CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT CONVENTION FOR THE SUPPRESSION OF UNLAWFUL ACTS AGAINST THE SAFETY OF MARITIME NAVIGATION AND THE DRAFT PROTOCOL FOR THE SUPPRESSION OF UNLAWFUL ACTS AGAINST THE SAFETY OF FIXED PLATFORMS LOCATED ON THE CONTINENTAL SHELF

Proposal by Greece and Liberia

The sponsoring delegations consider that the draft article, submitted at the second session of the Ad Hoc Preparatory Committee, contained in page 3 of the annex to SUA/CONF/5 should be formally reintroduced.

The proposed provisions do not confer wide discretion to the shipmaster as feared at that time by some delegations; its scope is only to protect and facilitate the safety of navigation and free movement of ships, which has always been the paramount preoccupation of IMO.

For convenience the text from the Legal Committee's report is reprinted here below:

"1. The master of the ship of the State Party may deliver to the authorities of any other State Party any person who he has reasonable grounds to believe has committed one of the offences set forth in article 3.

2. Any State Party shall accept the delivery, except where it considers that the Convention is not applicable to the acts giving rise thereto, and shall proceed according to the provisions of article 8. Any refusal to accept such delivery shall be accompanied by a statement of reasons.

3. The master of the ship shall furnish the authorities to whom any alleged offender is delivered in accordance with the provisions of this article with evidence and information which, under the law of the State of the ship's flag, are lawfully in his possession."