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Circular letter No. 2290
6 February 2001

To: All IMO Members
United Nations and Specialized Agencies
Intergovernmental Organizations
Non-governmental Organizations in Consultative Status

Subject: **Note Verbale dated 25 January 2001 from the Embassy the Republic of Georgia in the United Kingdom**

Upon request of the Embassy of the Republic of Georgia in the United Kingdom, the Secretary-General has the honour to circulate attached hereto the text of the above mentioned note verbale.



N 01/15-01

The Embassy of Georgia presents its compliments to the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and has the honour to bring to their attention the Decree N 140, January 31, 1996 issued by the President of Georgia Mr. Eduard Shevardnadze, regarding the customs and border regimes on the territory of Abkhazia (Georgia) - on the Georgian-Russian state border, in the Port of Sokhumi, other ports and territorial waters:

Because of conflict in Abkhazia, Georgia and because of difficult criminal situation in the whole Caucasus region, which in fact assists the penetration of mercenaries, arms, drugs, smuggled goods on the territory of Abkhazia (Georgia), which threatens the security of the country, vital national interests and friendly relations with neighbouring countries, and because it is impossible to provide security and safety to foreign ships on this territory of Georgia which is Abkhazia and implementing the resolution of meeting of the heads of CIS countries dated of 19th of January 1996, the Port of Sokhumi, ports, territorial waters and the part of the Russian-Georgian border in Abkhazia (Georgia), are currently closed for navigation, all kinds of shipments, except of humanitarian cargo, which is regulated by the above decree.

The information about the one-off permits about bringing humanitarian aid to Abkhazia, (Georgia) could be obtained from Georgian missions abroad upon application or Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia in Tbilisi.

The Embassy of Georgia further requests this information to be circulated among IMO member states and appreciates confirmation of this.

The Embassy of Georgia also would like to inform that the above information and request were addressed to IMO in 1996.

The Embassy of Georgia avails itself of this opportunity of assuring the International Maritime Organization of its highest consideration.

International Maritime Organization
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25 January 2001

