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Circular Letter No.3539
13 April 2015

To: IMO Members
Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts
against the Safety of Maritime Navigation
United Nations and specialized agencies
Intergovernmental organizations
Non-governmental organizations in consultative status

Subject: **Communication received from Japan**

The Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization has received the attached communication, on 16 March 2015, from the Embassy of Japan in London, providing information under article 15 of the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Maritime Navigation (SUA).

Communications under article 15 of the SUA Convention will shortly be available in GISIS.

EMBASSY OF JAPAN
LONDON

The Embassy of Japan in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization, and has the honour to provide to the Secretary-General the following information, in accordance with Article 15, paragraph 1 of the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Maritime Navigation (hereinafter referred to as "the Convention"), with regard to a case in which an offence provided for in Article 3 of the Convention was committed. The Embassy has further the honour to request that the Secretary-General communicate the information, in accordance with Article 15, paragraph 3 of the Convention, and in response to the request of the Government of Japan for cooperation.

1. Summary of the case

On February 11, 2010, in the high sea of the Antarctic, WATSON, PAUL FRANKLIN had PETER JAMES BETHUNE and other members of Sea Shepherd, a non-governmental organization, fire glass bottles containing butyric acid from a device utilizing compressed air towards the navigating Shonan Maru No.2, a ship flying the flag of Japan which was engaged in research whaling activities. The glass bottles hit the left helm of the vessel's bridge and exploded, scattering glass fragments of the broken bottles and their contents on the vessel and spreading a foul smell. In addition, they inflicted injury on a deckhand by splashing butyric acid in his face. Thus they obstructed the business of the Captain and the crew of the vessel by force.

Additionally, on February 15, 2010, in the high sea of the Antarctic, WATSON, PAUL FRANKLIN had PETER JAMES BETHUNE intrude onto the vessel by using a knife to cut the anti-intrusion net which was set up on the left helm of the deck of Shonan Maru No.2.

2. Applicable Penal Statutes for the Charged Crimes:
 - Trespassing onto a Vessel (Penal Code Article 130)
 - Inflicting Injury (Penal Code Article 204)
 - Forcible Obstruction of Business (Penal Code Article 234)
 - Damage to Property (Penal Code Article 261)
 - Co-Principals (Penal Code Article 60)
 - Article 3, paragraph 1, subparagraph(b), (c) and (g) as well as paragraph 2(a) of the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Maritime Navigation

3. Alleged offender etc.
 - Name: WATSON, PAUL FRANKLIN
 - Sex: Male
 - Date of Birth: December 2, 1950 (Age 64)
 - Nationality: Unknown

※ PETER JAMES BETHUNE

In July 2010, Conviction judgment became final and binding, and Deportation executed

4. Current status of the investigation
 - The Japanese investigation authority obtained arrest warrants for WATSON, PAUL FRANKLIN and placed him on the wanted list nationally, as well as internationally through ICPO.

The Embassy of Japan in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization the assurances of its highest consideration.

13 March 2015

