The symbols universally present on telephone keyboards besides the decimal digits are the number sign and the asterisk, as standardized in the recommendation ITU-T E.161 “Arrangement of digits, letters and symbols on telephones and other devices that can be used for gaining access to a telephone network” [1], where the symbols are named “square” and “star”, respectively.

In a discussion in the June 2018 London meeting of SC2/WG2, it was pointed out that the best representation for the “star” is U+1FB76 MEDIUM SIX SPOKED ASTERISK, in accordance with the representation of this character on current mobile phones manufactured by Apple Inc.

Therefore, it is proposed to add an informative note to that character:

\[
\text{\* U+1FB76 MEDIUM SIX SPOKED ASTERISK} \\
\text{\* → suited to represent of the “star” symbol devised in ITU-T E.161} \\
\text{for use on telephony devices}
\]

This will support other standards (as i.e. the German keyboard standard currently in revision) to point to this character as the preferred representation of the telephony star.

References