



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON
SAFETY OF LIFE AT SEA, 1974

IMCO

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE EIGHTH MEETING

held at IMCO Headquarters, 104 Piccadilly, London, W.1,
on Friday, 1 November 1974 at 11 a.m.

President: Rear-Admiral R.Y. EDWARDS (USA)
Secretary-General: Mr. C.P. SRINIVASTAVA (Secretary-General of IMCO)
Executive Secretary: Captain A. SAVELIEV (IMCO)

A list of participants is given in SOLAS/CONF/INF.1/Rev.1 and Corr.1. thereto

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AGENDA ITEM 9 - SIGNATURE OF THE FINAL ACT OF THE CONFERENCE AND OF THE
INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION FOR THE SAFETY OF LIFE AT SEA, 1974

The PRESIDENT said that the Conference had decided the previous day that the Final Act of the Conference, which it had already adopted, would be signed at the present meeting. He invited participants to proceed to the signing forthwith.

Mr. SAVELIEV (Executive Secretary) said that the usual practice was for the Final Act to be signed first by the President of the Conference, the Secretary-General of the Organization, the Deputy Secretary-General, the Executive Secretary of the Conference and the Deputy Executive Secretary. After that, delegations would be called upon to sign, in the English alphabetical order of delegations.

The Final Act was signed by representatives of the following States:

Algeria	Jamaica
Argentina	Japan
Australia	Kuwait
Belgium	Liberia
Brazil	Libyan Arab Republic
Bulgaria	Madagascar
Burma	Mexico
Byelorussian SSR	Monaco
Canada	Netherlands
Chile	New Zealand
China	Nigeria
Congo	Norway
Cuba	Pakistan
Cyprus	Panama
Czechoslovakia	Peru
Democratic Yemen	Poland
Denmark	Portugal
Egypt	Republic of Korea
Finland	Republic of Viet-Nam
France	Senegal
Gabon	Singapore
German Democratic Republic	Spain
Germany, Federal Republic of	Sweden
Ghana	Switzerland
Greece	Turkey
Hungary	Ukrainian SSR
Iceland	USSR
India	United Kingdom
Indonesia	United Republic of Tanzania
Iran	United States
Ireland	Uruguay
Israel	Venezuela
Italy	Yugoslavia

Mr. SAVELIEV (Executive Secretary) announced that 66 of the 67 delegations that had attended the Conference had signed the Final Act.

He invited those representatives who were invested with the necessary powers to sign the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974.

The Convention was signed by representatives of the following States:

Byelorussian SSR	Liberia
Chile	Mexico
Congo	Monaco
Czechoslovakia	Portugal
Democratic Yemen	Republic of Korea
Denmark	Republic of Viet-Nam
Egypt	Sweden
France	Switzerland
Ghana	Ukrainian SSR
Greece	USSR
Hungary	United Kingdom
Iceland	United States
Indonesia	Venezuela
Iran	Yugoslavia
Israel	

Mr. SAVELIEV (Executive Secretary) announced that 29 of the 35 delegations invested with the necessary powers had signed the Convention.

CLOSURE OF THE CONFERENCE

The PRESIDENT said that he had just received a message from the Venezuelan School of Merchant Marine, sending the Conference good wishes for its success and stating that the School was ready to take the necessary steps to put the results of the Conference into practice.

He thanked participants for having been co-operative to a degree which he considered unprecedented in the history of the Organization.

Speaking on behalf of all delegations, he thanked the Secretary-General and all his staff for their services to the Conference, and the United Kingdom for the generous hospitality it had extended to all participants.

He also thanked the Committee Chairmen for having so admirably discharged a duty essential to the success of the Conference.

In conclusion, he again thanked participants for the honour they had done him and his country in electing him to preside over their work.

Mr. ARCHER (UK) wished to be the first to pay tribute to the President, who had earlier done great service to the Organization and had surpassed himself in the previous two weeks. His energy and consistent good humour had made it possible for the Conference to achieve its objectives within the short time available.

The Chairmen of the Conference Committees had formed an outstanding team which had played an important part in the success achieved in promoting the cause of safety of life at sea.

The two primary objectives of the Conference, namely to incorporate in the Convention the amendments already adopted and to work out an effective amendment procedure, had undoubtedly been achieved. As for the other two - uniform measures for ensuring the safety of life at sea and the rapid entry into force of the new Convention - his delegation trusted that the absence of a reservations Article would not prejudice the first and that the number of ratifications required for the Convention to enter into force would soon be reached. The enlargement of IMCO obviously increased the difficulties concerning national procedures for the entry into force of amendments; but those difficulties would be amply offset by the advantages to the Organization of representing a wider community. The safety of human life, like peace, was indivisible and the measures needed to ensure it must be capable of being adjusted rapidly and yet at a pace that all countries could follow.

In conclusion, he thanked all the members of the IMCO Secretariat for their co-operation in the work of the Conference.

Mr. EL-SAMMAK (Egypt) thanked the President for having guided the Conference to satisfactory results. He congratulated the Secretary-General and his staff on the admirable task they had performed and thanked delegations for the co-operation they had all shown in recognizing the world problems caused by the speed of technical progress.

Mr. JACQUIER (France) associated his delegation with the praise given to the President, who had fulfilled the expectations placed in him when he was elected. He endorsed the tributes paid to the Chairmen of Committees, the Drafting Committee and all the members of the Secretariat.

Mr. LONGE (Nigeria), Chairman of Committee I, said that he had had the honour of proposing Rear-Admiral Edwards as President of the Conference, aware that he would have the necessary qualities for such a tremendous task. All the countries of the Group of 77 attached the greatest importance to the safety of life at sea, even though unfortunately their merchant marines formed a comparatively small part of the world fleet; on behalf of all those nations, his delegation thanked the President for having brought the Conference to a successful conclusion.

Mr. KOLESNITCHENKO (USSR) thanked the President, the Committee Chairmen, the Secretary-General and all who had helped to ensure the success of the Conference and its friendly and efficient atmosphere. He congratulated all participants for their contribution to its successful outcome.

Mr. MORALES ACOSTA (Mexico) transmitted the congratulations of his delegation and of the Mexican Merchant Marine to the President and to all the officials who had helped to ensure the success of the Conference.

Mr. SILER (USA) congratulated the President as a compatriot and former comrade in arms.

Mr. SRIVASTAVA (Secretary-General) said that, as a member of the Indian delegation, he had taken part in the 1960 Conference on Safety of Life at Sea; he had then been far from imagining that he would be at the head of IMCO for the preparation of the Convention that had just been adopted. On behalf of all his colleagues in the Secretariat, he thanked the President and all the delegates for, in the last analysis, it was the delegates who deserved the honour for the success of the Conference. He paid tribute to all his colleagues in IMCO for their remarkable team-work. Now that the Conference was ending and the Final Act and the Articles of the Convention had been signed, he looked forward with pleasure to the next stage, the ratification of the Convention, and invited all countries to transmit their instruments of ratification as soon as possible.

The PRESIDENT thanked all speakers for the kind words they had addressed to him.

He declared the Conference closed.

The meeting rose at 12.55 p.m.