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**CONVENTION ON THE INTERNATIONAL REGULATIONS FOR
PREVENTING COLLISIONS AT SEA, 1972, AS AMENDED**

Communication received from China

The Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization has received the attached communication from His Excellency the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of China to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

(Translation)

Your Excellency,

In accordance with the Joint Declaration of the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Government of the Republic of Portugal on the Question of Macao signed on 13 April 1987, the Government of the People's Republic of China will resume the exercise of sovereignty over Macao with effect from 20 December 1999. Macao will, with effect from that date, become a Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China and will enjoy a high degree of autonomy, except in foreign and defence affairs which are the responsibilities of the Central People's Government of the People's Republic of China.

In this connection, I am instructed by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China to inform Your Excellency of the following:

The Convention on the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea, as amended, done at London on 20 October 1972 (hereinafter referred to as the Convention), to which the Government of the People's Republic of China deposited the instrument of accession on 7 January 1980, will apply to the Macao Special Administrative Region with effect from 20 December 1999.

The Government of the People's Republic of China will assume responsibility for the international rights and obligations arising from the application of the Convention to the Macao Special Administrative Region.

It would be appreciated if the contents of the Note could be placed formally on record and brought to the attention of the other Parties to the Convention.

Please accept, Your Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(Signed) Ma Zhengang
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
of the People's Republic of China to
the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

London, 1st December, 1999

H. E. Mr. William A. O'Neil
Secretary-General
International Maritime Organization
London