

*The Government of the Union of Socialist Soviet Republics:*

Mr. Dimitri BOGOMOLOFF, Counsellor of the Soviet Embassy in London.

Who, having communicated their full powers, found in good and due form, have agreed as follows:—

CHAPTER I.—PRELIMINARY

ARTICLE 1

*General Obligation of Convention*

So that the load lines prescribed by this Convention shall be observed, the Contracting Governments undertake to give effect to the provisions of this Convention, to promulgate all regulations, and to take all other steps which may be necessary to give this Convention full and complete effect.

The provisions of this Convention are completed by Annexes, which have the same force and take effect at the same time as this Convention. Every reference to this Convention implies at the same time a reference to the Rules annexed thereto.

ARTICLE 2

*Scope of Convention*

1. This Convention applies to all ships engaged on international voyages, which belong to countries the Governments of which are Contracting Governments, or to territories to which this Convention is applied under Article 21, except—

- (a) ships of war; ships solely engaged in fishing; pleasure yachts and ships not carrying cargo or passengers;
- (b) ships of less than 150 tons gross.

2. Ships when engaged on international voyages between the near neighbouring ports of two or more countries may be exempted by the Administration to which such ships belong from the provisions of this Convention, so long as they shall remain in such trades, if the Governments of the countries in which such ports are situated shall be satisfied that the sheltered nature and conditions of such voyages between such ports make it unreasonable or impracticable to apply the provisions of this Convention to ships engaged in such trades.

3. All agreements and arrangements relating to load line or matters appertaining thereto at present in force between