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IMO

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SN/Circ.141
3 May 1989

*G-LMI: Dennis writing
with DOS on this me
J.Y*

Ref. T2/2.07

INFORMATION ON A SHIP REPORTING SYSTEM
IN THE OLD BAHAMA CHANNEL

1 Member Governments have recently been advised by COLREG 2/Circ.20/Add.1 that the Government of Cuba is to implement the traffic separation schemes, adopted by the Maritime Safety Committee at its forty-eighth session (MSC 48/25, paragraph 12.3.3), on 1 September 1989 at 0000 hours UTC. The Government of Cuba has requested that its associated decision to introduce a ship reporting system in the Old Bahama Channel be brought to the attention of Member Governments as advance information, pending consideration of the proposal by the thirty-sixth session of the Sub-Committee on Safety of Navigation.

2 Resolution No. M.89-4, which advises of the intention of the Government of Cuba to implement the aforementioned ship reporting system on 1 September 1989, is attached as annex 1 and the associated ship movement message format is given in annex 2.

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ANNEX 1

RESOLUTION NO. M.89-4

WHEREAS: maritime navigation in our territorial waters, including the international channels and straits included therein, requires the establishment of traffic separation schemes to reduce to a minimum the possibility of collisions, strandings and other maritime casualties and, accordingly, the risks of pollution of our coastlines and its harmful impact on ecosystems of great economic importance for the country.

WHEREAS: The International Maritime Organization approved, after study at the forty-eighth session of the Maritime Safety Committee, the proposed traffic separation schemes submitted by the Republic of Cuba, which approval was duly communicated to other Member countries.

WHEREAS: in accordance with the provisions of article 82 of legislative decree No.67 of 19 April 1983 "On Organization of the Central Administration of the State", the Ministry of Transport is the body responsible for directing, implementing and controlling the application of the policy of the State and the Government with regard to land, maritime and river transport, its auxiliary and related services and civil maritime navigation.

WHEREAS: article 53, subparagraphs (q) and (r), of the said legislative decree No.67 empowers the Heads of Bodies of the Central Administration of the State to promulgate resolutions, regulations, instructions and other measures of a mandatory nature for the body they direct, its firms and departments, within the framework of their powers and competence, for other bodies and their departments, the co-operative sector, the private sector and the population.

THEREFORE: in exercise of the powers conferred on me,

I RESOLVE

FIRST: to bring into force, with effect from 0000 hours on 1 June 1989 the traffic separation schemes for maritime navigation at the points on the north coast of the island of Cuba as specified below:

- . Off Cabo de San Antonio
- . Off La Tabla
- . Off Costa de Matanzas
- . In the Old Bahama Channel
- . Off Punta Maternillos
- . Off Punta Lucrecia
- . Off Punta Maisí

These schemes are identical in their description and geographical positions with those set forth in the publication of the International Maritime Organization entitled SHIPS' ROUTEING, part B, section IX, 5th edition, London 1984.

The description of the above-mentioned schemes, their geographical positions and chartlets are attached to the present resolution as Annex 1*, and form an integral part thereof.

SECOND: in order to ensure ample opportunity for the printing of the charts of the areas in which traffic separation schemes have been established and for the same to be acquired by shipowners and shipmasters, and for the publication and notification of the information to be provided by ships, a period of three months from 1 June 1989 is granted to those infringing the provisions of the present resolution, for implementation of administrative measures in accordance with the law.

* The traffic separation schemes referred to above are not included in this circular. They are the schemes adopted at the forty-eighth session of the Maritime Safety Committee and described in part B-IX, numbers 10 to 16 of the publication on Ships' Routeing.

THIRD: during the said period (from 1 June to 31 August 1989), the action by the Control Centres and vessels responsible for monitoring the traffic separation schemes on the north coast of the island of Cuba will be restricted to informing shipmasters and deck officers who are on watch while navigating in those schemes of any infringements committed and shall alert them should those infringements be likely to cause an accident, provided they are detected sufficiently in advance and can be duly notified to the ship.

FOURTH: in order to carry out appropriate monitoring of ship movements and in order to be able to give sufficiently early warnings of existing dangers or to provide other relevant information, radio stations shall be put into service to provide information to mariners as specified below:

- in the western access to the traffic separation scheme in the Old Bahama Channel:
Station: Caimán
Call sign: CLG-50 Caimán
Frequency: 156.650 MHz (Channel 13)
Date of entry into service: 1 June 1989.

- in the eastern access to the traffic separation scheme in the Old Bahama Channel:
Station: Confites
Call sign: CLG-60 Confites
Frequency: 156.650 MHz (Channel 13)
Date of entry into service: 1 June 1989.

FIFTH: shipmasters shall inform the radio station situated in the western or eastern access to the Old Bahama Channel, as appropriate, two hours before beginning to transit the Channel, of the data listed in annex 2 which forms an integral part of the present resolution, and shall maintain a listening watch on the frequency of that station (Channel 13) throughout the time when they are navigating within the traffic separation scheme.

The information required in annex 2 (Ship movement message format for the Old Bahama Channel), and any communication relating to damage or maritime incidents which may occur during the transit of the scheme or other communication directed to one of the radio stations or to the vessels of the monitoring service, shall be transmitted in the Spanish or English language.

SIXTH: maritime navigation in the remaining traffic separation schemes on the north coast of the island of Cuba shall be observed from control posts situated on land and from vessels to which such functions have been assigned.

The aforementioned control posts and vessels shall not call for any information for the transit of the said traffic separation schemes except in cases involving infringements by shipping therein or other types of infringements of national law.

SEVENTH: any provisions of the same or a lower normative category which are incompatible with or restrict the provisions of the present resolution are repealed and the present resolution shall come into force with effect from its publication in the Official Gazette of the Republic.

EIGHTH: these provisions are brought to the attention of those Vice Ministers and Directors of the Central Administration who should be familiar with them, to the Maritime-Port Union, to directors of shipowning and ship-operating firms, to the Empresa Consignataria Mambisa as agent for foreign ships, to the Ministry of the Revolutionary Armed Forces, to the Ministry of the Interior, to the Ministry of Foreign Relations, to the Ministry of the Fishing Industry, to the Ministry of Justice, to the Office of the Public Prosecutor of the Republic, to the Revolutionary Navy, to the General Directorate for Frontier Security Troops, to the Cuban Hydrographic Institute and to such other natural or juridical persons as may be appropriate.

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To be communicated to the Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization (IMO).

To be published in the Official Gazette of the Republic for general information.

Done at Havana City, 30 January 1989.

Diocles Torralbas González
Minister of Transport

Certified true copy

ANNEX 2

SHIP MOVEMENT MESSAGE FORMAT FOR THE OLD BAHAMA CHANNEL

Message identifier: OLDBACHA

Traffic direction:

A - The word EAST to identify ships navigating in the Channel from east to west and the word WEST for ships navigating in the Channel from west to east.

Ship:

B - Type of ship, name, flag and call sign.

Date/time (GMT):

C - A 6-digit group giving day of month (first 2 digits), hours and minutes (last 4 digits).

Position:

D - A 6-digit group giving latitude in degrees and minutes (5-digits suffixed with N), and a 6-digit group giving longitude in degrees and minutes (5-digits suffixed with W).

Speed in knots:

E - A 2-digit group.

Estimated time of arrival:

F - A 4-digit group giving the time (hours and minutes) of arrival at the start of the traffic separation scheme.

Cargo:

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G - Type of cargo (only for ships carrying oil, gas and chemicals in bulk).

Other:

H - For ships or tugs pulling a tow or with a restricted ability to manoeuvre.

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