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Circular Letter No.4764
17 August 2023

To: All IMO Members
Intergovernmental organizations
Non-governmental organizations in consultative status

Subject: **Communication from the Government of the Russian Federation**

The Government of the Russian Federation has sent the attached communication, dated 17 August 2023, with the request that it be circulated by the Organization.

MISSION OF
THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION
TO THE INTERNATIONAL MARITIME
ORGANIZATION (IMO)



ПРЕДСТАВИТЕЛЬСТВО
РОССИЙСКОЙ ФЕДЕРАЦИИ
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Ref. No. 003/361

The Mission of the Russian Federation to the International Maritime Organization presents its compliments to the International Maritime Organization and, referring to the terrorist attack against the Russian civilian vessel “Sig” near the Kerch strait on the night of 4-5 August 2023, has the honour to communicate the following.

The Russian side strongly condemns the terrorist attack against the tanker “Sig”. This reckless act posed a threat not only to the life of the crew, but also could have led to a large-scale ecological catastrophe.

It should be highlighted that the responsibility for this terrorist act has been effectively taken by the Security Service of Ukraine as represented by its Head V.Malyuk, who has characterized this terrorist attack as “lawful, logical and effective step”. Such barbaric actions directed against civilian vessels and its unarmed crew cannot be justified or be left without a reaction.

The official comment by the Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova of 5th August 2023 on this matter is enclosed.

Encl.:
1 page

International Maritime Organization
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London SE1 7SR

The Mission of the Russian Federation requests this note and its enclosure to be circulated among the Member States of the International Maritime Organization.

The Mission of the Russian Federation avails itself of the opportunity to renew to the International Maritime Organization the assurances of its highest consideration.



London, 17 August 2023

05.08.2023

Comment by Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova on the Ukrainian terrorist attack against the civilian vessel

1559-05-08-2023

On the night of 4-5 August a Russian civilian vessel in the roadstead close to the Kerch Strait has been attacked by means of an unmanned marine drone. According to preliminary information, the sea-going tanker “Sig” had sustained a breach in the hull near the engine room. As a result it was not capable of proceeding further on its own. By mere luck the crew has been unharmed. The rescue operation has been conducted.

The responsibility for this terrorist act effectively has been taken by the Security Service of Ukraine as represented by its Head V.Malyuk, who with a typically ukronazi inhumanity has characterized the cynical terrorist act directed against unarmed civilians as “lawful, logical and effective step”. The international community has yet another opportunity to witness what kind of “lawfulness” is professed by Kiev.

We strongly condemn the terrorist attack against the civilian vessel, which posed a threat not only to the life of the crew, but also could have led to a large-scale ecological catastrophe.

The Kiev regime seeing no condemnation from the Western countries and international organizations is actively pursuing ever new terrorist methods. This time it happened in the Black Sea.

Such barbaric actions cannot be justified, they cannot be left without a reaction, authors and perpetrators of the offence will be brought to justice.
