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A1/V/5.02 (NV.5)

He has the honour to refer to the 2010 Manila amendments to the Annex to the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW), 1978, and the 2010 Manila Amendments to the Seafarers' Training, Certification and Watchkeeping Code, which were adopted by the Conference of Parties to the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW), 1978, held in Manila, the Philippines, from 21 to 25 June 2010.

At the time of their adoption, the Conference determined that the amendments shall be deemed to have been accepted on 1 July 2011, unless, prior to that date, more than one-third of Parties to the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW), 1978, or Parties, the combined merchant fleets of which constitute not less than 50% of the gross tonnage of the world's merchant shipping of ships of 100 gross register tons or more, have notified the Secretary-General that they object to the amendments. The Conference further determined that the amendments shall enter into force on 1 January 2012, upon being deemed to have been so accepted.

The information regarding the entry into force of the amendments and the communications received on and before 22 December 2011, under article XII(1)(a)(ix) of the Convention, were transmitted under cover of Note Verbale A1/V/5.02 (NV.4).

Before the 31 December 2011 deadline, the Secretary-General received a further communication from the Embassy of Latvia, informing him as follows:

"The Embassy hereby informs that, with reference to any amendments to Chapters I and VIII of the Annex to the STCW Convention that do not directly involve certification of seafarers, under regulation 1/15, due to national procedural requirements, Latvia is not able to give effect to the Manila amendments before 1 January 2013.

The Embassy has however, the honour to inform the Secretary-General that the Government of Latvia will not fail to inform the Secretary-General of any developments in this respect."

The amendments accordingly entered into force on 1 January 2012 for all Parties to the Convention, except Denmark, Finland, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, New Zealand, Portugal, Slovenia and the United Kingdom.

London, 19 March 2012

RPR