

TO THE EMBASSY OF THE KINGDOM OF THE NETHERLANDS

Moscow

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The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation presents its compliments to the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and has the honour to inform the Embassy as follows.

Despite being warned by the Russian authorities, the *Arctic Sunrise*, a ship which sails under the flag of the Netherlands, continues to carry out provocative activities in waters off the Russian Federation's northern coastline.

On several previous occasions the ship's crew have carried out activities that constituted a threat to the maritime safety of ships performing exploratory activities on the continental shelf in the Russian sector of the Arctic region.

After plans were announced in the media by activists of the organisation Greenpeace, aimed at disrupting the activities of OAO Rosneft and other Russian companies, the coastguard vessel *Ladoga* was deployed to the area in which the ship was located.

Despite the warnings given by coastguard officials, the *Arctic Sunrise* attempted to approach the oil and gas drilling platform *Prirazlomnaya*, even though the drilling platform is surrounded by a security zone, which ships are prohibited from entering.

At 04:20 (Moscow time) on 18 September 2013, four speedboats were lowered from the ship, crewed by unidentified individuals, who approached the drilling platform *Prirazlomnaya* and attempted to gain admittance and force entry using special equipment. As the speedboats travelled in the direction of the platform they trailed an unidentified, barrel-shaped object.

Furthermore, the intruders' conduct was aggressive and provocative. To outward appearances their actions bore the characteristics of terrorist activities which could put lives in danger and have serious consequences for the platform.



The coastguard vessel *Ladoga* responded to the conduct described above by taking measures to prevent occupation of the platform. These included firing warning shots from firearms. Two of the speedboats' occupants (a Swiss national and a Finnish national) were removed from the platform and taken aboard the coastguard vessel. Two others remained behind, chained to the platform. The speedboats were brought back on board the vessel.

In view of the genuine danger posed to the Russian Federation's oil-and-gas drilling platform and the activists' refusal to follow the coastguard's instructions (issued in accordance with proper procedure) to cease their unlawful activities, the decision was made to seize the *Arctic Sunrise*.

The captain did not respond to the order (given in accordance with proper procedure) to bring the ship to a halt. As a consequence, at 07.15 (Moscow time) warning shots were fired from the coastguard vessel's artillery. The ship did not respond to the warning shots, however, and proceeded to leave the security zone, after which it remained in the area that bordered on the security zone.

The actions of the ship *Arctic Sunrise* can only be interpreted as a provocation, which exposed the Arctic region to the threat of an ecological disaster with unimaginable consequences.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation urgently requests the authorities of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to immediately take appropriate measures aimed at avoiding a repeat of such actions.

The Ministry avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands the assurances of its highest consideration.

Moscow, 18 September 2013

[Official stamp:] Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation * No. 1



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This is to certify that the above is a true translation of the sworn translation into Dutch of the original Russian document.

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