date of entry into force of the Convention or on the first day of the month following the ninetieth day after the date of the signature or the deposit of the instrument, whichever is the later date.

3. For any State which subsequently becomes a Party to this Convention, the Convention shall enter into force on the first day of the month following the expiration of ninety days after the date when such State deposited its instrument.

4. In respect of the relations between States which ratify, accept, or approve this Convention or accede to it, this Convention shall replace and abrogate the International Convention relating to the Limitation of the Liability of Owners of Sea-going Ships, done at Brussels on 10 October 1957¹, and the International Convention for the Unification of certain Rules relating to the Limitation of Liability of the Owners of Sea-going Vessels, signed at Brussels on 25 August 1924².

ARTICLE 18

Reservations

1. Any State may, at the time of signature, ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, reserve the right to exclude the application of Article 2 paragraph 1 (d) and (e). No other reservations shall be admissible to the substantive provisions of this Convention.

2. Reservations made at the time of signature are subject to confirmation upon ratification acceptance or approval.

3. Any State which has made a reservation to this Convention may withdraw it at any time by means of a notification addressed to the Secretary-General. Such withdrawal shall take effect on the date the notification is received. If the notification states that the withdrawal of a reservation is to take effect on a date specified therein, and such date is later than the date the notification is received by the Secretary-General, the withdrawal shall take effect on such later date.

ARTICLE 19

Denunciation

1. This Convention may be denounced by a State Party at any time after one year from the date on which the Convention entered into force for that Party.

2. Denunciation shall be effected by the deposit of an instrument with the Secretary-General.

3. Denunciation shall take effect on the first day of the month following the expiration of one year after the date of deposit of the instrument, or after such longer period as may be specified in the instrument.

ARTICLE 20

Revision and amendment

1. A Conference for the purpose of revising or amending this Convention may be convened by the Organization.

2. The Organization shall convene a Conference of the States Parties to this Convention for revising or amending it at the request of not less than one-third of the Parties.

¹ Treaty Series No. 52 (1968), Cmdd. 3678.

~~² Treaty Series No. 17 (1931) Cmd. 3806 as amended by Treaty Series No. 83 (1977), Cmdd. 6944.~~

3. After the date of entry into force of an amendment to this Convention, any instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession deposited shall be deemed to apply to the Convention as amended unless a contrary intention is expressed in the instrument.

ARTICLE 21

Revision of the limitation amounts and of Unit of Account or monetary unit

1. Notwithstanding the provisions of Article 20, a Conference only for the purposes of altering the amounts specified in Articles 6 and 7 and in Article 8, paragraph 2, or of substituting either or both of the Units defined in Article 8, paragraphs 1 and 2, by other units shall be convened by the Organization in accordance with paragraphs 2 and 3 of this Article. An alteration of the amounts shall be made only because of a significant change in their real value.
2. The Organization shall convene such a Conference at the request of not less than one fourth of the States Parties.
3. A decision to alter the amounts or to substitute the Units by other units of account shall be taken by a two-thirds majority of the States Parties present and voting in such Conference.
4. Any State depositing its instrument of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession to the Convention, after entry into force of an amendment, shall apply the Convention as amended.

ARTICLE 22

Depositary

1. This Convention shall be deposited with the Secretary-General.
2. The Secretary-General shall:
 - (a) transmit certified true copies of this Convention to all States which were invited to attend the Conference on Limitation of Liability for Maritime Claims and to any other States which accede to this Convention;
 - (b) inform all States which have signed or acceded to this Convention of:
 - (i) each new signature and each deposit of an instrument and any reservation thereto together with the date thereof;
 - (ii) the date of entry into force of this Convention or any amendment thereto;
 - (iii) any denunciation of this Convention and the date on which it takes effect;
 - (iv) any amendment adopted in conformity with Articles 20 or 21;
 - (v) any communication called for by any Article of this Convention.
3. Upon entry into force of this Convention, a certified true copy thereof shall be transmitted by the Secretary-General to the Secretariat of the United Nations for registration and publication in accordance with Article 102 of the Charter of the United Nations.

ARTICLE 23

Languages

This Convention is established in a single original in the English, French, Russian and Spanish languages, each text being equally authentic.

Done at London this nineteenth day of November one thousand nine hundred and seventy-six.

In witness whereof the undersigned being duly authorized for that purpose have signed this Convention.

SIGNATURES AND RATIFICATIONS

<i>State</i>	<i>Date of signature</i>	<i>Date of deposit of instrument of Ratification, (R) Acceptance (Ac) or Approval (Ap)</i>
Denmark*	22 Dec. 1977	30 May 1984 (R)
Finland*	30 Dec. 1977	8 May 1984 (R)
France*†	21 Dec. 1977	1 July 1981 (Ap)
Germany, Federal Republic of*†	16 Dec. 1977	12 May 1987 (R)
Norway*†	21 Dec. 1977	30 Mar. 1984 (R)
Spain*	12 Oct. 1977	13 Nov. 1981 (R)
Sweden*†	19 Feb. 1977	30 Mar. 1984 (R)
United Kingdom*†	1 Feb. 1977	31 Jan. 1980 (R)

ACCESSIONS

<i>State</i>	<i>Date</i>
Bahamas	7 June 1983
Belgium†	15 June 1989
Benin	1 Nov. 1985
Egypt	30 Mar. 1988
German Democratic Republic†	17 Feb. 1989
Japan†	4 June 1982
Liberia	17 Feb. 1981
Poland†	28 Apr. 1986
Switzerland†	15 Dec. 1987
Yemen, Arab Republic	6 Mar. 1979

* Subject to ratification or approval.

† For reservations, declarations and objections see pages 12–14.

RESERVATIONS, DECLARATIONS and OBJECTIONS

BELGIUM

The instrument of accession deposited by the Government of the Kingdom of Belgium was accompanied by the following reservation and notification (in the French language):

[Translation]

- (1) In accordance with the provisions of Article 18, paragraph 1, Belgium expresses a reservation on Article 2, paragraph 1(d) and (e).
- (2) In accordance with the provisions of Article 15, paragraph 2, Belgium will apply the provisions of the Convention to inland navigation.

FRANCE

The instrument of approval deposited by the Government of the French Republic contains the following reservation:

[Translation]

In accordance with Article 18, paragraph 1, the Government of the French Republic reserves the right to exclude the application of Article 2, paragraphs 1(d) and (e).

By a communication dated 23 April 1987 the Secretary General received from the Government of the French Republic a notification under Article 15(2) of the Convention stating:

[Translation]

—that no limit of liability is provided for vessels navigating on French internal waterways;

—that, as far as ships with a tonnage of less than 300 tons are concerned, the general limits of liability are equal to half those established in article 6 of the Convention... for ships with a tonnage not exceeding 500 tons.

GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

The instrument of accession deposited by the Government of the German Democratic Republic was accompanied by the following reservation, declaration and notification (in the German language):

[Translation]

Article 2, paragraph 1(d) and (e)

The German Democratic Republic notes that for the purpose of this Convention there is no limitation of liability within its territorial sea and internal waters in respect of the removal of a wrecked ship, the raising, removal or destruction of a ship which is sunk, stranded or abandoned (including anything that is or has been on board such ship). Claims, including liability, derive from the laws and regulations of the German Democratic Republic.

Article 8, paragraph 1

The German Democratic Republic accepts the use of the Special Drawing Rights merely as a technical unit of account. This does not imply any change in its position toward the International Monetary Fund.

Article 8, paragraph 4

The amounts expressed in Special Drawing Rights will be converted into marks of the German Democratic Republic at the exchange rate fixed by the Staatsbank of the German Democratic Republic on the basis of the current rate of the US dollar or of any other freely convertible currency.

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

The instrument of ratification deposited by the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany was accompanied by the following declaration, notifications and reservation:

[Translation]

... that the said Convention shall also apply to Berlin (West) with effect from the date on which it enters into force for the Federal Republic of Germany.

In accordance with *art. 15, par. 2, first sentence, sub-par. (a)* of the Convention, the system of limitation of liability to be applied to vessels which are, according to the law of the Federal Republic of Germany, ships intended for navigation on inland waterways, is regulated by the provisions relating to the private law aspects of inland navigation.

In accordance with *art. 15, par. 2, first sentence, sub-par. (b)* of the Convention, the system of limitation of liability to be applied to ships up to a tonnage of 250 tons is regulated by specific provisions of the law of the Federal Republic of Germany to the effect that, with respect to such a ship, the limit of liability to be calculated in accordance with *art. 6, par. 1(b)* of the Convention is half of the limitation amount to be applied with respect to a ship with a tonnage of 500 tons.

In accordance with *art. 18, par. 1* of the Convention, the Federal Republic of Germany reserves the right to exclude the application of *art. 2, par. 1(d) and (e)* of the Convention.

JAPAN

The instrument of accession deposited by the Government of Japan was accompanied by the following statement:

“... the Government of Japan, in accordance with the provision of paragraph 1 of Article 18 of the Convention, reserves the right to exclude the application of paragraph 1(d) and (e) of Article 2 of the Convention.”

NORWAY

The Secretary-General received the following communication from the Government of Norway:

“Because a higher liability is established for Norwegian drilling vessels according to the Act of 27 May 1983 (No. 30) on changes in the Maritime Act of 20 July 1893, paragraph 324, such drilling vessels are exempted from the regulations of this Convention as specified in Article 15 No. 4.”

POLAND

The instrument of accession deposited by the Government of the Polish People's Republic was accompanied by the following statement:

" Poland will now calculate financial liabilities mentioned in the Convention in the terms of the Special Drawing Right, according to the following method.

" The Polish National Bank will fix a rate of exchange of the SDR to the United States dollar according to the current rates of exchange quoted by Reuter. Next, the US dollar will be converted into Polish zloties at the rate of exchange quoted by the Polish National Bank from their current table of rates of foreign currencies."

SWEDEN

The Secretary-General received the following communication from the Government of Sweden:

" ... in accordance with paragraph 4 of Article 15 of the Convention, Sweden has established under its national legislation a higher limit of liability for ships constructed for or adapted to and engaged in drilling than that otherwise provided for in Article 6 of the Convention."

SWITZERLAND

The instrument of accession deposited by the Government of the Swiss Confederation was accompanied by the following declaration (in the French language):

[Translation]

The Federal Council declares, with reference to Article 8, paragraphs 1 and 4 of the Convention on Limitation of Liability for Maritime Claims, 1976, that Switzerland calculates the value of its national currency in special drawing rights (SDR) in the following way:

The Swiss National Bank (SNB) notifies the International Monetary Fund (IMF) daily of the mean rate of the dollar of the United States of America on the Zurich currency market. The exchange value of one SDR in Swiss francs is determined from that dollar rate and the rate of the SDR in dollars calculated by IMF. On the basis of these values, SNB calculates a mean SDR rate which it will publish in its Monthly Gazette.

UNITED KINGDOM

In its Instrument of Ratification the Government of the United Kingdom declared that the ratification was also effective in respect of:

The Bailiwick of Jersey, The Bailiwick of Guernsey, The Isle of Man, Belize, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Falkland Islands, Gibraltar, Hong Kong, Montserrat, Pitcairn, Saint Helena and Dependencies, Turks and Caicos Islands and the United Kingdom Sovereign Base Areas of Akrotiri and Dhekelia in the Island of Cyprus.

The Instrument of Ratification also contained a reservation which states that the United Kingdom was " reserving the right, in accordance with Article 18, paragraph 1, of the Convention, on its own behalf and on behalf of the above-mentioned territories, to exclude the application of Article 2, paragraph 1(d); and to exclude the application of Article 2, paragraph 1(e) with regard to Gibraltar only".

In accordance with Article 8(4) the United Kingdom, at the time of the deposit of the instrument, informed the Secretary-General that:

" the manner of calculation employed by the United Kingdom pursuant to Article 8(1) of the Convention shall be the method of valuation applied by the International Monetary Fund. "

The United Kingdom also informed the Secretary-General that:

" with regard to Article 15, paragraph 2(b), the limits of liability which the United Kingdom intend to apply to ships of under 300 tons are 166,667 units of account in respect of claims for loss of life or personal injury, and 83,333 units of account in respect of any other claims. "

OBJECTIONS

ARGENTINA

The Secretary-General received the following communication, dated 12 August 1986, from the Argentine delegation to the International Maritime Organization:

[Translation]

... the Argentine Government rejects the extension made by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland of the application to the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands of the... Convention on Limitation of Liability for Maritime Claims, 1976... and reaffirms the rights of sovereignty of the Argentine Republic over those archipelagos which form part of its national territory.

The General Assembly of the United Nations has adopted resolutions 2065(XX), 3160(XXVIII), 31/49, 37/9, 38/12 and 39/6 which recognize the existence of a sovereignty dispute relating to the question of the Malvinas Islands, urging the Argentine Republic and the United Kingdom to resume negotiations in order to find, as soon as possible, a peaceful and definitive solution to the dispute through the good offices of the Secretary-General of the United Nations who is requested to inform the General Assembly on the progress made. Similarly, the General Assembly of the United Nations at its fortieth session adopted resolution 40/21 of 27 November 1985 which again urges both parties to resume the said negotiations.

UNITED KINGDOM

The Secretary-General received the following communication dated 3 February 1987 from the Government of the United Kingdom:

"The Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland cannot accept the statement made by the Argentine Republic as regards the Falkland Islands and South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands. The Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland have no doubt as to the United Kingdom sovereignty over the Falkland Islands and South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands and, accordingly, their right to extend the application of the Treaties to the Falkland Islands and South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands."

"Equally, while noting the Argentine reference to the provisions of Article IV of the Antarctic Treaty signed at Washington on 1 December 1959, the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland have no doubt as to the sovereignty of the United Kingdom over the British Antarctic Territory, and to the right to extend the application of the Treaties in question to that Territory."



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