

No. 4714. INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION FOR THE PREVENTION OF POLLUTION OF THE SEA BY OIL, 1954. DONE AT LONDON, ON 12 MAY 1954¹

ACCEPTANCE

Instrument deposited with the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization on:

8 September 1961

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

(To take effect on 8 December 1961.)

Subject to the following understanding, reservations and recommendation :

“ The acceptance by the United States of America of the International Convention for the Prevention of the Pollution of the Sea by Oil, 1954, is subject to the following understanding :

“ In accepting the Convention the United States declares that it does so subject to the understanding that article XI effectively reserves to the parties to the Convention freedom of legislative action in territorial waters, including the application of existing laws, anything in the Convention which may appear to be contrary notwithstanding. Specifically, it is understood that offenses in U.S. territorial waters will continue to be punishable under U.S. laws regardless of the ship's registry;

“ The acceptance by the United States of America of the said Convention is subject to the following reservations :

“ 1. The United States accepts article VIII of the Convention, subject to the reservation that, while it will urge port authorities, oil terminals or private contractors to provide adequate disposal facilities, the United States shall not be obliged to construct, operate, or maintain shore facilities at places on U.S. coasts or waters where such facilities may be deemed inadequate, or to assume any financial obligation to assist in such activities;

“ 2. The United States accepts the Convention subject to the reservations that amendments communicated to contracting governments under the provisions of paragraph (2) of article XVI will become binding upon the United States of America only after notification of acceptance thereof has been given by the United States.

“ The United States of America, in accepting the Convention subject to the aforesaid understanding and reservations, recommends that the parties give consideration to the formulation of amendments to the Convention at the earliest practicable date to bring about—

¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, Vol. 327, p. 3; Vol. 328, p. 343, and Vol. 390, p. 367.

- “ (1) International uniformity in fines and penalties;
- “ (2) International uniformity of enforcement;
- “ (3) A more realistic definition of what shall constitute oil pollution;
- “ (4) The right of access of each contracting government to the official reports of other contracting governments filed with the bureau which relate to its own vessels; and
- “ (5) A more flexible arrangement for fixing the time within which contracting governments shall notify the bureau whether or not they accept an amendment. ”

Certified statement was registered by the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization on 15 September 1961.
