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AREA SEARCH AND RESCUE PLANS

Notification of an Agreement on Search and Rescue Regions and coordination of search and rescue services in accordance with paragraph 2.1.4 of the Annex to the International Convention on Maritime Search and Rescue, 1979, as amended

Notification by the Governments of the Russian Federation and Poland

1 The Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization has the honour to transmit herewith the text of an Agreement on maritime search and rescue concluded between the Governments of the Russian Federation and Poland and submitted in accordance with paragraph 2.1.4 of the Annex to the 1979 SAR Convention, as amended.

2 The Secretary-General would be grateful if steps could be taken to bring this information to the attention of the appropriate authorities.

Translation**AGREEMENT****BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION AND THE
GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND CONCERNING COOPERATION
IN RESPECT OF AERONAUTICAL AND MARITIME SEARCH AND RESCUE**

The Government of the Russian Federation and the Government of the Republic of Poland, hereafter referred to as the Parties,

Considering the provisions of Annex 12 of the Convention on International Civil Aviation, 1944, and of the International Convention on Maritime Search and Rescue, 1979,

Aware of the potentially vital importance of rendering rapid assistance to persons in distress, have agreed on the following:

Article 1

1. Each Party shall assure overall coordination of search and rescue in their contiguous search and rescue regions (SAR regions), whose borders shall be determined by means of a separate protocol between the competent authorities of the Parties;

The delimitation of SAR regions between the Russian Federation and the Republic of Poland shall not prejudice the determination of any boundary between the two States.

2. Each Party shall ensure that appropriate aeronautical and maritime search and rescue services (SAR services) are provided in its SAR region.

Article 2

1. The competent authorities of the Parties responsible for implementing this agreement are:

in the Russian Federation,

the Russian Federal Aviation Service, in respect of aeronautical search and rescue, and

the Merchant Marine Department of the Russian Federation Ministry of Transport, in respect of maritime search and rescue;

in the Republic of Poland,

The Ministry for Transport and Maritime Industry

- in respect of aeronautical search and rescue (annex 12 of the Convention on International Civil Aviation, 1944); and
- in respect of maritime search and rescue (the International Convention on Maritime Search and Rescue, 1979).

2. The competent authorities of the Parties shall conclude operational agreements (protocols) concerning cooperation in carrying out this agreement.

3. The Parties shall inform each other through diplomatic channels of any changes relating to their competent authorities.

Article 3

Search and rescue operations on the national territory of each Party shall be conducted in accordance with the laws and regulations of that Party's government.

Article 4

The SAR services of each Party, on receiving notification of a threat or probable threat to life in the Baltic Sea, in the regions adjoining the Russian-Polish state boundary or in the aerial spaces within the boundaries of the SAR regions of the Parties, shall afford the maximum possible assistance in accordance with Annex 12 of the Convention on International Civil Aviation, 1944, and the International Convention on Maritime Search and Rescue, 1979.

Article 5

The Parties shall strengthen cooperation between their SAR services. Such cooperation shall include, in particular, joint search and rescue exercises, regular testing of intergovernmental channels of communication, reciprocal visits by search and rescue experts, and the exchange of information and experience on search and rescue.

Article 6

For the purposes of reviewing and resolving matters of cooperation, representatives of the competent authorities of both Parties shall meet, as necessary, alternately in the Russian Federation and the Republic of Poland.

Article 7

Each Party shall meet the costs of its participation in search and rescue operations.

Article 8

In matters concerning the crossing of a State boundary and the conditions governing the presence of SAR units on the national territory of the other Party while rendering officially requested assistance, the Parties shall be guided by the arrangements in force in each State, which shall simplify procedures as far as possible.

Article 9

The provisions of this agreement shall not prejudice the rights and obligations of the Parties under other international agreements to which they are party.

Article 10

Any disputes which arise in the implementation of this agreement shall be resolved through diplomatic channels.

Article 11

1. This agreement is concluded for an indefinite period and shall enter into force two months from the date when the Parties have notified each other in writing that the necessary internal procedures have been completed.
2. From the date of entry into force of this agreement, in relations between the Russian Federation and the Republic of Poland, the Agreement of 12 December 1956 between the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the Government of the German Democratic Republic and the Government of the Polish People's Republic, concerning cooperation on search and rescue and the provision of assistance for ships and aircraft in distress in the Baltic Sea, shall cease effect.
3. This agreement shall remain in force until six months from the date on which either Party notifies the other in writing of its intention to terminate the agreement.

Done in Moscow this thirteenth day of November 1995, in two copies, each in the Russian and Polish languages, both texts being equally authentic.

For the Government of the
Russian Federation

For the Government of the
Republic of Poland

[Signatures attached]
