UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE HUMAN ENVIRONMENT
Stockholm, 5-16 June 1972
Third Committee
Item 12 of the provisional agenda

INTERGOVERNMENTAL MEETING ON OCEAN DUMPING
London, 30 and 31 May 1972

Note by the secretariat. The attached report is distributed at the request of the delegation of the United Kingdom on behalf of the following delegations: Algeria, Australia, Belgium, Denmark, Federal Republic of Germany, France, Iceland, India, Ivory Coast, Japan, Kenya, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden and the United States of America; participants in the Intergovernmental Meeting on Ocean Dumping held in London on 30 and 31 May 1972.
INTERGOVERNMENTAL MEETING ON OCEAN DUMPING
London 30 and 31 May 1972

2. Annex A.
   List of participants
3. Annex B.
   Agenda of the meeting
4. Annex C.
   (a) Text of draft article amending Article IX (d) of the
       draft Articles of a Convention for the prevention of
       marine pollution by dumping (Document IMOD/2) agreed
       in Reykjavik.
   (b) Text of proposed amendment to para. 6 of
       Annex I of Document IMOD/2.
   (c) Treatment of agents of chemical and biological warfare
       in Annex I.
1. **REPORT OF THE MEETING**

1. The Government of the United Kingdom invited representatives of all those countries that attended the intergovernmental meeting on ocean dumping at Reykjavik held from 10 to 15 April 1972 to meet in London on 30 and 31 May 1972 in order to resolve issues outstanding from that meeting.

2. Seventeen nations sent delegates, and one was represented by an observer. A list is at Annex A.

3. The leader of the United Kingdom delegation, Dr. M.W. Holdgate, welcomed delegates and was subsequently elected Chairman of the meeting. Mr. H.R. Bárðarson, leader of the Iceland delegation, was elected Vice-Chairman.

4. The Agenda as adopted is at Annex B.

5. The sole working document for the meeting was the text of draft Articles of a Convention for the prevention of marine pollution by dumping, drawn up at the Reykjavik meeting. The meeting endeavoured first to agree on text to replace the disputed clauses in the Reykjavik text (Article IX (d) and paras. 6 and 7 in Annex I). Agreement was reached on a proposed new form of Article IX (d) and para. 6 of Annex I, while substantial progress was achieved on the treatment of the question of agents of chemical and biological warfare, in para. 7 of that Annex. The resulting form of words is at Annex C.

6. Articles I to XI inclusive of the Reykjavik draft were examined seriatim. A number of delegations raised points of substance on articles I, II, IV, VI, VII (b) and X, while various drafting amendments were also proposed.

7. The meeting agreed that the results of its work should be regarded as supplementing the report of the Reykjavik meeting, which had been submitted by the Government of Iceland to the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, and requested its Chairman to convey a summary of its report together with Annex C to that Conference and to circulate the full report to all those countries that were present at the Reykjavik meeting.

8. Many delegates said that their Government would wish to consider how best to proceed to the conclusion of the proposed Convention after the Stockholm Conference. The delegate of the United Kingdom reminded the meeting that his Government had announced its wish to convene a plenipotentiary meeting to complete and sign the Convention in the late summer of 1972 and said that a final decision on this meeting and its timing would be taken after the Stockholm Conference. A number of delegations stressed that it was important that the conclusions of the Stockholm Conference be awaited before any further meetings were decided upon.
ANNEX A

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

ALGERIA
A. ABDELAZIZ

AUSTRALIA
W. FLANAGAN
W.B. NICHOLSON

BELGIUM
R. VAN CRAEYNENEST

DENMARK
G. SEIDENFADEN
V. DIITLEV LARSEN

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY
F.W. MARIENFELD
E. JAUCK

FRANCE
A. JOUANIN

ICELAND
H.R. BARDARSON

INDIA
A.S. MAMI

IVORY COAST
A. TRAORE

JAPAN
H. SAGARA
K. TSUTSUMI

KENYA
O. FAKIH

NETHERLANDS
JOMKHEER. H.R. van DOORN
J. VOORBRAAK
F. RACKE

NORWAY
H. VINDENES

SPAIN
J. Yturriaga

SWEDEN
L. MYRSTEN
S. KRONVALL

UNITED KINGDOM
M.W. HOLDGATE
J.B. URE
Miss E.M. PRICE
K. CHAMBERLAIN
P.C. WOOD
I. Prestt
A. PRESTON

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
A. DODD
C. LETTOW
S. FRECH
O. ESKIN
F. FEDELE

OBSERVER

CANADA
A. MATHEWSON
ANNEX B

INTERGOVERNMENTAL MEETING ON OCEAN DUMPING

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AGENDA

1. Election of the Chairman.
2. Election of the Vice-Chairman.
3. Adoption of the agenda.
5. Discussion of future action.
6. Any other business.
(a) **SUGGESTED SUBSTITUTION FOR ARTICLE IX (a)**

This Convention shall not apply to those vessels and aircraft entitled to sovereign immunity under international law. However each party shall ensure by the adoption of appropriate measures that such vessels and aircraft owned or operated by it act in a manner consistent with the object and purpose of this Convention, and shall inform the other parties and the organization mentioned in Article XII (b) of the measures it adopts.

(b) **PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO ANNEX I**

Replace paragraph 6 by:

"6. High-level radioactive wastes as specified by the IAEA, in co-operation with other international bodies, as unsuitable for dumping at sea".

(c) **TREATMENT OF AGENTS OF CHEMICAL AND BIOLOGICAL WARFARE**

It was agreed that while some of these materials were both hazardous enough and sufficiently a cause of public concern to merit inclusion in Annex I others were not, and precise scientific definition would be needed by experts. For the time being it was agreed to retain the square brackets around paragraph 7. The best way of dealing with exemption of harmless materials might be to amend paragraph 9 of Annex I, for example to read:

"9. Paragraphs 1 and 7 of this Annex do not apply to substances which are rapidly rendered harmless by physical, chemical or biological processes in the sea, and which do not make the flesh of edible marine organisms unpalatable or lead to a danger to human health or that of domestic animals".

It was agreed that these matters required further expert consideration.