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IMO Notes - a review of the Organization's current work

Anonymous

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THE International Maritime Organization has announced the appointment of Captain Danny Waters as Rector of the World Maritime University (WMU), Malmö, Sweden. He succeeds Erik Nordström, who has been appointed managing director of the Swedish Shipowners' Association.

The WMU was established by the IMO in 1983. It provides maritime education at the highest level for students drawn primarily, though not exclusively, from developing countries. Students and graduates represent more than 100 nations, and many of the University's 500 graduates now occupy senior positions in the world shipping community.

Danny Waters, 60, was previously foundation principal of the Australian Maritime College, Tasmania—shortly to be amalgamated with the University of Tasmania. Danny Waters is a member of the WMU's board of governors and executive council, and he has been a visiting professor since the University's inception.

He has held a number of senior posts in the Australian maritime safety and general maritime administrations. During this period, he headed the Australian delegations to the IMO Council and a number of IMO sub-committees. Prior to moving to Australia in 1966, he lectured in maritime studies at the then Plymouth Polytechnic and Strathclyde University in the United Kingdom.

Commenting on his appointment, Danny Waters said: 'I very much welcome this opportunity of widening my contribution to the WMU's future development. I intend to see that the University's progress is maintained by fostering the strong spirit of co-operation which has played so great a role in its first six years.'

MONACO JOINS IMO

Monaco has become the latest member of the International Maritime Organization. IMO now has 134 member States, and one associate member.

Preservation of HMS Plymouth

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then on the international scrap market, had St Margaret's not been suitable. The Soviet ship was on offer at a better price than the Trust was required to pay for HMS Plymouth, but, in the end, it looks as if the ship has been saved by the intervention of a national newspaper and the generosity of the British public.

Totally out of the blue, the Sunday Express read of the Trust's fight to keep HMS Plymouth afloat, and offered the services of their paper to launch a national fund-raising campaign to get the £205,000 required to purchase her. Despite letters to Ministers and MPs, it seems unlikely the ship will be given to the Trust as many people have suggested should be her fate.

Donations doubled

Sir Donald Gosling (an ex-Naval petty officer and now chairman of National Car Parks Ltd) also heard of the Trust's efforts and has volunteered to match, pound for pound, every pound the Trust raises to purchase the ship, up to a maximum of £100,000. As we went to press, the intervention of the Sunday Express had generated weekly coverage of the project and a lot of donations. Most were of the small (but never the less welcome) variety, but the fund-raising continues whilst the ship is repaired. £25,000 has been donated by Associated British Foods and other corporate support is being solicited.

There is no doubt about it that the ship will redeploy to Gosport as soon as the repairs have been undertaken at Plymouth. (It is hoped that the ship's insurers will cover most of this bill.) Her berth at Gosport will be prepared shortly (close to the Gosport Ferry), and it is hoped that the ship will be open to the public by Easter. (Further details from the Tourist Information Centre at Gosport, telephone 0705 522944.) It is also hoped that the generosity of the readers of the Sunday Express (and Seaways) will mean that the ship can be purchased from the Ministry of Defence without a huge bank loan—and subsequent interest charges.

Please help

Readers who are able to donate towards the saving of this fine vessel are urgently requested to make their donation to 'HMS Plymouth Appeal,' Sunday Express, 245 Blackfriars Road, London SE1 9UX, UK. This way, any donation will double in size, thanks to the generosity of Sir Donald Gosling.