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MSC.1/Circ.1551
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**NAVIGATIONAL WARNINGS CONCERNING OPERATIONS
ENDANGERING THE SAFETY OF NAVIGATION**

1 The Maritime Safety Committee, at its ninety-seventh session (21 to 25 November 2016), having received a report on numerous missile launches without any proper navigational warnings by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, expressed its grave concern over those operations, which pose a serious threat to maritime safety.

2 The Committee confirmed the significance and continued validity of resolution A.706(17), as amended, on World-Wide Navigational Warning Service, as well as MSC/Circ.893 and MSC.1/Circ.1225 on Navigational Warnings concerning operations endangering the Safety of Navigation.

3 The Committee recognized that the repetitions of unnotified firings of missiles are clearly contrary to these documents and underlined the importance of ensuring that navigational safety is not compromised by any such operations.

4 The Committee, therefore, urged all Members States to:

- .1 attach the greatest importance to the safety of navigation and avoid taking any action which might adversely affect shipping engaged in international trade; and
- .2 strictly comply with SOLAS regulation V/4 and the recommendations contained in resolution A.706(17), as amended, on World-Wide Navigational Warning Service (in particular paragraph 4.2.1.3.13 of annex 1 thereto) so that operations should not endanger the safety of navigation.

5 Member States are invited to bring this circular to the attention of all parties concerned.