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STANDARD REPORT FORMATS FOR PIRATICAL INCIDENTS

1 The Sub-Committee on Radiocommunications (COM), at its thirty-eighth session (18 to 22 January 1993), noted that, in order to facilitate rapid promulgation of information by the ship under attack by pirates, INMARSAT intends, with the assistance of ship earth station (SES) manufacturers, to investigate the possibility of incorporating a message of piracy or armed robbery attack in the message menu of the INMARSAT-C terminal. The message could be interfaced with the electronic navigation system of the ship, which would facilitate a position being transmitted with the message. Alternatively, the position input manually for other GMDSS purposes could be used. The message may be directed to one or more addressees and these may be preprogrammed. When an attack occurs, the message could be selected from a menu and transmitted, without the need to type and address it; this could save time as well as, perhaps, being executed without the knowledge of the attackers, if they have boarded the ship.

2 Noting INMARSAT's intentions in this regard and taking account of incident report formats already recommended or in use, the Sub-Committee designed and approved the standard report formats for piratical incidents (annexes 1 and 2) for circulation to Governments, IHO and INMARSAT and recommended that they be given wide distribution among mariners and are used in the event of attack by pirates or armed robbers.

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ANNEX 1

INITIAL MESSAGE - PIRACY ATTACK ALERT

- 1 Vessel's name and call sign/INMARSAT ID (plus ocean region code)
MAYDAY
PIRACY ATTACK
- 2 Vessel's position and time (UTC)
- 3 Nature of event

Notes

- 1 MAYDAY to be included only in cases when the piracy attack leads to the vessel or persons being in grave or imminent danger and requests immediate assistance.
- 2 Use of distress priority (3) in the INMARSAT system will not require MAYDAY to be included.
