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Circular Letter No.4537
21 March 2022

To: All IMO Members
Intergovernmental organizations
Non-governmental organizations in consultative status

Subject: **Communication from the Government of the United Kingdom of
Great Britain and Northern Ireland**

The Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland sent the attached communication, dated 18 March 2022, with the request that it be circulated by the Organization.

ANNEX



Note No. SecPol/001/2022

The United Kingdom present their compliments to the Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and has the honour to draw the attention of the latter to a serious incident which poses a threat to maritime safety and security.

On 16 March 2022 the UK received confirmation of a concerning NAVTEX message sent out by NAV station at Novorossiysk in NAVAREA III. This message contained disinformation with regards to the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

We are concerned by the Russian Federation's use of NAVTEX – a maritime shipping communication system – in this way. NAVTEX is a conduit for safety messages enshrined in the Safety of Life at Sea international convention devoted to the perseverance of life at sea.

We remain deeply concerned that the Russian Federation's use of NAVTEX for disinformation messaging endangers internationally trading ships operating in the Mediterranean Sea, the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov. The United Kingdom urges the IMO Member States to condemn the Russian Federation's wholly inappropriate use of NAVTEX.

We would be grateful if you could arrange for this letter to be circulated to the Member States of the Organization.

The Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) the assurances of its highest consideration.

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18 March 2022

