

21.4 The delegation of Japan reserved its position on the CSC Circular since its national legislation gives effect to the CSC Convention in force and cannot accommodate this flexible treatment of unplated containers, which in the view of the delegation of Japan is incompatible with the requirements of the Convention.

21.5 The delegation of the United States reserved its position with regard to the CSC Circular as approved by the Committee because it was not within the spirit of the CSC and related harmonized interpretations.

21.6 The delegation of the German Democratic Republic proposed that the Contracting Parties to the CSC should inform the Secretary-General about their institutions authorized to control containers and advised it would submit a paper to the Committee's fifty-first session for further consideration.

21.7 The Committee referred a proposal by ISO on country coding (MSC 50/21/1) to the Sub-Committee on Containers and Cargoes for comments.

## 22 APPLICATIONS FOR CONSULTATIVE STATUS

22.1 The Committee considered the applications for consultative status from the following non-governmental organizations (MSC 50/2, MSC 50/22 and MSC 48/23/2/Add.2), which had been referred to it by the Council:

- .1 European Association of Steel Drum Manufacturers (SEFA);
- .2 Association of Marine Engineer Schools (AMES); and
- .3 Management Professionals Association (MPA).

22.2 Having regard to the Guidelines for Granting of Consultative Status (MSC XXXIX/17), the Committee agreed that none of the applications submitted could be supported and therefore recommended to the Council that consultative status should not be granted to any of these organizations.

## 23 REPLACEMENT OF TONNAGE PARAMETERS IN IMO CONVENTIONS

23.1 The Committee continued its consideration of the question of replacement of tonnage parameters in various conventions called for by resolution A.494(XII). At this session the Committee received two documents, the first by the USSR (MSC 50/23) suggesting certain possible parameters to replace tonnage and the second by the United Kingdom (MSC 50/23/1) proposing the continuing use of the tonnage parameters.

23.2 Several delegations supported the United Kingdom proposal and the Committee agreed that, although the use of tonnage in certain cases would result in inconsistent application of various IMO Conventions on maritime safety and

pollution prevention, the replacement of tonnage with other parameters might create more problems and would not be appropriate.

23.3 After discussion the Committee instructed the Working Group on Tonnage Parameters to analyse the question and to prepare a statement explaining the reasons for the advisability of the continuing use of tonnage parameters.

23.4 The Committee, having considered the report of the Working Group (MSC 50/WP.15), approved the statement set out in annex 24.

23.5 The Committee considered the proposal by the Working Group for amendments to the SOLAS, MARPOL and STCW Conventions concerning the definition of "tonnage" and the term "tons gross tonnage" (MSC 50/WP.15, annex 3). The Committee agreed to such amendments in respect of the SOLAS and STCW Conventions and that the necessary action should be taken in due course. The Committee recommended the MEPC to take similar action for MARPOL 73/78.

23.6 The Committee further noted the views expressed by delegations in the Working Group on the interpretation of resolutions A.494(XII) and A.541(13).

23.7 The Committee agreed that the three interim tonnage measurement schemes (resolutions A.494(XII), A.540(13) and A.541(13)) should be interpreted as follows:

- .1 All ships to which resolution A.494(XII) applies and which are assigned a certain value of gross tonnage, as determined by national systems, may retain that tonnage value for the purposes of the application of the 1974 SOLAS Convention for the life of the ship.
- .2 Under resolution A.540(13) the same principle applies in relation to "gross register tons" for the 1978 STCW Convention.
- .3 All ships to which resolution A.541(13) applies and which are assigned a certain value of gross tonnage, as determined by national systems, may retain that tonnage value for the purposes of the application of the MARPOL 73/78 for the life of the ship.

23.8 The delegation of the Federal Republic of Germany indicated that such an interpretation might be in conflict with the provisions of article 3 of the 1969 TM Convention. Some delegations suggested that the above-mentioned resolutions should be amended to clarify the above interpretations. The Committee, however, agreed that there would be no need to amend these resolutions.

24 MATTERS RELATED TO THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON  
TONNAGE MEASUREMENT OF SHIPS, 1969

24.1 The Committee recalled that at its thirteenth session, the Assembly requested it to keep matters related to the 1969 TM Convention under review, and in particular:

- .1 to urge the appropriate authorities of the Panama and Suez Canals to complete their studies and to provide an adequate transitional period for any new tonnage scheme introduced by them; and
- .2 to limit mutual agreement for recognition of tonnage certificates to existing ships with States not parties to the TM Convention.

24.2 The Committee was informed by the delegation of Panama that the Universal Measurement System (UMS) of the TM Convention is being studied closely by the Panama Canal Authority and that there is a further meeting scheduled in December 1984 with shipowners, to consider the implications of the introduction of the UMS in the Panama Canal tariff.

24.3 The delegation of Egypt also confirmed that the Suez Canal Authority is still studying the effect of the TM Convention on the dues and charges of the canal. It is hoped that this study will be finished in the near future, when the Egyptian delegation will be in a position to inform the Committee of the results of the investigation.

24.4 The Committee again stressed that Contracting Governments to the 1969 TM Convention should take steps in order to limit mutual agreements for recognition of tonnage certificates for ships built before 27 July 1982 with States not parties to the TM Convention.

25 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Comments by the UN Secretariat on the work programme and budget of the Organization for 1984/85

25.1 The Committee had before it comments by the UN Secretariat on the work plan of the Committee and on the work programme of the Sub-Committee on Ship Design and Equipment (MSC 50/25) related to co-operation with UNIDO concerning new ship technology. The Committee noted that IMO had an agreement on co-operation with UNIDO and that no action was requested at this stage.

Amendment to the Rules of Procedure of the Committee

25.2 The Committee approved the addition of the word "Arabic" in Rule 22 of its Rules of Procedure (MSC 50/25/1).