

DRAFT IMO CONVENTION ON THE  
SUPPRESSION OF UNLAWFUL ACTS  
AGAINST MARITIME NAVIGATION

In accordance with a mandate given to it by the Council of the International Maritime Organization, an Ad Hoc Preparatory Committee held two meetings (London, March 2-6 and Rome, May 18-22) under Canadian chairmanship and succeeded in adopting a draft Convention for the suppression of unlawful acts against the safety of navigation and a Protocol on unlawful acts against fixed platforms. The Committee used, as the basis of its work, a draft convention prepared by Italy, Austria and Egypt following the "Achille Lauro" incident.

Two issues, the scope of application of the Convention and the grounds for jurisdiction over the unlawful acts under consideration, were the subject of considerable debate. Both the provisions requiring extradition or prosecution and the final clauses follow the general format of existing anti-terrorist conventions. Because of the short time available to the Ad Hoc Committee certain issues were specifically referred to an eventual Diplomatic Conference.

The draft instruments adopted by the Ad Hoc Committee will be submitted for comments to an extraordinary session of the Legal Committee of IMO on October 19-20, 1987. A Diplomatic Conference will be held in Rome, March 1-10, 1988, where it is hoped the Convention will be finalized and signed.