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FUTURE WITHDRAWAL OF INMARSAT-A SERVICES BY INMARSAT LTD.

1 The Maritime Safety Committee (MSC), at its seventy-sixth session (2 to 13 December 2002), noted information provided by the International Mobile Satellite Organization (IMSO), namely that Inmarsat Ltd. had given more than five years' notice of the scheduled withdrawal of Inmarsat-A services to take effect on 31 December 2007 and, having agreed that such information should be brought to the attention of Member Governments, instructed the Sub-Committee on Radiocommunications and Search and Rescue (COMSAR) to act accordingly at its seventh session (13 to 17 January 2003).

2 The MSC, at its seventy-seventh session (28 May to 6 June 2003), approved, as proposed by COMSAR 7, an explanatory note on a future withdrawal of Inmarsat-A services by Inmarsat Ltd. as from 31 December 2007, given in the annex.

3 Member Governments are invited to bring the annexed information to the attention of all parties concerned.

ANNEX

**INFORMATION ON FUTURE WITHDRAWAL OF
INMARSAT-A SERVICES BY INMARSAT LTD.**

- 1 Inmarsat-A is the original analogue service provided via the Inmarsat satellites and was first introduced in 1982.
- 2 The last type-approval by Inmarsat for a new model of maritime Inmarsat-A ship earth station (SES) was granted in 1991. No new Inmarsat-A SES models have been type-approved since then.
- 3 Although Inmarsat-A SESs are approved for fitting in ships as part of their GMDSS equipment; however, the communication capabilities provided by Inmarsat-A SESs are now provided more efficiently and effectively by other types of digital Inmarsat terminals, and the number of Inmarsat-A terminals that remain in use on board ships is declining rapidly.
- 4 Bearing in mind the efforts being made by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) to promote the more efficient use of spectrum and the requirement for Inmarsat Ltd. to hand back to the ITU the Country Codes used for Inmarsat-A services before 2009, Inmarsat Ltd. is planning to launch new satellites within this time frame which will not be able to support Inmarsat-A services.
- 5 Inmarsat. Ltd had formerly indicated that 5-years notice would be given for the withdrawal of Inmarsat-A services and has now informed the Organization that these services will be withdrawn on 31 December 2007.
