UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT Geneva

Review of Maritime Transport, 1988

Report by the UNCTAD secretariat



NOTE

This Review has been prepared by the UNCTAD secretariat in accordance with item VI of the programme of work of the Committee on Shipping, for consideration at the fourteenth session of the Committee. Any factual and editorial corrections that may prove necessary in the light of comments made by the Committee at that session or received directly from Governments would be reflected in a corrigendum to be issued subsequently.

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ABBREVIATIONS

OLD	Container lierging beaution
cif	Cost, insurance, freight
dwt	Deadweight tons
EEC	European Economic Community
FEU	Forty-foot equivalent unit
fob	Free on board
GDP	Gross domestic product
GNP	Gross national product
grt	Gross registered tons
ICC	International Chamber of Commerce
ICD	Inland clearance depot
ISO	International Organisation for Standardization
LCL	Less than container load
LDT	Light displacement tons
LNG	Liquefied natural gas
LPG	Liquefied petroleum gas
LUF	Lifting unit frame
MTO	Multimodal transport operator
NVOCC	Non-vessel-operating common carrier
NVO-MTO	Non-vessel-operating multimodal transport operator
OBO	Oil/bulk/ore
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
ro/ro	Roll-on/roll-off
TEU	Twenty-foot equivalent unit
ULCC	Ultra large crude carrier
VLCC	Very large crude carrier
OTM-OV	Vessel-operating multimodal transport operator

Container freight station

CFS

EXPLANATORY NOTES

References to dollars (\$) are to United States dollars.

Tons refer to metric tons, unless otherwise stated.

Details and percentages in tables do not necessarily add up to the totals, owing to rounding.

Two dots (..) indicate that the data are not available or are not separately reported.

A dash (-) signifies that the amount is nil, or less than half the unit used.

In some tables, data shown for earlier years have been revised and updated, and may therefore differ from those shown in previous issues of this Review.

INTRODUCTION

The <u>Review of Maritime Transport</u> is an annual publication prepared by the secretariat of UNCTAD, in accordance with section VI of the programme of work of the Committee on Shipping. */ The purpose of the Review is to outline and analyse the main developments in world maritime transport in the past year and to assess expected future short-term developments. Emphasis is given to the development of the merchant marines in developing countries as compared with other groups of countries.

Summary of main developments in 1988

- (i) Growth in the international economy and the fall in oil prices in 1988 contributed in large part to the improvement of international seaborne trade and maritime transport.
- (ii) The total volume of international seaborne trade increased in 1988, with goods loaded estimated at 3.7 billion tons or 4.1 per cent more than in 1987. Thus, the gradual increase in international seaborne trade during the last five-year period has restored the total volume to approximately the 1980 level (3.7 billion tons).
- (iii) The declining trend in the size of the world merchant fleet continued in 1988. At mid-year 1988 the total deadweight of the world merchant fleet was 627.9 million tons, representing a decline of 4.4 million dwt or 0.7 per cent from the previous year's figure.
- (iv) Ownership remained concentrated in the developed market-economy and open-registry countries, with a combined tonnage amounting at mid-year 1988 to 67.8 per cent of the total deadweight of the world merchant fleet. The share of developing countries remained at the level of 1987, viz. 20.9 per cent. Socialist countries of Eastern Europe and Asia owned 10.2 per cent of the world merchant fleet.
 - (v) The combined tonnage of the five major open-registry countries (Liberia, Panama, Cyprus, Bahamas, Bermuda) at mid-1988 stood at 220.2 million dwt or 35.0 per cent of the world merchant fleet and now exceeds the total tonnage registered in developed market-economy countries (205.9 million dwt).

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