

January 14 2005

Trials shine light on Aurora failure

P&O Cruises' Aurora was back in Southampton yesterday after sea trials to identify the cause of an electrical failure to the propulsion system, which has delayed the start of a 103-night world cruise'

A spokeswoman for the company said testing had identified the reason for the failure — which was caused when insulation failed on one of the main electrical motors driving the propellers.

Repairs are expected to take until Sunday, the spokeswoman said, after which there will be further sea trials. If all goes well, the earliest the 76,152 gt, 2000 built ship will depart will be January 18.

"Passengers are being invited to stay on board as guests during the period of further work," she said.

A full entertainment schedule is being offered as well as complimentary drinks onboard.

Passengers are free to disembark from the ship at will, and the mood on board was described as "up-beat".

A decision on what changes are made to the itinerary of the Grand Voyage cruise will await the completion of repairs, the company said. Passengers will be given a full refund for cruise nights curtailed and further compensation for itinerary changes.

Prices for the complete world cruise are between £9,000 and £40,000 depending on the cabin.

Aurora has suffered a number of propeller-related problems since coming into service. In May 2000 a propeller shaft bearing overheated shortly after the ship sailed from Southampton forcing a return to port.

In March 2001, the ship sustained propeller damage after hitting floating debris while rescuing crew from the Pamela Dream off Fuzhou.

The vessel is UK-flagged, classed by Lloyd's Register and entered with the UK P&I club.

P&O Cruises declined to comment on the cost of repairs or who is to carry them out.

Sandra Speares.

Norovirus hits Royal Caribbean cruise

MORE than 100 passengers and crew aboard Royal Caribbean's Enchantment of the Seas were struck down by a norovirus during a five-day cruise last week, the company confirmed yesterday.

Some 108 passengers and eight crew members were affected by the virus which Royal Caribbean believes was brought on board by a passenger.

"Those affected by the short-lived illness were treated and responded well to over the counter medication," the company said. "Royal Caribbean takes all health issues seriously and

has taken numerous proactive steps to maintain the high health standards on board Enchantment of the Seas," it said in a statement.

These included enhanced cleaning procedures, a three-stage illness prevention programme and special cleaning of all "high touch" areas on board the ship.

A spokeswoman for the company said yesterday that the ship had been specially cleaned on its return to port on January 8 following the outbreak including all the soft furnishings aboard.

It was very rare for the virus to be generated on board, with most cases

originating on ashore and being brought on board by unsuspecting passengers she said.

"According to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, noroviruses affect 23m Americans, and an estimated 300m people globally every year. In fact, the only illness that is more prevalent is the common cold," the company said.

Compensation for the outbreak would be considered on a case-by-case basis depending on the severity of the illness, the spokeswoman said.

Sandra Speares

Summary of Major Cases in this week's issue of Lloyd's Casualty Week

Vessel	Type	Flag	Class	GT	DWT	Bit	Casualty
<i>DRAGON ONE</i>	tank barge	THA	—	—	—	—	Struck rock off Khrok and Sark Islands off Pattaya Dec 27. Spilled 575,000 litres of bunker oil into the sea. Clean-up operations in hand. Master charged.
<i>GLOBAL ISLAND</i>	general	PMD	RP	1,998	2,909	1978	Taking water and listing 20 deg in lat 01 44.27N, long 46 34.26E, Jan 1. Abandoned by crew and believed sunk. Five of the 7 crew safe.
<i>MARIETTE LE ROCH</i>	fishing	FRA	BV	297	216	1984	Drifting with engine failure in lat 59 39N, long 08 12W, Jan 3. Taken in tow Jan 4 and arrived Lochinver Jan 5.
<i>MY DINH</i>	general	VNM	—	7,249	7,150	1995	Struck rock and stranded, then sank, in lat 22 42 01N, long 107 01 06E, Dec 20. Crew rescued.
<i>RIALTO</i>	container	PAN	LR	8,819	11,031	1977	Had machinery failure north of Minorca Dec 26. Towed to safe anchorage south of Minorca. Towed to Barcelona Jan 2.
<i>SEA FOX</i>	general	LVA	GL	2,219	2,560	1976	Listing 35 deg in lat 56 28.3N, long 07 24.7W, Jan 6. List later increased to 50 deg. Escorted by lifeboat into Castlebay same day.
<i>VIVA 3</i>	barge	MYS	—	1,252	3,048	1995	Broke tow from tug <i>Tropical Ocean</i> and grounded about 700 metres SE of Horsburgh lighthouse, Singapore, Jan 5. Refloating arrangements being made.

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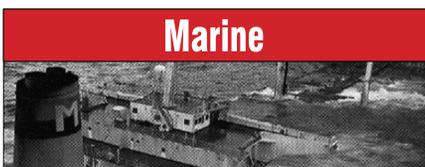
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The following reports are reprinted from Lloyd's List



AJMAN 2 (North Korea)

London, Jan 5 — Understood ro/ro Ajman 2 (6461 gt, built 1977) low on fuel sought shelter in Guam during a typhoon warning in August. After the weather system moved through it was ordered out of port to anchorage. Typhoon generated wind and waves caused the vessel to drag anchor and run aground. The US Coast Guard determined the vessel was a pollution hazard. Titan Salvage's team was contracted to remove hydrocarbons and refloat the vessel. The vessel was safely refloated and redelivered to owners who then towed the vessel to "China for repairs". (Note — Ajman 2 arrived Guam Aug 23 and left Sep 2. Vessel subsequently arrived Chittagong Nov 10 for Bangladesh breakers.)

AKBAR (India)

See "South-East Asia - Earthquakes Akbar" under "Earthquakes".

ALESSIA (Switzerland)

London, Jan 5 — General cargo Alessia (2999 gt, built 1999), downbound, lost starboard anchor and chain in heavy ice off Quebec in lat 46 50 12N, long 71 08 53W, 1600, EST, Jan 1.

ALIANCA SAO PAULO (Liberia)

Cuxhaven, Jan 6 — C.c. Alianca Sao Paulo (25703 gt, built 2003), from Rio Verde, grounded between buoys No.1 and 3, River Elbe estuary, at around 0900, local time today. Four tugs alongside ready to tow, however, the ebb tide is running to low water. — Correspondent. (Note — Alianca Sao Paulo arrived Rotterdam 2120, Jan 4 from Santos, and sailed 1825, Jan 5 for Hamburg.)

AN HUA JIANG (China)

Maassluis, Jan 5 — General cargo An Hua Jiang (10511 gt, built 1985) departing Antwerp, damaged the lock on both sides mostly woodwork, at 2010, today. Vessel has damage on its starboard side over a length of 15 metres and on its bow. Vessel will anchor at Flushing roads for further inspection and it will later continue its voyage to Rouen. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

ANDES (Greece)

London, Jan 5 — Following received from Coast Guard New Orleans, timed 1325, UTC: Product tanker Andes (39085 gt, built 2003) contacted the Carline Mooring Buoy in New Orleans while manoeuvring to avoid a southbound tow last night. Vessel sustained a 2.5-ft gash in its ballast tank above the waterline. There was no pollution. Vessel is currently anchored at Mile 125, lower River Mississippi.

ANTONINA NEZHDANOVA (Russia)

See "Typhoon "Tokage" under "Weather & Navigation".

APALIS ARROW (Bahamas)

London, Jan 3 — General cargo Apalis Arrow arrived Portocel Dec 31 and sailed Jan 1, bound for Vitoria, where it arrived Jan 2. Vessel departed Vitoria Jan 3, bound for Santos.

ARKTIKA (Russia)

Busan, Dec 29 — Fishing Arktika arrived Busan Dec 20 from Okhotsk. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

ATHOS I (Cyprus)

London, Dec 31 — A press report, dated Dec 30, states: Crude oil tanker Athos I headed out to sea today after undergoing temporary repairs, a spokesman for the vessels' operators said. Athos I was bound for dry dock in Mobile, Alabama, where the repair job will be completed. The tanker's steel bottom had two rips that were patched by divers at a terminal in Morrisville, Pennsylvania, about 30 miles north-east of Philadelphia. The Coast Guard is still trying to identify the metal object on the river bottom that crippled the vessel.

London, Dec 31 — A United States Coast Guard press report, dated Philadelphia Dec 30, states: Crude oil tanker Athos I departed about 1630 today from the Grows Terminal in Morrisville, with a temporary patch. The vessel is enroute to Atlantic Marine Inc in Mobile for permanent repairs. Oil recovery operations will continue throughout the winter months. Cleanup progress is expected to be slowed due to harsh weather conditions. Latest Updates Over 1,700 responders are working in the command centre and along the Delaware River. Eighty-three vessels are deployed in the response effort. Some 49,695 gallons of oil and oily liquid and 1,817 gallons of submerged oil have been recovered, also 4,573 tons of oily solids (cleanup materials and oil) have been collected. Twenty-three waterfront facilities have been grossly decontaminated thus far. Some 22% of the impacted shoreline has been grossly decontaminated. Experts report 257 birds have been cleaned thus far; 155 birds have been released and 162 birds are reported deceased. Oil has affected approximately 57 miles of shoreline from the Tacony-Palmyra Bridge to south of the Smyrna River in Delaware, mainly light patches of oil and a very light sheen.

London, Jan 6 — A United States Coast Guard press report, dated Philadelphia Jan 5, states: Crude oil tanker Athos I: Over 1,700 responders are working in the command centre and along the Delaware River and 103 vessels are deployed in the response effort. Some 37,776 gallons of oil and oily liquid and 1,817 gallons of submerged oil have been recovered and 5,689 tons of oily solids (cleanup materials and oil) have been collected. Forty-four percent of the impacted shoreline has been grossly decontaminated. Experts report 257 birds have been cleaned thus far; 230 birds have been released and 204 birds are reported deceased. Oil has affected approximately 57 miles of shoreline

Receive immediate notice as soon as a Casualty occurs. For further information please contact Andrew Luxton on +44 (0) 20 7017 4625.

from the Tacony-Palmyra Bridge to south of the Smyrna River in Delaware, mainly light patches of oil and a very light sheen.

BAHIA DE MALAGA (Canary Islands)

London, Jan 1 — Passenger ro/ro Bahia de Malaga arrived Valencia at 1415, Dec 30.

BOE SEA (Malta)

London, Jan 1 — Following received from Coastguard Solent MRSC, timed 1500, UTC: General cargo Boe Sea has effected repairs and proceeded on voyage.

London, Jan 5 — General cargo Boe Sea arrived Gdynia 0912, Jan 4.

BREAKAWAY OF BARGES, COLUMBIA RIVER, OREGON, UNITED STATES

London, Jan 5 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Two barges have run aground in the Columbia River near Camas. Both barges usually carry wood chips, but were empty. One is lodged near Lady Island. Railroad workers in the area thought it may have hit the SR-14 bridge, but officials have yet to confirm that. The other barge is lodged near Ackerman Island. Tugs are standing by monitoring the situation. Officials say the barges went astray after breaking free of their moorage. Investigators are now looking into a cause.

BREAKAWAY OF BARGES, RED RIVER, LOUISIANA, UNITED STATES

London, Jan 4 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: The last of five barges that broke loose in a storm last month and crashed into the John H. Overton Lock and Dam Number Two on the Red River has been removed. Lockmaster Fred Pittman, with the U-S Army Corps of Engineers, says the lock and dam reopened to commercial traffic at Christmas but are still closed to recreational traffic. He says the last barge was removed yesterday but there are still pieces of barge that flushed through and are downstream. The barges involved in the December accident are owned by Lhur Brothers of Illinois. Pittman could not say when the lock and dam would resume normal operations. Pool levels, he says, are currently four feet below normal elevation. But, he says, they plan to raise pool another two feet, probably early next week.

BROTAS (Brazil)

London, Jan 3 — Crude oil tanker Brotas was reported arriving Gebig Dec 28 from the Campos Field and then reported arriving Santos 1025, Jan 1.

CANADIAN PROVIDER (Canada)

Troy, Michigan, Jan 4 — Bulk Canadian Provider has entered lay-up in Toronto Harbour. The vessel has damage to its bow area that has been temporarily patched. It is unknown how the vessel was damaged but it may have struck the harbour wall in front of Redpath Sugar. — Great Lakes & Seaway Shipping.

CEC CONFIDENCE (Bahamas)

Sydney, Dec 27 — General cargo CEC Confidence arrived Sydney Dec 24 and sailed Dec 26. — Lloyd's Agents.

CELINE (Switzerland)

London, Dec 31 — General cargo Celine, Algiciras for Constantza, passed Gibraltar Dec 29, leaving after a period of repairs and minor sea trials.

CHRISTIAN (Singapore)

London, Dec 31 — Following received from Singapore Port Operations, timed 1525, UTC: Tug Christian (220 gt, built 1993), towing Singapore-flagged dumb barge Flora (3102 gt) from Kota Baru to Singapore, has been unreported since Dec 13, when in position lat 05 34N, long 119 22E. Vessels in vicinity are requested to keep a look-out for the tug and / or barge and report to Singapore Port Operations.

London, Jan 5 — Following received from Singapore Port Operations, timed 0420, UTC: Understand tug Christian and barge Flora have been located near Pulau Mabul. The vessels appear to have changed name and appearance. Investigation is continuing.

CLIPPER LANCELOT (Bahamas)

London, Jan 3 — Bulk Clipper Lancelot arrived Burnside, USA, 0300, Dec 31.

COVADONGA (U.S.A.)

London, 31 — A press release from the United States Coast Guard, dated San Juan, Dec 29, states: Coast Guard Investigators responded to an accident last night that left 17 passengers and one crewmember injured, after the Ports Authority owned and operated passenger Covadonga (87 gt, built 1989) contacted the Catono pier during its approach around 1945 hrs. The vessel's master reported to Coast Guard investigators on scene that the port engine failed with no warning, inhibiting the vessels ability to manoeuvre during the approach. Damage to the vessel includes an indentation and gouge in the vessel's starboard bow. catamaran style vessel, above the waterline which will require repair prior to being returned to service. As part of the standard procedures after any accident involving a commercial vessel, all crew members were required to submit to alcohol breathalyser testing. Sector San Juan, Prevention Commander, Cmdr. Elmer Emeric, has removed the vessels Certificate of Inspection preventing passenger operation until permanent repairs are made and inspectors have determined that the vessel can be safely operated.

DIYAKAWA (Sri Lanka)

See "South-East Asia" under "Earthquakes."

DRAGON ONE (Thailand)

London, Dec 31 — A press report, dated Dec 28, states: Thai registered bunkering tanker Dragon One, owned by Inter Bunker Supply & Transport Company, struck a rock off Pattaya

yesterday and spilled more than 500,000 litres of bunker oil into the sea. Dragon One ran aground off Khrok and Sark islands and spilled 575,000 litres of bunker oil into the sea off Pattaya, said Sub-Lt Preecha Phetwong, acting deputy chief of the Marine Department, quoting a report received around 0200 yesterday from the regional marine office 6's Pattaya branch in Chon Buri province. Oil slick-clearing vessels and teams from the department, the oil industry, Laem Chabang port, the Fisheries Department and Map Ta Phut industrial estate were trying to clean up the spill about one kilometre wide and located about 7km from the coastline. The tanker's master, Sompit Thiamthong, 30, was charged with causing an oil spill, endangering marine life and damaging the environment. He faces a maximum one year's jail term and/or a baht 60,000 fine.

Bangkok, Jan 6 — Bunkering tanker Dragon One struck a rock off Khrok and Sark islands off Pattaya in the Gulf of Thailand, Dec 27. The tanker was stated to have spilt about 575,000 litres of bunker oil into the sea. The spill was stated to be about one kilometre wide and located about 7 kilometres from the coastline. Oil slick-clearing vessels and teams from the oil industry, the Laem Chabang port, the Fisheries Department and the Map Ta Phut Industrial estate assisted in the clean up of the oil slick. The master of the tanker was charged with causing an oil spill, endangering marine life and damaging the environment. — Lloyd's Agents.

EVERLAST (Canada)

London, Jan 4 — A report, dated today, states: Tug Everlast (1361 gt, built 1977): A fracture was found in way of the echo sounder transducer bottom hull plating in Montreal on Dec 31. Underwater inspection is scheduled to be carried out to assess damage.

FATHER F. (Cyprus)

London, Jan 1 — Following received from Coastguard Brixham MRSC, timed 1205, UTC: Anchor handling tug Neftegaz 57 has been contracted to stand by bulk Father F., in Lyme Bay. The tug is due to arrive tomorrow morning, from Mounts Bay.

London, Jan 2 — Following received from Coastguard Brixham MRSC, timed 1135, UTC: Anchor handling tug Neftegaz 57 arrived on scene this morning and bulk Father F. has started engine repairs.

London, Jan 3 — Following received from Coastguard Brixham MRSC, timed 1800, UTC: Bulk Father F. remains at anchor under repair in lat 50 25N, long 03 22W. Vessel is awaiting arrival of parts and engineers. Repairs are expected to take until at least Jan 6 to complete. Tug Neftegaz 57 is standing by.

FEDERAL PESCADORES (Panama)

London, Jan 1 — Bulk Federal Pescadores passed Panama Canal on Dec 24, from Tampa.

FLORA (Singapore)

See Christian.

FRONT CLIMBER (Singapore)

Ferrol, Jan 4 — Bulk/oil Front Climber (89004 gt, built 1991), from Roberts Bank, Canada, destination port Antwerp, loaded, anchored at Ares Bay, Ferrol, 0800 today reporting turbo-charger damage. — Lloyd's Agents.

GEM OF TUTICORIN (India)

See "South-east Asia" under "Earthquakes."

GLOBAL ISLAND (Madeira)

London, Jan 2 — Following received from Coastguard Falmouth MRCC, timed 1340, UTC: The Dubai agents of general cargo Global Island (1998 gt, built 1978) reported that they had received a message from the vessel at 1052, UTC, Jan 1, stating the vessel was taking water and had a 20 deg list, in lat 01 44.27N, long 46 34.26E. Nothing further heard from the vessel. United States Military Command in Bahrain have tasked a helicopter from a vessel approximately 70 miles away. The helicopter is expected to arrive on scene in about three to four hours time.

London, Jan 2 — Following received from Coastguard Falmouth MRCC, timed 1545, UTC: The United States Navy launched a helicopter about 20 minutes ago to proceed to the likely location of general cargo Global Island.

London, Jan 2 — Following received from Coast Guard San Francisco, timed 1940, UTC: General cargo Global Island: The United States Navy vessel and helicopter in the vicinity of where the vessel was last reported are continuing search operations. Up until now, there have been no sightings.

London, Jan 2 — Following received from Coastguard Falmouth MRCC, timed 2015, UTC: General cargo Global Island: Two liferafts have been spotted with four persons on board. Operations are under way to try to pick up the persons from the liferafts.

London, Jan 2 — Following received from Coastguard Falmouth MRCC, timed 2150, UTC: General cargo Global Island: Understand from United States personnel in area that five crewmen from the vessel are reported on liferafts about 40 miles off Mogadiscio. The vessel's master and one other crewman are missing; they reportedly fell into the water yesterday.

London, Jan 3 — Following received from Coastguard Falmouth MRCC, timed 0445, UTC: General cargo Global Island, Mombasa for Dubai, seven persons on board, reported taking on water in lat 01 44N, long 46 34E at 1050, UTC, Jan 1. Abandoned ship at 1400, UTC, Jan 1 and presumed sunk. Helicopter locates two liferafts in lat 00 39N, long 44 42E with five persons. Unable to recover and a warship is on scene to recover survivors by vessel transfer. Two crew members still missing and search continuing. Survivors taken to Mombasa.

London, Jan 3 — A press report, dated today, states: Two seamen were missing today after a United States Navy vessel

rescued five of their fellow crewmen from general cargo Global Island, which foundered off Somalia's southern coast at the weekend, Kenyan shipping authorities and the US embassy in Nairobi said. "Five sailors were rescued but two are still missing," Kenya Seafarers Assistance Programme (KSAP) official Andrew Mwangura said. Global Island left Mombasa Dec 25 for Dubai for repairs, he added. "After their vessel wrecked off the Somali coast over the weekend, the sailors sent an SOS and by the time a US Navy vessel arrived, it only managed to rescue five," Mwangura said.

London, Jan 3 — Following received from Coast Guard San Francisco, timed 2125, UTC: The search for the two missing crewmen from general cargo Global Island is still ongoing. The other five men were safely rescued.

GUANTANAMO BAY EXPRESS (U.S.A.)

Jacksonville, Jan 3 — Barge Guantanamo Bay Express left Atlantic Marine Dry Dock Dec 31 and will most probably resume its normal service between Jacksonville and Guantanamo Bay. — Lloyd's Agents.

HERA (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

See "Gibraltar" under "Port State Control."

HOLIDAY (Bahamas)

London, Dec 31 — A press report, dated today, states: Yesterday afternoon, cruise-line officials told some 1,700 passengers that passenger Holiday (46052 gt, built 1985), slowed by mechanical problems, could not reach Cozumel and instead would simply motor around in the Gulf of Mexico until Monday. In an effort to put a good face on the situation, Carnival officials dubbed the four-day voyage the "Cruise-To-Nowhere." Some passengers chose to get their money back rather than stay onboard. Those who proceeded with the voyage are receiving a \$100-per-passenger credit on their Sail & Sign shipboard account, which can be used for drinks, spa treatments, gift shop items and virtually anything for sale on the ship, said Carnival public relations manager Vance Gullikson. About 5% of the passengers canceled after learning the news, Gullikson said. Originally, passengers were to spend last night and today at sea and arrive at Cozumel at 0800 tomorrow. They were to spend nine hours in port and cruise back to Mobile, arriving at 0800 Monday. Holiday's condition not only puts a damper on this weekend's trip but also raises concerns about the ship's next venture, a five-day cruise scheduled to depart late Monday afternoon. As soon as Holiday concludes the Cruise-To-Nowhere, company technicians will board the ship in an effort to fix the problem in time for that afternoon's departure. "The only thing we can tell them (passengers on Monday's trip) is that we're still assessing this and will have more information as we get closer to the departure date," Gullikson said.

Holiday is the only cruise ship that operates out of Mobile. Yesterday afternoon, incoming passengers arriving at the Mobile terminal parking garage were handed written notices of the ship's problems. The flier explained why Holiday would not be going to Cozumel and informed passengers that they could get a refund or, if they chose to sail, receive the \$100 spending credit. As of late yesterday, Gullikson was unable to say how far south the boat would sail. He said he believed the ship would "take a slow sail around the ocean, and then come back into port" on Monday.

London, Jan 4 — A press report, dated today, states: Four days after engine problems forced changes to the itinerary of a New Year's weekend cruise, Carnival Cruise Lines yesterday diverted passenger Holiday to Key West from its planned Caribbean route and could not say what effect the problem will have on future sailings. Holiday will likely need at least a week in dry dock for repairs, Carnival spokesman Vance Gullikson said. But the company could not say when the work would begin, or where the cruise scheduled to depart Mobile on Saturday would be going. "We're waiting on some parts to arrive, and that's going to dictate when the dry dock takes place," Gullikson said. Some ticketholders did not learn of Carnival's change in itinerary until yesterday after arriving in Mobile. The company said it followed its policy of informing its customers of scheduling changes. Ticketholders on the affected voyages had the option of cancelling and receiving a refund or a credit for a future cruise, or proceeding with their trips. Those who chose the second option were to receive a \$100 credit for on-board purchases. The ship left about half an hour later than usual last night because fog delayed its arrival, said Shelia Gurganus, manager of the Alabama Cruise Terminal at Mobile. Based on early estimates, Gurganus said about 1,240 people boarded the ship and about 100 people appeared to have cancelled. That passenger count is the lowest the Mobile terminal has seen thus far, she added.

London, Jan 6 — A press report, dated Jan 5, states: Tourism officials in Mobile are hearing from passengers upset over New Year's vacations disrupted by passenger Holiday's mechanical trouble. A Dec 30 cruise to Mexico turned into a "cruise to nowhere" after trouble with the vessel's propulsion system forced Carnival Cruise Line officials to sail only a short distance into the Gulf of Mexico. Some 1,700 passengers were booked for the sold-out voyage. About 5% chose not to depart and took refunds. Carnival officials apologised and provided a \$100 per passenger credit to the ship charge account for those staying onboard. But an attorney who was a passenger, Donna Bland of Montgomery, said she has organised a list of about 600 passengers and will submit it to Carnival officials for a refund or a free cruise. Bland said, "We have to look and see if they have breached their

contract. These people have been injured and they need to make the people whole in some way." Travel agent Stephen M. Cape of Mobile's Springdale Travel, which handled many Holiday bookings, said today that no one had advance warning of the itinerary change because Carnival officials only learned about the mechanical problem on the day of departure. Holiday performed better on a cruise that left Mobile on Monday, with some cabins vacant because passengers had accepted refunds due to the itinerary change. Holiday is expected to operate its regular five-day itinerary for the next voyage departing Saturday, Jan 8, which includes calls at Costa Maya and Cozumel. Although propulsion has been temporarily restored, the ship, the oldest in the fleet, will need to go into dry dock for repairs. The repair schedule and location for that work were incomplete today.

HYUNDAI ADVANCE (Panama)

Singapore, Dec 27 — C.c. Hyundai Advance arrived Singapore Dec 26. — Lloyd's Agents.

Singapore, Jan 5 — C.c. Hyundai Advance is presently at Berth 19, Sembawang Shipyard. — Lloyd's Agents.

HYUNDAI HAWK (Panama)

London, Jan 6 — Ro/ro Hyundai Hawk (15893 gt, built 1986), while navigating outwards from Selat Bengkalis, Indonesia, with a cargo of 14,000 tonnes of paper pulp in bundles, ran aground at 1200, local time, Dec 28. Vessel was not hard aground and was refloated with tug assistance at the weekend (Jan 1-2).

IBUKI (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Jan 4 — Schlusel Reederei has entered into a plea agreement with the US Attorney in Honolulu to settle charges made by the US Coast Guard under the MARPOL Convention concerning the maintenance of the Oil Record Book on one of the containerships it manages, c.c. Ibuki. The charges arose out of an inspection carried out by the Coast Guard on Nov 1 in Honolulu. The Company cooperated with the US authorities from the outset to resolve this matter and has since focused its efforts on preventing such violations in the future. Under US law, a company can be held liable under the theory of 'Vicarious Liability' - for illegal acts of its crew members, regardless of whether the company knew, or had reason to know, of these illegal acts, and regardless whether the crew's actions were deliberate or not. A Guilty Plea Agreement has therefore been entered into by the Company along with agreement to pay a fine and to retain an independent consultant to review the effectiveness of its environmental management system. In addition to strengthening its environmental management system to ensure strict compliance with the MARPOL Oil Record Book requirements, the Company, on its own

initiative, will require that all its crews receive additional training, instruction, and monitoring to ensure that an incident of this nature cannot happen again. The Company also volunteered to replace or up-grade the existing Oily Water Separators on Ibuki and 19 other ships, with the most up to date equipment available, achieving standards much better than required by regulations.

JAAMI (Bangladesh)

See "South-East Asia" under "Earthquakes."

JIN MAN HE (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

Moji, Jan 5 — General cargo Jin Man He sailed Hakata Jan 5 for Ningbo, in tow of tug Hu Jiu 14. — Lloyd's Agents.

KAMLESH (India)

London, Jan 5 — Crude oil tanker Kamlesh, Piraeus for Black Sea, was reported passing the Dardanelles, in ballast, 1138, Jan 4.

KRISTEN LEE (U.S.A.)

See M560L.

KYUSHO MARU NO.21 (Japan)

Moji, Jan 5 — Product tanker Kyusho Maru No.21 completed repairs and returned to normal trading Dec 31. — Lloyd's Agents.

LAL BAHADUR SHASTRI (INDIA)

See "South-East Asia" under "Earthquakes."

LOUIE (U.S.A.)

San Francisco, Dec 30 — Tug Louie is still lying on the bottom in 12 feet of water in the port of Sacramento. It is partially submerged and lifting is scheduled for tonight. It is uncertain whether the water will be pumped out at the sinking site or not and at the moment they are not aware where it will be towed. Meanwhile the pollution clean-up operation is under way and will continue. — Lloyd's Agents.

LT LLOYDIANA (Italy)

London, Jan 4 — According to Sri Lanka Ports Authority c.c. LT Lloydiana is at Jaya Container Terminal, Colombo.

Rotterdam, Jan 6 — C.c. LT Lloydiana was taken in tow by tug SmitWijs London and redelivered to its owners in Colombo Sunday (Jan 2). Vessel is currently discharging containers. It will be towed out by SmitWijs London, probably in the next couple of days, for Singapore for repairs. — SMIT Salvage BV.

M560L (U.S.A.)

Miami, Dec 30 — Barge M560L, no cargo on board, under tow of tug Kristen Lee (133 gt, built 1964), while departing West Palm Beach for South Carolina, at approximately 1030, 29 Dec. Tow line broke with barge currently grounded on beach. No injuries. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Dec 31 — A press report, dated today, states: A loose barge (M560L) that washed up Wednesday at

Palm Beach Shores on Singer Island has officials wondering how they will remove it. The South Carolina-bound barge left the Lake Worth Inlet early Wednesday when it broke loose from its tug, Kristen Lee, and ran aground. Officials at the state Department of Environmental Protection's Bureau of Emergency Response and the U.S. Coast Guard responded to see if any hazardous materials were on board. As of late last night, nothing had been found, state emergency response specialist Rich Daniels said. Kristen Lee, owned by the Kristen Lee Towing Company, encountered rough weather and choppy water when it left the inlet, Coast Guard Petty Officer Darin McCracken said. After breaking loose, the new barge got stuck between the beach and a shoal that was created during the recent hurricanes, McCracken said. Officials have been unable to determine if any environmental damage occurred, but that appears unlikely, Daniels said. The high tides and the barge's damage are making its removal more difficult, McCracken said. It's broken in two places, he said. Officials are debating whether to destroy the barge or haul it away intact, but they're leaning toward breaking it apart. The barge's owner is responsible for taking it off the beach, McCracken said.

MAERSK GABARUS (Canada)

Halifax, Dec 29 — Tug/supply Maersk Gabarus was damaged in a heavy storm on Dec 27, sustaining broken windows through outhouse. There is a suspicion that salt water got into the electrical system. Vessel entered port under own power with Canadian Coast Guard escort in case of any power loss. Vessel is undergoing repairs and systems check at the present time and is expected to stay in port for longer than seven days to ensure integrity of electrical system. It arrived Halifax this morning and is currently berthed at Pier 37. — Lloyd's Agents.

MAERSK VIRGINIA (U.S.A.)

London, Jan 3 — C.c. Maersk Virginia departed Salalah Dec 28, bound for Port Klang.

MARIETTE LE ROCH (France)

London, Jan 5 — Following received from Coastguard Stornoway MRSC, timed 0950, UTC: At 2230, UTC, Jan 3 Stornoway MRSC was informed by Griz Nez MRCC that fishing Mariette le Roch (297 gt, built 1984), 11 persons on board, had had an engine failure and was drifting in lat 59 39N, long 08 12W, 90 miles north-west of Butt of Lewis. Two vessels were proceeding to assist. Vessel was taken in tow at 1100, Jan 4 by fishing Jean Rioton to Lochinver. Lochinver lifeboat was launched to assist vessel on entrance to harbour, and Lochinver Coastguard rescue team were tasked to assist vessel in berthing. Vessel was safely alongside at 0946, UTC, today. Search and rescue operations terminated this time.

MASTROGIORGIS (Panama)

London, Dec 31 — Following received from Aarhus RCC, timed 1030, UTC: Bulk Mastrogiorgis is still in Kalundborg fjord, undergoing diver inspection.

London, Jan 5 — Following received from Aarhus RCC, timed 1030, UTC: Bulk Mastrogiorgis remains in Kalundborg fjord undergoing inspections by divers. Repairs to rudder, etc, required before vessel can proceed.

MATANUSKA (U.S.A.)

London, Jan 5 — An Alaska Marine Highway press release, dated Juneau, Dec 29, states: Passenger ro/ro Matanuska (3029 gt, built 1963) will be taken out of service briefly next month so that damaged blades on its port side propeller can be replaced. The ferry is scheduled to go into dry dock in Ketchikan on Jan 10 and return to service on Jan 12. The repairs will require cancellation of a round trip sailing to Bellingham, Washington, the Alaska Marine Highway System's southern terminus. Captain John Falvey, AMHS General Manager, said an investigation is underway to try to determine how, where, and when the damage to the propeller occurred. Two adjacent blades of the controllable-pitch propeller have damage and loss of metal on their tips, which causes a vibration during operation. "We are operating Matanuska safely within Coast Guard parameters for speed and vibration," Falvey said. "However, it is important to repair the propeller as soon as possible. We have the replacement blades and other parts on hand in the Ketchikan warehouse and do not expect to have any complications installing them." Matanuska will make a trip to Prince Rupert, BC and back to Ketchikan before going into the shipyard, and will make another round trip to Prince Rupert after coming out of the yard. It will then continue on its regular northbound schedule from Ketchikan.

MILENA (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Jan 4 — C.c. Milena departed from anchorage at/off Singapore on Jan 1, bound for Mumbai.

MY DINH (Vietnam)

Hanoi, Dec 24 — General cargo My Dinh, 3WGZ, (7249 gt, built 1995), Haiphong for Quang Ninh, with 37 containers, struck a rock and stranded Dec 20. On Dec 22 it was officially reported that the vessel had sunk in 22 42 01N, long 107 01 06E, six miles from Cat Ba Island. Twenty-six crew members were safely rescued by Vietnamese Navy. On board vessel is 150 tonnes of fuel oil and 50 tonnes diesel oil. Authorities and owner are preparing all necessary facilities to prevent oil pollution. Due to rough sea no salvage action has been carrying out yet. — Lloyd's Agents.

NAJA ARCTICA (DIS)

Fredericia, Dec 30 — General cargo Naja Arctica arrived Fredericia Dec 30 from Aalborg. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

NIL DERYA (Turkey)

Messina, Dec 31 — General cargo Nil Derya is still under arrest at Crotone. — Lloyd's Agents.

POLO M. (Bahamas)

London, Dec 31 — Following received from Aarhus RCC, timed 1025, UTC: Bulk Polo M. is still at Fredericia. Understand plan is for the cargo to be removed prior to the vessel entering shipyard there.

QUICKCAT II (New Zealand)

London, Jan 4 — A press report, dated today, states: Two elderly men are recovering in hospital after Fullers' catamaran Quickcat II (235 gt, built 1993) struck their 6.5 metre aluminium fishing vessel this morning. The two vessels were in collision in the Motuihe Channel between Motuihe and Motutapu Islands off Auckland. Coast Guard Search and Rescue controller John Cowan says the people on the fishing vessel were lucky to get away without serious injuries. Mr Cowan says there were eight people on board the fishing vessel. He says another young male has a minor back injury. Quickcat II resumed its trip to Waiheke Island shortly after the crash.

RIALTO (Panama)

Palma, Jan 3 — C.c. Rialto (8819 gt, built 1977) required a tow as a consequence of a machinery failure while underway at the north of Minorca Dec 26. Weather conditions were poor. The vessel was towed to a safe anchorage in the south coast of Minorca. The vessel remained at the anchor from Dec 27 until Jan 1. The owners contracted a private tug and the vessel was towed to Barcelona where it reportedly arrived on Jan 2. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — Rialto sailed Piraeus Dec 23 for Valencia.)

London, Jan 5 — Understood salvage services were rendered to c.c. Rialto by salvors Remolcadores Nosa Terra SA under Lloyd's Open Form dated Dec 26.

ROSTOK (Russia)

London, Jan 4 — A press report, dated today, states: A British diver has been killed during an operation to raise sunken general cargo Rostok in Romania's Danube Delta. Anthony James Eke, 35, was part of a team of seven divers working for US-based Titan Salvage, said Maria Axinte, a prosecutor in Tulcea. He was trying to clear silt from the sunken ship yesterday when several tons of silt fell on him. Eke stayed in radio contact with his team for 10 minutes after the accident, as rescuers scrambled to reach him. He was only found after two hours, long after his oxygen ran out, according to preliminary findings. An investigation has been launched, involving teams of prosecutors and safety inspectors.

ROYAL KLIPPER (Netherlands)

London, Jan 4 — Ref Royal Klipper arrived Santa Cruz de Tenerife on Dec 28, departing the next day, bound for Southampton, where it arrived 0246, Jan 2.

SANNA (Netherlands Antilles)

London, Jan 4 — General cargo Sanna sailed Rotterdam 2250, Jan 3, bound for Blyth.

SARANG (India)

See "South-East Asia" under "Earthquakes."

SEA FOX (Latvia)

London, Jan 6 — Following received from Coastguard Clyde MRCC: Timed "1055", UTC: At 1002, UTC, information received from the owners/agents of general cargo Sea Fox (2219 gt, built 1976), Riga for Liverpool, cargo palletted timber, including deck cargo, 10 persons on board, that vessel had a port list of 35 degrees, in lat 56 28.3N, long 07 24.7W. Wind in area severe gale 9. Vessel's master has stated that no assistance is required. Vessel has turned onto a course of 320 true and proceeding to shelter of Barra/Mingulay with the intention of jettisoning some deck cargo. At "1115, UTC" vessel's position is lat 56 36N, long 07 31W and has advised that the list has increased to 50 degrees. Incident to be upgraded to distress. Barra lifeboat has been requested and proceeding. Coastguard Emergency Towing Vessel Anglian Prince is also proceeding. Rescue helicopter has been scrambled from Prestwick.

Timed 1205, UTC: Master reported 20 minutes ago that 20% of deck cargo had been jettisoned. Vessel's list is now 40 to 50 degrees to port. Coastguard tug should be on scene in six hours and Barra lifeboat should be on scene in 20 minutes. Two helicopters also enroute. (Note — Sea Fox sailed Riga Dec 28 for Liverpool.)

London, Jan 6 — Following received from Coastguard Clyde MRCC, timed 1236, UTC: General cargo Sea Fox's list has increased to 50 degrees and is now steering 357 true to gain shelter from Mingulay thence to proceed to Castlebay, lat 56 57N, long 07 29W. Twenty percent of the deck cargo has been jettisoned. Barra lifeboat is now on scene. ETA of the Coastguard tug is 1800, UTC. Helicopter R137 and R177 proceeding to Tiree, the ETA's are 1300, UTC, and 1320, UTC respectively.

SEALTH (U.S.A.)

London, Jan 2 — A press report, dated Jan 1, states: A Washington State Ferries investigation into the recent grounding of ro/ro Sealth on a rock near San Juan Island's Friday Harbour will focus on four employees and the vessel's navigational equipment. Ferry officials say the Sealth hit Reid Rock, a submerged rock shelf, the night of Christmas Eve, giving the hull a scrape that is 96 feet long, as much as four feet wide and two inches deep. The four employees who will be interviewed are the vessel's master, Kirk Mikkelsen; the chief mate, George Terek; the quartermaster, Thomas Fowler; and an employee who was on lookout, Kamela Brower. The Sealth has been moored at the Port of Anacortes and will be moved into a dry dock at the Dakota Creek Industries shipyard for repairs.

The \$700,000 in estimated damage is likely to take until late February to fix.

London, Jan 6 — A press report, dated Jan 5, states: Repairs to state ferry Sealth, which struck Reid Rock near Friday Harbour on Dec 24, will take about six weeks and cost about \$700,000, according to Washington State Ferries spokeswoman Susan Harris-Huether. Sealth will go into dry dock for repairs at Dakota Creek Shipyard in Anacortes on Jan 10, she said. According to a WSF press release, the investigators are Senior Port Captain Kelly Mitchell and North Regional Port Captain Mark McElwaine. They have collected radar information from the vessel, GPS vessel tracking information, vessel logs and information from third party technical personnel to ensure that electronic equipment was operating normally. Mitchell and McElwaine obtained written statements from crew members and will conduct oral interviews with the primary crew members involved in the incident. Gerry Elston, a naval architect with Washington State Ferries, described the structural damage to the hull as a gouge 96 feet long and 4 feet wide at the widest point. "The major damages are that we dented parts of the hull about two inches, which causes the internal steel members to buckle and roll. It is this type of damage that caused a hole in one of the vessel's bulkheads, resulting in fuel spilling into one of the engine-room's bilges," he said. Elston said that the preliminary damage estimate of \$700,000 is based on underwater pictures taken by divers. Sealth was replaced on the San Juan Islands route by ferry Evergreen State, that sails three knots slower than Sealth. This means that passengers can expect delays of five to 15 minutes on morning runs and up to 50 minutes delays by the end of the day.

SELENDANG AYU (Malaysia)

London, Dec 31 — A U.S. Coast Guard Unalaska/Dutch Harbor press release, dated Dec 30, states: Bulk Selendang Ayu: Weather conditions consist of 10 knot winds out of the southeast. Seas are predicted at 2 to 4 feet. Crews are experiencing heavy fog which grounded air operations today. Winds are expected to pick up during the night as a front from the west pushes through. Gales are expected Sunday. The large mast has been removed from the top of the pilothouse. The salvage crew was not able to gain access to the ship yesterday. The team made an attempt today but the fog prevented aircraft operations. They are following the weather closely and will make attempts to complete preparations and accept the sling loads of equipment by helicopter that need to be transitioned from the staging area in Dutch Harbor to the ship when weather permits. Crews onboard Western Viking, Raven Bay and Commitment tested the NOFI Current Buster oil retrieval system and offshore skimming system today. The test, conducted in the harbour, went well lasting about two and a half hours. Crews were able to deploy the Current

Buster, bring Western Viking alongside and deploy the skimmer and retrieve all the equipment with minor difficulty. Barge Kashega is underway from Dutch Harbor with two near shore skimmers onboard to be available as needed. An overflight is scheduled to leave late morning from Dutch Harbor tomorrow and fly the to the southwest end of the Unalaska Island and return. Beach crews continued work today; approximately 44 cubic yards of oiled waste have been recovered by beach cleanup crews and bagged. The exact percent of oil in those bags has not been determined. Oil has been observed in a marsh valley along the northern part of Skan Bay. "Left alone that oil is not going to take care of itself because of the area it's in," said Dr. Ed Owens, the environmental unit leader. Owens noted that the beach crews are going to move to focus on that area in the next few days. "Now is an excellent time to take care of this. The marsh is dormant and we can clean up the area now so the new grasses can come in during the spring," said Owens. The environmental unit has surveyed 130 miles of beach only five of those miles are determined to have moderate to heavy oiling. Those areas were identified in Skan and Cannery Bays and Humpback Cove. Beach clean up to date has been focused in those areas. The environmental unit has not observed any more live oiled birds since the storm last week when crews were recalled to Dutch Harbor. According to Barbara Callahan, Response Coordinator for International Bird Rescue Response Center and the incident wildlife coordinator, these observations are consistent with the situation. According to Callahan the oiled birds came from the initial release of oil. The live birds viewed were all seen prior to the storm and it is likely they did not survive the storm. Wildlife crews are continuing to see scavenging by foxes and scavenger birds. Collecting the carcasses can prevent secondary oiling of the scavengers caused either by ingesting the oil or rubbing it on while feeding. The state has closed the waters from Cape Kovrizhka to Spray Cape to all fishing until further notice. The tanner crab fishery openers in the Bering Sea around St. Paul and the Unalaska Bay fishery are still scheduled to open on Jan 15. A safety zone encompassing Skan and Makushin Bays is still in effect. No vessels or aircraft may enter that zone without the express permission of the Unified Command. In addition the five miles no fly zone around the wreck of Selendang Ayu is also still in effect. (See issue of Dec 31.)

London, Jan 4 — A US Coast Guard Unalaska/Dutch Harbour press release, dated Jan 1, states: Bulk Selendang Ayu: Weather conditions consist of 10-knot winds out of the southwest. Seas are estimated at four to six feet. Gale force winds are expected tomorrow building the seas to as much as 18 feet. Periods of rain and fog may limit visibility. The salvage crew in cooperation with the heavy-lift helicopter team has received several

loads of equipment on the stern of the wreck yesterday and today. The lightering equipment included pumps, generators, various small tools, power packs, reels of electrical cord, air compressor and hot tap equipment. The salvage team onboard the vessel is working to place the gear for use and secure it to the deck in some cases to withstand any weather conditions that occur. A 40-foot container has been placed by helicopter at the staging area identified at the northern side of Makushin Bay for emergency support and rescue equipment. Barge Kashega is in place and standing by with two near shore skimmers onboard to be available as needed. Several overflights have been conducted yesterday and today. The flights covered the area from Kashega to Makushin Bay and Umnak Island. No sheening or oil was reported on the water or in the vicinity of the wreck. Beach crews were weathered out of the marsh area along the northern part of Skan Bay today although work was done there Friday. Beach clean up crews were redirected to Portage Bay where weather was not as severe. Pitchforks and rakes have been used to remove oil from the grass. Approximately 61 cubic yards of oiled waste have been recovered by beach cleanup crews and bagged. The percent of oil in those bags has not been determined. The waste consists of tarballs and patties, contaminated sand, gravel, cobble and grass. The environmental unit has surveyed 130 miles of beach by air, land and sea. Only four and a half of those miles are determined to have moderate oiling, with only a half mile heavily oiled. Those moderately to heavily oiled areas were identified in Skan and Cannery Bays and Humpback Bay. Beach clean up to date has been focused in those areas. More than 250 deceased birds have been collected. Two otter carcasses and one otter skeleton have been collected. Twenty-four live birds have been recovered for rehabilitation to date with six released in the Whittier region of Southcentral Alaska. Wildlife crews are continuing to see heavy scavenging by foxes and scavenger birds. Collecting the carcasses can prevent secondary oiling of the scavengers caused either by ingesting the oil or rubbing it on while feeding. At this time all western Alaska fisheries are still in effect with the exception of those scheduled for Skan and Makushin Bays. The state has closed the waters from Cape Kovrizhka to Spray Cape to all commercial fishing until further notice. The tanner crab fishery openers in the Bering Sea around St. Paul and the local Unalaska Bay fishery are still scheduled to open on Jan 15.

London, Jan 5 — A US Coast Guard Unalaska/Dutch Harbour press release, dated Jan 4, states: Bulk Selendang Ayu: Lightering officially began yesterday with the first three containers of diesel transported by heavy lift helicopter to a staging area located here. The diesel will be offloaded first, because it is lighter and can be pumped out faster. The revised

estimate of fuel on board the vessel is 424,000 gallons of intermediate fuel oil (IFO 380) and 18,000 gallons of marine diesel oil. The midsection fuel tank ruptured when the vessel broke apart and released an estimated 40,131 gallons of IFO 380. The Unified Command also believes there is a low probability that any substantial amount of fuel remains in the forward centreline IFO fuel tank (the original estimated volume was 176,473 gallons). The status of other fuel tanks is unknown at this time. The actual amount of spilled fuel is also unknown. As of Dec 25, the bow section of the vessel sank and was listing severely, with just the forepeak of the vessel above water. The stern section of the vessel (which was previously listing to one side) has now levelled off, attributable to further hull damage and further settling of the vessel. Neither salvage crews working on the wreck nor over flights made since Dec 28, have noted any significant change in the vessel's status. The Federal On Scene Coordinator is seeking verification plans of the No.1 and No.3 bow tank contents due to changes in the bow section's integrity. Complications with the tank's tubes have prevented this verification plan by the salvage crews. As of Sunday, a total of 20 oiled bird carcasses and no additional live oiled birds have been recovered. This brings the total numbers of dead birds recovered to 295. To date, 29 live oiled birds have been captured and sent to be rehabilitated. Six of these have been released from Whittier by the International Bird Rescue and Research Centre. No additional mammals were recovered yesterday. The final winter operations plan was approved by the Unified Command and ideas for the draft spring operations plan will begin today. A draft waste disposal plan was completed. Public meetings are now being held in Unalaska on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. The weather in Dutch Harbour today is mostly cloudy, with highs in the mid 30s, northwest wind 15 to 25 mph. Weather is predicted to improve this week.

London, Jan 6 — A US Coast Guard Unalaska/Dutch Harbour press release, dated Jan 5, states: Crews continue lightering operations onboard the remains of bulk Selendang Ayu in the Bering Sea today. To date, crews have removed 3,075.48 gallons of marine diesel oil (MDO) from the stricken ship. Monday, Unified Command (UC) officials in Dutch Harbour reported that crews totalled tank one with 1,323.59 gallons; tank two with 1,319.5 gallons and tank three with 432.39 gallons, amounts that are not just fuel, but also is mixed with water. Officials today report that the starboard marine diesel oil tank requires cleaning and that workers will have to increase the size of the hole to access tank No. 3C, situated below the MDO tank. Weather conditions yesterday prevented workers from conducting beach cleaning operations, but crews returned to clean beaches today. UC commanders finalised their winter operations plan

Monday. The plan outlines actions to be taken during the operational period from now until mid April, and briefly refers to increased operational efforts set to begin in the Spring when Alaska's daylight hours are longer and favourable weather conditions are more common. Today's weather conditions in Dutch Harbour consist of southeasterly winds at 15 knots gusting to 25 knots late in the afternoon. Seas are predicted at four feet with visibility beyond six miles and a high temperature of 39 degrees.

SIBOELF (NIS)

London, Jan 1 — Bulk/oil Siboelf left Ghent at 1226, Dec 30, for the North Sea. (See issue of Dec 29.)

SINAR ANDALAS (Singapore)

See "South-East Asia" under "Earthquakes."

SKANDIA

London, Dec 31 — A press report, dated today, states: The repair of stricken super maxi yacht Skandia is expected to cost about \$2 million. The 98-foot vessel lost its keel and overturned during wild weather in the Sydney to Hobart yacht race on Tuesday (Dec 28). The super maxi is on Flinders Island and will be sent via barge to Port Welshpool before returning to Mornington. Navigator Will Oxley says a new keel is already being built for the yacht, and a new mast is under consideration. Oxley said this year's race was a major disappointment, with the reason for the yacht's failure still unknown.

SNORRE A

London, Jan 4 — A press report, dated Dec 30, states: The gas leak at the Snorre A platform will soon have cost NOK 2 billion (USD 328.5 million) in lost sales income and it remains unclear when production can resume. The Nov 28 leak was one of the most dramatic platform emergencies in years, but the evacuation and repair was carried out with no injuries. Operator Statoil was forced to shut down Snorre A and the Vigdis field, which has its oil processed and pumped by Snorre A. Poor weather has delayed repair work. The closure costs Statoil and the other owners of the field total production of 205,000 barrels per day - at current prices a loss of NOK 50 million (USD 8.2 million) a day. On Dec 23 Statoil announced that weather conditions made it impossible to carry out necessary inspection of the subsea template and further examination of weaknesses found in wellhead piping and valves is also needed.

SNOW CRYSTAL (Cayman Islands)

London, Jan 4 — As of yesterday ferry Snow Crystal was still at the Dormac repair quay, Durban.

SPIRIT OF ROCHESTER (U.S.A.)

London, Jan 3 — Following received from Coast Guard Boston, timed 1425, UTC: On Jan 1, ferry Spirit of Rochester (80 gt, built 1975), while

docked at Rochester, New York, took on water and became low in the water. The ferry is still at the dock and is attempting to pump water out. There is no pollution and reason for taking on water not yet determined. Spirit of Rochester is normally on the Rochester to Canada voyage, but is presently out of service.

SPIRIT OF YAVEH (Panama)

London, Dec 31 — Understand general cargo Spirit of Yaveh is still aground.

STEWART ISLAND (Hong Kong)

London, Jan 2 — Following received from Victoria, BC, MRCC, timed 1920, UTC: Bulk Stewart Island (17380 gt, built 1995), China for Vancouver, cargo steel, broke down about 400 miles off the west coast of Canada, in lat 47 34N, long 135 02W, at 2023, UTC, Dec 31. Tug Hunter is on scene and will take vessel in tow for Vancouver.

London, Jan 4 — Following received from Victoria, BC, RCC, timed 1929, UTC: Bulk Stewart Island taken in tow 2020, UTC, Jan 2, bound Vancouver. Position at 1748, UTC, today lat 48 04N, long 129 27W, course 082 deg true, speed 5.2 knots.

SUNNY JEWEL (Panama)

London, Dec 31 — Following navigation warning issued Dec 30: Sunken wreck, 4386 tons, (chem.tank Sunny Jewel) exists in lat 33 38 09N, long 132 11 51E. Buoys with light mark it.

SUOMENLINNA II (Finland)

London, Jan 6 — A press report, dated today, states: The Finnish Maritime Administration has ordered new nautical tests for the apparently jinxed passenger Suomenlinna II. Furthermore, even the lags in the vessel's steering mechanism that are apparently related to the problems with its manoeuvrability will be repaired. According to the Finnish Maritime Administration, the operation is likely to keep the ferry out of service for several weeks. The nautical tests will be re-run as after examining the vessel's manoeuvrability, the Technical Research Centre of Finland (VTT) does not regard the first test results as reliable. The steering mechanism of the ferry does not comply with VTT's requirements nor with the original specifications. "The control mechanisms of the ferry have to be improved", says Ove Hagerlund of the Gulf of Finland Maritime District. "It is a control problem with the propellers", he explains. Hagerlund supposes that it is this lag in the power transmission of the propellers that has caused the poor manoeuvrability of the vessel. However, referring to the frequent collisions of the ferry, he notices that the actual cause was the fact that the autopilot was on for too long. Managing Director Jorma Salopelto of Suomenlinnan Liikenne Oy, the public utility company responsible for running a scheduled ferry service between the Helsinki city centre and the island of Suomenlinna, admits the lags in the

steering system. "In the course of the autumn, attempts have been made to fix the faults according to the wishes of the ferry's crew", says Salopelto. "If new tests are ordered by the Maritime Administration, they will be conducted", he adds. However, Salopelto does not blame the ferry's collisions on the technical defects in the steering mechanism. The Finnish Maritime Administration regards the repair plans for the ferry's collision damage as sound.

SUPERFERRY 12 (Philippines)

Manila, Dec 31 — The Philippine Coast Guard reported today that the interisland passenger ro/ro Superferry 12 (11914 gt, built 1984), Manila for Cebu, collided with a fishing boat off Bantayan Island, in the northern tip of Cebu in central Philippines, around 1030, local time, yesterday. There were no casualties or apparent damage to the Superferry 12 although the wooden-hulled fishing boat broke in two and capsized. Two fishermen were being treated for injuries at a Cebu hospital. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Manila, Jan 3 — Passenger ro/ro Superferry 12 resumed normal operations, after it collided with a small fishing vessel on Dec 30, the vessel's owner-operator WG&A reported. Having sustained no damage, the vessel was allowed, by the Coast Guard, to resume normal operations. Superferry 12 left Cebu on Jan 1 and reached Manila on Jan 2. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

TINA (Greece)

Piraeus, Dec 30 — General cargo Tina was refloated on Dec 10 and drydocked at Panagiotakis Shipyard. The vessel left dry dock Dec 20 and is currently under detention at Ampelaki. — Lloyd's Agents.

TOM T. (Sao Tome & Principe)

London, Jan 5 — As of Dec 15, general cargo Tom T. is still laid up at Midia. — Lloyd's Agents.

TROPIC BRILLIANCE (Liberia)

London, Jan 3 — Crude oil tanker Tropic Brilliance arrived (at Hellenic Shipyard) Skaramanga in tow, on Nov 26, from Port Said.

TROPICAL OCEAN (Singapore)

See Viva 3

TSUNAMI (Malta)

London, Jan 5 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Crude oil tanker Tsunami (56855 gt, built 1992) was in contact with a Mississippi River pier today, causing a chemical spill, authorities said. The accident apparently caused an undetermined amount of caustic soda to spill from pipes at the pier, Petty Officer Stacey Pardini said. Contractor cleanup crews responded to the spill, she said. The accident destroyed the pier, Westwego Assistant Fire Chief Keith Bouvier said the tanker struck the pier before noon at Westwego, across the river from New Orleans. The vessel was carrying 20 million gallons of sweet crude oil,

Pardini said. Investigators found a 3-foot gash on the tanker, but the damage was well above the waterline and did not cause any of the crude to spill into the river, she said.

London, Jan 5 — Following received from Coast Guard New Orleans, dated Jan 4: The Coast Guard is investigating the report of a vessel striking a pier in Westwego, La., today. The Coast Guard was notified by the Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office at about 1145 today that they had received a report that crude oil tanker Tsunami appeared to be out of control on the river and had struck a marine terminal along the west bank of the Mississippi River, near Westwego. The tanker is currently anchored at mile marker 102 near Westwego. A light sheen has been reported in the area, but the source of the sheening has not been identified. Marine investigators from the Coast Guard's Marine Safety Office in New Orleans are responding and will investigate the cause of the accident. A helicopter crew from Coast Guard Air Station New Orleans is conducting over flights to search for any possible pollution.

(Later): The Coast Guard is continuing its investigation into an accident earlier today where a tanker struck a pier on the west bank of the Mississippi River in Westwego, La. There were no reports of injuries ashore or on the tanker. A Coast Guard helicopter overflight observed minor sheening in the area, possibly a result of damage to the S.T. Services pier. Drug and alcohol tests have been administered and the results are pending. Contracted clean-up workers are responding to the release of caustic soda that was leaking into the river from broken piping at the pier. A watchstander at the Marine Safety Office in New Orleans received a report of the contact from an individual on scene at about 1100 hrs. Coast Guard and other local agencies immediately responded to the incident.

London, Jan 5 — Following received from Cardiff Marine, Athens, managers of crude oil tanker Tsunami, dated today: At 1100 hrs, yesterday, whilst navigating under pilotage, Tsunami was involved in contact with the ST Services terminal at 101.4 miles, on the Mississippi River. The Master immediately anchored the vessel and notified all relevant parties. Tsunami sustained some minor shell damage in way of the port wing fuel oil tank. A thin crack of length 2500mm at 50mm below main deck between frames 46 and 49 has been opened. This will be addressed as soon as possible, upon completion of the discharging operation which is expected to be carried out without further delays. There were no injuries and no loss of either cargo or bunkers from the vessel. As a result of the incident a small, unspecified amount of either caustic or molasses on the dock have been spilled into the river. The vessel is now lying at anchor off its intended terminal and waiting to go alongside to discharge its cargo of crude oil as planned as soon as current navigation restrictions applied to all

river navigation due to fog are lifted. The vessel and managers have been working closely with the US Coast Guard to investigate the incident. The vessel has been inspected for any technical deficiencies, such as steering gear failure. None were found. This incident was not caused through a mechanical or critical equipment failure on board. This has been verified by local authorities and class NK who have already attended on board.

London, Jan 5 — Following received from Coast Guard New Orleans, timed 1335, UTC: Crude oil tanker Tsunami is still anchored at AMA Anchorage.

New Orleans, Jan 5 — A local press report, dated today, states: Crude oil tanker Tsunami on the Mississippi River struck a Westwego dock yesterday, heavily damaging the pier, which had been vacated by a barge crew minutes before. There were no injuries when the tanker struck near the foot of Avenue B at 1059 hrs on its way upriver to a dock in St. Rose, said Coast Guard Petty Officer 3rd Class Nyx Congemi. "We had just tied a barge up to the dock and the crew had walked off the dock," said Robert Nemeth, terminal manager of ST Services, which owns the dock. The ship brushed pilings protecting the Westwego water supply intake, a couple of hundred yards beyond the ST Services dock, but the intake pipe was unharmed, said Westwego Assistant Fire Chief Keith Bouvier. The tanker ended up anchored upriver at mile marker 101, authorities said. The vessel knocked the barge dock askew and damaged several pipelines connecting the pier with the ST Services plant, located on the south side of River Road. The barge, which contained 8,000 to 10,000 barrels of lube oil, was leaking and jammed against the facility, Bouvier said. Oil Mop, a Plaquemines Parish company, was called to put buoys around the area before an attempt can be made to move the barge, he said. The Coast Guard said the size of the spill has not been determined. The ST Services dock lies in the middle of a sharp bend in the river. Congemi said the Coast Guard is investigating the cause of the accident. Nemeth said ST Services handles products including light petroleum, vegetable oils, molasses and chemicals. The damage to the dock will not completely shut down the plant "but it is a main artery for us," he said. The company, which employs 20 people, will have to await an engineering inspection to determine when the dock can function again, Nemeth said. — Lloyd's Agents.

URSULA LEONHARDT (Malta)

Brest, Jan 4 — The situation of general cargo Ursula Leonhardt has remained unchanged and the vessel is still at Brest waiting for a decision by its owners. — Lloyd's Agents.

VACHON (Canada)

London, Jan 4 — Tug Vachon (390 gt, built 1973) struck the wharf at Port Cartier while assisting a vessel to berth at 1120, EST, Jan 1.

VENTURE SEA (Canada)

Halifax, Jan 4 — Anchor handling tug/supply Venture Sea is currently in the port of Halifax. It arrived at Halifax under its own power after sustaining damages in a storm. — Lloyd's Agents.

VICTORIAN RELIANCE (Australia)

Sydney, Dec 27 — Ro/ro Victorian Reliance sailed Newcastle Dec 24 and arrived Sydney the same day. — Lloyd's Agents.

VIKRAM (India)

See "South-East Asia" under "Earthquakes."

VIVA 3 (Malaysia)

London, Jan 6 — Following press release received from the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA): At about 2330, local time, Jan 5, barge Viva 3 (1252 gt, built 1995) ran aground about 700 metres south-east of Horsburgh lighthouse, in Singapore port waters. At the time of the incident Viva 3 was being towed by tug Tropical Ocean. According to the master of Tropical Ocean, the towline of Viva 3 parted and as a result, the barge drifted away from the tug and subsequently ran aground. The barge, which had departed from Pasir Gudang, Johor, was carrying piling equipment. It was bound for Sibit in Sarawak. Both the barge and tug are in a stable condition. There was no report of any crew injury or oil pollution. The tug's agent Tropical Shipping & Trading Co Pte Ltd is making arrangements to refloat the barge. Vessel traffic remains unaffected. The MPA has issued navigational broadcasts to inform ships in the vicinity of the incident and to keep clear. The MPA will be investigating the incident.

YELLOW ROSE

Manila, Dec 31 — The Philippine Coast Guard reported today that the passenger ro/ro Yellow Rose was now docked at Pier 3 in the port of Cebu in central Philippines. The vessel ran aground Tuesday evening (Dec 28) off Nasuan island near Cordova, Cebu in central Philippines. There were no fatalities or injuries to the 76 passengers onboard the vessel. The vessel was travelling from Bohol to the port of Cebu when the accident happened. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

London, Jan 3 — A press report, dated today, states: Passenger ro/ro Yellow Rose, that plies the Cebu-Talibon-Cebu route, went aground Dec 29 after it strayed from its course. Exercis Duarte, the captain, stated in his affidavit that he commanded quartermaster Edwin Antonio to change the course from 310 degrees to 270 degrees clearing the shoal point of Cabul-an Island, off Bohol. Duarte stated that after 18 minutes from the port of Talibon, he checked the compass and noticed that the vessel was no longer following its planned path and that the course was already 290 degrees. "Thereafter, I readily asked

him [Antonio] to alter the course, but it was too late since the aforesaid accident happened right there and then," Duarte's affidavit read. All officers and crew of the vessel were found negative of liquor intake in a test that was conducted by the medical team of the Maritime Industry Authority, thereby dispelling allegations that they were drunk when the accident happened. The vessel, which came from Talibon, Bohol, was on its way to Cebu City when it ran aground 50 metres away from Nalusuan Island Marine Sanctuary in Cordova, Cebu. The vessel was carrying 95 passengers including the crew. Nobody was reported hurt. A cease-and-desist order against the vessel has been ordered, which in effect prevents the vessel from navigating unless the investigation surrounding the sea incident is over. Aside from this, the license of the crew has been suspended until the end of the investigation. Philippine Coast Guard duty officer Virgilio Torreón said that as of yesterday the vessel and the crew were still suspended.



Port State Control

**GIBRALTAR**

London, Jan 4 — General cargo Hera, J8UY5, detained by Port Surveyors at Gibraltar on Dec 29, was released at 1300, Dec 31. Vessel departed Gibraltar later the same day at 2020 hrs, bound for Seville, where it arrived Jan 1.



Seizures & Arrests

**AFRICAN PRIDE (Panama)**

London, Jan 6 — A press report, dated Jan 5, states: A panel of senior Nigerian naval officers dismissed two admirals from the service today after a court martial found them guilty of involvement in the disappearance of seized product tanker African Pride. Rear admirals Babatunde Kolawole and Francis Agbiti were sacked at a public hearing at the Apapa naval base in Lagos presided over by Rear Admiral Joseph Ajayi. Agbiti was also demoted to the rank of commodore. The pair was found guilty of a variety of charges including conspiracy, the alteration of service documents and passing false signals. A third defendant, Rear Admiral Anthonio Bob-Manuel, was cleared on all charges. African Pride was boarded and seized by a Nigerian naval patrol in October 2003 as the tanker was shipping 11,300 tonnes of crude oil from the waterways of the Niger Delta region. Its crew of 13 mainly Russian sailors have been

charged in a separate civil case with attempting to smuggle stolen oil from the country. They are being held in a Nigerian prison while their trial continues. The vessel was brought to Lagos in January last year but later disappeared in the process of being transferred from naval to civilian police custody. Naval officers were accused of accepting bribes from the ship's owners to allow it to sail off unchallenged. A second impounded tanker which went missing at the same time was later recovered but African Pride, which prosecutors valued at 2.2 million dollars (1.7 million euros), is still missing and has probably been renamed.

ARDEAL (Romania)

Khulna, Jan 3 — General cargo Ardeal is still under attachment at Mongla Outer anchorage for subsequent break-up. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

ENDEAVOR II (Greece)

Karachi, Jan 5 — The Sindh High Court (SHC) has fixed a new date of Feb 7 to rehear the case of crude oil tanker Endeavor II, which is still under arrest at Karachi Port, according to Karachi Port Authority (KPT) and Partners Surridge & Beecheno, the counsel for the owners M/s Andros Maritime of Greece. Meanwhile, in a new development, the owner of the vessel has decided to sell it, due to its deteriorating condition at anchor for the last sixteen months. Local ship breakers will be approached through a public notice soon. The sale proceedings are expected to be deposited in local court as a guarantee until the case is resolved. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Karachi, Jan 6 — The Sindh High Court (SHC) is likely to issue a public notice this week to solicit offers from ship breakers for the purchase of crude oil tanker Endeavor II, anchored at Bhabha Pool Mooring, Karachi Port on "as is, where is" basis. M/s Andros Maritime of Greece owns the vessel, which is under arrest in the Tasman Spirit case at Karachi Port. The decision was made due to its deteriorating condition at anchor for the last sixteen months. The sale proceedings are expected to be deposited in local court as a guarantee until the case is resolved. According to information available the reserve price of U.S.\$ 6.85 millions has been proposed for the vessel. All offers are subject to confirmation of High Court of Sindh, Karachi. A final date for receiving bids is yet to be fixed. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

GEPARD (Cyprus)

Maassluis, Dec 31 — Tug Gepard is still under arrest at Flushing. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

HYUNDAI ADVANCE (Panama)

See under "Marine."

NIL DERYA (Turkey)

See under "Marine."

SADALSUUD (Panama)

Piraeus, Dec 30 — Product tanker Sadalsuud (1486 gt, built 1971) is currently under detention at Eleusis. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — Sadalsuud arrived Eleusis Jul 30.)

SHAMROCK**(French Southern Territories)**

Portland, Maine, Jan 5 — Ro/ro Shamrock was re-flagged to Barbados and vessel departed Portland, Maine, on Dec 16, bound for Halifax, N.S. — Lloyd's Agents.

Pipeline Accidents**AFSARIA PROVINCE, IRAN**

London, Jan 5 — A press report, dated today, states: A gas pipeline exploded in eastern Iran killing four people and wounding several others, the Iranian News Agency reported today. The incident, which occurred in the province of Afsaria, also damaged 60 houses and shops within a perimeter of one kilometre and smashed cars. The news agency said a gas leakage caused by water company diggings was the reason for the explosion of the pipeline. It said at least four of the injured were in critical condition.

BAHBAHAN AREA, IRAQ

See "Iraq" under "Political & Civil Unrest".

COATZACOALCOS AREA, MEXICO

London, Jan 5 — A press report, dated Jan 4, states: Mexican state oil monopoly Petroleos Mexicanos yesterday said it has recovered nearly 4 000 barrels of crude oil spilled last week into a river feeding the Gulf of Mexico. The oil concern said in a statement that the remaining crude oil to be recovered, which it estimates at 50 barrels, is mostly confined to the Pajaritos lagoon within Pemex facilities. Pemex said more than 1 000 people are continuing to work on other aspects of the clean-up, such as collecting contaminated plant life and cleaning the walls of homes. Pemex said that of four workers seriously injured in the accident, two remained in delicate condition, one was in serious but stable condition, and another was progressing favourably. The company added that its medical services have treated 546 people so far for mild irritation. Pemex said it has received complaints of damage from 139 homes, of which 15 have been evaluated and are in the process of being paid, and 70 are in the inspection stage. In a statement released late yesterday, Greenpeace Mexico said its analysis of the area affected by the spill determined that Pemex had actually lost 15 000 barrels of crude oil. Pemex said last week that it had spilled 5 000 barrels but its latest statement only accounted for a bit more than 4 000.

COATZACOALCOS AREA, MEXICO

London, Dec 31 — A press report, dated Dec 28, states: Mexico's federal environmental prosecutor's office today said it has filed a complaint as investigations continue into the cause of an oil spill by the country's state oil monopoly that sent 5,000 barrels of petroleum into a river feeding the Gulf of Mexico. State oil monopoly Petroleos Mexicanos, or Pemex, could be fined up to US\$200,000 for the Dec 22 spill on the Coatzacoalcos River at Nanchital, according to environmental regulators. Pemex Director Luis Ramirez toured the spill area today with environmental officials and said in a written release that the state oil company has nothing to hide and would make public all responsibilities in the spill after investigations are completed. Environmental prosecutors said they have been inspecting the cleanup from the start and have ordered Pemex to deliver a damage assessment and detailed report on the causes of the spill. The coastline was nearly clear of oil by yesterday after hundreds of workers skimmed away surface oil and scooped up contaminated sand. But major work remained to be done along the blackened banks of the Coatzacoalcos River. More than two-thirds of the oil spilled has been recovered.

NDOLA AREA, ZAMBIA

See "South-East Asia" under "Earthquakes."

WARRI AREA, NIGERIA

London, Jan 4 — A press report, dated Dec 31, states: Monumental infrastructural loss was averted yesterday with the quenching of a huge fire which was closing in on the Warri Refinery and Petrochemical Company Delta State. The fire, which started at a pipeline about 300 metres to the refinery about 1400 hrs was racing towards the vital national facility. The pipelines originating from the refinery went up in flames but the intervention of firemen from Shell Petroleum Development Company prevented it from reaching the refinery complex. Some of the pipelines which convey crude to Kaduna refinery and petroleum products to other northern parts of the country, were razed by the wildfire, which cause could not be ascertained. Activities at the refinery were temporarily halted in the ensuing confusion which lasted for hours. Warri Refinery Fire Service could not handle the rising fire when it was initially detected, thus forcing the management of the company to call on Shell to come to its rescue. The Shell firemen, promptly arrived the scene, but it took almost three hours before the fire could be brought under control. Meanwhile, some essential workers in the refinery had been placed on red alert in case the fire spread beyond control.

Pollution**COATZACOALCOS RIVER, MEXICO**

See "Coatzacoalcos Area, Mexico" under "Pipeline Accidents."

DELAWARE RIVER, UNITED STATES

See Athos I under "Marine."

UNALASKA ISLAND, ALASKA, UNITED STATES

See Selendang Ayu under "Marine."

Weather & Navigation**AUSTRALIA**

London, Jan 4 — A press report, dated today, states: Wild storms caused damage across South Australia yesterday. Houses and parked cars were damaged when late morning thunderstorms brought heavy rain and winds of up to 109 km/h. Among damaged property was a car smashed by a fallen tree in a Salisbury North driveway. Police and ambulance crews were called to several road accidents believed to have been caused by the thunderstorms, but no one was seriously injured. The State Emergency Service responded to more than 160 calls and reported the northern suburbs and Port Pirie to be the areas worst hit. Parafield was hit by wind gusting to 109 km/h just after 1130 hrs, while Snowtown recorded winds of 91 km/h 45 minutes earlier. SES deputy chief officer Stuart Macleod said some roofs, particularly in Port Pirie, had been damaged.

London, Jan 4 — A press report, dated today, states: South Australian maintenance crews are trying to restore power to thousands of households suffering blackouts after lightning and storms swept across the state yesterday and today. About 23,000 homes have been affected by power interruptions since yesterday. ETSA is currently trying to restore power to 5,000 homes in both metropolitan and regional parts of the state. Pockets of the Adelaide Hills and Elizabeth areas are still affected, along with houses in Dublin and Anguston. Crews are also working to restore supply in the state's mid-north, including the towns of Port Pirie and Mt Gambier. ETSA's Gabriela Ramsey says power should be restored by late this afternoon. "The extent of the damage has been quite widespread across the state and crews have been working diligently to restore supply as soon as possible," she said. State Emergency Service crews are continuing to mop up in some of the worst hit areas such as Port Pirie and Port Broughton.

BRAZIL

London, Jan 6 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Two tornadoes that struck southern Brazil have forced hundreds of people from their homes, civil defence officials said yesterday. The tornadoes destroyed three houses in Santa Catarina state Monday (Jan 3), severely damaged 27 and ripped the roof shingles off some 100 houses. At least one death was linked to the twisters. The first tornado touched down on Monday afternoon about six kilometres outside the centre of Criciuma, civil defence officials said. A second twister, with winds topping 115 kilometres-per-hour, struck an hour later even closer to the centre of Criciuma. One elderly man died of a heart attack, which may have been related to stress caused by the high winds. About five people suffered minor injuries. Each tornado lasted about seven minutes.

CHINA

London, Jan 1 — A press report, dated today, states: The heaviest snow in six years hitting Zhejiang Province killed three people and left another eight missing as of Thursday (Dec 30), the provincial civil affairs authority reported yesterday. More than 10 people were injured. The snowfall on Tuesday and Thursday also toppled about 340 houses, mainly in rural areas, and damaged 26,000 hectares of crops, officials said. Direct economic losses were evaluated at 140 million yuan (US\$16.8 million).

HAWAII, UNITED STATES

London, Jan 3 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: An island-wide New Year's Day downpour on Kauai caused flooding in every island community, closing roads, causing landslides, backing up cesspools and rendering many parts of the island impassable. Flooded areas in Waimea, on the island of Kauai, Hawaii, yesterday. No one was injured and the rain had ended by today with both today and tomorrow forecast to stay dry. Steady rain yesterday also soaked Oahu, where Honolulu is located, but not enough to cause significant problems. In Waimea and Waipouli, some residents were reported using boats to travel on flooded roads. The island's belt road and many smaller roads were intermittently closed by rock slides, mudslides, cascading water flows and fallen trees and other debris. A boulder the size of a car fell on Kuhio Highway east of the Kalihiwai Bridge. Streams and rivers flooded all over the island. The stretch of highway between the Hanalei Bridge and Hanalei town was closed for several hours at midday. Public works officials were inspecting bridges after reports one or more could have been damaged when trees carried by floodwaters crashed into them. Civil Defense chief Marshall said there was no damage estimate yesterday afternoon. He said repairs to erosion and sinkholes at the Marriott were expected to be the single biggest financial loss from the flooding.

ITALY

Messina, Dec 30 — The ports of Augusta and Santa Panagia closed at 1300, today, due to bad weather. — Lloyd's Agents.

JAPAN

London, Jan 1 — A press report, dated today, states: Heavy snow hit many parts of the Japanese archipelago yesterday, disrupting public transportation and inconveniencing thousands of holiday travellers. According to the Meteorological Agency, a low-pressure air mass that was moving northward while gaining strength could cause the Sea of Japan coast from Kyushu to Hokkaido to suffer further snowstorms today. According to police, some sections of the Chugoku and Sanyo Expressways, as well as other regional expressway links, were closed due to heavy snow that fell on western Japan on Friday morning. The Tomei Expressway was also temporarily shut down between Tokyo and Numazu, Shizuoka Prefecture. The Tokyo Metropolitan Expressway network was entirely closed for traffic shortly after 1400 hrs. Airlines cancelled 101 flights yesterday and predicted that flights today would be delayed. Roughly 12,000 passengers were affected. Japan Airlines cancelled 41 flights, including a Fukuoka-bound service from Tokyo's Haneda airport as well as a Haneda-bound service from Niigata. All Nippon Airways grounded 57 flights. Hiroshima airport was temporarily closed amid efforts to clear snow off the runway. Departures from Haneda were also delayed on a number of flights as airline workers tried to remove snow that accumulated on aircraft. Some bullet trains on the Sanyo Shinkansen Line operated at slower speeds between Kokura and Hakata stations in Fukuoka Prefecture.

NEW ZEALAND

London, Jan 6 — A press report, dated today, states: Civil defence and police were this morning on high alert in the Hutt Valley as heavy rain overnight threatened to send the Hutt River over its banks. The Hutt Valley was not alone in feeling the vagaries of the New Zealand summer with commuters around Wellington delayed by flooding on the roads and the train link into the capital severed from the Kapiti Coast. Sergeant Andre Kowalczyk of the police central communications centre this morning said many roads were either closed or had surface flooding. "We've got flooding right through the Wellington area," he said. "The Hutt River is quite high — about halfway up the banks." Trains stopped and tracks were impassable. In other rural areas of Wellington, slips also closed some roads.

PAKISTAN

London, Jan 2 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: At least 10 people were killed today, six of them from the same family, as heavy rains continues to lash several areas of Pakistan for the past three days, officials said. "A couple

and their four children died when their house collapsed in Nawar Shaher" near Abbottabad, 186 kilometres north-east of Peshawar, the provincial Crisis Management Cell's official, Muhammad Anwar, told AFP. Anwar said several houses were damaged due to heavy rain in some other places of North West Frontier Province but details of casualties were not immediately available. The Meteorological Office has recorded 90 millimetres of rain in Peshawar since Thursday (Dec 30). Rain and snow in southwestern Baluchistan province left four people dead, officials said. Three people were killed in remote Panjgor town when the wall of a house caved in, while a man was electrocuted in Dalbandin near the Afghan border.

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

London, Jan 2 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Gale force gusts at lunchtime caused a parked Aer Lingus Airbus A3-30 to move from its spot and collide with another Airbus parked beside it at Dublin Airport at about 1300 hrs. The aircrafts were scheduled to fly to Boston and New York this afternoon. No one was on board at the time of the incident and there are no reports of injuries.

London, Jan 2 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Dozens of families were clearing up storm debris tonight after a "mini-tornado" damaged around 100 houses in the Irish Republic. The sudden squall ripped slates from roofs, smashed windows and overturned sheds and cars at around 1300 hrs. The worst affected area covered three housing estates in Clonee in Co Meath on the Dublin border. Gardai and fire officers said it was amazing nobody was injured. Local fire service said they responded to dozens of calls reporting structural damage in Cos Dublin, Meath, northeast Kildare and Louth. Fallen trees were reported in the Tallaght area of Dublin and a local road was closed until further notice because of fallen trees and power lines. All Irish Ferries Swift sailings on the Dublin to Holyhead route were been cancelled.

SOUTH AFRICA

London, Jan 6 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Initial estimates indicate that damage caused by storms in KwaZulu-Natal's interior could be close to R5 million (£450,000). Roads, schools and homes were affected by Monday night's (Jan 3) heavy rains. A special cabinet meeting headed by Zweli Mkhize, the acting provincial premier, was held this morning. Cabinet also visited the stricken areas in a show of support to victims and to assess the damage and see how government can assist in easing the plight of scores of destitute people. Although there is no final financial estimation of the damages incurred as a result of the storms, Petros Ngubane, the mayor of Greytown, believes it could run into millions of rands. Nkosi Nyanga, the KwaZulu-Natal social welfare MEC, and Ngubane also visited the stricken areas to distribute food

parcels and blankets. Mkhize, nonetheless, says this is not enough and has called on the private sector to lend a helping hand. Pietermaritzburg, Nkandla and Ulundi were also affected.

TROPICAL CYCLONE "KERRY"

London, Jan 6 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: At 0001, UTC, today, the centre of tropical cyclone "Kerry" was located near lat 13.7S, long 171.5E, approximately 300 nautical miles north-east of Port Vila, Vanuatu, and has tracked southwestward, or 230 degrees, at 10 knots over the past six hours. The position is accurate to within 60 nautical miles and is based on the centre being located by satellite. Present wind distribution: maximum sustained winds: 40 knots, gusts 50 knots. Radius of 34 knot winds: 45 nautical miles in the north-east quadrant and 50 nautical miles in the remaining three quadrants. The maximum significant wave height is 16 feet. At 0000, UTC, Jan 7, the centre is predicted to be near lat 15.7S, long 167.0E, with maximum sustained winds of 45 knots and gusts to 55 knots.

TROPICAL CYCLONE "RAYMOND"

London, Jan 2 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: At 0600, UTC, today, the centre of tropical cyclone "Raymond" was located near lat 14.2S, long 123.6E. The position is accurate to within 60 nautical miles and is based on the eye fixed by satellite. Movement over past six hours: 100 deg at five knots. Maximum sustained winds 50 knots, gusts 65 knots. Radius of 34-knot winds 50 nautical miles. Forecast for 1800, UTC, today: Position near lat 14.8S, long 125.0E. Maximum sustained winds 55 knots, gusting to 70 knots. Radius of 34-knot winds: 25 nautical miles south-east quadrant, over water, and 50 nautical miles elsewhere. Forecast for 0600, UTC, Jan 3: Position near lat 16.1S, long 126.8E. Maximum sustained winds 40 knots, gusting to 50 knots. Dissipated as a significant tropical cyclone over land.

TYPHOON "TOKAGE"

London, Jan 3 — Passenger Antonina Nezhdanova was righted and towed from Fushiki, Dec 18 on its way for scrapping in Shanghai.

UNITED STATES

London, Jan 5 — A press report, dated today, states: Thousands of homes and businesses have lost power and many school children have a holiday due to snow and ice from the Rockies to the Northeast. The Kansas City area is iced in. Roads are glazed in Iowa and Texas. Snow is scattered from the Colorado Rockies across the Plains and Great Lakes all the way into sections of New England. Airlines have cut hundreds of flights in Chicago. Parts of Kansas and Arizona are under states of emergency.

London, Jan 6 — A press report, dated today, states: A huge storm spread a smear of ice and snow from the Rockies to the Northeast yesterday, snarling

highway and airline traffic, causing record-low temperatures in the Midwest and snapping power lines serving tens of thousands of people. Weather-related traffic deaths included one each in Colorado, Oklahoma, Nebraska and South Dakota. The weather also may have been a contributing factor in a collision that killed another five in Oklahoma and two in Michigan. A search resumed Wednesday for two people who had been in a car that was found washed into a creek in Missouri, and one man was still missing after an Arizona flash flood that killed another man. The snow, sleet and freezing rain were part of a mass of cold air that dropped the temperature to a Jan 5 record low of 39 below zero in Grand Forks, N.D. Embarrass, Minn., hit 43 below, the National Weather Service said. School closings were reported from New Mexico to New Jersey, and hundreds of travellers were stranded across the country. Up to an inch of ice coated the Kansas City area, and layers a half-inch thick glazed highways in Iowa, Oklahoma and the Texas Panhandle, causing numerous traffic accidents. Snow was scattered from the Colorado Rockies - which got 20 inches in just 12 hours at Aspen - across the Plains and Great Lakes all the way into parts of New England, where 6 inches was possible by this morning, the weather service said. The same system had dumped up to 3 feet of snow in the mountains around Los Angeles earlier in the week. Airlines cancelled 590 flights yesterday at O'Hare International Airport and other flights were delayed up to three hours, said Chicago Department of Aviation spokeswoman Kristen Cabanban said. Kansas City, Mo., and Des Moines, Iowa, also had delays and cancellations. Snow accumulations of about a foot were possible by today in parts of Michigan, South Dakota, Illinois and Iowa, where wind gusting to 25 mph caused drifting, meteorologists said.

Earthquakes



SOUTH-EAST ASIA

Singapore, Dec 30 — Container feeder shipping service Samudera Shipping Line Ltd said today that 15 crew on board one of its vessels, cement Sinar Andalas (4405 gt, built 1998), docked at the port of Lhoknga, in Indonesia, were missing after a tsunami capsized the vessel on Sunday (Dec 26). Samudera said in a statement that the vessel was anchored at Lhoknga in Aceh Province when the waves hit. "Only four crew members were rescued, and the group is still in the process of locating the rest of the 19 crew," it said in a statement to the Singapore Exchange (SGX). Samudera said it had insured the vessel, which had a net book value of US\$9.7 million at the end of November. — Reuters.

Mumbai, Dec 31 — As a fresh tsunami alert went out across areas of Tamil Nadu on Dec 30, Chennai and Tuticorin Ports went on high alert mid-morning and operations were suspended with vessels being sent out to the anchorage. "Sea levels are rising and we are on high alert", following warnings that a tsunami may strike. Everybody from the port had been evacuated, said a senior Chennai Port Trust (ChPT) official. All 15 vessels berthed at Chennai were asked to leave the port immediately. "We issued orders and we are providing the tugs", the official said. At Tuticorin, 10 berthed vessels were ordered out. Port officials are also worried about the bulk Gem of Tuticorin, which was badly damaged during the tsunami hit on Dec 26. As the water level is reportedly increasing inside the Port, they said, water may enter the vessel and sink it. According to Chennai Container Terminal (CCT) sources, operations inside the terminal had stopped and the management was evacuating everyone. As of Dec 30, three container vessels were berthed at the terminal, and one vessel was to berth during the day. Inside Chennai Port, 12 vessels were berthed. Container movement to and from CCT had only resumed on Tuesday evening (Dec 28) after a gap of three days following the tsunami strike on the coast of Chennai. The Port and CCT authorities decided to open Gate No10 for trailers to carry export containers to CCT. As a temporary measure, Chennai Port decided to allow entry of export containers through Gate No 10 since fishermen and slum residents of Royapuram affected by the tsunami had obstructed the road leading to Gate No 1. Until an alternative place is found for these families, Chennai Port, in consultation with the port users, decided to allow the export container trailers through Gate No 10 during the permitted time of 2200 hrs to 0600 hrs. Although this is an additional three kilometres inside the port, there is no alternative, as people cannot be asked to move from their temporary shelter. According to reports, there were about 100 such temporary shelters on both sides of the road, and there was no way container trailers could travel in and out of the Zero Gate Road in North Chennai's Kasimedu, which is a major entry and exit point for containers. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Dec 31 — Lloyd's Agency update, dated Dec 30:

Kenya: McLaren's Toplis, Lloyd's Agents at Nairobi and Mombasa have reported the following: "Mombasa port and the surrounding areas were not affected and business continues uninterrupted. The Northern towns of Malindi and Lamu were however slightly hit but no serious incident has been reported apart from damage caused to uninsured fishing boats. Two leading P & I Correspondents in Mombasa say there is no report on any vessel stranded or hit by the Tsunamis"

Malaysia: The following report was received from Singapore late yesterday:

“Penang; Lots of damage at coastal areas mainly occupied by fisherman. Resort areas mainly free from any significant damage. Loss was to people who were swimming in the sea when the tidal waves hit. 60 people confirmed dead so far with about 500 injured. We have 30 instructions for Hotels, mainly water damage. Tanjung Bungah roads inundated with sludge mainly from Sea reclamation. The Ferry and Bridge was closed for about half a day. The airport was closed for a few hours. Industrial areas currently mainly free from any significant damage, although there are reports of some production losses arising from the tremors at about 0900 and the aftershocks about 1300. Damage will be to production machinery and work in progress, maybe some business interruption. In summary, the loss is mainly to lives and the shock surrounding the aftermath. Some industrial losses may be possible although Earthquake as a peril is excluded under the standard fire policies. Liability will be a big issue. There will be claims for cleaning up costs, vehicle damages and PA claims. The industrial claims will filter in. Langkawi; Miraculously, no significant damage to Hotels. Kuah town OK. Some hotels near Pantai Canang, Pelangi, Sheraton, Porto Malai affected. We have been dealing with the Pelangi Hotel loss where a fishing boat was washed into the hotel lobby. Miraculously, the Hotel next door was spared from any damage. Lafarge has a cement factory on Langkawi and some initial reports of damage to the Jetty. Main Plant seems OK. More of the same as Penang, mainly loss of one or two lives. Other areas appears OK. Only the Northern states on the west coast of Malaysia like Perak, Penang, Kedah and Perlis are affected by the tidal wave Tsunami. Up till now Malaysia has about 65 deaths and the figure may be rising slightly. Most of the victims are from Penang where the beaches of Batu Ferringhi and Balik Pulau were slumped by the wave. Fishermen in Balik Pulau and coastal villages were badly affected. At Batu Ferringhi, those affected were mainly the tourists and picnickers. Perak was slightly affected with a few deaths. Kedah and Perlis were badly affected. In Langkawi we understand that some pleasure crafts and pilot boats sank. Fishermen and villagers along the coast of Kedah and Perlis were swamped by the tidal wave. There were also a considerable number of deaths and fishing boats are missing and sunk. Some landed on the road. However all ports in Malaysia are not affected and there is no delay and/or damage to any facility. All Malaysian ports are operational 24 hours a day. During the tidal wave incident, we understand Penang ferry was not affected and the port was not closed. Presently there is a 24 hours Tsunami watch in all states and we understand that up till now there are almost 63 aftershocks with some measuring up

to 5.6 Richter Scale. We understand that when the scale reaches 7.5 Richter Scale, there will be a warning given to the public”.

Seychelles: Harry Savy & Co (Seychelles) Ltd., reports the following: “The water level in the Port Victoria area and in the Southern Parts of the Islands of Mahe, receded suddenly to abnormally low levels and within fifteen minutes the tide rose with subsequent wave force. There has been no substantial damage to larger vessels but many small fishing boats and pleasure crafts were washed ashore. Property damage is also substantial”.

Sri Lanka: Aitken Spence & Co., Ltd., in Colombo have sent the following report this morning: “Currently things appear to be stable but there is speculation that further disturbances may occur. In the port of Colombo the water levels rose considerably up to the top edge of the piers and a small quantity of water went over the piers as well. One vessel grounded while entering the port owing to heavy disturbances. Water entered the dry dock which is at present under control. No damage occurred to containers stored at the JCT and SAGT terminals. The other vessels inside the port are OK. The port movements were suspended on Dec 26, and movements were scheduled to start from noon yesterday. The Port of Galle was heavily flooded causing much chaos and damage and subsequently was heavily silted and at present the condition appears stable. Due to the possibility of the draught been affected, the shipping operations have been suspended for at least a few days. It has been reported that the water levels of the port of Trincomalee rose considerably but things at present appear stable”.

Thailand: Allied Surveyors and Adjusters Ltd., in Bangkok advise that the Lloyd's Sub Agency in Phuket was not affected and is operating normally. It was only the area at or around the beaches that has suffered. The town of Phuket itself was not affected. The provinces of Phanga, Phuket, Krabi and Trang on the south-western coast have all suffered from the tidal waves which were stated to reach 8 metres high. It is now stated that 1,800 persons have drowned. According to Lloyd's Sub-agent in Phuket, no cargo vessels, tankers or cruise ships were anchored or berthed at Phuket when the incident occurred. Only small craft which were near the beaches were destroyed or damaged.

London, Dec 31 — Understand salvage services are being rendered to general cargo Jaami under joint Lloyd's Open Form, dated Dec 29, by Wijmuller Salvage BV and Sri Lanka Shipping Co.

Mumbai, Dec 30 — As a fresh tsunami alert areas flashed across of Tamil Nadu today, Chennai and Tuticorin Ports went on high alert mid-morning and operations were suspended with vessels being sent out to the anchorage

today. “Sea levels are rising and we are on high alert,” said a senior official of the Chennai Port Trust (ChPT) following warnings that a tsunami may strike. Everyone from the port had been evacuated, he added. All the 15 vessels berthed at Chennai Port were asked to leave the port immediately. “We issued orders and we are providing the tugs,” he said. At Tuticorin, ten berthed vessels were ordered out. Port officials are also concerned about bulk Gem of Tuticorin, which was badly damaged during the tsunami hit on Dec 26. As the water level is reportedly increasing inside the port, they said, water may go inside the vessel and sink it. According to Chennai Container Terminal (CCT) sources, operations inside the terminal had stopped and the management was evacuating everyone. As on Dec 30, three container vessels were berthed at the terminal, and one vessel was to berth today. Inside Chennai port, 12 vessels were berthed. Container movement to and from CCT had resumed only on Tuesday evening (Dec 28) after a gap of three days following the tsunami hit on the coast of Chennai. The Port and CCT authorities decided to open Gate No.10 for trailers to carry export containers to CCT. As a temporary measure, Chennai Port decided to allow entry of export containers through Gate No 10 since fishermen and slum residents of Royapuram affected by the tsunami had occupied the road leading to Gate No 1. Until an alternative place is found for shifting these families, Chennai Port, in consultation with the port users, decided to allow the export container trailers through Gate No 10 during the permitted time of 2200 to 0600 hrs. Though this is an additional 3 km inside the port, there is no alternative, as people cannot be asked to move from their temporary shelter. According to reports, there were about 100 such temporary shelters on both sides of the road, and there was no way container trailers could travel in and out of the Zero Gate Road in North Chennai's Kasimedu, which is a major entry and exit point for containers. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Jan 1 — A press report, dated today, states: The damage bill of the tsunami could be as much as \$US14 billion. Such is the impact, economists have begun to cut some growth estimates. Early indications were that the catastrophe could shave 0.7 per cent from Thailand's economic growth and in less developed but harder-hit areas, such as The Maldives, the disaster could lop as much as 4 per cent off growth. Government leaders and economists are still struggling to determine the total damage. Munich Re, the world's largest reinsurer, has estimated the tsunami wreaked economic damage of more than \$10 billion.

London, Jan 2 — A press report, dated today, states: More than a dozen large earthquakes have been recorded in the Indian Ocean since the Boxing Day earthquake that triggered the tsunami in Asia. Geoscience Australia said it

had recorded 14 quakes with magnitudes between 6.0 and 7.0 on the Richter scale. There had also been an aftershock measuring 7.1, the agency said. The most recent aftershock of magnitude 6.5 occurred off the north coast of the Indonesian island of Sumatra at 1725, AEDT, yesterday, Geoscience Australia said.

London, Jan 2 — Passenger ro/ro Akbar arrived Visakhapatnam, Dec 31, from Port Blair.

London, Jan 2 — A press report, dated today, states: Work at the Chennai Port Trust has slowly begun after it was badly affected in last week's tsunami that claimed thousands of lives in Tamil Nadu and damaged property worth several crores. Shipping operations in the busiest port of south India had come to a standstill soon after the tsunami attack and the estimated loss has put at approximately Rs 20 crore. According to Chennai Port Trust officials, the figure would have risen had they not shifted eight vessels and two oil tankers out to the sea soon after the tsunami hit the coast. A cargo vessel undergoing repairs at the port smashed into other vessels floating in the inner harbour after their moorings came off. One of the unmanned vessels hit two hoppers that were unloading 38,000 tonnes of raw sugar from Brazil. Around 1,500 tonnes of sugar was lost, the officer said. "The repair work is in progress and it will take a few days before the port starts functioning as usual," the official added. "Coast Guard ships Sarang and Vikram anchored at Chennai Port were also damaged when an unmanned merchant vessel hit them and caused extensive damage to the vessels," said the commander of Coast Guard (East), Chennai, U.N. Chitnavis. Though the Chennai Port Trust administration said only five employees sustained injuries while running to safety, Coast Guard sources said one person working on a merchant vessel was killed.

London, Jan 3 — A press report, dated today, states: A 6.0-magnitude aftershock rocked the seabed near India's remote Andaman and Nicobar islands overnight but caused no damage, seismologists said. The islands were close to the epicentre of the December 26 magnitude 9 quake that triggered the Indian Ocean's tsunami. Meanwhile officials fear that India's death toll from the disaster could exceed 15,000. Rescuers were conducting an island-by-island search for thousands of missing people. Ronen Sen, India's ambassador to the United States, said in Washington that "the likelihood of these people remaining alive is diminishing." "Fifteen thousand is what - unfortunately, that will be the number, yes," Sen said. India's Andaman and Nicobar islands have been jolted by 94 aftershocks since the Boxing day quake.

Banda Aceh, Indonesia, Jan 3 — Relief workers flew helicopters and cajoled elephants to find and feed survivors and shift the rubble of razed towns today, eight days after tsunamis changed the map of South Asia. Aid

workers struggled to help thousands huddled in makeshift camps in Indonesia's northern Sumatra, where two-thirds of the 145,000 killed across the region died, and to reach remote areas after roads and airstrips were washed away. US helicopters began shuttling injured refugees, many of them children, out of some of the worst hit parts of Aceh province, where many towns and villages were wiped out. Pilots described columns of refugees trudging up the coast towards the provincial capital, Banda Aceh. Some charged the helicopters to fight each other for the food. Affected nations, working with aid agencies, private relief groups and donor governments, have eased some transport bottlenecks, improving capacity to get in goods on a daily basis to serve the estimated five million requiring some form of aid. Many airports are now bursting with emergency supplies but a logistical nightmare looms in distributing them through vast regions where roads and bridges have been washed away, and uncontaminated water is scarce. "The emergency teams are arriving to be blocked by a wall of devastation. Everything is destroyed," Aly-Khan Rajani, CARE Canada's programme manager for Southeast Asia, said in Jakarta. In Sri Lanka, the second-worst-hit nation with more than 30,000 dead and 850,000 homeless, there was little sign of an organised government relief effort but food distribution looked to be smoother. "It's still very chaotic," said Save the Children's Irene Fraser, in Akkaraipattu. "But the situation is changing, co-ordination is happening." Many in refugee camps were sick from a variety of ailments and deep wounds and UNICEF said it had reports of children dying of pneumonia in Aceh. — Reuters.

London, Jan 3 — C.c. Lal Bahadur Shastri sailed Chennai Dec 30, bound Visakhapatnam, arriving Dec 31. Vessel departed Jan 1, bound for Port Klang.

Jakarta, Jan 3 — Cement Sinar Andalas, belonging to PT. Samudera Indonesia, has capsized at Banda Aceh. At about 0800 hrs, Sunday, Dec 26, the vessel was alongside the Semen Andalas wharf at Lhok Nga, loading cement and had loaded 4,800 tonnes, when the first tsunami tidal wave smashed into it. The vessel sank and because the seabed is not even, it turned upside down. Nineteen of the crew were ashore and todate, their whereabouts are not known and they are suspected to be dead. The four persons that were onboard, including the master and chief officer, are safe and well. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Jan 4 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: The Zambian Government has assured the nation not to panic following the damage on the Tazama pipeline that leads to Indeni Petroleum Refinery in Ndola. The damage on the part of the pipeline was a result of the tsunami that has hit southern Asia and part of Africa. Energy and Water Development Minister George Mpombo said Indeni had 60,000 tonnes of crude oil while

another 20,000 tonnes had just been off loaded. Mr Mpombo said Government was making arrangements through the Single Mooring Point (SMP) to transport the other 20,000 tonnes, which remained at the harbour before the disaster. The minister explained in an interview in Ndola yesterday that Indeni Refinery had ordered another 80,000 tonnes of crude oil which was expected to arrive by the end of January. On Saturday (Jan 1), Energy Permanent Secretary Geoffrey Mukala announced that the devastating effects of Asia's tsunami tidal waves would seriously affected Zambia as they had ripped off part of the crude oil pipeline that leads to Indeni in Ndola. He said the 18-inch under-sea pipeline to the Tazama tank farm would only be usable when it was either repaired or replaced and that the only option was to import feed stock through the SPM.

London, Jan 4 — A press report, dated today, states: Boats, aircraft and even elephants were drafted into service to get aid to millions of hungry and sick survivors across tsunami-hit regions yesterday as the death toll from the disaster rose above 145,000. Aid officials gave warning that absolute chaos across much of the region was hampering their efforts to prevent an outbreak of disease among the five million people left in need. The emergency teams are arriving to be blocked by a wall of devastation. Everything is destroyed, Aly-Khan Rajani, of Care International, said of the Indonesian province of Aceh. Jams at airports have delayed the delivery of food and medicine to some of the worst-affected areas, but delivery by boat, one of the only alternatives, has left the aid effort vulnerable to pirates operating along the Sumatran coastline. It is feared that some isolated survivors may not be reached for weeks because of the shattered infrastructure in the worst-hit regions, despite fleets of military helicopters from around the world dropping aid. In Aceh, American military helicopters shuttled injured survivors, many of them children, out of the province as reports surfaced of trafficking in orphans from the disaster. In some areas, violent, hungry mobs have prevented helicopters from landing, forcing them to drop supplies instead. In India's remote Andaman and Nicobar islands, one tribe, fiercely hostile to outsiders, fired arrows at a military helicopter. The UN called for further military aid from developed nations, mostly in the form of boats and helicopters, to reach starving and stranded survivors before time runs out. The British frigate HMS Chatham arrived off the western coast of Sri Lanka yesterday. The United States has sent more than 12,000 troops on board a 12-ship fleet. Around 1,500 US Marines are on their way to the devastated port of Galle in southern Sri Lanka and there is a fleet of warships already off Aceh. The volume of aid waiting to reach survivors is enormous. The UN alone has received donations of a record \$1.5 billion (£0.8 billion) in the past week, equal to its annual budget. The World Bank said that it was ready

to double or triple the \$250 million that it had promised already. Britain pledged yesterday to use its presidency of the G8 group of industrialised nations to press for debt relief for the tsunami-stricken countries. Sandra Bullock, the film actress, donated \$1 million to the American Red Cross to help relief efforts. However, there were reports of people preying on the survivors. A women's group in Sri Lanka reported that rapists were taking advantage of lax security to target women and girls in temporary shelters. In Thailand, thieves have looted luggage and hotel safes at Khao Lak. The Indonesian government now says more than 94,000 people died in the tsunami disaster. The figure is an increase of more than 13,000 on the previous number reported dead. The health ministry says the number of dead is likely to reach more than 100,000. There are still dead bodies in the rubble. Huge graves are being dug for the thousands of victims. The government says it has enough food and medicine for survivors but it has been struggling to get aid to many areas. The UN's relief co-ordinator Jan Egeland says a million people need aid. Attempts to distribute aid in Indonesia to survivors have been severely hampered by an accident at the airport in Banda Aceh in Sumatra. The airport was temporarily closed this morning after a plane carrying supplies hit a cow on the runway and damaged the aircraft's landing gear. Heavy rains after the tsunami in Aceh have increased the risk of cholera and other waterborne diseases. The foreign death/missing-toll currently stands at: Germany: 60 dead, 1,000 missing. Sweden: 52 dead, 2,322 missing. Britain: 40 dead, 159 missing. France: 22 dead, 99+ missing. Norway: 21 dead, 150 missing. Japan: 21 dead. Italy: 18 dead, 540+ missing. Switzerland: 16 dead, 105 missing. America: 15 dead. Australia: 12 dead, 79 missing. South Korea: 11 dead, nine missing.

London, Jan 5 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Another quake was recorded near the Andaman and Nicobar Islands late tonight, bringing the total number of quakes felt by the tsunami-ravaged archipelago today to seven. The latest quake, occurring at 0045, IST, measured 5.5 on the Richter scale and was classified as 'moderate'. Epicentred at a point lat 10.7N, long 91.5E, to the west of Little Andaman island, it came just seven minutes after a quake, measured 5.2 on the scale was recorded south of Great Nicobar island at 0038, IST. With today's quakes, the total number of aftershocks since Dec 26 has reached 103.

London, Jan 5 — A press report, dated Colombo, Sri Lanka, today, states: The damage to Sri Lanka from last week's tsunami tragedy is a provisional \$1.3 billion, the Central Bank said today as it offered cheap concessional credit to help survivors rebuild their lives. It said it will make five billion rupees (\$50 million, R292.5 million) available to those who lost property at a concessionary rate of 6.0 percent interest, compared to the current prime

lending rate of 10.6 percent. Governor Sunil Mendis told reporters the central bank expects rebuilding costs to be incurred this year to reach about 1.3 billion dollars. He said Sri Lankans overseas had contributed \$15 million to a fund established by the bank to help tsunami victims. Mendis said the hotels and fisheries sectors affected by the tsunamis will likely need about three months to recover. "Growth in the first and the second quarters of this year will be affected," the governor said without giving figures. He said the government was expecting a relief package worth about \$320 million from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in the face of the tsunami disaster that has left 30,229 people dead on the island and some 150,000 dead in the region. An IMF official here said Sri Lanka could discuss new arrangements during the upcoming Jakarta summit on the disaster which will also be attended by the IMF to discuss overall international aid to all tsunami affected nations. "What is available in emergency relief assistance is about 150 to 160 million dollars," the IMF local representative, Jeremy Carter, said, adding that Sri Lanka's total debt to the IMF was about \$300 million.

London, Jan 5 — General cargo Jaami: Reported General Average has been declared.

Ymuiden, Jan 5 — We are still carrying out preparations to refloat general cargo Jaami. It may be necessary to tranship some of the cargo of containers in order to facilitate refloating but this is not certain. If all goes well a refloating attempt may be possible at the weekend (Jan 8-9). — Wijsmuller Salvage BV.

London, Jan 5 — A press report, dated today, states: Emergency assistance to Asian communities affected by the tsunami disaster will be needed for at least six months, the United Nations has said, warning that a full recovery would take far longer. The UN children's fund (UNICEF) East Asia director, Anupama Rao Singh, said the immediate concern was to keep victims alive and to rebuild infrastructure such as schools and health centres. "In terms of immediate recovery it will take six to nine months minimum," Singh told reporters at a joint event with the UN's World Food Program, which warned it could take six months to reach all two million people in need of food aid. Malnutrition and disease leading to further deaths are the biggest concern for the United Nations in the coming months, Singh said. Full social and economic recovery in tsunami-affected communities could take much longer, she said. "We are looking at a minimum of two to three years, if not longer depending on the scale (of destruction)," she said, adding that at least one million children had been affected by the crisis. UN Secretary General Kofi Annan previously said the rebuilding effort could take up to 10 years, while World Vision Australia chief executive Tim Costello said reconstruction would take a generation. The number of people killed in the disaster edged up towards 146,000

today, with bodies still being found on the Indian Ocean's devastated shorelines 10 days after the catastrophe. The WFP said it was focussing its immediate energies on getting emergency food aid to the estimated two million tsunami survivors who urgently need it. "The challenges are immense and unprecedented in terms of the need for a response," the WFP's Asia director, Anthony Banbury, told reporters. "The total expected needs for our work are 250 million dollars for the next six months," he said adding only 65 million dollars would be spent on food with the remainder of the money needed to deliver it. Banbury said he expected the money would be pledged at a donors meeting to be held tomorrow in Geneva. More than 900,000 tonnes of food aid has already been distributed to almost half a million people, he said, with Indonesia topping the priority list. "The biggest operational challenge right now is in northern Sumatra and Western Sumatra," he said. He said Banda Aceh in northern Sumatra had become the hub of an unprecedented global humanitarian mission to help survivors of the Dec 26 catastrophe that killed more than 94,000 Indonesians. UN operations are being coordinated out of Bangkok, but Banbury said talks were underway with an unnamed regional government to use a military base as a large-scale logistical hub, which would enable rapid aid delivery throughout the region.

London, Jan 5 — A press report, dated today, states: Colombo port is functioning normally with all operations such as container vessels, bulk vessels, liquid cargo including petroleum products, casual callers and CBM and SPBM operations being carried out smoothly. Galle port is yet to re-open for commercial activities. SLPA engineering team has already been sent to get more detail assessments and expedite to get the port back to operation. In Galle port the main building survived while several others have sustained damage. The pier has been slightly damaged. Several small boats had gone underwater while the harbour has got muddy requiring cleaning up. The Indian navy has completed echo sounding to ascertain the degree of dredging needed. Suction hopper dredger Diyakawa (1169 gt, built 1972) has been washed ashore and SLPA is doing its best to getting it floated. SLPA hopes to get Galle port back to commercial operation within next 7-10 days. Although Trincomalee port jetty was damaged the port has resumed operation. The ports situated in northern part of Sri Lanka, Kankasanturai and Point Pedro have sustained considerable damage.

London, Jan 6 — A press report, dated today, states: An intense earthquake was recorded by the Hong Kong observatory in the seas near North Sumatra, Indonesia, overnight, an official release said early today. The earthquake measuring 5.6 on the Richter scale and with its epicentre about 110 kilometres west of the

provincial capital Banda Aceh, was recorded at 0159, AEDT, today, the release said.

London, Jan 6 — A press report, dated today, states: Two moderate intensity quakes, registering 5.7 and 5.8 on the Richter scale, were recorded early today off India's Nicobar and Indonesia's Sumatra islands, the Indian meteorological department said. The first tremor struck off the Car Nicobar island at 0542, local time, while the second occurred about 0627, local time, off the northern coast of Sumatra island, a department official said.

London, Jan 6 — A press report, dated today, states: Four warships, including a frigate, and the Phangnga Naval Base were hit hard by the tidal waves on Dec 26, with damage estimated at more than 600 million baht (£8.1m). After keeping silent about the fate of the base since the tidal waves struck the province, navy commander-in-chief Adm Samphop Amrapal admitted for the first time yesterday the extent of the damage. "The Phangnga Naval Base was severely damaged," Adm Samphop, who visited the base two days ago, said in Phuket. Two frigates and six patrol vessels are normally stationed at the base at tambon Thap Lamu, in Thai Muang district. It is the main base for the Royal Thai Navy on the Andaman Sea and its primary mission is to take care of territorial waters from Ranong southward to Satun. One of its frigates, HTMS Kra Buri, and three patrol vessels were damaged and washed aground on rocks. Damage at the base itself included more than 480 sailors' homes and part of the Air and Coastal Defence Command at the same base. Four officers were missing and 14 others were injured, he said. "About 480 sailors' families were affected. Overall damage exceeds 600 million baht," said Adm Samphop, adding restoration was an urgent task. The navy commander has deployed public works, civil affairs, medical and supply department staff as well as naval cadets to the Phangnga Naval Base to help in the work. The Naval Dockyard Department has surveyed damage to the warships and expects to start repairs soon. The Supreme Command was supplying its workforce and equipment for the repair and reconstruction, while the United States would help salvage the grounded warships, he said. Phangnga is the most devastated southern province hit by the tidal waves, which also damaged Ranong, Phuket, Krabi, Trang and Satun.

London, Jan 6 — A press report, dated today, states: Sri Lanka Ports Authority cleared one berth yesterday in Galle and also the access road to the berth. The first commercial vessel berthed today to discharge clincker and the cargo will be discharged by grabs direct to trucks. The Colombo-Galle main road has now been cleared for traffic and two damaged bridges were replaced with temporary bridges. The Roads Development Authority RDA is presently focussing on the reconstruction of the highway in the

east, particularly, the highway from Potuwil to Trincomalee has been severely damaged by the tidal waves. However, the floods are causing major difficulties in reconstructing these roads while sand and other materials used for reconstruction have also been washed away. Five RDA directors have been sent to the east to carry out clearance and renovation. They hope to open the highway for traffic in two weeks. All operations functioning smoothly in the port of Colombo.

Jakarta, Jan 6 — The European Commission pledged an additional 350 million euros (\$462 million) over three years today to relief efforts for the devastating Dec 26 Indian Ocean earthquake and tsunami. Speaking at the international tsunami crisis summit, European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso said the pledge still needed the approval of the European parliament. The European Union also proposed a one billion euro concessional loan through the European Investment Bank to help finance reconstruction efforts. He said the commission's budget would have to be reworked to accommodate the 350 million euro pledge, which Barroso said takes the commission's total aid commitment to more than 400 million euros. Yesterday, the United Nations said Governments and rebels in Sumatra, Sri Lanka and Somalia must keep the peace or risk a cut-off in tsunami aid, as Australia and Germany pledged more than \$1.4 billion in disaster assistance. "We have a message to the parties to the conflicts: Suspend your conflict and work together with us to help your own people," a senior U.N. official said. There was now peace in Sumatra's Aceh province, a cease-fire where Tamil Tigers had been active in Sri Lanka, and warlords were not fighting in much of Somalia, U.N. Emergency Relief Coordinator Jan Egeland told reporters. But he added: "We need that cease-fire, that peace, to hold because if new conflict breaks out, we cannot help the people." Germany and Australia pushed the amount so far promised by donors worldwide to nearly \$3.7 billion with pledges of \$680 million and \$765 million, respectively. — Reuters.



ANDAMAN ISLANDS, INDIA

London, Jan 1 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: A mud volcano at the inhabited Baratang Island in Middle Andaman has erupted but the administration said there was no cause for concern. "Mud keeps bubbling in the volcano, but on December 28, the eruption was up to three metres and there was considerable heat," Inspector General of Police S B Deol said. He said the mud volcano was located on one side of the Baratang island, which was

about 100 km from Port Blair. Meanwhile in Kolkata, the Geological Survey of India said barring some aftershocks, it has not found any major activity in the Andaman and Nicobar region, including eruption from any of its dormant volcanoes. "We are keeping a close watch on the overall situation, particularly on dormant volcanoes, though no eruption has been reported by our geologists in the island territory," GSI's Deputy Director-General S K Roy told PTI. Some dormant volcanoes were spread over the islands, of which the one in Barren island last erupted occasionally in 1991 and in 1994.

MOUNT ST. HELENS, WASHINGTON, UNITED STATES

London, Jan 6 — A press report, dated today, states: Scientists and tourists alike took advantage of the clear weather Monday (Jan 3) to get an unfettered look at the ongoing eruption of Mount St. Helens. Scientists are eager to learn whether the rate of magma released has slowed in concert with a seismic activity decline that began Dec 30. On Monday, a modest plume of steam and volcanic gases, accompanied by very little ash, wafted into the air above the crater under clear blue skies. Recent views of the new dome show it breaking up and shedding rocks, which trigger minor ash plumes, according to a volcano update from the USGS Cascades Volcano Observatory in Vancouver. The volcano awakened Sep 23 with a rash of small earthquakes, followed by a series of steam and ash explosions that subsided Oct. 11. Since then, a steady uplifting of super-heated rock has been forming a new dome on the crater, reminiscent of the dome-building activity that occurred in 1986.



ALGERIA

London, Jan 4 — A press report, dated today, states: The leader of a radical Islamic rebel group in Algeria has been arrested and his deputy has been killed, the Interior Ministry has said. Security services detained Nourredine Boudiafi, head of the Armed Islamic Group (GIA), in the eastern Algiers suburb of Bab Ezzouar in November. His deputy, Chaabane Younes, was killed in Chlef, 210km west of Algiers, the ministry added. The GIA has already been weakened by internal rivalries, the statement said. The ministry statement did not give precise details of Mr Boudiafi's arrest or of the killing of Mr Younes, but it said his arrest followed the killing of Mr Boudiafi's predecessor, Rachid Ouakali, alias Abu Tourab, in July by his own men so that Mr Boudiafi could take over.

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BURUNDI

London, Jan 4 — A press report, dated today, states: Burundi's largest armed groups have formed a single national army after more than a decade of war. All but one of the Hutu rebel groups and the Tutsi dominated government army are brought together. The move is a major step in the long process to end the crisis in Burundi that has claimed more than 300,000 lives during an 11 year civil war. However, it will take at least four years before the process of forming the new army is complete. Presidential spokesman Pancrace Cimpaye said that in theory all armed fighters in Burundi were now the responsibility of the government, which would feed, clothe and pay them. President Domitien Ndayizeye signed two laws on Friday (Dec 31) setting up the new army and a new police force. The Burundi Armed Forces will now be known as the National Defence Force. From now on the term rebel will only apply to the National Liberation Forces (FNL). The rebel movement led by Agathon Rwaso are still active on the outskirts of Bujumbura.

COLOMBIA

London, Jan 2 — A press report, dated today, states: Suspected left-wing rebels in Colombia killed 17 peasants at a party to celebrate New Year's Eve, police say. A source said guerrillas from the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (Farc) burst into the party outside Tame, near the Venezuelan border. A witness to the alleged massacre said the group opened fire after saying the villagers were co-operating with right-wing paramilitaries. Police said the victims included four children and six women. The attack took place in the province of Arauca, one of the country's most violent and remote areas, where left and right-wing groups fight for control of drug-smuggling corridors. Arauca police said counter-insurgency police and army investigators have been sent to the area to investigate the allegations. The incident came the same day that a senior Farc commander, Ricardo Palmera, was extradited to the United States on drug trafficking and terrorism charges. Colombia's armed forces chief put his troops on high alert, because of fears of reprisal attacks.

INDIA

London, Jan 1 — A press report dated yesterday states: Four militants, including a self-styled district commander of Hizb-e-Islami outfit, were killed in two separate group clashes in Pulwama and Rajouri districts of Jammu and Kashmir today, official sources said. The commander of Hizb-e-Islami Marya Darvesh, a resident of Gujarat in Pakistan, was killed by militants associated with Harkat-ul-Jehad-e-Islami (HUJI) at Keri Gambhir Mughlian in Rajouri district early today, an official spokesman said. Bodies of three unidentified militants were recovered by police at Momin Danji near

Kralachak in Zainapora area of south Kashmir's Pulwama district this morning, he said adding preliminary investigations revealed that the trio had died in a group clash, the cause of which was not known immediately.

IRAQ

London, Dec 29 — A press report, dated today, states: Insurgents lured Iraqi policemen to a house in west Baghdad and set off a huge amount of explosives, killing at least 29 people, seven of them police. The ambush happened in the ramshackle Ghazalia district after police received a tip-off about a militants' hideout. The blast was set off by remote control as police were inside. The building and several other houses were flattened. The incident, late yesterday, ended a day of unrelenting violence in Sunni Muslim areas north of Baghdad. Dozens of police were killed in a string of apparently coordinated attacks in Tikrit, Samarra, Baquba, and in Baghdad itself where a National Guard general narrowly escaped a car bomb outside his home. Several people were believed to be trapped under the rubble after yesterday's blast, and four policemen are reported missing.

Mosul, Dec 29 — US troops backed by warplanes have killed 25 guerrillas in the northern Iraqi city of Mosul after facing a fierce co-ordinated assault by two suicide bombs and dozens of insurgents, the military said today. The brazen rebel assault today illustrated the increasing boldness of insurgents in the city, following a suicide attack on a Mosul base last week that killed 22 people including 18 Americans — the deadliest single attack on Americans in Iraq since the start of the war to oust Saddam Hussein. Witnesses said the fighting began when a suicide bomber detonated a fuel truck outside a house in Mosul that has been occupied as a combat outpost by US troops since last month. Lieutenant Colonel Paul Hastings, US military spokesman in Mosul, said a patrol responding to the blast was attacked by a second suicide car bomb, and also had to deal with several roadside bombs before reaching the combat outpost. Around 50 insurgents then attacked the outpost with assault rifles, mortars and rocket-propelled grenades, Hastings said. "Close air support was called in. Initial estimates are 25 enemy killed," Hastings said. He said 15 US troops were wounded in the clashes. Security collapsed in Mosul last month when rebels overran several police stations in the city, 390 km north of Baghdad, and most of the city's police fled their posts. The US military has conceded it is not in control of some areas and plans to send thousands more troops to the city ahead of Iraq's elections on Jan 30. Attacks this week on police and other Iraqi security forces have left dozens dead in a sign that the Sunni insurgency, freshly endorsed by Osama bin Laden, remains potent despite US offensives intended to protect the election. In Baghdad, at least 28 people were killed overnight when insurgents detonated three-quarters of a tonne of

explosives in a house that police were raiding, flattening neighbouring homes. Six policemen were among the dead and four officers were missing, an Interior Ministry spokesman said. Witnesses saw at least one more dead woman dug from the rubble of nearby houses razed by the massive blast. At least 21 people were wounded. Police had responded to a call from a neighbour, the ministry spokesman said. "When the police arrived and went in, the house blew up," he said. "It seems to have been a trap." Neighbours said they had called police after becoming suspicious of a foreign-looking dark-skinned man in the house, which they said had been rented this week and filled with boxes. Three houses were razed, while half a dozen others were damaged. Entire families were wiped out, neighbours said. On Monday (Dec 27), an audio tape purportedly from bin Laden endorsed Jordanian militant Abu Musab al-Zarqawi as the al Qaeda leader in Iraq, and declared holy war on US and Iraqi forces trying to safeguard the election. US President George W. Bush said bin Laden's message underlined the importance of the election, which he said pitted the desire for democracy and freedom against the militant's "dark vision" of oppression and bloodshed. Fresh fighting also erupted today in the town of Samarra north of Baghdad. US helicopters circled and gunfire could be heard. Shops were shut and the area was deserted. Four men in police and National Guard uniforms were found dead in Yusufiya, south of Baghdad. One had been shot, the others beheaded. — Reuters.

London, Dec 31 — A press report, dated today, states: A mortar strike set fire to Baghdad's Dura oil refinery yesterday night, an interior ministry official said. Baghdad firefighters were struggling to put out the blaze and called for help at the refinery in the south-western Baghdad suburb, the official said. The attack occurred at 2200 hrs, the official said. The Dura refinery is also home to Baghdad's main power plant. The refinery provides fuel for the plant, which provides electricity for most of Baghdad and outlying areas. It was not immediately clear if the fire had affected the power plant.

London, Jan 2 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Saboteurs blew up an oil pipeline south of Baghdad today, causing a huge fire. The attack was near the Musabayb electricity station in the Bahbahan area some 46 miles south of Baghdad. Explosives were used to destroy the pipeline linking the southern cities of Karbala and Hilla. A huge blaze broke out after the blast sending up thick, black billowing smoke.

London, Jan 3 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Iraqi firefighters put out a fire at a crucial oil refinery in Baghdad on Friday (Dec 31) after an apparent sabotage that officials warned could have caused a "catastrophe" in the nation's capital, the oil ministry said. "The firemen succeeded to put the blaze out at 0630,

GMT," said ministry spokesman Assem Jihad. "A catastrophe was averted." One of the Dura refinery's production units was hit late Thursday in an apparent mortar or rocket attack and Jihad said several firemen were injured fighting the ensuing blaze. Jihad described the attack as another attempt by insurgents to aggravate the fuel shortage gripping oil-rich Iraq that has cars waiting for hours for gas. The attack followed a recent 17-day shutdown in November at the Dura plant after a sabotage attempt crippled the refinery. In Baghdad and much of Iraq, electricity is erratic, with households enjoying power sometimes for as little as three hours per day. Meanwhile, an official from the Northern Oil Company said its teams were fighting to put out five oil well fires around Kabbaza, west of the northern oil centre of Kirkuk, that had been raging since mid-November. The blazes are costing Iraq 20 million dollars per day.

Baghdad, Jan 3 — Insurgents killed 17 Iraqi police and National Guards today in a string of bloody ambushes, bombings and suicide attacks aimed at wrecking Iraq's Jan 30 national election. Two explosions rocked Baghdad, one of them detonated by a suicide bomber posing as a taxi driver who killed two policemen and a civilian near interim Prime Minister Iyad Allawi's party headquarters. The other deadly attacks were centered in the restive Sunni heartland north of the capital, raising further questions among Iraqis on how the country's fledgling security forces will be able to protect voters if they can hardly protect themselves. In west Baghdad, an explosives-laden car tried to ram through a checkpoint on a road leading to Allawi's party offices but hit a police pick-up truck and blew up, setting nearby vehicles ablaze and sending up plumes of black smoke. The Iraqi militant group Army of Ansar al-Sunna, which last week mounted the deadliest suicide attack on Americans since the start of the war with an attack on a US base in Mosul, claimed responsibility for the bombing. The blast, which also wounded 25 people, came a day after insurgents exposed the vulnerability of Iraq's security services with a suicide bombing that killed 25 National Guards. Today's first explosion in Baghdad hit a roadblock about a kilometre from the main offices of Allawi's Iraqi National Accord bloc just minutes before the party had been due to hold a news conference to announce its slate of candidates. — Reuters.

Baghdad, Jan 4 — Gunmen killed the Baghdad governor in Iraq's highest-profile assassination in eight months and a suicide bomber killed 10 people near the Green Zone today in an escalating campaign to wreck a Jan 30 election. The targeting of Governor Ali al-Haidri showed insurgents' power to strike at the heart of Iraq's governing class, raising fresh doubts whether Iraqi security forces can protect politicians and voters as the national

ballot draws near. The assassination took place just hours after a suicide bomber rammed a fuel truck into a checkpoint near Baghdad's Green Zone, manned by police and National Guards. It created a giant fireball that rocked the capital, police and hospital sources said. The bombing also wounded 58 people. Also today, a U.S. Marine was killed in action in al-Anbar province west of Baghdad, the U.S. military said. Since the invasion to oust Saddam in March last year, at least 1,049 U.S. military and Pentagon personnel have been killed in action in Iraq. Including non-combat deaths, the toll is at least 1,334. — Reuters.

Hilla, Iraq, Jan 5 — A suicide car bomb attack on a police academy in the Iraqi town of Hilla killed at least 10 people and wounded at least 25 today, local police said. — Reuters.

ISRAEL

Gaza, Jan 4 — Israeli soldiers shot dead five Palestinians in north Gaza today after mortar fire from Palestinian militants wounded two people in a nearby Jewish settlement, medics on both sides said. Palestinian medics said Israeli tanks fired into the Palestinian town of Beit Lahiya shortly after the mortars crashed into Nissanit settlement. — Reuters.

NEPAL

London, Jan 3 — A press report, dated today, states: Warring Maoist rebels killed nine soldiers and eight policemen in two separate attacks on highways in Nepal on Saturday (Jan 1) and yesterday, government officials said. Five policemen died and six were wounded when the rebels ambushed a police vehicle on the Mahendra Highway in far western Nepal early yesterday morning. On Saturday, four policemen and eight soldiers were killed in a clash on the Koshi Highway in the eastern part of the country.

London, Jan 6 — A press report from Australia, dated today, states: Nepalese security forces say they have killed about 150 Maoist guerrillas in a battle in the country's remote south-west. A spokesman for the Nepalese Army in Kathmandu says 500 Maoists attacked the soldiers. He says fighting is continuing.

PERU

Lima, Jan 1 — Peru declared a state of emergency in the southern Andean town of Andahuaylas today where an armed group led by a radical former soldier stormed a police station and was holding 10 officers hostage. Seven people were injured — two seriously — in a gunfight in the early hours of New Year's Day after former army Maj. Antauro Humala and around 160 followers burst into the station in the town, 560 miles south-east of Lima, to demand the resignation of Peruvian President Alejandro Toledo. Toledo cut short a beach holiday and summoned ministers and key officials to declare a state of emergency, which restricts citizens' rights and puts the area under the control of the security forces. — Reuters.

London, Jan 3 — A press report, dated today states: Four police officers were killed yesterday in a shootout with a group of nationalist dissidents who seized a police station and held hostages while demanding the Peruvian president Alejandro Toledo's resignation, hospital officials said. Shooting started before dawn on a bridge on the other side of town from the captured police station in Andahuaylas, 275 miles south-east of Lima. "We have three bodies in the Hospital of Essalud in Andahuaylas and three wounded," Luis Altamirano, the director of the state-run hospital, told Canal N television. "This was the result of an ambush of a vehicle on the colonial bridge of Andahuaylas heading to the airport, where three police died, all hit by bullets." Leonides Mayma of the town's general hospital told Radioprogramas a police lieutenant had been brought in dead. His hospital was also treating a seriously injured follower of Antauro Humala, a retired army major who, with his brother, seeks to establish a nationalist indigenous movement modelled on the ancient Incan empire.

Lima, Jan 3 — Peruvian police and troops today launched an offensive to retake a police station in a southern Andean town and end a three-day siege by ex-soldiers demanding the resignation of unpopular President Alejandro Toledo. "At about 1400 hrs the government began an intervention to retake the police station," an Interior Ministry spokeswoman said. Live television pictures showed the streets of the farm town of Andahuaylas, 560 miles south-east of Lima, were deserted in heavy rain. Police and troops were shown massing on street corners and some gunfire was heard but the scale of the operation was not immediately apparent. The location of former army Maj Antauro Humala, who launched his action before dawn on New Year's Day to demand Toledo's resignation, was unclear. His 200-strong group of former soldiers and police "reservists" — veterans of wars with Ecuador and leftist rebels in the 1990s — seized guns, grenades, explosives and 25 vehicles and killed four police in clashes yesterday. Witnesses said the group had control of several blocks. The government declared a state of emergency in Andahuaylas and sent 1,000 troops and police to retake the town. Humala told RPP radio as the government started the offensive that one of his men had been killed and two civilians and one of his followers injured. The details could not immediately be confirmed. Humala, who had taken 10 policemen hostage and freed an 11th today, had pledged to hand in his weapons at midday, but backtracked saying the government had broken its promise not to mobilise troops. — Reuters.

London, Jan 4 — The leader of a group of former soldiers holding 17 people hostage in southern Peru had been arrested by the military while he was negotiating a surrender, the rebel leader Antauro Humala himself said by

telephone. An official of the Ombudsman's Office confirmed the arrest. "I have been placed under arrest by military order and in the next few hours I will be taken to anti-terrorist police headquarters in Lima," Humala said on his cellphone. The government official said Humala was negotiating the surrender of his rebel ultra-nationalist group the "Etnocacerista Movement", named after a Peruvian war hero.

Andahuaylas, Jan 4 — An armed group of ex-military nationalists released their hostages and surrendered today, four days after seizing a police station and part of a Peruvian town to demand the president's resignation. An RPP radio reporter in the southern Andean town of Andahuaylas saw insurgents leave the station and get into a bus to turn themselves in to a government commission, a day after their leader was arrested. Some 200 rebels were involved in the uprising but it was unclear how many boarded the bus. The freed hostages got into a separate vehicle. A senior rebel had said the group was holding 19 people including 10 police officers and four army commandos. Unconfirmed media reports put the number at 21. The group's leader, former army Maj. Antauro Humala was arrested late yesterday without a fight after the government rejected his conditions during surrender negotiations. Humala, who rails against what he calls the "generalised corruption and broken promises" of President Alejandro Toledo's government, was flown to Lima to face criminal charges. The bodies of four police officers killed by the group on Sunday (Jan 2) also arrived in Lima. Receiving them, Toledo declared the operation to end the standoff "a success, in relative terms" and vowed there would be no quarter for the rebels. At least six people died in the uprising, which began before dawn on New Year's Day with Humala vowing to fight to the last bullet until Toledo quit. Toledo later said in a televised speech that police had arrested more than 100 people including 94 Humala supporters. Numerous rifles and other weapons had also been confiscated. Many Peruvians were appalled and baffled by Humala's latest action. The uprising showed the depth of popular discontent with Toledo, whom Peruvians accuse of failing to deliver on jobs promises and rein in corruption that has touched more than a dozen of his relatives and cost seven ministers their jobs. — euters.

RUSSIA

London, Jan 4 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: A grenade exploded at a market in Grozny, capital of Russia's republic of Chechnya, injuring six, the Interfax news agency reported today. The blast took place at the Severny market of the Chechen capital last night. Three Russian soldiers, two Chechen policemen and a civilian were injured, the Interfax said.

SENEGAL

London, Dec 30 — A press report, dated today, states: Senegal's government has signed a peace deal with separatist rebels in Casamance, ending one of West Africa's longest-running wars. Thousands of people cheered as the interior minister and rebel leader put their names to a ceasefire pact. Senegalese President Abdoulaye Wade, who made peace a priority when he came to power in 2000, is expected to join the ceremony in Ziguinchor. The signing took place in spite of concerns about rebel factional splits. Details of the agreement signed by rebel leader Father Diamacoune Senghor and Interior Minister Ousman Ngom have yet to be made public but the pact is believed to include details on disarmament and the reintegration of rebel fighters. The treaty is likely to be more of a building block than an immediate solution to the separatist sentiment. At least three factions of the Casamance movement are known to oppose the move. They believe the process is back to front - a peace deal being signed before full agreement on the political and economic future of the region. Casamance is the southwestern corner of Senegal yet it is physically separated by a legacy of colonial history - the former British colony of The Gambia. The 22-year-old rebellion was fuelled by complaints among Casamance's population that they were being marginalised by the more numerous Wolof people of northern Senegal. The Movement of the Democratic Forces of Casamance launched a campaign of violence in 1982, killing some 3,500 people. Its fighters are spread across the borders of The Gambia to the north and Guinea-Bissau in the south. Casamance's white beaches were once a tropical haven for European tourists and its fertile land an important part of Senegal's agricultural output. A lasting peace would see major international aid packages to rebuild villages, de-mine the countryside and revive tourism, agriculture and the fishing industry.

SOMALIA

London, Jan 4 — A press report, dated Jan 3, states: Somali leaders say they are not ready to end their exile in Kenya because it is not safe to return home. Kenya has hosted a two-year peace process that led to the forming of a Somali cabinet last year. In a New Year message, Kenya's leader said Somali politicians should stop worrying about wrangles and instability and return to rebuild their country, but Somali Deputy Speaker Prof Dalha Omar said they were still struggling to win over some warlords in the country. He said they needed help from the international community to disarm the militias and to rebuild a country, which has seen its infrastructure destroyed. A Kenyan minister said that he was expecting to hear by the end of the week when the government planned to leave Kenya. Somali MPs in Nairobi have still to approve a new cabinet, after rejecting

a previously appointed government. In an address, Kenyan President Mwai Kibaki signalled his growing frustration with delays in securing a date for the cabinet to return to the capital, Mogadishu. "They must return because we were making a government, not to stay in Nairobi, but to return home and reconstruct that country," he said. During the past 13 years, rival warlords have battled for control of the country and Somalia has been divided into a patchwork of fiefdoms. All the major warlords are involved in the two-year peace process in neighbouring Kenya that led to President Abdullahi Yusuf's election, raising hopes that Somalia could soon return to normal. (See issue of Dec 29.)

London, Jan 6 — A press report, dated today, states: The African Union could have troops in the Somali capital, Mogadishu, within a few weeks to allow the newly elected Somali government to establish itself. At present the Somali president and parliament are working out of Kenya, because of fears for their security. An AU official said that any force would be deployed as early as possible to protect the new government. New Somali President Abdullahi Yusuf has asked the AU to provide between 15,000 and 20,000 troops. Uganda is reported to have offered 2,000 soldiers for the new force. AU Peace and Security Commissioner Said Djinnit says troops could go to Somalia in the next few weeks, but the size and terms of their mandate were still to be decided. "Time is of the essence," he said. "If the Somalis are seen to work together and be serious about peace then the region and the African Union will be supporting them." Kenya is urging the Somali government to return home, but Somali officials say that it is not yet safe enough to end their exile.

SUDAN

London, Dec 29 — A press report, dated today, states: United Nations food convoys to Sudan's western Darfur region have been suspended because of fighting. The World Food Programme stopped its deliveries on Monday (Dec 27) when rebels attacked police stations in the neighbouring state of West Kordofan. Road closures prevented 70 trucks carrying rations for some 260,000 people reaching Darfur. Despite an April ceasefire, clashes between rebels, pro-government militias and the army continue. The UN has called Darfur one of the world's worst humanitarian crises, with some two million refugees relying on aid handouts since the conflict began nearly two years ago. Security on the ground continues to deteriorate and the African Union troops sent to Darfur to protect the ceasefire monitors are having little impact on the fighting. Both Darfur rebel groups - the Sudan Liberation Army and the Justice and Equality Movement - have denied responsibility for the attacks in Ghubaysh. The situation was confusing as reports suggest a

new rebel movement is claiming responsibility for the attack on the main road to the towns of Nyala in south Darfur and El-Fashir in the north. In another development, the UN is also concerned about the theft by rebels of 13 trucks carrying food aid over the past two weeks.

London, Dec 31 — A press report, dated today, states: Sudan's government and southern rebels have signed a permanent cease-fire as part of a peace deal to end one of Africa's longest-running civil wars. It was signed along with a detailed plan on how to implement earlier agreements just hours before the year-end deadline agreed with the UN. Today's ceremony in the Kenyan town of Naivasha is expected to lead to a comprehensive peace deal in January. The principles of final peace: The army: Unify the two sides into 39,000-strong force if the south does not secede after six years. Autonomy: The south will have autonomy for six years followed by referendum for secession: Oil wealth To be shared 50:50. Jobs: To be split 70:30 in favour of the government in the central administration; to be split 55:45 in favour of the government in Abyei, Blue Nile State and the Nuba mountains. Sharia: Islamic law to remain in the north; Sharia in Khartoum to be decided by an elected assembly. The final January peace settlement will tie together agreements already signed by the government and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM). These deal with the share of power and wealth, the formation of a decentralised administration and steps towards a referendum on secession for the south in six years. The peace deal agreed for the south does not cover the unrest in Sudan's troubled Darfur region but it has been suggested it could become a template for a solution to that conflict.

THAILAND

London, Jan 4 — A press report, dated Jan 3, states: Some 10,000 troops have been deployed to Thailand's three southern provinces, to avert Muslim separatist violence. A wave of attacks has been anticipated ahead of tomorrow's anniversary of an attack on a military base by suspected Muslim insurgents last year. That attack prompted an upsurge in violence that has seen more than 500 people killed. The deployment comes despite the large military involvement in the aid effort in the wake of last week's tsunami. Although insurgent groups in other countries affected by the tsunami have enforced ceasefires to allow relief work to take place unhindered, attacks in the south of Thailand have carried on since the disaster. A number of security officers have been shot dead in the past seven days, and a crowd of people were injured when a bomb was detonated in Yala province. Yesterday, teachers announced they would remain on strike in the region until their security could be assured.

Labour Disputes



BANGLADESH / INDIA

Karachi, Jan 3 — Export and import at Benapole land port remained suspended for the second day at border of Bangladesh/India yesterday while hundreds of trucks with goods including perishable ones are stranded at Benapole on Bangladesh side and Petrapole on Indian side. The situation further deteriorated, as customs officials could not work due to interference by five trade organisations. Clearing and Forwarding (C & F) Agents Association executive Mohsin Milton said that leaders of C&F Agents Association, Import and Export Association, Transport Owners Association, C&F Employees Union and Land Port Handling Workers Union are determined not to call off the strike unless the increased godown and equipment charges are withdrawn by authority. The five trade unions enforced the indefinite strike on January 1 protesting the increase of godown tariff by five times. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

BANGLADESH/INDIA

Karachi, Jan 5 — The Bangladesh government has slashed by 50 per cent the rent of Benapole land port increased by four times on Jan 1, 2005, in order to gain sympathy of different trade bodies, which are observing strike and disrupting export-import at the border of Bangladesh/India. However, traders at Benapole port have said they would continue the strike until the port rent is restored to pre-January 1st level. Announcing a 50 per cent reduction of port rent an official press release said the decision was taken considering the demand of port users and interest of the people. Officials of NBR, Customs, Land Ports, Finance and Shipping ministries meeting revised the rates that will come into force from Jan 4. It said the previous Benapole port rent was fixed in 1985. During the last 20 years Taka has devalued and maintenance cost of the port increased. Transport Owners Association, Importers-Exporters Association, C&F Agents Association and Bandar Handling Sramik Union in a joint press conference said they would continue the strike until the port rent is restored to pre-Jan 1 level. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

BOLIVIA

London, Jan 5 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Bus owners and drivers in Bolivia are holding a 24-hour strike in protest at an unexpected government decision to cut subsidies for petrol and diesel. The strikers blocked roads and stopped transport services in two of the main cities, La

Paz and Cochabamba. Other trade unions and social groups in Bolivia are also considering protests over the government's move, which will lead to price rises of at least 10%. The government says the subsidies are financially unsustainable. It also says they allow Bolivians to resell fuel abroad illegally. The organisers and the government have argued over the amount of support each claims the strike has received.

NIGERIA

Lagos, Jan 6 — Royal Dutch Shell has resumed 22,000 barrels per day (bpd) of oil after ending a community dispute in the troubled Niger Delta that had shut in 100,000 bpd for a month, a spokesman said today. Output from the Kula area would rise to 43,000 bpd, but vandalism around two flow stations may keep 38,000 bpd shut for another week, the spokesman said. — Reuters.

SIERRA LEONE

London, Jan 4 — A press report, dated today, states: The Sierra Leone Labour Congress declared an indefinite strike yesterday, citing government's failure to respond to workers' clamour for increased pay and improved working conditions. Announcing the move, Labour Congress president Mohamed Deen charged that the authorities were not forthcoming regarding negotiations on "the welfare of citizens." "Since Oct 29, the executive council of the Sierra Leone Labour Congress has held several meetings with Government to discuss the unprecedented increases in the prices of petroleum products leading to an unbearable rise in the cost of living," Deen recalled in a statement. He said the government had failed to address the issues of low wages/salaries and poor working conditions, as well as what the union considered an unduly high income tax. "Despite the protracted negotiations, I would like to inform all workers and the nation at large that the Sierra Leone Labour Congress and Government have not reached any settlement on these issues," the labour leader stated. "The Sierra Leone Labour is [therefore] calling on all workers through out Sierra Leone in the public, private and informal sectors to fully support the [strike] action," he declared.

London, Jan 5 — A press report, dated today, states: Sierra Leone's powerful unions today suspended a general strike which completely shut down offices and shops in Freetown, saying that headway has been made in talks with the west African country's government. The president of the Labour Congress, Mohamed Deem, said that the workers' confederation had "taken the position to suspend the stay at home action and we are asking all workers to resume normal duties with effect from today." Union leaders and government officials held talks late into the night and agreed on several points, Deem said. Workers began returning to shops, banks, offices and government buildings in the morning, an AFP correspondent said, but the resumption

of normal activity was slow because national radio did not announce the suspension of the strike until early in the day. Yesterday, the nationwide strike called to protest against the rising cost of living and press for a raise in workers' salaries and several other specific demands left Freetown's main streets deserted and businesses closed. Deem said the strike call issued late Monday (Jan 3) was "suspended, not properly called off," since agreement with the authorities had been reached on some of the workers' demands but two remained outstanding. President Ahmed Tejan Kabbah's government initially sought to placate the workforce by slashing petroleum products' prices by 20 percent, which had been a key issue in the protest. Ministers and labour leaders then gave contradictory accounts on radio of how much progress was made on other fronts, but Deem today said while five issues had been sorted out, one of the remaining ones was the key question of a national minimum wage. No plans had been made for another round of talks in the immediate future.

Awards & Settlements



GUN SALES VIOLATIONS, UNITED STATES

London, Jan 6 — A press report, dated Jan 5, states: Wal-Mart Stores will pay \$14.5 million in fines and other costs to settle a state lawsuit over thousands of gun sales violations at its California stores. The company suspended guns sales at 114 California stores last year after the state documented hundreds of violations at two stores in Sacramento and four other stores in Turlock, Merced, Los Banos and Madera. A subsequent investigation found more violations in Fresno, Folsom, Turlock, Ukiah and Simi Valley. Attorney General Bill Lockyer said the company put all Californians at risk by placing guns in the hands of criminals. Investigators said stores also sold guns without conducting background checks. A Wal-Mart spokesman said the company hasn't yet decided if it will resume sales.

MEDICAL MALPRACTICE, UNITED STATES

London, Jan 6 — A press report, dated Jan 5, states: A doctor who lost his license after leaving a patient on the operating table for 35 minutes while he went to the bank has agreed to pay a \$1.25 million settlement to the patient, the man's lawyer says. The July 10, 2002, incident was the first in a series of events in which David Arndt's career crumbled. Shortly after the incident, the promising orthopedic surgeon was indicted on state charges of allegedly raping and assaulting a 15-year-old

boy. He also faces federal drug charges for, among other things, accepting a package containing 900 grams of crystal methamphetamine worth more than \$100,000. The patient Arndt left anesthetized on an operating table at Mount Auburn Hospital in Cambridge, Massachusetts, Charles Algeri, 48, claims that since the incident he has been in constant pain. Algeri said he has undergone two additional surgeries in an effort to correct the damage. The Waltham man, who used to drive a cab, said he accepted the settlement rather than spend several years in court, and because he wanted to move on with his life. He said the money has helped him buy a house. "But I would rather be walking normal and working than get any money," he said. The agreement was reached several months ago but only revealed today after a request by The Boston Globe. The agreement was paid by Arndt's insurer, said his lawyer, Edward D. McCarthy. Other medical malpractice suits are pending against Arndt, he said. Mount Auburn Hospital also was a party to the settlement, and thus released from the threat of a lawsuit from Algeri, said his lawyer, Marc Breakstone. Three months later after leaving the patient to go to the bank, Arndt was indicted on state charges of allegedly raping and assaulting the teen in Cambridge after plying the boy with drugs. He pleaded not guilty in the case, which is still pending, and was bailed out by his parents for \$70,000. A tentative trial date of April 25 has been scheduled in that case, according to the Middlesex district attorney's office.

PERSONAL INJURY, UNITED STATES

London, Dec 30 — A press report, dated Dec 29, states: A California jury has awarded a former employee of Goshen-based Lippert Components nearly \$4.5 million in damages in a personal injury lawsuit filed in 2001. Lippert's parent company, White Plains-based Drew Industries, said yesterday it planned to appeal the verdict. "We were disappointed in it," said Leigh Abrams, the president and chief executive officer of Drew Industries. "We thought the facts supported our case." The verdict was comprised of compensatory damages of \$464,000 — most of which the company said had been previously paid or accrued — and punitive damages of \$4 million, Drew said. The injury occurred in 2001 to a California man working at Lippert's Rialto, CA, manufacturing plant, which is located near San Bernardino. According to a company news release, a punch press machine injured the employee's hand. Because the company plans to appeal the verdict, Abrams declined to comment on the specific nature of the injury or how it happened. However, he said that it is not unusual for judges in California to reduce punitive damages to four times the amount of compensatory

damages. The judge will decide what damages to impose within 60 days, Abrams said.

SEXUAL ABUSE, UNITED STATES

London, Jan 5 — A press report, dated Jan 4, states: The Roman Catholic Church in California is to pay \$100m (£53m) to the alleged victims of sexual abuse by clergy members, a US judge has announced. The settlement, in Orange County, is the largest made by any Roman Catholic diocese in the United States. It exceeds the \$85m (£44m) payment made to more than 500 plaintiffs two years ago by Boston's diocese, where claims of abuse within the Church in America first emerged. Bishop Tod Brown made an apology at a press conference, which was attended by some of the 87 victims. Some of the details of the settlement emerged last month when the Church announced it had reached a deal after two years of talks. The diocese will pay half of the \$100m settlement, and eight insurance firms will pay the rest. Thousands more cases are still pending in Los Angeles and other parts of the US, with several dioceses reportedly facing possible bankruptcy as a result. Details of the Orange diocese settlement have not been given, but payouts will be based on the length and severity of the abuse and other factors. The allegations dated from 1936 to 1996 and were made against 31 priests, 10 lay workers, one religious brother and two nuns, the Associated Press reported.

Railway Accidents



CASSELTON AREA, NORTH DAKOTA, UNITED STATES

London, Jan 1 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Thirty-two cars of a Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway coal train derailed near Casselton, N.D., about 1730, yesterday, scattering debris and halting traffic. BNSF spokesman Gus Melonas said the train originated from Montana's Powder River Basin and was destined for Superior, Wis., when 32 of the train's 123 cars derailed, leaving 28 cars on their side. "Both main lines are blocked. We are determining detour routes for other (Burlington Northern) traffic," Melonas said from Seattle. Mechanical equipment was brought in last night for crews to begin work. Melonas said the process includes mechanical assessments of the condition of the cars, which includes shoving cars off to the side and re-railing cars if possible. He said the process will continue today and track crews will make necessary repairs. One line is expected to reopen later today. A cause of the derailment has not been determined. No hazardous materials were involved and no one was injured,

Melonas said. It will take three to four weeks to remove all of the debris from the area, he said.

GRANITEVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA, UNITED STATES

London, Jan 6 — A press report, dated today, states: A train wreck in Aiken County this morning has spilled chemicals and sent more than 100 people to a decontamination unit. There is no immediate word on the number of injuries. Sheriff's Lieutenant Michael Frank says two Norfolk Southern freight trains collided in Graniteville about 0230 hrs, this morning. Frank says several cars derailed and one knocked over a tree, trapping a woman in a car for about two hours. She's been taken to the hospital. Frank says a tanker on the other train ruptured and leaked some chemical thought to include chlorine. Residents are being encouraged to stay inside and turn off heaters or air conditioners. An Aiken newspaper reports one tanker car is on fire and emitting a thick, orange vapour. The Aiken Standard says firefighters are still trying to determine what chemicals are in the cars and are —not— yet able to actually fight the fire.

MUNCIE, INDIANA, UNITED STATES

London, Dec 31 — A press report, dated today, states: Seven cars of a Norfolk Southern train derailed on the horseshoe turn just North of Gavin Street in Muncie around noon today. No one was injured in the accident. Two of the cars spilled their contents, which included washers, dryers and boxes of chemical products. The derailment caused road closings where the tracks cross Broadway, Wysor, Hackley, and Gavin Streets. Dave LePoris, deputy director of the Delaware County Emergency Management Agency, would not speculate on the cause of the accident. He also did not know how long the road would remain closed. LePoris said the derailment happened on private property and it's up to the railroad yard manager to decide how and when to clean the area up.

RATLAM AREA, INDIA

London, Jan 3 — A press report, dated today, states: Five wagons of a goods train derailed between Panchpipla and Bajranggarh stations near Ratlam, disrupting rail traffic on the section for several hours today, railway sources said. Trains going towards Mumbai were delayed for several hours following the derailment as coal spilled over 60 to 70 metres of railway tracks, the sources added. Senior railway officials and repair vehicles have rushed to the site from Dohad and Ratlam, they said adding the tracks were cleared by afternoon. However, rail traffic towards Delhi was not affected due to the derailment, they added.



Miscellaneous

ACCIDENT AT COAL MINE, GUANGXI PROVINCE, CHINA

London, Jan 1 — A press report, dated today, states: Ten miners in a southern Guangxi provincial mine were missing after a flood, the government said today. In the accident, a flood in an illegally operated mine near Zhongxu village, Pingying township yesterday left 10 miners trapped with little hope of survival as of this morning, the mine safety administration said in a separate report. According to initial investigations, the accident occurred after mining operations resulted in waters from a local river pouring into the mine shaft. Local press reports said that the flooding was caused by underground explosions, possibly linked to excavations at the mine. The mine safety bureau said that due to the continued accumulation of river waters in the mine, further efforts to pump out the water were deemed ineffective. The owner of the mine has fled the scene and is being sought by local police, it said.

COLLAPSE OF JETTY, LABUAN, MALAYSIA

London, Jan 5 — A press report, dated Jan 4, states: Ferry operations between Kota Kinabalu state and Labuan were suspended for nearly 10 hours after a 21-year-old concrete jetty at the international offshore financial centre collapsed at about 0100 hrs, yesterday. The services, however, resumed yesterday evening after Marine Department officials gave the clearance to Labuan Ferry Corporation Sdn Bhd to operate its Wawasan Perdana vessel that was using the loading ramp located along the collapsed jetty. Labuan Ferry Corporation director Edward Kong said ferry services between the island and Menumbok in Sabah resumed at 1700 hrs. Labuan MP Datuk Suhaili Abdul Rahman said the jetty had collapsed because there had hardly been any maintenance work done on the structure. He said though the ferry services had been allowed to resume, problems could occur if the vessel tried to approach the ramp during rough sea conditions with the rubble of the collapsed jetty nearby. "The authorities should find the RM 1.3 million (£182,000) needed for the reconstruction of a new jetty as soon as possible," said Suhaili.

OUTBREAK OF BOVINE SPONGIFORM ENCEPHALOPATHY, CANADA

London, Jan 4 — A press report, dated today, states: The US response to a second case of mad-cow disease in Canada is being closely monitored in Australia, but forecasters say it is too early to predict any impact on the local beef market. The Canadian government

said the dairy cow from the western province of Alberta found to have the disease was born in 1996 and was probably infected before strict prevention measures were put in place in 1997. Canada is assuring trading partners that its beef is safe and the country has a strong regulatory regime in place to stop the spread of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), also known as mad-cow disease. The US banned the import of live Canadian cattle following the discovery of a case of mad cow disease, also in Alberta, in 2003. Last Thursday (Dec 30), the US announced it would be resuming conditional live imports under strict new regulations. The Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics (ABARE) is monitoring the situation to see if there are any ramifications for the local industry. ABARE commodity forecaster Jammie Penm said Australia competed with Canada for access to the US market and the banning of Canadian exports had created an opportunity for Australian industry.



Fires & Explosions

CHEMICAL PLANT, ARKANSAS, UNITED STATES

London, Jan 3 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: A fire broke out today at a chemical plant in Arkansas where hazardous wastes are destroyed. Nearby homes and businesses were evacuated, and about 500 families were displaced. Plant officials say they discovered the fire about 0800 hrs. About 30 people were working at the plant at the time.

COAL MINE, HUNAN PROVINCE, CHINA

London, Jan 1 — A press report, dated today, states: Ten people have been reported dead in a gas explosion in a central Hunan provincial coal mine, the government said today. The Hunan mine explosion occurred early yesterday in the Zhenzhuling mine in Jiahe county. No other details of the blast were immediately available.

FACTORY, BURY ST EDMUNDS, SUFFOLK, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Jan 5 — A press report, dated today, states: Premier Foods has said October's fire at its Branston pickle factory has hit sales, but the firm added it was on track to meet annual profit forecasts. The impact of the blaze at its factory in Bury St Edmunds means that like-for-like sales growth is expected to be flat, Premier said. Without the fire, like-for-like sales would have been up one percent. The blaze at the factory which makes Branston also affected production of Loyd Grossman sauces. "The fire effectively removed two of our most dynamic growth brands for the last 10

weeks of the year," the company said. Premier added that it expected the Bury St Edmunds factory to be back to full output by February this year.

FACTORY, EAU CLAIRE, WISCONSIN, UNITED STATES

London, Dec 30 — A press report, dated Dec 29, states: A fire caused about \$1 million in damage at an Eau Claire company. It happened early this morning at Presto. Employees spotted smoke in a machine used to make diapers. Company officials say the machine was older and that an electrical short probably started the fire. Presto says this might slow production for a short time, but a new diaper machine is already on the way.

FACTORY, QUEENS, LONG ISLAND CITY, NEW YORK, UNITED STATES

London, Jan 4 — A press report, dated today, states: A massive fire tore through a party supply warehouse in Queens. Flames could be seen shooting through the roof. Late this morning, the fire was under control but a hot spot reignited around noon time. An entire warehouse of paper party goods: tablecloths, napkins and much more, are all up in smoke. Flames shot out of the roof of the party supply warehouse in Long Island City. Thick black smoke clouded the vision of nearly 200 firefighters who responded to the two alarm blaze. Employees evacuated neighbouring businesses when smoke started coming through the walls. The fire hit the M.H. Dicker Supply Corp. warehouse on the corner of 27th Street and 47th Avenue a little after 0800 today before most employees got to work.

FACTORY, RIGAUD, QUEBEC, CANADA

London, Jan 6 — A fire caused major damage to a Rigaud factory that manufactures insulation on Jan 3. The fire at the 17,000 square foot Polybrand plant left dozens of people out of work. No people were injured. The fire's cause is under investigation.

LANDFILL SITE, BATH, NEW YORK, UNITED STATES

London, Dec 29 — A press report, dated today, states: An investigation is continuing into the cause of a fire yesterday night that demolished the Steuben County equipment shed at the county landfill in Bath, destroying an estimated \$1.5 million in equipment. More than 25 units from nine departments as far away as Cameron and Howard were called to assist the Bath volunteer fire department battle flames erupting from the largest building at the landfill. The chief concern for firefighters was a number of fuel tanks and other fuel storage containers housed in the prefabricated steel building located about a quarter mile south of the drop-off area. Scott Martinez, county landfill manager, said the landfill crew had moved equipment into the shed to protect it before locking the building and leaving for the day around 1600 hrs. Martinez said the shed contained a new compactor valued

at \$459,000 and other valuable items, including three large pieces of excavation equipment and all maintenance tools. The fire was called in around 2200 hrs, by neighbours who reported thick black smoke and towering flames against the moonlit sky. Firefighters brought the inferno under control around 0100 hrs. Several units remained on scene until the blaze was fully extinguished around 0430 hrs. The cause of the fire is unknown as of yet, and is under investigation by the Steuben County fire investigators. Crews from Bath and the Bath VA were on the scene of the landfill, located on Turnpike Road, within a few minutes. Also assisting Bath were Kanona, Savona, Avoca, Hammondsport, Campbell, Cameron, Prattsburgh, Howard, Steuben County Fire Investigation Team, county deputies and the state police.

NIGHTCLUB, BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA

London, Dec 31 — At least 175 people have died in a fire that tore through a crowded nightclub in the Argentine capital, Buenos Aires. More than 619 others were injured when the fire broke out late yesterday, city officials said. Up to 4,000 people were inside the club for a New Year performance by rock group Los Callejeros, reports say. Officials are investigating the possibility that emergency exits at the nightclub were locked. Argentine Interior Minister Anibal Fernandez said the blaze may have claimed more victims because the exits had been tied shut with wire. Officials do not yet know what caused the blaze but witnesses say a celebratory flare was set off and foam in the ceiling caught fire. "Someone from the crowd tossed a flare and there were immediately flames," said Fabian Zamudeo, who had been inside the club. Many of the dead are thought to have died from smoke inhalation. "The fire spread in a minute and we were a mountain of people trying to escape," said survivor Ariel Monges, who lost a friend and a cousin in the fire.

OIL PRODUCTION PLANT, FORT MCMURRAY, ALBERTA, CANADA

London, Jan 6 — A press report, dated Jan 5, states: Suncor Energy has begun an investigation into the cause of a fire that began yesterday morning at the company's oil sands facility while also beginning the repairs needed to return the operation to full production. The fire, which began at about 0915 yesterday, was completely extinguished that same day. The fire was located in one of the company's two oil sands upgraders, primarily affecting a coker fractionator, which separates the various crude oil products. Currently, oil production at the facility is operating at about 110,000 barrels per day (bpd). It is not yet known when production will resume to full rates of about 225,000 bpd. Suncor will provide information pertaining to damage estimates and production impact once the investigation is complete. During the fire, about 250 employees who work

in the immediate area were assigned to other portions of the facility. A construction site that employs about 1,200 workers and which is located close to the operating area, has been closed until tomorrow.

London, Jan 6 — A press report, dated Jan 5, states: Less than a day after an explosion and fire at Suncor Energy Ltd.'s main oilsands plant in northern Alberta, the energy producer said today it's too early to say how much the blaze will cost the company, even though it's losing millions of dollars a day of lost oil revenues. The fire, which began yesterday in one of Suncor's two oilsands upgraders, burned for nine hours before being extinguished by the company's own firefighters. With temperatures in the Fort McMurray region of northeastern Alberta dipping below -35C yesterday night, the Suncor plant is damaged by both fire and ice from the water used to douse the blaze. Suncor is currently producing less than half of its 225,000 barrels per day capacity. Company officials said cost estimates for repairs and lost production would be released only after the investigation is completed. John Rogers, Suncor's vice president of investor relations said the presence of large amounts of ice is making it hard to assess the damage. "You have to chip out that ice before you can even get access to the vessel," said Rogers. The fire primarily affected a coker fractionator - a vessel that separates the various crude products that come out of the oily mud. Energy analyst Will Lacey of Calgary-based FirstEnergy Capital said if the damage turns out to be severe, Suncor has business interruption insurance that kicks in after 30 days. Still, the insurance carries a \$10-million deductible that the company would have to pay in addition to at least a month of lost revenues on about 115,000 barrels per day of lower production. At current oil prices of more than \$43 US a barrel, that could cost the company nearly \$5 million US a day. During the fire, about 250 employees who work in the immediate area were assigned to other portions of the oilsands operation. One witness said two explosions several minutes apart rocked the company's Millennium upgrader and sent a fireball six storeys high into the air.

POWER STATION, PEMBA, MOZAMBIQUE

London, Dec 31 — A press report, dated Dec 30, states: The losses caused to Mozambique's publicly owned electricity company, EDM, arising from a fire that swept through the oil-fired power station in the northern city of Pemba on Christmas Day, have been estimated at seven million US dollars, according to a report in today's issue of the Maputo daily "Noticias". This is the cost of the two generators destroyed by the fire plus the money EDM is no longer able to collect from consumers in Pemba. However, EDM has announced that it is doing all in its power to restore power to the entire city so that Pemba residents will not be obliged to

celebrate the New Year in darkness. The company has arranged the emergency import of two one-megawatt generators from South Africa, which should arrive at Pemba airport this afternoon. The head of the EDM Pemba Operational Area, Simeao Cambaco, said that, as soon as they arrive, the generators will be put into position. Meanwhile, in their investigations to ascertain the cause of the fire, the police have detained three EDM workers, who are being interrogated by the Criminal Investigation Police (PIC). Cambaco, however, declined to confirm that negligence by EDM workers had caused the blaze. The main theory so far is that an oil leak was to blame for the disaster - not at all unlikely, given the obsolete state of the generators.

POWER SUBSTATION, NORTH PLAINS, PORTLAND, OREGON, UNITED STATES

London, Jan 5 — A press report, dated Jan 4, states: An explosion at a North Plains power substation cut power to almost 45,000 customers tonight. Portland General Electric said some power insulators “blew” inside the substation at 1929 hrs, which affected a major power line that supplies power to many Washington County cities. This evening, PGE said they had restored power to some of the customers who reside in the North Plains, Banks, Hillsboro, Cornelius, and West Union areas. People who live near the substation, which is on NW Glencoe Rd. and NW North Ave., told a Portland radio station they felt the explosion. PGE said they would work to restore power as soon as possible.

PREMISES, HEBRON, CONNECTICUT, UNITED STATES

London, Jan 6 — A press report, dated Jan 5, states: Vandals burned one building to the ground and heavily damaged several others at the site of the annual Hebron Harvest Fair, sparking an investigation by the state police major crime and arson squads. Some estimates put the damage, including the buildings and contents, at more than \$1 million. “Even the concrete is no good,” fair superintendent Robert Schadtler, referring to the extent of the damage at the Hebron Lions Fairgrounds off Route 85. Police believe the fire was intentionally set, but their investigation has not found any accelerants so far. Police and firefighters were called to the scene at about 0130 hrs, today. When they arrived, a 100-foot-by-50-foot wood-framed building was on fire. The building contained several boats, golf carts and expensive cars including a 2002 Corvette and a mint-condition 1967 Mustang convertible. The cars and boats, which were being stored for the winter, belonged to members of the Lions Club and others, a club official said. All were destroyed. Several other buildings were damaged, including the fire department’s fair headquarters and a bathroom, which were ploughed into with a vehicle and partially collapsed. Police said they have

promising leads based on some evidence and people with whom they spoke. A witness said that some footprints and blood at the site are being examined.

PREMISES, TAUNTON, MASSACHUSETTS, UNITED STATES

London, Jan 6 — A press report, dated Jan 5, states: A fire in the Filene’s store at the Silver City Galleria Monday night (Jan 3) caused an estimated \$1 million in damage, fire officials said. Deputy Fire Chief Ronald Nastri said yesterday that smoke and water damage to clothing, merchandise and equipment caused “at least \$1 million in damage.” Nastri said the figure could go higher. Investigators determined the fire was caused by a hand-held heat gun used to work with plastic shrink wrap in the cosmetics department. Nastri said a store employee, preparing to close, was putting two heat guns away in a cabinet when one of the guns accidentally turned on. He said the heat gun was being placed into the cabinet at the centre of the cosmetics department on the store’s upper level. Heat from the gun ignited the fire, which broke out about 2152 hrs. The fire triggered the store’s sprinkler system, which kept the blaze contained until firefighters arrived at 2156 hrs and brought hoses into the store to extinguish the blaze. The fire was extinguished in about 10 minutes, but not before the entire store filled with smoke. The sprinkler system contained the flames to the cosmetics department, but the upper level of the store suffered significant smoke and water damage. Nastri said water also leaked to the lower level, causing substantial damage. “There was a lot of smoke and water damage to clothes and damage on the lower level,” Nastri said. The store was open for business yesterday, but the public was kept away from all clothing areas of the store by yellow caution tape. Large commercial blowers and dryers were brought in to help clear the air, but the odour of smoke from the fire lingered yesterday.

REFINERY, CHIBA, JAPAN

Tokyo, Jan 5 — Japanese refiner Kyokuto Petroleum Industries (KPI) said today it is running its 175,000 barrels-per-day (bpd) Chiba refinery in eastern Japan at around 83 percent of capacity, with two refining units remaining shut. KPI, a 50:50 joint venture between Mitsui Oil and U.S. oil major ExxonMobil Corp, shut down all of the plant’s refining units on Dec. 30 due to a fire. A KPI spokesman said the refinery was currently processing 145,000 bpd of crude, as an 83,000 bpd vacuum distillation unit (VDU) and a 38,500 bpd hydro cracking unit remained closed. The spokesman said it had no idea yet when it would be able to restart the VDU and hydro cracking unit. A spokesman at Mitsui Oil had said earlier that all units at the Chiba refinery had been restarted except the VDU. — Reuters.

SCRAP METAL PLANT, OKLAHOMA, UNITED STATES

London, Dec 30 — A press report, dated Dec 29, states: Emergency workers today found the bodies of two men in the wreckage created by an explosion at a scrap metal plant that was felt up to 50 miles away. The burned bodies were found near the oil-fueled furnace used to melt aluminum at the Yaffe Iron and Metals plant, Muskogee Sheriff’s Chief Deputy Darrin Smith said. Two other men working at the plant when the explosion occurred last night were treated for injuries and released. Smith said the furnace was “blown completely out of the ground.” Investigators from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives were trying to reconstruct how the explosion occurred. No foul play was suspected. Ten other people were injured by flying debris or damage to homes in an eight-block radius of the plant. Heavy black smoke forced a dozen families to evacuate their homes, but they were later allowed to return. Andrew Yaffe, president of scrap metal company, said smaller blasts had occurred in the furnace before.

WAREHOUSE AND PREMISES, HURST GREEN, SURREY, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Jan 4 — A press report, dated Jan 3, states: A warehouse and office building has been seriously damaged in a fire at an industrial estate in Surrey. Around 40 firefighters attended the blaze today at Watermill Products, a building materials company, at Hurst Green, near Oxted. Two floors of the building at Fairview industrial estate were badly damaged by fire and the entire premises sustained smoke damage. Surrey Fire and Rescue Service said it was not yet known what caused the fire.

WAREHOUSE, INVERCARGILL, NEW ZEALAND

London, Jan 4 — A press report, dated today, states: Fire devastated a freight warehouse in Invercargill yesterday night and police were forced to restrain a large crowd which gathered at the blaze. The fire could be seen all over the city as four appliances fought through the night to bring it under control. A large crowd gathered to watch the fire and ignored pleas from police to move back - luckily no-one was injured. Fireballs ripped into the air fed by fuel drums which ruptured in the intense heat. The drums contained nearly 2,000 litres of highly volatile racing fuel, which had been stored in the warehouse for motor racing events next weekend. Undelivered Christmas packages and company vehicles were also in the warehouse at the time of the fire. The warehouse is insured and its owners say business will continue tomorrow from a site across the road. The fire is being investigated.

WAREHOUSE, RAMSGATE, KENT, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Jan 5 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: A fire at a carpet

warehouse was being tackled by more than 60 firefighters tonight. The blaze broke out in a warehouse in Chatham Street, Ramsgate, just after 2100 hrs, a spokeswoman for Kent Fire and Rescue Service said. She said that 10 pumps and two height vehicles were at the scene, where the whole building was on fire. Fire crews said that no-one was in the building and that no-one had been injured in the blaze.

WILDFIRES, AUSTRALIA

London, Jan 4 — A press report, dated today, states: Stronger winds have fanned a large bushfire burning on Moreton Island today. The fire is burning across a five-kilometre front, mostly in inaccessible terrain. Campers were yesterday evacuated from the eastern side of the island as a precaution and some people have been treated for asthma due to the heavy smoke in the area. The island's senior ranger, Greg Carter, says the fire is not posing any direct threat to property at this stage. "The police have invoked the Public Preservation Act, which was done last night, purely again just to protect people, life and property, if it's needed," he said.



ACCIDENT, BANDA ACEH AIRPORT, INDONESIA

Banda Aceh, Jan 4 — A chartered Boeing 737 cargo aircraft was blocking the runway at Banda Aceh airport, a prime hub for disaster relief aid to Indonesia's tsunami-hit Aceh province, today, a Reuters witness said. He said the landing gear of the aircraft appeared to have collapsed. The cause was unclear but an Australian soldier on the scene said it may have hit a cow. Helicopters continued to fly in and out of the airport, but aircrafts were not able to land. — Reuters.

London, Jan 4 — A press report, dated today, states: The main airport in Indonesia's tsunami-hit Aceh province closed after a cargo plane hit a buffalo was cleared and aid efforts are back on track, a US military official said. "I'm really proud that these people were able to pull this thing out of here in such short time and get this airport back open and ready for business," captain Matt Klunder told CNN. A Boeing 737 cargo plane skidded off the Banda Aceh runway earlier today after hitting the animal. Seven aircraft, ferrying 35 medical officers, volunteers and medical supplies from Jakarta were stranded in the capital by the accident, although helicopters in Aceh were able to continue to airlift stockpiled aid. Specialised lifting equipment had to be brought in by helicopter from Singapore to remove the jet. US navy Sea Hawk helicopters have been airlifting supplies into the most isolated areas of Aceh's west coast

since Saturday (Jan 1) and evacuating some survivors back to Banda Aceh. Klunder said the helicopters had managed to deliver a lot of food, water and medical supplies today.

London, Jan 5 — A press report, dated today, states: Aid flights to a major hub of the international tsunami aid operation in Indonesia resumed yesterday, after workers removed a supply aircraft that was damaged when it hit a herd of cattle. There were no injuries from the crash of the Boeing 737, at Banda Aceh airport in the early morning, but aid flights were blocked for more than 17 hours. The airport reopened yesterday evening, after workers dragged the cargo aircraft, whose undercarriage had partly collapsed, off the runway, an airport official said. It was not immediately clear exactly how many flights were delayed. Helicopters were still able to use the airport.

ACCIDENT, ISLAMABAD AIRPORT, PAKISTAN

London, Jan 4 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: A Pakistani airliner tilted to one side, scraping an engine on the runway, as it landed in Islamabad in poor weather today after a flight from London. None of the 376 passengers and about 18 crew aboard the Pakistan International Airlines Boeing 747 was hurt. Mohammed Latif, a PIA spokesman in the capital, said the jet's right engine hit the ground as Flight PK786 was landing in fog. He said a team of engineers was examining the aircraft to investigate what happened. The engine was damaged.

Karachi, Jan 4 — Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) said its Boeing 747-300 with 435 passengers and 16 crew members, made an emergency landing at Islamabad International airport at 1050, yesterday. The flight PK 786 was coming from London, landed in low visibility a PIA spokesperson said. The aircraft tilted on the right side while landing and the fourth engine smashed the ground, causing considerable damage to the engine. Government officials said it was not a crash-landing and the aircraft landed safely. However, something hit the aircraft during landing, causing damage to one of the engines, they said. The aircraft is being grounded until its engine is replaced. An enquiry has been ordered. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

ACCIDENT, KITTILA AIRPORT, FINLAND

Helsinki, Jan 4 — An Air Yakutia Tupolev 154 was damaged when landing at Kittila Airport at 0900 today. For an unknown reason the plane hit the ground approximately 25 metres before the landing strip and its tyres and tail were damaged. On board were 141 passengers and 12 crew. No injuries are reported. The accident investigation has been started. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Jan 5 — A press report, dated today, states: A Russian Tupolev 154 bringing tourists from Moscow to

Finnish Lapland sustained damage yesterday when attempting a landing at the wrong angle at Kittila Airport. In addition to a crew of 11, the aircraft carried 155 passengers, 46 of whom were children. Nobody was hurt in the incident, but the aircraft was damaged to the extent that it could not take off again. The mishap took place at around 0930 hrs, when an Air Yakutia Tupolev 154's approach to the Kittila runway fell short. "The aircraft approached the runway too low, lifted up its nose, and touched down before the beginning of the designated landing area", explains Accident Investigation Board investigator Jussi Haila. "The plane broke some of the airfield's approach lights, and its wheel tracks start before the beginning of the actual runway, albeit on an asphalted area." The plane's tail hit the ground and some of the hatches got twisted in the unpressurised area at the rear of the fuselage. The landing flaps scraped the ground and were also damaged. After the initial impact, the plane came down onto its landing gear and was brought to a controlled halt. According to the captain, towards the end of the approach the plane suddenly descended for an unknown reason and an increase of throttle power failed to correct the situation. The captain had noticed the bouncy landing but did not report it to the air-traffic control. The air traffic control officer, however, asked the runway to be checked by a maintenance team, who then discovered the broken approach lights and the impressions of the hard landing. The incident was reported to the Accident Investigation Board, but no rescue teams were alerted as the plane had already unloaded its passengers. Kittila Airport does not have an approach radar, but planes are aided to the vicinity of the airfield by the Rovaniemi radar instead. The Instrument Landing System (ILS), which then provides an approach path for the exact alignment and descent of an aircraft on its final approach, was working normally, according to an initial investigation report.

AIRCRAFT DIVERTED TO OAKLAND INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, CALIFORNIA, UNITED STATES

London, Jan 2 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: An Alaska Airlines passenger jet bound from Southern California to Seattle was diverted to Oakland International Airport after pilots noticed a problem with one of the aircraft's fuel pumps. Flight 397 from Ontario landed in Oakland at 0820, this morning without incident. Some of the 110 passengers who had to make connections in Seattle were placed on other Alaska flights. The rest waited for the pump on one of the Boeing M-D-80's fuel tanks to be replaced. Alaska Airlines spokesman Lou Cancelmi said the flight was expected to resume at noon. Cancelmi said the pilot declared an emergency when the fuel warning light came on.

**CANCELLATION OF FLIGHTS
IN/OUT OF KIRKWALL, SCOTLAND**

London, Dec 30 — A press report, dated today, states: Normal service has been resumed at Kirkwall Airport in Orkney after a lightning bolt blew out equipment. Engineers have repaired the damage caused by the strike which knocked-out navigation systems, runway lighting and communications on Tuesday (Dec 28). Flights were delayed and cancelled and a daylight only service was in operation yesterday. However, workers have now managed to fix the affected systems and full operations were returned today. Between eight and 10 inbound and outbound flights from the airport were cancelled after the bolt reduced a lighting mast "to rubble" and caused an electrical surge. Paul Clarkson, general manager for Highlands and Islands Airports Limited (HIAL), said: "As far as the public are concerned it is business as usual. We will be ensuring that everything is completely upgraded today." Experts from National Air Traffic Systems (Nats) rectified the airport's navigational problems while electrical contractors from Wick and Inverness dealt with the lighting system.

**CRASH, AINSWORTH, NEBRASKA,
UNITED STATES**

London, Jan 2 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: The manager of a municipal airport in Ainsworth, Nebraska watched as a corporate jet crash landed and all four people on board were able to walk away just before noon, today. Lance Schipporeit witnessed the Cessna Citation Jet Model 551 come down short of the runway at the north-central Nebraska airport. Schipporeit says the landing gear was down but the aircraft set down about one-thousand feet short of the runway at the old military training base. He says it was uncertain what caused the craft to attempt the landing but there was freezing precipitation in the area. None of the four people on board suffered serious injuries. Schipporeit says the aircraft was owned by Jet Services L-L-C of Hamburg, Pennsylvania.

**CRASH, DAVIESS COUNTY,
KENTUCKY, UNITED STATES**

London, Jan 4 — A press report, dated Jan 3, states: The Federal Aviation Administration is investigating a plane crash in Kentucky that killed a couple from Ascension Parish. 50-year-old Cecil Lewis and 46-year-old Karen Lewis, of Sorrento, were on their way to Indiana, to visit family on New Year's Eve when the Cessna that Cecil Lewis was piloting went down, according to David Osborne of the Daviess County Sheriff's Department. Osborne says the Lewises flew out of Gonzales on Friday afternoon (Dec 31). Evansville Regional Airport officials contacted the Sheriff's Department that evening and told them a single-engine plane had disappeared from the radar. Sheriff's deputies and volunteer firefighters discovered the wreckage in the Saint Lawrence Cemetery. Osborne

says Cecil Lewis reported engine trouble to the Evansville control tower moments before the plane apparently crashed. The Lewises were pronounced dead at the scene and their bodies were taken to the state medical examiner's officer in Louisville.

**CRASH, DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL
PARK, CALIFORNIA,
UNITED STATES**

London, Jan 1 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Three people were hurt yesterday when a helicopter filming a movie crashed at Death Valley National Park in California, authorities said. Two people who were in the helicopter were flown by medical helicopter to the trauma centre at University Medical Centre in Las Vegas, said California Highway Patrol Officer Sarah Treharne in Bishop, Calif. One person was taken by ambulance to Southern Inyo Hospital in Lone Pine, Calif. The crash happened about 1140 hrs off Highway 190 just east of Father Crowley Point, a scenic cliff at the western edge of the park. The Federal Aviation Administration was investigating the crash. FAA spokesman Donn Walker said the French-made Aerospatiale AS350BA helicopter owned by Jetcopters Inc. of Los Angeles was destroyed.

**CRASH, DOLAKHA DISTRICT,
NEPAL**

Karachi, Jan 4 — Nepal Authorities have found the wreckage of an Eurocopter AS 350 (Écureuil) helicopter, owned by Dynasty Air, at 1120 today, about eight km southeast of Jiri bazaar of Dolakha district, 50 miles northeast of Kathmandu, Nepal. The helicopter had left Kathmandu at 0805 this morning and was supposed to land at Lukla airport, gateway to the Everest base camp at 0915 hrs. However, it did not reach the final destination and the airport authority and army started a search. The helicopter was carrying a pilot and two passengers, all Nepalese. There are no survivors, media reports said. Search and rescue helicopters located the wreckage at a height of 9,200 feet near Bhandara, Ramechhap district. It was the first flight to the region after two days of bad weather. The reason of the crash is being investigated, officials said. — Lloyd's List Correspondent

**CRASH, EVERGLADES, FLORIDA,
UNITED STATES**

London, Jan 2 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Rescue workers recovered the body of a pilot in the Everglades early today after a New Year's Eve crash a half mile south of Alligator Alley, a Broward Sheriff's Office spokesman said. Jorge Garcia, 31, of Ocala, was flying the single-engine Cessna 210 that witnesses saw fall from the sky about 2000, yesterday, Sheriff's Office spokesman Hugh Graf said. Sheriff's Office divers used state wildlife officers' airboats to reach the wreckage, which was submerged in three feet of muck and spread over approximately 75 yards. The aircraft belonged to Flight Express Inc.

**CRASH, GALLUP AREA,
NEW MEXICO, UNITED STATES**

See N573B.

**CRASH, MONTERREY, AREA,
MEXICO**

See XB-GSG.

**CRASH, MOUNT GILEAD, OHIO,
UNITED STATES**

London, Dec 30 — A press report, dated today, states: A small airplane trying to land in fog crashed today on the Morrow county airport's runway, killing the three people aboard, authorities said. According to Brian Fisher, the son of Airport Manager Carl Fisher, the Cessna 172 crashed shortly after takeoff from the Morrow County Airport in Mount Gilead. Fisher said the weather suddenly turned bad after the plane took off. Fisher says the pilot turned the plane around soon after takeoff and was trying to land but came in too fast and crashed on the runway. He says the pilot and two passengers were the only people aboard the plane, which he rented to them earlier this morning. Fisher had rented the plane to the pilot, who he says has been flying for at least 20 years. He says she was not qualified to fly in bad weather, when pilots must navigate by instruments and not by sight. All three people on the plane were women.

**CRASH, SAN FRANCISQUITO
CREEK, CALIFORNIA,
UNITED STATES**

London, Jan 3 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Four passengers aboard a single-engine aircraft counted their blessing as they walked away from a crash near the Palo Alto Airport at about 1400, this afternoon. Investigators at the Federal Aviation Administration and the Coast Guard believe mechanical problems may have caused the Piper 2000 to crash as it tried to land. Both wings were ripped off the aircraft as it landed in San Francisquito Creek, just short of the runway. Investigators believe the mud of the creek softened the landing. Debris from the aircraft, including parts of its motor, landed in the water and authorities are concerned that fuel from engine could pollute the creek.

**EMERGENCY LANDING, CHENNAI,
INDIA**

London, Jan 3 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: The Mumbai-bound Air India flight made an emergency landing at Chennai, following a technical snag in one of its engines. Airport sources said the aircraft carrying 139 passengers and 12 crew on board took off at 1150 hrs. However, it returned back at 1220 hrs as the pilot noticed the snag in one of the engine. All the passengers were accommodated in different hotels in the city. The snag in the engine was being attended to, the sources added.

**EMERGENCY LANDING,
DUSHANBE AIRPORT, RUSSIA**

London, Jan 1 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: An Il-76 aircraft, which made an emergency landing

yesterday, is being evacuated in the Dushanbe airport, Tajik First Deputy Emergencies Minister Abdurrakhim Rajabov said. He said the crew was not hurt in the landing, but the aircraft was damaged. "The Il-76 crew said that the plane can be repaired," he said. Rajabov said that the aircraft belongs to Moldova but he does not know if the owner is a private or governmental airline. The airport is closed, and ministry rescuers and airport services are evacuating the Il-76 from the runway.

EMERGENCY LANDING, LUNKEN AIRPORT, CINCINNATI, OHIO, UNITED STATES

London, Jan 5 — A press report, dated today, states: Emergency crews rushed to Lunken airport yesterday after an aircraft had to make an emergency landing. The pilot of an in-bound Cessna reported problems with an indicator just before 2100 hrs. Cincinnati fire crews were put on alert. The aircraft landed safely though and no one was hurt. The cause of the malfunction has not been determined.

EMERGENCY LANDING, WINNIPEG INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, CANADA

London, Jan 5 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: An aircraft with 15 people aboard made an emergency landing in Winnipeg early this afternoon after one of its two engines failed. Emergency crews were placed on standby at Winnipeg International Airport after the crew of a Perimeter Airlines flight reported the engine problem. The Metroliner aircraft was coming in from God's Lake in northern Manitoba. The aircraft landed safely shortly after 1300 hrs.

EMERGENCY LANDINGS, LAGOS, NIGERIA

London, Dec 31 — A press report, dated Dec 30, states: Two major air disasters that would have claimed about 294 passengers yesterday were averted after a Chanchangi Boeing 727 from Port Harcourt and a Kenya Airways Airbus from Nairobi made emergency landing at the Murtala Mohammed Airport, Ikeja, Lagos. The Chanchangi plane had 74 passengers on board while the Kenya Airways Airbus is capable of carrying about 220. The exact number on board could not be confirmed. The nose wheel of Chanchangi aircraft was said to have refused to come out during landing. It is understood that the pilot sent a distress call to the control towers, asking that the runway be prepared for him to force down the aircraft. Federal Airport Authority of Nigeria (FAAN) fire facilities were immediately deployed to the runway to help out should there be any fire in the process of forcing down the aircraft. The aircraft did not suffer any major damage and there were no deaths or injuries in the incident that occurred on the domestic and only runway now being used by local and

foreign airlines because of rehabilitation of the runway meant for international flights. Accident investigators who were at the scene of the incident immediately commenced investigation to ascertain the cause of the problem. The runway was also temporarily closed to pave the way for towing of the aircraft from the runway, an indication that foreign flights into the country would be delayed. Also, the Kenya Airways plane, according to a source, had under-carriage problem which made it impossible for it to land, after the tyres failed to come out. It was learnt that the problem of ejection of the tyres compelled the pilot to force the aircraft down, sparking fires in its under-carriage. The prompt intervention of Federal Airports Authority of Nigerian (FAAN) fire fighting team saved what could have been a major disaster. Confirming the incident, Airport Manager, Engr. Obi Anadu, said the problem was caused by what he called "under pressures on the breaks" of the aircraft. Engr. Anadu, who could not tell the number of passengers on board, said the aircraft emitted some smoke which was immediately put under control by FAAN fire service. Reacting to the incident, the airline's co-ordinator and public relations officer, Alhaji Mohammed Tukur, commended the pilot for the manner he handled the crisis without any casualty. Meanwhile, Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA) has grounded all Chanchangi Boeing 727 planes pending further investigation.

HK2882

London, Jan 4 — Cessna TU206G HK2882, owned and operated by SAVIARE S.A., was destroyed when it crashed near La Macarena, Department of Meta, Colombia, at 1045, EST, Dec 7. The pilot and the five passengers were killed.

HK4349P

London, Jan 4 — Beechcraft B36-TC HK4349P, owned and operated by the Club Aereo del Pacifico, Cali, Colombia, was destroyed during a forced landing following a loss of engine power during initial takeoff climb near Pereira, Department of Risalda, Colombia, at 1438, EST, Dec 10. Two passengers were killed and the pilot sustained minor injuries.

N135NW

London, Jan 4 — A press report, dated today, states: Two pilots on a training exercise suffered minor injuries today after their medical helicopter crashed about a mile from Casa Grande's airport. It's not yet known what caused the crash of the Native Air Ambulance aircraft. As a precaution, both pilots were airlifted to a hospital in the Phoenix area as a precaution. No one else was aboard the helicopter.

London, Jan 6 — Eurocopter EC-35, N135NW, owned by CFS Air LLC, departed William's Gateway on a training flight and crashed in Casa

Grande, Az, reportedly due to a control failure at 2045, Jan 3. Aircraft sustained substantial damage and one minor injury is reported.

N5631K

London, Jan 6 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: A preliminary report from investigators may reveal the cause of a deadly Christmas Day aircraft crash. The National Transportation Safety Board report says "catastrophic engine failure" brought down the Beechcraft aircraft (N5631K) in Sheboygan County, killing Jacob and Carol Westerhoff of Manitowoc. The couple were travelling to a family gathering in the Chicago area.

N573B

London, Dec 31 — Piper PA-31P (Pressurised Navajo) N573B crashed near Gallup, New Mexico, at 1618, Dec 29, while on a flight from Gallup to Newton, Kansas. The aircraft was destroyed. The one person on board was killed.

XB-GSG

London, Jan 4 — Aero Commander AC-685 XB-GSG, was destroyed when it crashed following a loss of control while manoeuvring near Apodaca, State of Nuevo Leon, Mexico, at 1230, CST, Dec 14. The two pilots and three passengers were killed. The flight originated from the Monterrey Del Norte Airport, near Monterrey, State of Nuevo Leon, approximately 1225 hrs and was en route to the McAllen-Miller International Airport, near McAllen, Texas, with Houston, Texas, as its final destination.

Product Recalls



BMW MOTOR VEHICLES, WORLDWIDE

London, Jan 1 — A press report, dated Dec 27, states: The Chinese joint-venture of Germany's BMW AG will recall more than 1,000 5-Series sedans made at its Shenyang plant from Jan 4 after finding a problem with their seat heating mats. The recall includes 1,685 cars made in China with local partner Brilliance China Automotive Holdings Ltd., and is part of a global recall of some 52,200 cars, the joint-venture said in a statement seen by Reuters today. Under certain circumstances, the seat mats can overheat, damaging the surrounding upholstery, though this problem has yet to be found in China, said the statement on the joint-venture's web-site. The fault is limited to the seats, and does not affect any other part of the car, the company said. The Chinese recall covers cars made between May 15 and Dec 17, it said.

Port Delays

Country/Port	Date of report	No.of vessels waiting and/or days delay
Australia		
Abbott Point	4-5-Jan-2005	Coal: 13 vessels due by 28/1; up to 1 day's berthing delay expected subject to cargo availability and berth congestion
Albany	4-5-Jan-2005	Grain: 4 vessels due by 14/1, 1 to load sand, 1 wheat, 2 barley; up to 6 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability
Dalrymple Bay	4-5-Jan-2005	Coal: 3 vessels berthed, 26 anchored; 45 vessels due by 13/3; vessels berthing in order of cargo availability; up to 15 days berthing delay subject to cargo availability and berth congestion can be expected, although vessels with other stems are experiencing longer berthing delay
Dampier	4-5-Jan-2005	Iron ore: Parker Point: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 1 anchored; 9 vessels due by 12/1; up to 6 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; East Intercourse Island: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 3 anchored; 8 vessels due by 14/1; 1-10 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; a 48 hour maintenance shutdown is planned to start ca. 6/1; shippers will always consider a shift to a lay-by berth for loaded vessels awaiting HW; cargo shortages are evident, delays are anticipated and vessels may berth out of turn
Esperance	4-5-Jan-2005	Grain: 2 vessels due by 13/1, both to load unknown cargoes; up to 1 day's delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability
Geraldton	4-5-Jan-2005	Grain: 1 vessel anchored to load wheat; 5 vessels due by 15/1, 4 to load wheat, 1 barley; up to 11 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Hay Point	4-5-Jan-2005	Coal: 2 vessels berthed, 1 anchored; 12 vessels due by 12/1; up to 4 days berthing delay expected subject to cargo availability and berth congestion
Kwinana	4-5-Jan-2005	Grain: 5 vessels anchored to load wheat; 6 vessels due by 19/1, 1 to load barley, 4 wheat, 1 unknown cargo; up to 16 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability
Melbourne	4-5-Jan-2005	Grain: One vessel due 6/1 to load wheat; up to 1 day's delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability
Newcastle	4-5-Jan-2005	Grain: Seven vessels due by 18/1, 6 to load wheat, 1 barley; 1-7 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability
Port Adelaide	4-5-Jan-2005	Grain: No. 27 berth: 5 vessels due by 17/1, 4 to load barley, 1 wheat; one vessel with up to 20 days delay expected due to cargo availability, the remainder 1-2 days delay due to berth congestion and cargo availability
Port Hedland	4-5-Jan-2005	Iron ore: BHP Iron Ore Pty. Ltd., Mt. Newman (Nelson Point), "A" berth: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 1 anchored; 4 vessels due by 16/1; up to 1 day's delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; "B" berth: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 2 anchored; 3 vessels due by 10/1; up to 2 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; BHP Iron Ore Pty. Ltd., Goldsworthy (Finucane Island) "C" berth: 1 vessel due 6/1; no delays expected; Westyard "D" berth: 4 vessels due by 6/1; no delays expected
Port Lincoln	4-5-Jan-2005	Grain: 6 vessels due by 20/1, 3 to load wheat, 2 barley, 1 canola; up to 2 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability
Port Walcott	4-5-Jan-2005	Iron ore: 2 vessels berthed and loading, 5 anchored; 13 vessels due by 14/1; 1-6 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability. Every effort will be made to ensure that vessels berth in order of arrival; however, due to product constraints, this may not be possible. Shippers advise that stores, air freight and crew baggage can no longer be delivered to vessels or taken off at berth. With immediate effect, all stores, airfreight and bags must be delivered/removed by launch.
Brazil		
Rio Grande	4-5-Jan-2005	Two vessels berthed of which 1 urea discharger, 1 rock phosphate discharger; 4 vessels waiting in roads; 42 vessels due over the next 10 days.
Santos	4-5-Jan-2005	Eighteen vessels berthed of which 1 bulk fuel oil loader, 1 chemical products loader/discharger, 7 sugar loaders, 1 general cargo loader, 2 bulk pellets loaders, 1 bulk salt discharger, 2 full container loaders/dischargers, 1 juice in drums loader/discharger, 1 paper coils loader, 1 bulk fertiliser discharger; 20 vessels waiting in roads; 83 vessels due over the next 7 days; Private terminals: Terminal 37: 2 full container loaders/dischargers; Tecondi: 1 full container loader/discharger; Termares: 1 full container loader/discharger; Rodrimar: 1 full container loader/discharger; Cosipa: 2 steel products loaders, 1 full container loader/discharger; Ultrafertil: 1 bulk sulphur discharger; Cargill: 1 bulk fertiliser discharger, 1 bulk soya bean loader; Santos Brasil: 1 full container loader/discharger; Cutrale: 1 bulk pellets loader; Dow: no vessels.

Port Conditions

Sao Sebastiao	4-5-Jan-2005	Three vessels berthed, 4 waiting in roads; 4 vessels due over the next 10 days.
Vitoira	4-5-Jan-2005	Two vessels berthed of which 1 cellulose loader, 1 sugar loader; Terminal Vila Velha: 2 pig-iron loaders, 1 wooden pins discharger, 1 cellulose loader, 1 general cargo loader/discharger; Tubarao: 2 iron ore loaders, 1 soya bean loader, 1 fertiliser discharger; Praia Mole: 3 steel products loaders; Portocel: 1 cellulose loader; Ubu: 1 cellulose loader; 27 vessels waiting in roads; 11 vessels due over the next 7 days.
Bulgaria		
Bourgas	3-Jan-2005	Fifteen vessels in port operating, of which 8 loading (2 coils, 1 transformers, 1 sunflower seeds, 1 bagged ammonium nitrate, 1 scrap, 1 copper anodes, 1 trucks), 7 discharging (1 trucks, 3 sugar, 1 billets, 1 kaolin, 1 zinc concentrate); 15 vessels waiting in roads, of which 11 to load (1 cigarettes, 1 equipment, 2 coils, 1 profiles, 1 barley, 1 bagged ammonium nitrate, 4 empty), 4 to discharge (2 iron ore, 2 sugar); 11 vessels due, of which 4 to load (1 coils, 2 steel sheets, 1 lead), 7 to discharge (1 zinc concentrate, 1 salt, 1 LAB, 3 coal, 1 military equipment).
Egypt		
Alexandria	3-Jan-2005	Thirty-three vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 28 general cargo, 2 bulk carriers, 1 tanker, 2 containers; 12 vessels dry-docked; 14 vessels at inner anchorage, 7 at outer anchorage.
Damietta	3-Jan-2005	Seventeen vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 7 general cargo, 4 containers, 4 bulk carriers, 1 tanker, 1 reefer; 5 vessels at outer anchorage, 1 at inner anchorage.
Suez Canal	3-Jan-2005	Nineteen vessels transiting Northbound, 22 Southbound.
Israel		
Ashdod	3-Jan-2005	No labour problems. Five vessels loading at berth (3 general cargo, 2 bulkers), 12 vessels discharging at berth (8 general cargo, 4 bulkers), 4 container vessels loading/discharging at berth; 2 general cargo vessels waiting at anchorage to load, 6 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (5 general cargo, 1 bulker), 2 container vessels waiting at anchorage to load/dischARGE; 1 vessel under repairs/dry-docked, 1 awaiting orders; 16 vessels due, with 2-3 days delay expected.
Haifa	3-Jan-2005	No labour problems. Two vessels discharging at berth (1 general cargo, 1 bulker), 9 vessels discharging at berth (6 general cargo, 3 bulkers), 10 vessels loading/discharging at berth (4 containers, 1 car carrier, 6 tankers); 1 bulker waiting at anchorage to load, 2 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (1 general cargo, 1 bulker), 6 vessels waiting at anchorage to load/dischARGE (3 containers, 3 tankers); 2 vessels under repairs/dry-docked, 1 awaiting orders; 18 vessels due, with 2-3 days delay expected
Pakistan		
Port Qasim	3-Jan-2005	One project cargo vessel loading at berth, 2 vessels discharging at berth (1 wheat, 1 palm oil), 1 container vessel loading/discharging at berth; 1 container vessel waiting at anchorage to load, 3 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (1 containers, 1 rape seed, 1 HSD).
Russia		
Novorossiysk	3-Jan-2005	Eleven vessels in port operating, of which 8 loading (1 bulk NPK, 1 WRIC/ coils/pipes/ vehicles, 1 scrap, 1 pipes, 1 steel billets, 1 flowers, 2 copper), 3 discharging (2 bulk sugar, 1 citrus); Oil terminal: 4 tankers berthed, all loading, of which 3 crude, 1 fuel oil; 2 tankers in roads, both to load, of which 1 crude oil, 1 diesel oil; 12 tankers due, all to load, of which 11 crude oil, 1 fuel oil.
Sri Lanka		
Colombo	3-Jan-2005	Berthing/unberthing (pilotage) delays being experienced on breakbulk/conventional vessels. Delays to conventional vessels are due to the fact that container/feeder vessels are given priority at breakbulk berths if there is container congestion.
Turkmenistan		
Aladja	3-Jan-2005	Oil products: One vessel in roads to load crude oil.
Okarem	3-Jan-2005	Oil products: Three vessels in roads, all to load crude oil.
Turkmenibashi	3-Jan-2005	Oil products: One vessel loading gasoil at berth; 3 vessels in roads, all to load (1 gasoil, 2 other).

Port Conditions

Ukraine

Mariupol	3-Jan-2005	Eleven vessels in port operating, of which 9 loading (4 steel, 1 pig-iron, 1 fire-clay, 1 coal, 1 sulphur, 1 sunflower beans), 2 discharging (1 heavy lift cargo, 1 food-stuffs); 2 vessels undergoing survey of which 1 kaolin, 1 ammonium nitrate; 11 vessels in roads, of which 10 to load (6 steel, 1 pig-iron, 1 fire-clay, 2 coal), 1 to discharge foodstuffs; 33 vessels due, of which 32 to load (15 steel, 1 pig-iron, 7 coal, 5 fire-clay, 4 sulphur), 1 to discharge/load containers.
Odessa	3-Jan-2005	Thirty-one vessels in port operating, of which 21 loading (13 metal, 1 scrap, 1 general cargo, 2 wood, 1 equipment, 1 corn, 1 barley, 1 ferro alloy), 9 discharging (3 citrus, 1 bananas, 1 sand, 2 luggage, 1 building materials, 1 metal), 1 passenger vessel; 7 vessels in roads, of which 4 to load (1 metal, 1 pig-iron, 1 wheat, 1 barley), 3 to discharge (2 citrus, 1 oil); 78 vessels due, of which 28 to load (17 metal, 3 pig-iron, 2 scrap, 2 wheat, 3 wood, 1 general cargo), 10 to discharge (1 pipes, 5 citrus, 1 sand, 2 oil, 1 barley), 40 to discharge/load containers

United States

Galveston, TX	4-Jan-2005	ADM-Farmland terminal: 2-3 days delay expected
Kalama, WA	4-Jan-2005	Kalama export terminal: 4 days delay expected
New Orleans	4-Jan-2005	Cenex-Harstates/Myrtle Grove: 3-4 days delay expected. Cargill-Westwego: 1-2 days delay expected. ADM/Ama: 10 days delay expected. Bunge/Destrehan: 4 days delay expected. ADM/ Destrehan: 10 days delay expected. ADM/Reserve: 10 days delay expected. Cargill/Reserve: 3 days delay expected. Peavey/Paulina: 3 days delay expected. Zen-Noh/Convent: 3 days delay expected. Cargill/Baton Rouge: no delays expected.
Portland, Oreg	4-Jan-2005	Columbia Grain terminal: 3 days delay expected; CLD Irving terminal: 1 day's delay expected; CLD, O Dock terminals: 3 days delay expected.
Seattle, WA	4-Jan-2005	Louis Dreyfus (Pier 86) terminal: 3 days delay expected.
Tacoma, WA	4-Jan-2005	Temco terminal: 4 days delay expected.
Vancouver, WA	4-Jan-2005	United Harvest terminal: 1 day's delay expected

Yemen

Hodeidah	2-Jan-2005	All berths are occupied; 1 bulk wheat vessel berthed; no vessels anchored; expected waiting times: general cargo/containers: no delays; bagged cargoes: up to 1 day's delay; bulk cargoes: up to 3 days delay.
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