



SUB-COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS OF
TRAINING AND WATCHKEEPING
31st session
Agenda item 6

STW 31/6
27 October 1999
Original: ENGLISH

UNLAWFUL PRACTICES ASSOCIATED WITH CERTIFICATES OF COMPETENCY

Note by the Secretariat

SUMMARY

<i>Executive summary:</i>	This document reports on developments on the research study to establish the nature and extent of unlawful practices associated with certificates of competency announced at MSC 71
<i>Action to be taken:</i>	Paragraph 6
<i>Related documents:</i>	MSC 71/23

Background

1 The Committee, at its seventy-first session, received a report from the Secretariat on a proposed research study (MSC 71/23, paragraphs 6.38 to 6.40) that would, subject to available funds, be undertaken to establish the nature and extent of unlawful practices associated with certificates of competency and, in particular to:

- .1 determine and categorise the major unlawful practices associated with certificates of competency (eg. forged, issued on the basis of deception such as on the basis of fraudulent information and documentary evidence, stolen);
- .2 provide best estimates of the number of forged certificates of competency and endorsements in the various categories held by: master, deck officer, chief engineer, engineering officer, deck rating and engine rating and make an estimate of the trend in each category and a forecast of future trends;
- .3 identify the main sources of unlawful practices (eg. individuals, manning agents, owners, organised crime);
- .4 identify the main geographical areas where the practices occur (eg. labour-supply countries, open register countries, traditional maritime nations, developed countries);
- .5 identify the social, economic and regulatory pressures which affect the nature and extent of unlawful practices; and
- .6 identify the frequency and extent to which certificates of competency are checked by employers, issuing States and port States.

2 The Committee welcomed this initiative and instructed the Secretariat to submit the results of the research project, if materialized, to STW 31 for consideration and action as appropriate. It also encouraged Member Governments and international organizations concerned to financially support the project.

Update on developments

3 In order to progress the research, the Secretariat sought expressions of interest from potential international research contractors. Bids for the work were received from two contractors and one of these has been selected. A contract to undertake the work has been agreed with the Seafarers International Research Centre, Cardiff, UK during October 1999.

4 The first phase of the work has commenced and an oral report will be made to the Sub-Committee on progress to date.

5 The Secretary-General wishes to express his appreciation to the Governments of Cyprus, Norway and the United Kingdom; the European Union and the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU) for providing funds to support the research.

Action requested of the Sub-Committee

6 The Sub-Committee is invited to note the information provided.
