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IMCO

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### ESTABLISHMENT OF SEA LANES

1. The Sub-Committee on Safety of Navigation met from 10 - 14 July 1967 to study certain questions brought to light by the loss of the "TORREY CANYON", as instructed by the Council and the Maritime Safety Committee.
2. These questions included:
  - (a) the establishment of sea lanes for all necessary classes of ships;
  - (b) the value of prohibiting the passage of large ships carrying oil or other noxious or hazardous cargoes in certain areas or on certain routes.
3. The Sub-Committee agreed on the following principles:
  - (a) establishment of sea lanes, incorporating traffic separation, will contribute substantially to safety at sea and therefore it should be strongly recommended;
  - (b) these recommended lanes should be followed by all classes of vessels;
  - (c) for the time being it would not be desirable to make these lanes compulsory on the high seas. It would be necessary to obtain experience of the use of recommended lanes, particularly the

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practical consequences of increased traffic density along these lanes.

4. The Sub-Committee also recommended that vessels not using the sea lanes should avoid them by as wide a margin as practicable, whilst vessels crossing the lanes should do so at as wide an angle as possible. When establishing these sea lanes, the general principles laid down by the Institutes of Navigation in their report on Traffic Separation at Sea should be followed as closely as possible.

5. In order to make further progress on this question, the Sub-Committee decided to invite Member Governments:

- (a) to propose the establishment of special routes or lanes for areas where collisions or strandings could cause pollution of their coasts;
- (b) to propose similar measures for areas where such special routes or lanes are considered necessary in order to improve safety in general;
- (c) to consider the desirability of designating areas which should be avoided by ships or ships of certain classes, such as those carrying oil or other noxious or hazardous cargoes in bulk.

6. Member Governments are therefore requested to forward their proposals by 1 November 1967, in order to allow for early circulation and consideration by the fourth session of the Sub-Committee, scheduled for 4 - 8 December 1967.

7. Proposals submitted by Member Governments at a later date will be examined at a subsequent session, with a view to issuing at a later stage a document on routing schemes

adopted for international use by the appropriate IMCO organs. Such a document should be kept up-to-date as necessary.

8. Member Governments are invited to submit proposals on the understanding that the present conclusions of the Sub-Committee are not yet final, but are subject to approval by the Maritime Safety Committee, which will examine them in February 1968.

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