

RESOLUTION A.237(VII)

ACCELERATION OF THE MARITIME SAFETY COMMITTEE'S
WORK PROGRAMME

The Assembly,

Recalling that Resolution 1 of the International Conference on Prevention of Pollution of the Sea by Oil, 1954, calling for "The complete avoidance as soon as practicable of discharge of persistent oil into the sea" was reaffirmed by the 1962 Conference,

Recalling also that Resolution A.176(VI) adopted on 21 October 1969 invited the Maritime Safety Committee to proceed with its work on marine pollution with all possible speed with a view to achieving early implementation of effective measures for the prevention and control of marine pollution and to co-operate fully with other interested organizations in carrying out this task,

Recalling further the decision to convene in 1973 an International Conference on Marine Pollution for the purpose of preparing a suitable international agreement for placing restraints on the contamination of the sea, land and air by ships, vessels and other equipment operating in the marine environment,

Noting that Resolution A.176(VI) invited the Member States to recognize the need for urgency in applying effective control measures for preventing pollution of the marine environment from ships, vessels and other equipment and to submit to the Organization necessary information for this purpose,

Noting further that there has arisen within a sizable portion of the world scientific community the conclusion that the introduction of oil into the sea has a harmful effect on the food chain,

Recognizing that the oceans of the world can no longer be considered as unlimited waste dumping grounds,

Being conscious that the pollution of the seas causes vast economic and aesthetic harm,

Urges governments to implement the provisions of the 1969 amendments to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution of the Sea by Oil, 1954, as soon as possible without awaiting the results of the International Conference on Marine Pollution, 1973, so that the marine environment can be afforded the immediate protection inherent in the 1969 amendments,

Decides that the International Conference on Marine Pollution, 1973, shall have as its main objectives the achievement, by 1975 if possible but certainly by the end of the decade, of the complete elimination of the wilful and intentional pollution of the seas by oil and noxious substances other than oil, and the minimization of accidental spills,

Decides further that the Maritime Safety Committee should direct its appropriate Sub-Committee to give first priority to the problem of achieving these goals.

12 October 1971
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