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**Circular Letter 38/1999
23 August 1999**

**IMO SUB-COMMITTEE ON SAFETY OF NAVIGATION,
45th Session (NAV45)
20-24 September 1999**

Dear Sir,

Following the IHO Member States' responses to Circular Letter 34/1999, a paper was sent to IMO for NAV 45 by the IHB, which summarized the views of Member States on the Italian Proposal on "official" charts. This paper (NAV 45/5/2) is attached for your information.

The IHB has been further advised that the United States of America have recently submitted a paper to the IMO on this issue, which is also attached for your information (NAV 45/5/9). The Bureau has been advised that a number of points in the US proposal have generated concern among other Member States. These MS are discussing the points of concern with the US with a view to amending the wording in the interest of all.

The areas of concern relate to the reduction of SOLAS Regulation V 25.2 to a "footnote" which removes the requirement for the compliance of electronic charts in ECDIS with IMO Resolution A.817(19). In addition, the attention of Member States is drawn to the implications of the removal of the term "official" from Chapter V with the exception of Regulation 9.

Should the present discussions result in a solution that could be verbally proposed during NAV 45, and there is sufficient time, Member States will be advised. Hydrographers are invited to keep in close touch with their IMO national representative on these important issues.

On behalf of the Directing Committee
Yours sincerely,

Rear Admiral Neil GUY
Director

Attachments: - IMO document NAV 45/5/2
- IMO document NAV 45/5/9