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**SN/Circ.195  
21 July 1997**

Ref. T2/2.03

**RULES AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON NAVIGATION THROUGH  
THE STRAIT OF ISTANBUL, STRAIT OF ÇANAKKALE  
AND THE SEA OF MARMARA**

**Communication by the Government of Cyprus**

The attached communication received from His Excellency the High Commissioner of the Republic of Cyprus is circulated pursuant to the request of His Excellency the High Commissioner.



CYPRUS HIGH COMMISSION  
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18 July 1997.

H.E. Mr W. A. O'Neil  
Secretary-General  
International Maritime Organization  
4 Albert Embankment  
London SE1 7SR.

*Dear Mr Secretary-General,*

I have the honour to refer to the letter of the Turkish representative, dated 9 July 1997, which has been circulated on 15 July 1997, ref. SN/Circ.194, in which letter it is claimed that the Republic of Cyprus ceased to exist in 1963 and that it represents the Greek Cypriots and their interests only.

In this respect, I would like to remind that the Republic of Cyprus is the only state in Cyprus recognised by the international community and all international organisations, including the IMO.

Furthermore, the UN Security Council Resolutions on Cyprus 541(1983) and 550(1984) call upon all States to respect the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and unity of the Republic of Cyprus and not to recognise any Cypriot State other than the Republic of Cyprus.

It is evident from the above that Turkey's non recognition of the Republic of Cyprus is in direct contravention on the aforesaid mandatory UN Security Council Resolutions.

With regard to the allegation that there is no single authority competent to represent the two communities and Cyprus as a whole, I wish to refer to the aforesaid Security Council Resolutions which, furthermore, call upon all States not to recognise the purported entity set up in the area of Cyprus occupied by the Turkish forces since the Turkish invasion of 1974. In fact no government other than Turkey recognises

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the said secessionist entity. All States and international organisations continue to recognise the existence of one state in Cyprus, the Republic of Cyprus, and its Government as the only legitimate Government representing the whole of Cyprus.

The statements in the aforementioned letter by the representative of Turkey have no validity and they are a further testimony of the continuing disregard of international law by Turkey in its repeated attempts to undermine the status of the Republic of Cyprus.

I kindly request that this letter be circulated to all IMO member States.

Please accept Your Excellency the assurances of my highest consideration.

*Yours sincerely,*

*V. Markides*

Vanias Markides  
High Commissioner.