



Ref. T2/2.03

MSC/Circ.893
21 December 1998

**NAVIGATIONAL WARNINGS CONCERNING OPERATIONS
ENDANGERING THE SAFETY OF NAVIGATION**

1 The Maritime Safety Committee, at its seventieth session (7 to 11 December 1998), received a report on an incident which occurred on 31 August 1998 involving the launching of an object propelled by rockets which fell into the waters in the vicinity of Japan being major trade routes and important fishing grounds.

2 The Committee, although noting that, fortuitously, no harm had been reported to have been caused to vessels navigating in the aforementioned areas, expressed concern that, nevertheless, the reported launching had the potential of posing a serious threat to the safety of navigation.

3 The Committee, therefore, invited Member Governments to:

- attach the greatest importance to the safety of navigation and avoid taking any action which might adversely affect shipping engaged in international trade; and
- strictly comply with the recommendations contained in resolution A.706(17) on the World-Wide Navigational Warning Service (in particular, paragraphs 4.2.1.3.13 and 6.6.1.5 and 6.6.1.9 of Annex 1 (IMO/IHO World-Wide Navigational Warning Service Guidance Document) thereto) so that operations should not endanger the safety of navigation.