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Rear Admiral Edwards is presented with the International Maritime Prize by the Secretary-General, Mr. C. P. Srivastava. (The Times)

Rear Admiral Edwards receives his Prize

Rear Admiral Roderick Y. Edwards, of the United States Coast Guard (retired) was presented with the International Maritime Prize by the Secretary-General, Mr. C. P. Srivastava on 23 September, World Maritime Day.

Admiral Edwards was a member of the United States delegation to IMO on numerous occasions and served as Chairman of the Council for four terms.

He was elected President of the Assembly in 1979.

The ceremony was held at IMO headquarters. Admiral Edwards' address is reprinted below.

I am truly honoured that this Organization for which I hold so very much respect has seen fit to bestow this award on me. Over the years I have had the good fortune to be present at many of the conferences and meetings at which important IMO instruments were created. The success of this Organization in developing acceptable international standards is due in large measure to the spirit of co-operation and dedication to the goals of maritime safety and pollution prevention on the part of delegates from all nations. Of course occasionally an attempt has been made to introduce matters of political concern but these attempts have been short-lived and the technical members of the many delegations have prevailed in maintaining a professional approach to problems. In addition to the professionalism of the many delegates we have been fortunate over the years in having men of great wisdom, energy and drive in the position of Secretary-General and the senior staff positions. It is no secret that I am proud of this Organization's accomplishments. If results are a measure of success then IMO can claim to be one of the most effective bodies in the UN system.

Those of us who have represented our homeland in the IMO

forum are fortunate indeed. I have personally witnessed the formulation of agreements which tested the fibre of IMO and which showed it to be of the soundest quality. I am firmly committed to the concept of a free exchange of ideas and discussions of the problems which are jointly faced by the world maritime community. IMO's role as an effective catalyst and co-ordinator is well known. The principle of solving international problems in an international arena is a sound one which this Organization clearly demonstrates. The theme of this year's World Maritime Day is global co-operation for the prevention and control of marine pollution. This effort and that of all IMO initiatives requires as a necessity that Member Governments ratify and implement the instruments of the Organization. Assembly Resolution 500 affirms this high priority for implementation, and calls for a clear view of where we have a compelling need. I strongly support this viewpoint as I do the Council and Committees' control and management of work programmes. These times of economic discomfort require constraint. The proven objectives of IMO for quality should serve us all well.

We, the world maritime community, must continue to work together in an atmosphere of co-operation and brotherhood. In my opinion the future is bright. We have a new name, we will have a fine new building, we have a truly world-wide membership and well-established line of communication. Hence one can say that this IMO 'family' is a sound, healthy and maturing one which can serve us well if we provide adequate resources.

World Maritime University project gets under way

The project to establish a World Maritime University was officially launched at Malmö, Sweden, in October. An agreement under which the City of Malmö will provide facilities for the University was signed by Mr. Nils Yngvesson of the Municipality of Malmö and the Secretary-General, Mr. C. P. Srivastava. Professor Sölve Arvedson, head of the Malmö Merchant Marine Academy, was sworn in as the University's first rector.

The aim of the University is to provide specialized training for maritime administrators, surveyors and inspectors, accident investigators, maritime lecturers and others holding key positions in the administrations of developing countries.

Although there are now mar

training schools at national and regional levels for cadets and seagoing officers in various developing countries, there are no facilities at present providing training in more advanced levels of expertise. Yet the success of current efforts to improve shipping safety and prevent marine pollution from ships depends to a considerable extent on the efficiency of maritime administrations all over the world.

It is expected that the University will receive its first students on 1 July next year and initially at least will have about 100 students. Most degree courses will last for two years, but others will only last for one year and it is expected that the WMU will also be able to offer specialized courses lasting for only a few weeks.

The University will be based at the Malmö Merchant Marine Academy, whose activities are gradually being phased out. The local authorities are also providing accommodation and social facilities for students. Although the bulk of the training will take place at Malmö, students will also visit centres elsewhere in Sweden and in other European countries for special courses.

The WMU has received the backing of the IMO Assembly and the UNDP governing body and the inauguration ceremony was the cause of especial satisfaction to

Mr. Srivastava, who regards this project as 'a marvellous example of effective, concrete and beneficial co-operation between developed and developing nations.'

He said: 'The World Maritime University will certainly make a major contribution to IMO's twin objectives of safer shipping and cleaner oceans. Over the years I have visited very many of IMO's 122 Member States and although all of them are anxious to raise standards, many are handicapped by the lack of suitably trained personnel, especially at senior levels in their administrations. The WMU will help them to overcome this problem.'

He paid tribute to the generosity of the Swedish government, which has given the WMU whole-hearted support and to the City of Malmö, which has also been outstandingly generous.

He continued: 'Sweden has set a wonderful example and I am sure that others will follow.'

During the next few months further preparatory work will be carried out by Professor Arvedson and his team. This will consist initially of only five people, but by next July the University will be fully staffed. Professor Arvedson himself has wide experience at sea as well as in academic work and has frequently been a member of the Swedish delegation to IMO meetings.



Professor Solve Arvedson, rector of the World Maritime University, outside the main University building.