

Ref. A1/U.3.03

**PROTOCOL OF 1978 RELATING TO THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION
FOR THE PREVENTION OF POLLUTION FROM SHIPS, 1973**

OPTIONAL ANNEXES

Acceptance by the United Kingdom

The Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization has the honour to refer to the Protocol of 1978 relating to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973, and to state that acceptance of Optional Annex IV to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973, as modified by the Protocol of 1978 relating thereto, by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland was effected by the deposit of an instrument on 11 September 1995, in accordance with article 14(2) of the Convention.

The instrument of acceptance contained the following statement:

"... reserving the right not to apply the said Annex IV in respect of any territory for whose international relations the Government of the United Kingdom are responsible until three months after the date on which the Government of the United Kingdom notify the Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization that the said Annexes shall apply in respect of any such territory."

In accordance with the provisions of article 15(2) of the Convention, an Optional Annex shall enter into force twelve months after the date on which not less than 15 States, the combined merchant fleets of which constitute not less than fifty percent of the gross tonnage of the world's merchant shipping, have become parties to it in accordance with article 13.

There are at present 61 States party to the Annex, representing approximately 41.5% of the gross tonnage of the world's merchant fleet.
