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Press Release

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"Friends"

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UNDP ENDORSES WORLD MARITIME UNIVERSITY FUND-RAISING DRIVE

NEW YORK, 25 September (UNDP) — The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has endorsed an appeal for \$25 million for the World Maritime University, the world's only international institution for the advanced training of maritime personnel.

The appeal was made yesterday by C.P. Srivastava, Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), at IMO headquarters in London, as part of his annual message for World Maritime Day, 27 September.

Speaking on behalf of UNDP, Bradford Morse, Administrator, praised the IMO's role in developing the World Maritime University as a world-class institution of vital importance to the developing world. "As developing countries increase their share of world trade", he said, "they will naturally wish to expand their ownership and control of the merchant shipping associated with such trade."

"In order to do so", he continued, "they require senior maritime staff of the highest calibre which, after only one year of operation, the World Maritime University has proved itself uniquely capable of training. The UNDP is proud of its role in the establishment of the University and we shall continue our support. Therefore, I am pleased to join Secretary-General Srivastava in urging that the current appeal be met with generous response."

Based in Malmo, a coastal town in southern Sweden, the World Maritime University provides advanced training unavailable in the developing countries for maritime administrators, teachers for maritime academies, surveyors, casualty investigators, technical managers for shipping companies and other senior maritime personnel. It was created through the joint efforts of the IMO, UNDP and the Swedish Government and opened in June 1983. At the present time, 136 students from 59 different countries are enrolled, most of whom are undertaking a two-year course in maritime administration.

While the World Maritime University has received support from a variety of sources, only about half of its annual \$4 million budget is being met on a recurring basis. The current appeal for \$25 million in voluntary contributions has thus been launched to ensure that the remainder be guaranteed through the build-up of a capital fund to provide sufficient income through investments.

(more)

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Developing countries are required to raise \$10,000 per student per year -- or \$20,000 for the full two-year programme -- to offset such costs as room, board and tuition. Since many developing countries find that they are unable to afford this amount, donors are also invited to sponsor fellowships for individual students.

Thus far, funding for the World Maritime University has come from: the Government of Sweden, which is providing \$1 million a year for five years to meet a part of the annual running costs, and which also contributed \$100,000 for start-up costs through the UNDP; the City of Malmo, which has provided the buildings for the University free of charge and maintains them at its own expense; UNDP, which has contributed \$800,000 a year for 1983 and 1984, and will extend support through 1986; and the Government of Norway and the Commonwealth Secretariat, which are providing \$350,000 and \$100,000 a year, respectively, on a recurring basis.

In addition, donations or fellowships have been provided by the Governments of Denmark, the Federal Republic of Germany, France, Greece, Italy, Saudi Arabia, Mexico, the Republic of Korea and the United Kingdom. The UNDP, in addition to the contributions mentioned, allows countries to use UNDP funds available to them for assisting in paying the costs of their students attending the University.

In the United States, a corporate body called the Friends of the World Maritime University has been established and the Government has granted tax exemption in respect of any donations made to this body for the benefit of the University. Other United States aid has been offered by the State University of New York in organizing the University's special language courses and planning its library; the United States Naval Institute, which has donated a substantial number of books on relevant subjects; and the Raytheon Corporation, which is installing, maintaining and providing instruction in the use of different kinds of radar, satellite navigation systems and other navigation and communication equipment.

Under the current drive, it is hoped that not only Governments but shipowners, shipbuilders, equipment manufacturers, marine insurers and individuals will contribute. Donations have already come from two prominent Greek shipowners -- A.J. Chandris and Georges P. Livanos, each of whom has contributed \$10,000.

Direct contributions to the World Maritime University can be made to the International Maritime Organization, 4 Albert Embankment, London SE1, 7SR, England. In the United States, tax-exempt donations may be forwarded to Admiral Sheldon Kinney, Chairman, Friends of the World Maritime University, International Square, Suite 300, 1825 Eye Street N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006.