

January 27 2006

Obstacles pile up for new oil spill response unit

Funding needs, uneven regulation and politics make it difficult for seven firms to pool resources, writes John McLaughlin — Tuesday January 24 2006

THE seven participants in an ambitious project to create a unified oil spill response capability in the eastern Mediterranean will decide by April whether to push ahead with the creation of a new joint venture company or significantly scale back their plans.

The proposed new Oil Spill Response Alliance for the Mediterranean was set up in July of last year by seven marine pollution response companies in the region. It won immediate backing from Italian energy group Eni and secured expressions of interest from Total and Repsol.

Block Progress

Yet six months on, according to leading Italian participant Castalia Ecolmar, a number of issues continue to block progress towards an agreement.

Among those obstacles are the reluctance of smaller participants to invest in the fixed assets required by the new organisation.

The regulatory gap separating members from EU states from their extra-community partners is another obstacle to progress.

And political issues continue to complicate discussions, most obviously in the efforts to establish the respective areas of competence for response companies from Turkey, Greece and Cyprus.

The seven founder members of Osrām — from Italy, Spain, Malta, Cyprus, Greece Turkey and Egypt — agreed at a meeting in Sharm el Sheikh last year to set up a 40-vessel rapid-response force capable of responding quickly and effectively in the event of a spill. The new venture would be headquartered in Athens, with its operations centre to be based in Rome.

Sharp rise

Osrām is to focus primarily on the eastern Mediterranean, which has seen a sharp rise in oil transiting its waters with the surge in tanker traffic from the Black Sea and the recent opening of the Caspian oil pipeline, with its terminus at Ceyhan.

After a series of meetings aimed at establishing the structure and modus operandi of the new venture, however, the companies have yet to reach agreement. A fourth meeting is scheduled in Turkey this week and if, as expected, issues remain to be resolved, there will be another meeting in April.

Alessandro Pastorelli, spokesman for Rome-based Castalia Ecolmar, a prime mover behind Osrām and its largest member with around 60 vessels afloat, said the seven had established the April meeting as a deadline for action. "The question is whether we go ahead with setting up a joint-venture company or simply leave it at the level of a protocol on mutual support," he said.

Regulatory conflicts are one obstacle the members have yet to hurdle. The involvement of Egyptian company Petro Environmental Services is complicated by the gaps between EU maritime regulation and considerably looser Egyptian requirements, Mr Pastorelli said.

At the same time, he said Castalia was eager to have the Egyptians on board. "It is not only the second largest company involved, with a significant fleet and an average of 20 vessels working on spot charter at any one time, but as a company that works with the oil multinationals on the Suez Canal it is also reliable and professional."

The small size of some of the other members of the venture presented problems of a different kind.

"The idea is to have six or seven centres where we would have assets deployed.

"But the smaller companies are not obliged to have a fixed presence in their area so they have not made these investments.

"Compared with Italy and, increasingly, Spain, where there is a large, qualified presence, they do not have fixed fleets in place."

For this joint venture, he said, "we may not need a fleet like we have in Italy, but there has to be a minimum fixed capability or it makes no sense to go ahead."



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

Vessel	Type	Flag	Class	GT	DWT	Bit	Casualty
<i>AMBER NICOLE</i>	fishing	USA	—	181	—	1980	Had fire break out at Fairhaven Shipyard, New Bedford, Jan 16. Understood electrical fire. Pushed away from dock. Extensive damage to sleeping quarters, pilothouse & kitchen.
<i>ANANGEL DYNASTY</i>	bulker	GRC	NV	86,600	171,101	1999	Ran aground in front of Bara Corner, Dardanelles, in lat 40 11.57N, long 26 23.24E, Jan 13. Still aground Jan 16. Tugs on scene.
<i>ASANDA</i>	fishing	RUS	—	736	—	1969	Capsized & sank off Sakhalin Island in Tatar Strait Jan 16.
<i>BALTIC SKIPPER</i>	general	GIB	GL	2,280	3,111	1997	Reportedly towed into Boulogne Jan 12-13 with engine problems. Being towed to Wilhelmshaven for repairs. Arrived Wilhelmshaven Jan 17.
<i>CODESIDE</i>	trawler	ESP	BV	367	330	1979	In collision with bulk <i>S.A.Fortius</i> about 20 miles west of Cape Finisterre Jan 11. Denting sustained. Proceeded to Vigo.
<i>DILZA</i>	general	CPV	—	499	1,470	1978	Sailed St. Vincent (CPV) Jan 17, had explosion in hatch resulting in fire & subsequently sank same day.
<i>HASAN ATASOY</i>	general	TUR	—	1,215	1,819	1965	Had difficulties about 9 miles from Ancona and towed into Ancona Dec 31. Subsequently towed to final destination for reparation's works Jan 13.
<i>JIANG SHEN</i>	general	PAN	—	5,615	6,695	1983	In collision with a Chinese fishing vessel in heavy fog, near Wenzhou, Zhejiang Province Jan 12. Four persons from fishing boat missing.
<i>LESLIE LEE</i>	fishing	USA	—	186	—	1977	Had severe water ingress into engine-room near Balenas Island, BC, in lat 49 21N, long 124 10W, Jan 11. Water pumped out of ballast tank.
<i>PRESIDENTE ARTURO UMBERTO ILLIA</i>	product tanker	ARG	LR	32,157	58,570	1983	Grounded at Km 13.6, Canal Emilio Mitre, Jan 4. Refloated Jan 7 with assistance from three tugs. No damage reported. Proceeded.
<i>RONSARD</i>	fishing	FRA	BV	223	—	1989	Reported disabled due to engine-room fire in lat 50 08.2N, long 05 46.4W, Jan 13. Tug <i>Anglian Princess</i> proceeding. Under way same day.
<i>S.A. FORTIUS</i>	bulker	BHS	BV	87,542	172,100	2001	In collision with trawler <i>Codeside</i> about 20 miles west of Cape Finisterre Jan 11. Sustained a 0.5m hole to starboard, 4m above waterline. Repaired & proceeded to Rotterdam.
<i>UNIVERSE 1</i>	general	KHM	—	1,104	1,600	1982	Anchored in lat 33 55.6N, long 134 59.9E, Jan 15 with engine trouble. Crew trying to repair. Still anchored Jan 17.
<i>VARANDEY</i>	ro-ro	RUS	RS	1,491	1,322	1985	Washed aground in Bay of Olya Jan 12. Divers examined under water part & found numerous cracks & holes, some repaired by crew. Still aground Jan 18.

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The following reports are reprinted from Lloyd's List



A.B.LUBECK (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Jan 13 — A press report, dated today, states: The alarm was raised as the crew of general cargo *A.B.Lubeck* (2844 gt, built 1997) arrived at Musgrave Wharf, Belfast, from Birkenhead around 0930 hrs. At its height 40 firefighters and six appliances dealt with the incident, which involved scrap metal and waste oil in the hold of the ship. Northern Ireland Fire Service Divisional Officer Gerry Toman said a crane was used to offload the cargo from the vessel. Mr Toman said: "There is no actual damage to the ship, only to the cargo. "An investigation is underway but there is no indication of the cause at the moment." No-one was injured in the incident. (Note — *A.B.Lubeck* arrived Belfast Jan 11 from Birkenhead.)

AEGITNA (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

Vigo, Dec 31 — General cargo *Aegitna* is still under repair at Vigo. — Lloyd's Agents.

AGAT (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Jan 14 — General cargo *Agat*, which was towed into Vigo Dec 19 with engine problems, subsequently passed Cape Finisterre Jan 5. Vessel then sailed to Liverpool, from where it departed Jan 10 for Rotterdam.

AMBER NICOLE (U.S.A.)

London, Jan 16 — A press report, dated today, states: Fishing *Amber Nicole* (181 gt, built 1980) had fire break out at Fairhaven Shipyard, New Bedford, at 0900, local time, today. It was above deck and there were no injuries. There was no one on the vessel at the time, because the cold weather was holding the crew back. Investigators at the scene believe it may have been an electrical fire.

London, Jan 16 — Following received from Coast Guard Boston, timed 1845, UTC: Fishing *Amber Nicole*, official number 618355, is believed to still be on fire, according to last information received.

London, Jan 16 — A press report, dated today, states: Tugs pushed burning fishing *Amber Nicole* away from its dock this morning to prevent the fire from spreading to other boats in a Fairhaven marina. The fire broke out on the *Amber Nicole* at about 0800 hrs at the Fairhaven Shipyard and Marina. The fire started in the crew's quarters below deck as the fishing boat sat wedged between other boats. Officials said windy conditions gave them no other choice but to move the burning boat to prevent the fire from spreading. "This time of the year

there's a lot of boats still in port. This is a chockablock full harbour here with a lot of boats," harbour-master Gary Golas said. Tugs pushed *Amber Nicole* across open water to the steamship dock, where the fire could be fought more safely and effectively. No one was hurt. *Amber Nicole* was to set out on a fishing trip Saturday. "They just finished a complete refurbishment of the boat. It could be electrical. It could be anything," said Brad Allua, the harbour maintenance chief. Estepa reported that once the fire was out, crews started pumping out the water used to fight the flames for fear *Amber Nicole* would sink from the extra weight.

London, Jan 18 — A press report, dated today, states: A contractor removed contaminants yesterday from fishing *Amber Nicole*, an 89-foot Fairhaven scalloper with \$500,000 in fire damages. Fire Chief Timothy P. Francis said Frank Corp. Environmental Services of New Bedford, a licensed hazardous materials contractor, removed water mixed with grease and other contaminants from the interior of the boat. The fire on the boat at the Fairhaven Shipyard, which was reported about 0800 Monday, extensively damaged the sleeping quarters, pilothouse and kitchen. The fire jumped to sistership *Kathleen & Mary* (166 gt, built 1985) tied to *Amber Nicole*, and melted the radar, antenna and other navigation equipment. It also damaged the pilothouse windows. The owner of the two ships is Warren Alexander of New Bedford. Firefighters battled frigid conditions and gusty winds to extinguish the blaze. Chief Francis said the fire remains under investigation, although he suspects it was a combustible that got too close to the wall-mounted heating unit, which warms the bunk room. "That was the only source of power in the bunk room," he said of the heating unit. He said items are being tested by fire investigators.

ANANGEL DYNASTY (Greece)

London, Jan 13 — Bulk *Anangel Dynasty* (86600 gt, built 1999) Tubarao to Constantza, ran aground in front of Nara Corner in Dardanelles, in lat 40 11.57N, long 26 23.24E at 0455, today.

London, Jan 13 — Bulk *Anangel Dynasty* remains aground. Tugs and divers are in vicinity of the casualty.

London, Jan 14 — Dardanelles: Vessel passages have been suspended for northbound vessels at 0455, local time, Jan 13 because of salvage operation in the strait for bulk *Anangel Dynasty*.

Later: Vessel passages have been suspended also for southbound vessels at 1500, local time, Jan 13, because of salvage operation in the strait for *Anangel Dynasty*.

Later: Strait is open for southbound vessels at 1800, local time, Jan 13 because of salvage operation stopped for today.

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

Later: Vessel passages have been suspended for southbound vessels again at 2130, local time, Jan 13 and the strait is opened for northbound vessels at 2230, local time.

London, Jan 14 — Dardanelles: Vessel passages have been suspended for northbound and southbound vessels at 0800, local time, today because of salvage operation in the strait for bulk *Anangel Dynasty*.

London, Jan 14 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 0935, UTC: Bulk *Anangel Dynasty* remains aground in lat 40 11.5N, long 26 23.2E. Two tugs reportedly on scene. We are waiting for the vessel's master to update us on refloating operations.

London, Jan 14 — Bulk *Anangel Dynasty*: Strait will open for southbound vessels at 1600, local time, because of salvage operation stopped for today.

London, Jan 15 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 1103, UTC: Bulk *Anangel Dynasty* remains aground in lat 40 11.5N, long 26 23.2E. Understood that refloating attempts, using five tugs, have to date been unsuccessful.

London, Jan 15 — Bulk *Anangel Dynasty*. Dardanelles: Vessel passages have been suspended for southbound vessels today because of salvage operations in the strait for bulk *Anangel Dynasty*.

London, Jan 15 — Dardanelles: Northbound traffic will be suspended at 2230, local time, today and southbound traffic will be open at 0030, local time, Jan 16 because of grounded vessel (bulk *Anangel Dynasty*) in front of Nara lighthouse.

London, Jan 16 — A press report, dated Jan 13, states: Bulk *Anangel Dynasty* is carrying around 160,000 tonnes of coal from Brazil to Romania.

Istanbul, Jan 16 — Bulk *Anangel Dynasty* is still aground. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Jan 16 — Dardanelles: Southbound traffic has been suspended at 1630, local time, today, and northbound traffic has been opened 1830, local time, today, because of a grounded vessel (bulk *Anangel Dynasty*) in front of Nara lighthouse.

London, Jan 17 — Traffic in the Canakkale Strait was suspended at 0700, today, for the salvage operation of bulk *Anangel Dynasty*.

London, Jan 17 — Bulk *Anangel Dynasty*, grounded in front of Nara Lighthouse, Dardanelles: Strait reportedly opened for southbound vessels at 1600, local time, today, after salvage operation stopped for the day.

London, Jan 18 — Dardanelles: Strait is open for northbound vessels at 0030, local time, today because of salvage operation of bulk *Anangel Dynasty* has stopped. Strait will close at 0400, local time because of restart of salvage operation.

London, Jan 18 — Bulk *Anangel Dynasty*: Dardanelles strait will open for northbound vessels at 0900, local time, Jan 18.

London, Jan 19 — Bulk *Anangel Dynasty*: Dardanelles vessel traffic open for only southbound vessels at 0130, local time, today. (Later): Southbound traffic suspended at 0500, local time, and northbound traffic opened at 0630, local time, because of grounded vessel in front of Nara lighthouse.

Istanbul, Jan 19 — Salvage operation of bulk *Anangel Dynasty*, with reported cargo 164,993 tonnes of iron ore, has been suspended due to transshipment of vessel's cargo and bad weather conditions until Jan 21. Traffic will continue only one side changing north/south or south/north in the strait of Canakkale. Traffic is clear for northbound vessels from 0915 Jan 18 and southbound traffic will be clear at 2400 Jan 18 in the strait of Canakkale. — Lloyd's Agents.

ANG PANGULO (Philippines)

Manila, Jan 16 — The Philippine presidential yacht *Ang Pangulo*, (83 metres, built 1959, 2,727 dwt) caught fire on Jan 14 while undergoing repairs at the Keppel Batangas shipyard in Bauan, the Philippine Navy reported today. A Navy officer and three enlisted men suffered minor burns as a result of the fire and were brought to Bauan Doctors Hospital and discharged later in the day. In an initial report, the Philippine Navy said that "smoke was first noticed in the vicinity of the access door of the main and auxiliary engine room while the generator and watertight watches were conducting routine inspection of said areas." The crew immediately tried to combat the fire using fire extinguishers. The fire was finally put under control with the help of shipyard safety personnel and Keppel fire-fighting tugs. Damage to the vessel included: chilled water piping insulation, electrical wiring, the dust catcher room, skylight openings, an air-conditioning unit and sight glass for reserve tanks and pressure gauges. The cost of damage is still to be determined. "The fire was believed to be caused by faulty electrical wiring," Philippine Navy chief Vice-Admiral Mateo Mayuga said after conducting an inspection of the vessel, yesterday. He also ordered the Commander, Philippine Fleet to conduct an immediate investigation to determine responsibility for the fire. The vessel has been undergoing repairs at the Keppel Batangas yard since November last year and was expected to be completed in February this year. It is not clear how much longer the vessel will remain in the yard following the fire. The yacht was built in Japan as a presidential yacht and command ship and donated to the Philippines as part of its war reparations. It has been in service since 1959. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

ANTONIS A. (Panama)

London, Jan 17 — Chemical/oil carrier *Antonis A.* completed its transit of the Suez Canal on Jan 16.

APL PANAMA (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Jan 14 — A press report, dated today, states: C.c. *APL Panama* remained stranded south of Ensenada harbour yesterday, despite major efforts by several tugs over the past four days to pull its bow away from shore. Salvage workers are hoping for greater success next week with powerful hydraulic pulling machines that are being sent from the United States, according to the vessel's owners. "As soon as they are on the scene, we should be able to move the vessel," said Jens Meier-Hedde, managing director of Mare Britannicum Schiffahrtsgesellschaft MBH & Co. This week, workers from Titan Maritime LLC made a major push to refloat the vessel, taking advantage of lunar high tides. Seven tugs pulling at full force yesterday morning — a combined capacity of more than 40,000 horsepower — moved the bow a few more yards away from shore and they are expected to repeat their efforts today. "The principle is that very slowly, as the vessel rolls, each time it displaces sand, the tugs pull, the vessel is moved so it occupies that space," said Michael Mallin, an attorney for Titan and its parent company, Crowley Maritime Corp. The massive effort that began Tuesday (Jan 10) has been partially successful. The bow has moved 20 deg away from shore, about a fifth of the way that is needed to pull it towards open water, Meier-Hedde said. The salvage crews hoped that the tugs would be able to do the job but hydraulic pullers are being brought down on a special barge that was sent from Seattle. The barge, 400 feet long and 100 feet wide, is at R.E. Staite Engineering marine contractors in National City, where workers have been preparing to send it to Ensenada. Salvors had removed some 3,000 tons of fuel from the vessel, said Ensenada's harbour-master, Capt Jose Luis Rios Hernandez.

Mexico City, Jan 16 — C.c. *APL Panama*, grounded Ensenada Dec 25: General Average was declared Jan 11. Refloating attempts were made Jan 13 but without success. Another tug is due on scene to assist tomorrow. Apparently there is no damage to any containers; apparently only five containers are refrigerated but are receiving the electrical service. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Jan 17 — A press report, dated today, states: A small fuel spill Sunday (Jan 15) from the grounded c.c. *APL Panama* was quickly controlled, and it appears to have caused no significant environmental damage, a Mexican official said yesterday morning. Workers removed some 1,500 pounds of tainted sand from Conalep Beach, near a residential neighbourhood south of the Ensenada port, said Ricardo Castellanos Percevault, the top official in Baja California for Mexico's environmental watchdog agency, Profepa. The contamination occurred Sunday morning as salvage crews

pumped water from a ballast tank that had been contaminated with fuel oil, said Jens Meier-Hedde, managing director of the company that owns the vessel, *Mare Britannicum Schiffahrtsgesellschaft mbH & Co.* A crack from an adjoining fuel tank had led to the contamination, Meier-Hedde said. The vessel's ballast tanks take in and expel seawater to provide stability and buoyancy. "It was noticed very soon, and the pumping was stopped," said Meier-Hedde, speaking from his office in Bremen, Germany. Workers from Titan Maritime LLC, a U.S.-based salvage company, "had booms on the stern and the bow of the ship, and immediately cleaned up the beach." The majority of the fuel on the vessel, about 3,000 tons, was pumped out last week at the request of Mexican officials, who have feared that damage to the vessel could result in a leak. *APL Panama* ran aground on Dec 25 and efforts to float it have been unsuccessful so far as surf and sand push it towards the shore. As many as seven tugs pulling on its bow with more than 40,000 horsepower have moved it 20 degrees from shore, but not far enough to start pulling the 880-foot vessel towards open water. Later this week, a barge fitted with powerful hydraulic pulling machines is expected to arrive in Ensenada to double the tugs' power. Meier-Hedde said the goal is to have the machines in place during high tides later this month. Just how the vessel ran aground remains the subject of speculation in Ensenada, as little official information has been forthcoming. Port officials say they cannot discuss the case while it is under investigation by the Communications and Transportation Ministry. Port officials say the vessel was scheduled to meet a pilot to guide it into port at 1900 hrs. It ran aground nearly 50 minutes earlier, at 1812. Meier-Hedde agreed that the vessel, carrying cargo from Oakland, had arrived earlier than scheduled, but said the master had called ahead. "In my opinion, he was irritated that the pilot boat wasn't there, he proceeded very slowly ahead, and unfortunately went too far and touched ground," he said. "He didn't realise that the water would become that shallow that soon."

London, Jan 19 — The operators of the c.c. *APL Panama* report that the vessel remains aground on soft sand some 1.5 nautical miles south-east of the entrance to the port of Ensenada, Mexico. Salvors have succeeded in manoeuvring the bow of the vessel some 20 degrees towards deeper water over the past week, in order to assist the next re-floating effort. The vessel remains structurally intact and secure and it is hoped that another concerted effort to re-float her can be made toward the end of next week, when tide conditions are more favourable. This next stage of the operation will utilise powerful hydraulic pulling machines which will double the capacity of the strong tugs already standing by the vessel. In the

meantime, the salvors have succeeded in transferring the fuel oil to a bunker barge at the port of Ensenada. Specialist anti-pollution contractors have been hired by the salvors, and are on permanent standby throughout the operation, where they will remain until the vessel is safely re-floated. The grounding occurred while the vessel awaited the Ensenada Pilot on Dec 26. The Master was not attempting to enter port without a pilot, nor was she in any way behind schedule and trying to make up time by deliberately approaching nearer the shore than she should have. An enquiry into the grounding is being conducted by the Mexican authorities, which the owners, MS "Mare Britannicum" Schiffahrtsgesellschaft mbH & Co KG, are fully cooperating with. The Owners would like to thank the Mexican authorities and the salvors who continue to successfully work towards a resolution of this issue in a safe and professional manner.

ARCTIC SUNRISE (Netherlands)

See *Nisshin Maru*.

ASIA PHILIPPINES (Philippines)

Manila, Jan 14 — The Philippine Coast Guard reported that a fire broke out on board *ro/ro Asia Philippines* (1053 gt, built 1975) on Jan 12 while enroute from Cebu to Maguino-o port in Samar. The vessel, with 223 passengers on-board, returned to the port of Cebu, arriving Thursday evening. The fire reportedly broke out in the vessel's restaurant. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Manila, Jan 17 — A recently released accident report by Trans-Asia Shipping Lines revealed that a fire which damaged *ro/ro Asia Philippines* on Jan 10 was caused by a leak in the exhaust pipe inside the vessel's funnel. "Heat insulation failure caused heat transfer to the wooden restaurant paneling that ignited due to excessive heat," Trans-Asia Shipping Lines Ship and Terminal Management vice-president Capt. Michael Sarthou Jr said in his report. The vessel resumed operations after replacing the restaurant panels and exhaust pipe, he added. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

ATLANTIC SUPERIOR (Canada)

Troy, Mich, Jan 14 — Bulk *Atlantic Superior* has put out hurricane moorings (lots of extra ropes, instead of the usual wires) and connected to shore power at pier 34 in Halifax. Tonight bulk *Atlantic Erie* is due to move alongside and begin taking on *Atlantic Superior's* cargo. *Atlantic Erie* was to be in port for 12 days for a short lay up/repair session, but has been pressed back into service due to *Atlantic Superior's* serious engine troubles. — Great Lakes and Seaway Shipping News.

Halifax, Jan 17 — Bulk *Atlantic Superior* is currently alongside Pier 34 at Halifax undergoing engine repairs, which are expected to be completed on Jan 25. — Lloyd's Agents.

BALTIC SKIPPER (Gibraltar)

London, Jan 15 — Following received from Coastguard Dover MRCC, timed 1618, UTC: General cargo *Baltic Skipper* (2280 gt, built 1997), Boulogne for Wilhelmshaven, in tow of tug *Banckert*, was in lat 51 10.89N, long 01 56.9E, at 1608, UTC, speed 9.5 knots. (Note — Understand *Baltic Skipper*, was towed into Boulogne Jan 12/13 with engine problems and is now being towed to Wilhelmshaven for repairs.)

London, Jan 16 — According to LMIU AIS, general cargo *Baltic Skipper* was in lat 53 36 47.94N, long 05 39 20.4E, at 1641, UTC, today, course 73 deg, speed 7.8 knots. (See issue of Jan 17.)

London, Jan 17 — General cargo *Baltic Skipper* arrived Wilhelmshaven today.

BANGA BORTI (Bangladesh)

Chittagong, Jan 17 — C.c. *Banga Borti* arrived at Chittagong port on Jan 10 and sailed Jan 14 for Singapore. No repairs were effected at Chittagong. — Lloyds' Agents.

BARGE 340 (U.S.A.)

See "Washington State, United States" under "Pollution".

BBC CALIFORNIA (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Jan 13 — At 1910, Dec 14, general cargo *BBC California* (9611 gt, built 2004), cargo steel, made contact with the bottom in the St. Marys River, south of light 26, Sault Ste. Marie, lat 46 47 57N, long 84 31 52W. Holed in the port and starboard No.1 ballast and double bottom tanks. (Note — *BBC California* arrived Sault Ste Marie about Dec 14 and sailed about Dec 24.)

BEHICE (Malta)

London, Jan 14 — General cargo *Behice*, which grounded in Chinese waters last July, subsequently arrived Cape Town Jan 11 and sailed Jan 12 for Namibe.

BLACK SWAN (Bahamas)

Port Said, Jan 15 — Bulk *Black Swan* is current under arrest in the Great Bitter Lakes. — Lloyd's Agents.

CAPE BRADLEY (Marshall Islands)

See *Star Hedla*.

CAPT. ZACK (U.S.A.)

London, Jan 18 — A press report, dated today, states: Two fishermen were rescued today after fishing *Capt. Zack* (59 gt, built 1989) capsized off Assateague Island on the Eastern Shore, the Coast Guard said. A third member of their crew was missing. The men were being treated for hypothermia and were in stable condition at a hospital in Salisbury, Md., said Lt. J.G. Brian Sullivan, a spokesman for the Coast Guard. A Coast Guard motor lifeboat and helicopter were searching for their missing companion, Sullivan said.

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Capt. Zack, a 58-foot-long commercial fishing vessel, was returning to shore after fishing for scallops in the Atlantic Ocean when it was hit by a hard wave, capsized and broke apart, Sullivan said. At the time, the winds were at 20 to 25 knots and the seas were at 6 to 8 feet, he said. The Coast Guard received an emergency beacon alert at about 0600 hrs and sent out a search party. Two of the fishermen were found at about 0830 hrs, clinging to an overturned life raft in the heavy surf about 200 yards offshore, Sullivan said. Sullivan did not know where the fishing boat was based but said it frequently comes into Chincoteague to unload its catches.

CAST PRESTIGE (Germany)

Montreal, Jan 17 — C.c. *Cast Prestige* (16324 gt, built 2005) is due at Montreal on Jan 18 and reports approximately 150 cubic metres of fuel oil in two holds. Exact cause unknown. At least 13 containers have been contaminated. — Lloyd's Agents.

CELTIC TERRIER (U.K.)

London, Jan 14 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: Chem.tank *Celtic Terrier*, which was detained 10 days ago in Brunsbuttel, has been allowed to continue its voyage after Euro 100,000 repairs. The "Seeberufsgenossenschaft" found 30 safety and environmental danger deficiencies when inspecting the vessel. After the necessary repairs were carried out accordingly, the *Celtic Terrier* was allowed to proceed to Szczecin for permanent repairs in a shipyard.

London, Jan 17 — Chem.tank *Celtic Terrier* arrived at Szczecin on Jan 14.

CHIOS SAILOR (Panama)

London, Jan 13 — Bulk *Chios Sailor* sailed from Montreal about Dec 22.

CLEMENCEAU (Decommissioned aircraft carrier)

See under "Miscellaneous."

CODESIDE (Spain)

See *S.A.Fortius*.

CONERO (Italy)

Ancona, Jan 13 — Tug *Conero* is still at Ancona, awaiting repairs. The vessel has sustained heavy structural damage, the extent of which is not presently known. The vessel's owners have requested repair bids from shipyards in Italy and Croatia. — Lloyd's Agents.

COURAGE (U.S.A.)

London, Jan 15 — Following received from Coastguard Portland MRSC, timed 9090, UTC: At 0441, UTC, Jan 15, vehicle *Courage* (52288 gt, built 1991), Southampton for New York, with 3361 "units" onboard, reported it was not under command in lat 50 18.8N, long 01 47.8W. At 0519, UTC, vessel reported a fire in the main generator room and in position lat 50 18.2N, long 01 50W. Swanage lifeboat

was launched and anchor handling tug/supply *Neftegas 51* tasked by owners. General cargo *Koerier* and bulk *Warmia* were requested to stand-by. At 0605, UTC, vessel reported that the fire had been extinguished. The fire was subsequently traced to leaking lub oil on lagging. At 0709, UTC, *Koerier*, *Warmia* and *Neftegas 51* stood down and Swanage lifeboat was released. *Courage* is now making for Southampton for repairs and at 0805, UTC, was in position lat 50 23.3N, long 01 36.6W.

London, Jan 15 — Following received from Coastguard Portland MRSC, timed 2100, UTC: Vehicle *Courage* arrived at Berth 102, Western Docks, Southampton, at 1738, UTC. Surveyor to attend.

London, Jan 16 — A press report, dated Jan 15, states: Vehicle *Courage*, full of cars, was left adrift at sea after an engine-room fire caused it to break down. Oil coming out of a generator caused engine lagging to catch alight onboard *Courage*, which was making its way to New York from Southampton. Portland Coastguard were alerted that the 22-strong crew were without power and steering 27 miles south east of Portland Bill in Dorset at 0440, UTC. Power was restored and the vessel returned to Southampton for checks. A spokeswoman for the coastguard said the drifting vessel had not posed a danger to shipping as it was outside the main traffic route.

CP VALOUR (Bermuda)

London, Jan 14 — A Senator Lines GmbH release, dated Azores Jan 13, states: C.c. *CP Valour* voyage 080 S, customer information: To shippers and consignees of cargo booked/shipped under Senator Lines Bills of Lading: *CP Valour* is still aground. The salvors terminated their operations and owners now formally abandoned the vessel. The following customer letter was received today from CP Ships: "Since our announcement on Jan 3 that the initial phase of salvage has ended, adverse conditions continue to damage the ship. Indications from the salvors and our own enquiries suggest that the vessel is not repairable and that prompt removal of the cargo would not be practicable. Furthermore, the salvors have terminated their contract under Lloyds Open Form on the basis that there is no reasonable prospect of salvaging either the ship or cargo. As a result of these circumstances, we regret to inform you that we must formally abandon the voyage and therefore cannot deliver your cargo to its intended destination, nor can we guarantee its continued safety while it remains onboard. Tenders will be issued shortly for wreck removal. It will take some time before a contractor is appointed and the removal process gets underway. When it does, we will advise you. You should be aware that since the grounding on Dec 9, some of the cargo has been damaged. And in the time it will take

to appoint a wreck removal contractor, further damage is foreseeable. In the interest of safety, we would not recommend that you consider retrieving your cargo by other means."

CP VENTURE (U.K.)

Montreal, Jan 16 — C.c. *CP Venture* sustained no damage, and there was only minor damage to the containers, which will all be delivered "as is". — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Jan 17 — C.c. *CP Venture* is reported to have sailed from Montreal on/about Jan 15.

DENIZ ATI (North Korea)

London, Jan 18 — Following received from Ankara MSRCC, timed 2235, UTC: Cement *Deniz Ati* (3762 gt, built 1968) grounded in front of Canakkale lighthouse earlier today, causing the Dardanelles Strait to be closed. Vessel refloated at 2359, local time, today and is proceeding to Canakkale anchorage, no problems reported.

Istanbul, Jan 19 — While transiting the Dardanelles, cement *Deniz Ati*, Gabes for Novorossiysk, in ballast, grounded at 1900 hrs, Jan 18, at San Cay. — Lloyd's Agents.

DESH RAKSHAK (India)

Sydney, Jan 13 — Crude oil tanker *Desh Rakshak*, which was allegedly holed while transiting the Heads into Port Phillip Bay, appears to have been sailing outside the Great Ship Channel for "a considerable distance and time". Port of Melbourne Corporation chief executive Stephen Bradford made the startling claim this morning, saying he and others at the port had studied the records of the vessel's transit last Wednesday (Jan 4), including detailed electronic tracking of the route taken by the vessel. "In looking at the records, it suggests to me that the vessel was outside the Great Ship Channel for a considerable distance and time, but of course I will await the outcome of the Australian Transport Safety Bureau investigation," he said. *Desh Rakshak*, which is owned by the Shipping Corporation of India, sustained holes in its forepeak tank and a water ballast tank on the port side. However, the vessel is double-hulled and none of its cargo tanks were breached. There was an experienced pilot on board for the transit. Mr Bradford said the port records show that there was sufficient tide for the vessel to safely transit the Great Ship Channel at 12.1m maximum draught, the limit for the port. There is some confusion as to the vessel's draught at the time, with the pilots claiming the draught was 11.6m and the port saying it was 11.4m. Either way, there should have been sufficient margin, given that the tidal influence would have provided an additional 0.9m to 1.13m of clearance. Mr Bradford said the vessel was given exclusive use of the Heads and the shipping channel, as is standard practice for tankers coming in and out of the bay. He said that records from the port's vessel tracking system at the time of the

alleged incident have been recorded and provided to the ATSB for examination. The ATSB yesterday said the investigation was still in its initial stages, but crew on board had detected water levels rising in the vessel's fore peak tank when it arrived at the Melbourne anchorage. A diver was engaged to inspect the hull and discovered a hole forward of the collision bulkhead in the forepeak tank and another hole in No.6 port wing tank, a tank used for water ballast. The vessel sailed to Geelong on Jan 5 to discharge its cargo and then returned to the anchorage to undergo temporary repairs. — Lloyd's List Daily Commercial News.

Melbourne, Jan 17 — Crude oil tanker *Desh Rakshak* is reported by the local agent to be still undergoing repairs at the anchorage. The repairs are expected to be completed sometime tomorrow, Jan 18. On completion of the repairs the vessel is to sail for Singapore. — Lloyd's Agents.

DILZA (Cape Verde)

St. Vincent, Cape Verde, Jan 17 — General cargo *Dilza* (499 gt, built 1978), which left St. Vincent at 0040 today bound for St. Nicolau, had explosion in hatch, resulting in fire, at 0530 hrs. The crew was rescued by Cape Verde fishing vessel *Pixita* and arrived St. Vincent at 1220 hrs. Vessel subsequently sank at 1445 hrs. — Lloyd's Agents.

EGASCO FORTUNE (Egypt)

Alexandria, Jan 14 — Bulk *Egasco Fortune* is still under arrest at Alexandria. — Lloyd's Agents.

ELWOOD (Panama)

See under "Labour Disputes".

EMS TUG (Madeira)

See *Norwegian Pearl*.

ENTERPRISE (U.S.A.)

London, Jan 18 — A press report, dated today, states: There is a change in lesson plans for more than 500 students who are spending the night in Norfolk. Training ship, general cargo *Enterprise* (13886 gt, built 1967), is docked at the Norfolk International Terminal while a part is being fixed. The students are cadets with the Massachusetts Maritime Academy. They had just started their training cruise to Europe when they realised there was a problem on board. The students will stay in Norfolk, while the ship is being repaired. After that, they will make their journey to Spain.

London, Jan 19 — A press report, dated today, states: The Massachusetts Maritime Academy training ship general cargo *Enterprise* has encountered equipment troubles in Norfolk, Va, and the U.S. Maritime Administration and MMA crewmembers are searching for parts. The training ship, needs evaporator and diesel parts, academy President Richard C. Gurnon said.

ENVOY (NIS)

London, Jan 13 — A SvitzerWijmuller Salvage BV report, dated Jan 11, states: SvitzerWijmuller Salvage BV early this morning succeeded in refloating the grounded passenger ro/ro *Envoy* (18653 gt, built 1979) after it had run aground having entered the Ymuiden breakwaters. The ferry grounded on the beach within the port at about 0800, local time. Immediately tugs and a SvitzerWijmuller salvage master were mobilised in to assist in refloating operations and at about 0835 hrs the ferry was successfully refloated.

London, Jan 13 — Passenger ro/ro *Envoy* was reported sailing from Ymuiden at 0935 hrs, Jan 14 and reported arriving back at Ymuiden at 1830 hrs.

London, Jan 17 — Passenger ro/ro *Envoy*, previously reported sailing from Ymuiden at 0935 hrs, Jan 14 and arriving back at Ymuiden at 1830 hrs, Jan 14, had been doing "trial-runs" to test its engine, on Jan 14. The vessel has subsequently departed from Ymuiden, at 2035 hrs, Jan 16.

ERIK SPIRIT (Bahamas)

London, Jan 16 — Following received from Coast Guard New Orleans, timed 1522, UTC: Crude oil tanker *Erik Spirit* (62929 gt, built 2005), cargo vacuum gas oils, ran aground at mile marker 191, lower Mississippi River at 0515, local time, today. Vessel was refloated about 45 minutes later. No damage. (Note — *Erik Spirit* according to LMIU AIS, was in lat 29 5.46'N, long 90 16.3W at 0412, today.)

EXPRESS SAMINA (Greece)

London, Jan 18 — A press report, dated today, states: The prosecutor in the trial of eight people charged with responsibility for the sinking of passenger ro/ro *Express Samina* six years ago, a disaster that led to 80 deaths, says two of the defendants should serve criminal sentences while the other six should either be found innocent or face misdemeanours. Panayiotis Brakoumatsos concluded his summation by recommending that the vessel's master Vassilis Yiannakis and first mate Anastassios Psychoyios should be sentenced for the disruption of sea transport with possible malice aforethought, leading to the death of some of those on board. This is a criminal charge which would carry a longer jail sentence than negligence, a misdemeanour. Brakoumatsos also argued that the pair were guilty of causing a shipwreck through negligence and serial manslaughter through negligence. The prosecutor argued during the case that the two defendants had been overly confident in their abilities, had not trained their crew properly and did not carry out their duties correctly. He also recommended that both men be found innocent of abandoning the vessel. Brakoumatsos said the three other crew members on trial, second mate Giorgos Triandafyllos, first engineer Gerasimos Skiadaressis and radio

officer Dimitris Tsoumas, should be found guilty of misdemeanours. He also recommended that seaman Panayiotis Kasdaglis be cleared of all charges. The former managing director of passenger ferry firm Minoan Flying Dolphins, since renamed Hellenic Seaways, Nikolaos Vikatos, should be found guilty of misdemeanours, Brakoumatsos argued. Another former representative of the ferry firm, Costas Klironomos, should be found innocent, said the prosecutor.

FEDERAL SETO (Hong Kong)

Montreal, Jan 16 — Bulk *Federal Seto* (20661 gt, built 2004) experienced cargo shifting in heavy weather and is now discharging at Montreal. There is no damage to the vessel. — Lloyd's Agents.

FERTILIA (Italy)

London, Jan 17 — Bulk *Fertilia* arrived at Singapore at 2304 hrs, Jan 15.

FIREFIGHTER (U.S.A.)

London, Jan 16 — A press report, dated today, states: Boston's 30-year-old fire-fighting vessel *Firefighter*, 76 feet, has broken down again and is in a Gloucester, Mass, repair shop. The vessel, which is about to be replaced, has been plagued with problems and is currently undergoing structural repairs.

FLINTERZEE (Netherlands)

London, Jan 14 — General cargo *Flinterzee* arrived Terneuzen 2343, Jan 12. (See issue of Jan 13.)

London, Jan 15 — General cargo *Flinterzee* sailed from Terneuzen at 1006 hrs, Jan 14, bound for Tornio, Finland.

FROSTI (Canada)

London, Jan 16 — Fishing *Frosti* (450 gt, built 1979) grounded near Steveston, Fraser River, BC, in lat 49 07N, long 123 11W, at 1858, PST, Jan 14. (Note — LMIU AIS subsequently reported the vessel under way in lat 49 13 33.35N, long 123 42 28.54W, at 1716, UTC, Jan 15, course 298 deg, speed 8.9 knots.)

GALINA (Cambodia)

Falmouth, Jan 16 — General cargo *Galina* is still in port undergoing repairs. — Lloyd's Agents.

GERONIMO (Netherlands)

London, Jan 17 — Dutch inland general cargo *Geronimo*, length about 80 metres, struck a dolphin while passing the Dorkwerderbrug near the town of Groningen, in the Van Starckenborgh canal, at about 0815 this morning. The vessel, loaded with paper, sustained a hole in its bow, and the ingress of water caused the vessel to run aground. The vessel was pulled to the side of the canal, so that the shipping traffic could pass the bridge. The bridge has not been damaged and can be used normally. There were no injuries. The fire brigade from Groningen and Haren came to assist

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and began pumping out the water. Divers will patch the hole, so that the vessel can be shifted to a safe place where the damage can be repaired.

GERTRUDE (Panama)

See *Hatsu Prima*.

GIURGIU 15 (Romania)

See *Vasily Cheapaev*.

HAIL MARY II (U.S.A.)

London, Jan 16 — A press report, dated Jan 13, states: Fishing *Hail Mary II* was partially raised Jan 8 by a massive crane barge, and towed into the bay and out of the rough inlet seas. The following day, the crane raised the vessel from its watery hold and officials began dewatering it. Officials ended dewatering operations on Jan 10.

HANDONG NO.97 (South Korea)

Busan, Jan 16 — The salvage operation of fishing *Handong No. 97* and the search for the 13 missing crew failed and all operations have been given up. It appears that the vessel will remain lying sunk at the site. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

HASAN ATASOY (Turkey)

Ancona, Jan 17 — General cargo *Hasan Atasoy* (1215 gt, built 1965) had difficulties about nine miles from Ancona. The vessel's owner and master requested to the Ancona Harbour Master the help of a tug. Tug *San Ciriaco* towed the vessel into Ancona, evening, Dec 31. Tug *Salus* towed the vessel to the final destination for the reparation works Jan 13. — Lloyd's Agents.

HATSU PRIMA (U.K.)

London, Jan 12 — A UK Marine Accident Investigation Branch report states: C.c. *Hatsu Prima* collided with chemical/oil carrier *Gertrude* while overtaking it in the Malacca Straits Sep 10. *Hatsu Prima* sustained minor damage which was temporarily repaired and was able to continue on its voyage. *Gertrude* sustained serious hull damage requiring repairs in Singapore. There were no injuries and there was no pollution as a result of the accident. The Chief Inspector wrote to both owners advising them to: (A). Ensure a proper look-out is kept on their vessels at all times. (B). Ensure ARPA alarm functions are used to give an officer of the watch timely warning of a close-quarters situation. The Chief Inspector also wrote to the owners of *Hatsu Prima*: *strongly advising them to ensure all officers of the watch are sufficiently rested prior to taking over a navigational watch. The Chief Inspector also wrote to the owners of Gertrude strongly advising them to ensure masters are fully aware of the requirement to report an accident to the designated person ashore and the flag state as soon as possible.*

HAVET (Sweden)

London, Jan 19 — Following received from Gothenburg MRCC, timed 1120,

UTC: Fishing *Havet*, 16 metres, SIVU, two persons on board, grounded and sank in about 58 49N, long 11 03E at 0100, local time, Jan 18. One person is missing, presumed dead.

HAWK BAY (Netherlands Antilles)

London, Jan 12 — Following received from the managers of ref *Hawk Bay* (10381 gt, built 1992), dated today: *Hawk Bay* had a minor fire on board during discharge operations while alongside at Foynes Jan 10. Some palletts were affected. The fire was quickly extinguished by the crew and the local fire brigade. The vessel has already sailed and is operating normally. (Note — *Hawk Bay*, Puerto Limon for Portsmouth, arrived in the Shannon Estuary at 0640, Jan 10, sailed at 2000, same day and has now arrived at Portsmouth.)

HI'IALAKAI (U.S.A.)

Honolulu, Jan 18 — Research *Hi'ialakai* completed repairs and was returned to service within the month of September. — Lloyd's Agents.

HUAL TRADER (Bahamas)

London, Jan 18 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: Vehicle *Hual Trader* (56816 gt, built 1998) collided with the Northern lock of Bremerhaven while entering the harbour on Jan 13. The vessel hit the western pier and sustained a gash of 10 metres in length, four metres above the water line. Three tugs were not able to prevent the collision which was allegedly caused by a mistake by the master. The damage is estimated to be several 10.000 Euro. The damage to the pier is minor. The traffic was not affected. After the investigations by the police had ended, the vessel was allowed to proceed to Amsterdam. (Note — *Hual Trader* arrived Bremerhaven at 0550, Jan 13 and sailed at 2255, same day, arriving Amsterdam at 1320, Jan 14.)

HUSTLER III

See "Hurricane 'Wilma' " under "Weather & Navigation."

IVAR LAURITZEN (DIS)

London, Jan 15 — Ref *Ivar Lauritzen* was reported arriving at Valparaiso at 0855 hrs, Jan 14. (See issue of Jan 3.)

JAMES PRIOR (U.K.)

London, Jan 16 — A press report, dated Jan 15, states: Battersea Bridge which was closed four months ago after being hit by general cargo *James Prior* has reopened. The bridge had been scheduled to open tomorrow in time for the morning rush hour. The bridge has been undergoing repairs and was closed to all traffic except buses and bikes since the accident in September.

London, Jan 17 — Following received from Medway Ports Authority, dated today: General cargo *James Prior* is still at Acorn Shipyard, Rochester.

JIANG SHEN (Panama)

London, Jan 12 — A press report, dated today, states: Four Chinese were rescued but four others went missing after a Panama-registered cargo ship (general cargo *Jiang Shen*, 5615 gt, built 1983) was in collision with a Chinese fishing vessel carrying eight people in the water area near Wenzhou, Zhejiang Province, at approximately 1530, today, according to the Maritime Rescue Centre. The small fishing boat sank quickly, throwing all eight into the water. The rescue centre immediately sent off some vessels to the site of the accident, but heavy fog has hampered searching efforts. Rescuers and ships are still searching for the four missing and an investigation into the cause of the collision is underway.

London, Jan 12 — Following received from Beijing RCC, timed 1410, UTC: The Panama vessel in collision with a Chinese fishing vessel off Wenzhou was general cargo *Jiang Shen*.

KATHLEEN & MARY (U.S.A.)

See *Amber Nicole*.

KERA (Latvia)

See "Hurricane 'Wilma' " under "Weather & Navigation."

KERFONS (French Southern Territories)

London, Jan 17 — Following received from Fort de France MRCC, timed 1525, UTC: Understand product tanker *Kerfons* (6151 gt, built 2001), ran aground at the entrance to Degrad de Cannes at about 2148, UTC, Jan 16. No damages. Salvors will attempt to refloat the vessel on the next high tide.

London, Jan 17 — Following received from Fort de France MRCC, timed 2035, UTC: Product tanker *Kerfons* is still aground and salvage operations are expected to commence in around one hour. A vessel is reportedly proceeding to dredge away some of the sand. *Kerfons* has 5,500 tonnes of oil on board.

London, Jan 18 — Following received from Fort de France MRCC, timed 0150, UTC: Product tanker *Kerfons* was refloated at 2135, UTC, Jan 17 and is now in port.

London, Jan 19 — A Cesam report, timed 1400, Jan 18, states: Product tanker *Kerfons*, Larivot for Trinidad, cargo 5,501 tonnes of crude oil, grounded at the entrance to Degrad de Cannes. The vessel, which did not sustain any bottom damage, required assistance to refloat.

KIPEROUSA (Malta)

London, Jan 16 — A press report, dated today, states: An auction of about 20,000 tonnes of logs from West Africa is due to be auctioned in East London within the next few weeks, following a lack of interest from the original Chinese cargo owners. The logs were salvaged from the grounded bulk *Kiperousa*, after it went aground south-west of East London in June last year. Efforts to refloat the vessel were unsuccessful and it eventually

began to break up in the surf. Some of the cargo of logs, loaded in Gabon, were recovered from the ship using a helicopter and other logs were gathered from the beaches along the Eastern Cape coast after they washed overboard from the ship. However it appears a large number remain missing, either within the vessel or in the sea. The logs consist of a number of wood varieties and were intended for making into veneer.

KITSAP (U.S.A.)

London, Jan 18 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Ro/ro *Kitsap* (2475 gt, built 1980) resumed service between Bremerton and Seattle this afternoon, after being out for about 24 hours due to a mechanical problem. The crossings stopped yesterday afternoon due to a leaking oil cooler, but repairs were effected and service resumed with the 1600 hrs sailing from Bremerton, said president Greg Donkert. Service is expected to continue tomorrow.

KLEINE FAMILIE (France)

London, Jan 16 — France has said that it will be for the Maltese authorities to decide whether chem.tank *Sichem Pandora* bears any responsibility for the sinking of the French trawler *Kleine Familie*. Maltese investigators, who went onboard *Sichem Pandora* in the port of Dunkirk and questioned crew members, were due to meet Cherbourg prosecutor Michel Garrandaux at the weekend. Mr Garrandaux made it clear before the meeting, however, that it would be for the Maltese authorities, as representatives of *Sichem Pandora's* flag state, to decide whether the vessel was in any way to blame. He indicated that the French authorities, who opened the initial investigation into the affair, would limit themselves to putting the results of their own investigation at the disposal of the Maltese investigators. There has been no information from the Maltese team regarding their findings. But Mr Garrandaux indicated earlier in the week that the crew of Eitzen Group's *Sichem Pandora*, who were questioned for a second time by French investigators following the discovery of paint marks on the tanker's hull, had continued to maintain that they had neither heard nor seen anything which led them to believe it had been involved in a collision. The Malta Maritime Authority said last week that its investigators would report back with their findings to the Maltese courts of magistrates which would decide if a full-scale judicial investigation, possibly followed by a hearing before a criminal or civil court, should be carried out. Last Friday, *Sichem Pandora* was still being held in Dunkirk at the request of the Maltese authorities. French divers searched the wreck of *Klein Familie* for the first time on Thursday but said they had found no sign of the bodies of the missing crew members. Axel Eitzen, Eitzen Group chief

executive, said he hoped the results of the latest French investigations would clarify the situation. "I hope to get access to the French information as soon as possible," he said. "It should allow us to put the last pieces of the puzzle in place."

London, Jan 19 — Chem.tank *Sichem Pandora* was still being held in the port of Dunkirk yesterday as Malta decided whether to launch an official judicial investigation into the ship's possible involvement in the sinking of trawler *Kleine Familie*. Maltese officials are believed to have completed a preliminary examination of the incident and it is now for the Courts of Magistrates to decide whether to proceed with a formal investigation which could lead to proceedings before a criminal or civil court. The Eitzen Group said yesterday it was hoping for a decision from the Maltese authorities late last night or today. The group hoped the vessel would be released subsequently, provided its presence was no longer required by the investigators. The vessel is also being held up, however, by a claim from the French seafarers' social security organisation ENIM, which is understood to be acting for the crew and dependents of the sunken fishing vessel. Discussions are in progress regarding ENIM's claim for a financial guarantee as a condition of the vessel's release. Eitzen Group said yesterday, however, that it was still trying to find out from Maltese and French investigators what they considered had been the cause of the sinking. Chief executive Axel C Eitzen said the group was particularly anxious to hear the account of the accident given by the sole survivor of the crew of *Klein Familie* but had so far been denied access by the French authorities. (See issue of Jan 17.)

LADOGA 101 (Russia)

London, Jan 14 — General cargo *Ladoga 101* sailed St. Petersburg Jan 9.

LARCOM (Australia)

See "Gladstone, Queensland, Australia" under "Pollution."

LESLIE LEE (U.S.A.)

London, Jan 16 — Fishing *Leslie Lee* (186 gt, built 1977) had severe water ingress into engine-room near Balenas Island, BC, in lat 49 21N, long 124 10W, at 1154, PST, Jan 11.

London, Jan 16 — Following received from Victoria BC MRCC, timed 2000, UTC: Fishing *Leslie Lee* had water leak into engine-room from ballast tank. Vessel reportedly pumped water out of the ballast tank.

LITORAL (Paraguay)

Asuncion, Jan 16 — Non specific tanker *Litoral*: According to owners, vessel has been scrapped. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Litoral* broke into two parts following a collision in the River Plate in June 1996. Both sections were towed to Asuncion in March 1997.)

LODBROK (Sweden)

London, Jan 12 — Crane barge *Lodbrok*: The final round completed and evaluated and relatively small local yard that got the repair, The Malarvarvets Steelbuilding Comp. Still some time for parts to appear. Understand the repairs will go on until week eight. (Feb 20-26).

London, Jan 12 — The inspectors from the Board of Shipping and Navigation have concluded the first report of the incident, confirming that the company broke to a number of rules in this incident, where crane barge *Lodbrok* ran into the bridge at Essinge in October last year. The bridge was repaired a week before Christmas and open in all lanes. The owner of the crane, Stockholm Port Authority does not operate the crane any longer, as transferred to a company called Marin & Haveriteknik KA. At time of incident the crane was assisted by tug, and the inspectors pointing out that *Lodbrok* was not properly certified and no crew signed onboard as required. Thus makes the crane/vessel not seaworthy and not to be used in general shipping.

M 192 (U.S.A.)

See *Valour*.

MAERSK HOLYHEAD (Venezuela)

London, Jan 17 — Following received from the managers of lpg *Maersk Holyhead*, dated today: *Maersk Holyhead* is still at Lake Maracaibo, awaiting clearance to sail to a yard in Curacao for repairs.

MARIBELLA (Greece)

London, Jan 16 — Following received from Coast Guard New Orleans, timed 1522, UTC: Bulk *Maribella* (39736 gt, built 2004), cargo pig iron, ran aground at mile marker 156, lower Mississippi River at 0620, local time, today. No damage. Understand vessel is still aground. (Note — *Maribella*, according to LMIU AIS, was in lat 29 58.42N, long 90 16.32W at 0739, today.)

London, Jan 17 — Following received from the operators of bulk *Maribella*, dated today: *Maribella* was refloated at 0800, UTC, today. All the appropriate authorities were informed, and the vessel proceeded to the Cooper/Darrow Buoys discharge terminal at mile marker 179. Discharge commenced at 1145, UTC. There were no injuries, pollution or apparent damage as a result of the incident.

MARIGO (Cyprus)

See *Stadum*.

MARITIME LADY (Gibraltar)

London, Jan 14 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: The last two missing cover hatches from general cargo *Maritime Lady* were traced in the approaches of Brunsbützel Locks and raised by sheerlegs *Wal* on Jan 13. Both were lifted onto a barge and carried to Hamburg for scrapping. Multi-purpose vessel *Vogelsand* and police

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boat *WSP 22* from Cuxhaven were responsible for the maintenance of a security zone during the salvage works. The *Wal* worked on orders of the Wasser- und Schifffahrtsamt (Maritime and Shipping Authority) which will try to recover the costs from the Norwegian owners of the *Maritime Lady*, which is just being scrapped in Cuxhaven.

MOL RENAISSANCE (Liberia)

London, Jan 13 — C.c. *MOL Renaissance* sailed from Aqaba on Jan 7.

London, Jan 13 — Following from the managers of c.c. *MOL Renaissance*: The vessel is currently safe off Aqaba undergoing final inspections, receiving stores and expects to resume its voyage shortly. (See issue of Jan 16.)

Amman, Jan 14 — C.c. *MOL Renaissance* is still at anchorage, not allowed to enter Aqaba port due to hazardous cargo on board. Vessel is still waiting for the port authority's decision — Lloyd's Agents.

MONA ROSA (Panama)

London, Jan 16 — General cargo *Mona Rosa* sailed Harlingen at 2248 hrs, Jan 11.

NAPOCOR POWER BARGE NO.106 (Philippines)

See "Tropical Storm 'Kajiki'" under "Weather & Navigation."

NISSHIN MARU (Japan)

London, Jan 13 — The collision between Greenpeace's *Arctic Sunrise* and the Japanese fish factory *Nisshin Maru* was most likely an accident, according to the master of the 'can opener'-armed protest vessel, Sea Shepherd Conservation Society's *Farley Mowat*. In response to a comment piece on Australian news website crikey.com.au, *Farley Mowat* master Captain Paul Watson said he believed the arrival of his vessel set the scene for the incident. "We were approaching the *Nisshin Maru* as it was transferring whale meat to the *Oriental Bluebird*," Capt Watson said. "When the *Nisshin Maru* saw us approaching from a few miles off, they began to disengage from the supply ship. They let go the mooring lines and began to move away. As they did so, they collided with the *Arctic Sunrise*." Saying this was the *Nisshin Maru*'s standard practice upon the arrival of the *Farley Mowat*, Capt Watson added: "Was the ramming of the *Arctic Sunrise* deliberate? Maybe, but from our point of view it appeared to be an accident. "The Sea Shepherd Conservation Society has not denied our deliberate side swiping of the *Oriental Bluebird*." "The whalers are in blatant violation of international conservation law. We are not down here to protest them. We are here to shut them down in accordance with international conservation law." In the light of the two collisions and the claim and counterclaim between Greenpeace and Japan's Fisheries Authority over the incident between

the *Nisshin Maru* and the *Oriental Bluebird*, there has been little reaction so far from flag states of the vessels involved. In the Netherlands, flag state of the *Arctic Sunrise*, a government spokesman said the country was yet to receive an official complaint or a request to intervene. He would not speculate on measures the government would take, adding that there would not be any action unless there was a complaint.

NORMAND NEPTUN (NIS)

Kristiansand, Dec 16 — Understand tug/supply *Normand Neptun* has left the dock and is berthed at Stavanger. The vessel is expected to sail Jan 25, at the earliest — Lloyd's Agents.

NORWEGIAN PEARL (Bahamas)

See *Tor Dania*.

ORADEA

Bucharest, Jan 12 — Pusher tug *Oradea* is still laid up at Giurgiu, situation unchanged and its owners have advised that no decision has yet been taken as to whether it will be sold/scrapped. — Lloyd's Agents.

ORFEO (Mexico)

Coatzacoalcos, Jan 12 — Product tanker *Orfeo* is still aground on the beach of Coatzacoalcos. Vessel has been declared total loss and is presently being disambled and will be sold as scrap. The owners of the vessel have donated the revenues to the City. — Lloyd's Agents.

ORIANA (United Kingdom)

See "Outbreak of Virus on United Kingdom Flagged Vessel" under "Miscellaneous."

ORIENT BRILLIANCE (Panama)

Lima, Jan 17 — According local P&I correspondent, bulk *Orient Brilliance* should be ready very shortly. — Lloyd's Agents.

ORO 1 (Comoros)

Piraeus, Jan 16 — General cargo *Oro 1* is still under detention at Keratsini. — Lloyd's Agents.

OSTERBOTTEN (Isle of Man)

London, Jan 17 — Following received from the operators of general cargo *Osterbotten*, dated today: *Osterbotten* only lost between five and 10 tons of its cargo. The vessel did not sustain any damage and is operating normally.

OVERSEAS FRAN (Marshall Islands)

London, Jan 14 — Crude oil tanker *Overseas Fran* arrived Rotterdam 1355, Jan 12.

Maassluis, Jan 18 — Crude oil tanker *Overseas Fran* remains in the drydock at Rotterdam. ETC unknown. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

PALLADIO (Italy)

London, Jan 14 — Passenger ro/ro *Palladio* arrived Naples Jan 10 and sailed Jan 11 for Milazzo.

PINEGLEN (Canada)

London, Jan 18 — Bulk *Pineglen* (20370 gt, built 1985) experienced an electrical fire in the forecastle bow thruster starter panel at Thunder Bay harbour, in lat 48 21N, long 89 11W, at 0635, EST, Dec 17. The panel was isolated and the fire extinguished using a dry chemical extinguisher. Damage sustained was minor and vessel sailed Thunder Bay Dec 18, arriving Montreal Dec 30 for winter lay-up.

POLANA

Varna, Jan 13 — Understand that the salvage operations to tug *Polana*, which commenced on Jan 11 have been delayed due to the abnormally high waters of the Danube for the season and should now commence today. The vessel is presently lying in a 12-13 metre depth, which hinders the divers' attempts at attaching the special ropes, which would be used for lifting the vessel.

London, Jan 13 — A press report, dated today, states: Tug *Polana* has been refloated. The tug has a 30 degree list. Once the operation for the pumping of the water from the the ship is completed it will be attached to two "sailing sections". Thus the ship could be transported to a port in Slovakia. The refloating was executed by crane *Cormorant*.

London, Jan 14 — A press report, dated today, states: Tug *Polana* has been pulled onto Romanian banks, officials said. Rescue teams, who managed to refloat the vessel yesterday, were able to draw it to a shallower area where it would be easier to drain it. According to the Dutch rescue team, the operation is to continue tomorrow. *Polana* must be now unloaded of its 42 tons of fuel to prevent a leakage and a possible ecological catastrophe.

Varna, Jan 16 — Tug *Polana* was lifted from the water on Jan 13. Bulgarian and Romanian teams are attempting to seal any openings in the vessel's hull, in order to prevent any spillage of the fuel still remaining on board. Salvage operations are presently under way and are expected to be completed today at the earliest. Pumping out of the water and fuel from the vessel's tanks was expected to be completed during the weekend (Jan 14-15). Bulgarian tug *Yantra*, along with crane barge *Cormorant*, will push the vessel to the Romanian coast. Reportedly, after the water is pumped out of the vessel, it will be transported to Slovakia. — Lloyd's Agents.

Bucharest, Jan 16 — Tug *Polana* is presently being lifted above the water at Km 495, River Danube. Removal operations are estimated to last for about two more days until the water, sand and mud are removed from the tug so that it gains buoyancy in view of towage and docking at Giurgiu shipyard for further survey. — Lloyd's Agents.

POLANA (Slovakia)

London, Jan 19 — Multiraship Salvage BV has successfully refloated

Slovakian pusher-tug *Polana*, which sank in the River Danube on Dec 19 following a serious fire in its engine-room. Despite a rapid response from local firefighters at the time of the casualty, the fire spread into *Polana's* accommodation and other parts of the ship. The vessel subsequently sank in 10-12 metres of water in the Romanian section of the river, off Giurgiu. The Romanian authorities ordered the owners to remove the vessel immediately, not least because *Polana* had over 40 tonnes of fuel on board. Awarded the contract to refloat the vessel over the Christmas and New Year period, Multtraship Salvage mobilised its floating sheerlegs *Cormorant*, and the tugs *Fonda* and *Herman*, under the direction of a salvage team from Holland, accompanied by a diving team from UK-based salvor, Titan. Following extensive preparations, the salvors finally started lifting on Jan 15. "It was a tough job," says Leendert Muller, managing director of Multtraship Salvage. "High water levels and currents running up to between four and five knots made diving almost impossible. Placing the lifting wires was therefore a difficult and time-consuming job. But we needed to act quickly because we knew from previous experience, that the ingress of heavy sand is extremely rapid. That proved to be the case once more. The vessel weighed around 375 tonnes, but the net weight of the vessel with sand inside was over 600 tonnes". Reports indicate that a small amount of fuel escaped from the vessel at the time of its sinking, but the remaining fuel was successfully transferred by the salvors into tank barges. The vessel has now been successfully redelivered to its owners.

PRESIDENTE ARTURO UMBERTO ILLIA (Argentina)

Buenos Aires, Jan 12 — Product tanker *Presidente Arturo Umberto Illia* (32157 gt, built 1983) during downriver navigation, grounded at Km 13.6 of Canal Emilio Mitre without obstructing navigation at 2030, Jan 4. Vessel refloated at 0510, local time Jan 7 with the assistance of tugs *Tifon*, *Conquistador* and *Ultramar 10*. No damages were reported to be sustained by the vessel. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Presidente Arturo Umberto Illia* according to LMIU AIS, was in lat 34 44 21S, long 57 46.78'W at 2211, Jan 9.)

QUEEN MARY 2 (U.K.)

London, Jan 18 — A press report, dated Jan 17, states: Passenger *Queen Mary 2* (148528 gt, built 2004) will have to wait a day to make a trip around South America to San Francisco, after discovering engine problems shortly after beginning that trip from Port Everglades. *Queen Mary 2* left Port Everglades shortly after 1300 today, bound for South America and was just a few miles offshore when the master noticed a problem with one of the ship's engines. Cunard says the ship stopped

offshore and performed engine checks for a few hours, but engineers decided the vessel could not continue. The decision was made to return the vessel to its berth at Port Everglades. The cruise line says the ship will be in port at least overnight, and passengers will simply spend the night on board. A Cunard spokesperson says there were no other problems onboard the ship, and no apparent damage beyond the problem with the propulsion system.

London, Jan 18 — A press report, dated Jan 17, states: More than 2,500 passengers had their vacation on board passenger *Queen Mary 2* delayed today after the ship had a problem with one of its propulsion motors and had to return to port, Cunard Lines said. Inspections of the ship could delay of the cruise until tomorrow evening, said Julie Benson, a Cunard Lines spokeswoman. The ship's crew reported hearing and feeling a shudder as the ship was leaving the port at around 1300 hrs, Coast Guard spokesman James Judge said. Preliminary tests indicated the ship may have hit a submerged object, Judge said. The vessel had a "problem with one of the ship's four propulsion motors" while leaving Port Everglades, but no one was injured, Cunard said. The ship left New York City on Jan 15 and had stopped in South Florida to pick up passengers before embarking on a 38-day trip around South America, Benson said. The company hopes to allow passengers to disembark while the problem is investigated, Benson said.

London, Jan 18 — A press report, dated today, states: One of the passenger *Queen Mary 2's* four propulsion pods hit the side of a shipping channel, but the vessel should be able to continue on its voyage to South America, Cunard Line said today. The ship was being examined in Port Everglades, but its departure was tentatively scheduled for this evening, the company said. The vessel returned to the Fort Lauderdale area port shortly after leaving yesterday when the crew reported hearing and feeling a shudder. The damaged pod will be taken out of service until permanent repairs can be made. But the ship's three other pods will let it continue safely on a 38-day voyage, although at a slightly reduced speed, the company said. The slower speed should not affect the trip, but the one-day departure delay will change the schedule of the voyage's first leg, the company said. Passengers will get details of compensation before the ship leaves Florida.

London, Jan 19 — A press report, dated Jan 18, states: A Coast Guard investigation will further delay passenger *Queen Mary 2* despite announced plans to leave Port Everglades at 1800 tonight. Officials of Cunard had decided the ship's propulsion system was operating well enough to allow the ship to sail, but the Coast Guard still has questions about how it was damaged. The cruise line confirmed the ship apparently

"hit a sea wall" as it departed Port Everglades yesterday afternoon, and admitted it was surprised by the contact because the ship has moved in and out of the port channel a number of times. Divers inspected the systems today and confirmed the damage, according to a spokesperson for Cunard. While one of the four engines will be inoperable because of the damage, Cunard says the ship can operate without a problem on the three remaining engines, and cleared the ship to resume a 38 day voyage around South America, ending in San Francisco. Cunard says she ship will not be able to operate at full speed until repairs are completed, but said that process will continue each time the ship makes a new port. Despite the line's timetable, it may be midnight or later because the Coast Guard, which has responsibility for the incident, clears the ship to depart.

RACHEL MARIE (U.S.A.)

London, Jan 18 — A press report, dated today, states: Kitsap Ferry Co passenger ferry service between Bremerton and Seattle resumed yesterday afternoon after being out about 24 hours due to a mechanical problem (to passenger *Rachel Marie*, 60 gt, built 1988). The crossings stopped Monday afternoon (Jan 16) due to a leaking oil cooler but repairs were made and service resumed at the 1600 hrs sailing from Bremerton, said president Greg Donkert. Service is expected to continue today. The private passenger-only service offers three round-trips per day between the cities, two in the morning and one in the afternoon.

RED WING (Liberia)

London, Jan 19 — Chemical/oil carrier *Red Wing* sailed from Flushing at 0130 hrs, Jan 18.

RICHARD M. LOWRY (U.S.A.)

London, Jan 18 — A press report, dated Jan 17, states: Three people were pulled from the 40-degree waters of the Patapsco River this afternoon after tug *Richard M. Lowry* (76 gt, built 1981) struck a fishing boat. According to the U.S. Coast Guard, one person has died and two others remain hospitalized. The Coast Guard said that Vincent Lee Jordan Sr., 56, was pronounced dead at Bayview Hospital. His son, Vincent Lee Jordan Jr., 33, remains in stable condition at Bayview. Dale Edward Monroe, 31, remains in a stable condition at Mercy Hospital. At about 1400 hrs, crews from the USCG's Curtis Bay station responded to a collision involving the two vessels near Francis Scott Key Bridge. They said the tug collided with the men's fishing boat, but the circumstances surrounding the incident remain unclear. Coast Guard crews rescued one of the three men and two good Samaritans in the area picked up the other two men. The men were taken to Pier 13, where paramedics waited to transport them to area hospitals. The Coast Guard continues to investigate the incident.

**RICKMERS GENOA
(Marshall Islands)**

London, Jan 16 — Following received from the operators of general cargo *Rickmers Dalian*, ex *Rickmers Genoa*, dated today: *Rickmers Dalian* is currently undergoing final repairs at Hamburg, ETC Jan 18.

RIVER PRINCESS

London, Jan 14 — A press report, dated Jan 11, states: The Goa Government will have to spend close to Rs. 30 crores to remove and dispose of the dilapidated ore *River Princess* which stands as an eyesore on the Sinqerim-Candolim coastal belt of North Goa, threatening to endanger beach tourism in the State. Responding to the threat of agitation by Agnelo Fernandes, Congress MLA, Tourism Minister Wilfred de Souza reiterated yesterday the Government's resolve to see the vessel removed as early as possible. Mr. Wilfred de Souza, who discussed the issue with Chief Minister Pratapsing Rane and Chief Secretary Kiran Dhingra, said they were of the opinion that this job has to be done at the earliest. Mr. Wilfred de Souza said a report submitted by an expert committee deputed by the Union Ministry of Shipping in this regard and three proposals from salvors have been submitted to the State's Secretary for Environment for his comments. "As soon as the Secretary's report comes, I will know how to go about it (the disposal of the vessel)," Mr. Wilfred de Souza said and added: "We are anxious to see that the vessel goes out of Goa." He said the report of the experts committee has, among other things, mentioned that around US\$ 6.5 million could be needed to remove the vessel without damaging the coast.

RONSDARD (France)

Londojn, Jan 12 — Following received from Coastguard Falmouth MRCC, timed 0731, UTC: Fishing *Ronsard* (223 gt, built 1989) nine persons on board, reported disabled due to engine-room fire in lat 50 08.2N, long 05 46.4W at 0700, UTC. *Anglian Priness* proceeding at economical speed. Casualty attempting to repair engine.

London, Jan 13 — Following received from Coastguard Falmouth MRCC, timed 1630, UTC: Fishing *Ronsard* got back under way around 0800, UTC, today.

**ROSETHORN
(St. Vincent & Grenadines)**

London, Jan 16 — General cargo *Rosethorn* was reported arriving at Liepaja, Lithuania, on Jan 15.

S.A.FORTIUS (Bahamas)

London, Jan 12 — Following received from Madrid MRCC, timed 1335, UTC: Bulk *S.A.Fortius* (87542 gt, built 2001), C6RT5, and trawler *Codeside* (367 gt, built 1979) in collision about 20 miles west of Cape Finisterre about 1720, local, yesterday. *S.A.Fortius* has hole 1/2 m

diameter on starboard about 4 m above waterline and 20 m from head. Repaired and proceeded on voyage to Rotterdam. *Codeside*, with only dentings, no holes, proceeded Vigo. (Note — *S.A.Fortius*, tripoli for Rotterdam, where ETAS Jan 14, passed Gibraltar west Jan 9.)

London, Jan 16 — Bulk *S.A.Fortius* arrived at Rotterdam at 1120 hrs, Jan 15.

SARAH JANE

Vigo, Dec 31 — Ref *Sarah Jane* is still under repair at Vigo. — Lloyd's Agents.

SAUNIÈRE (Canada)

Montreal, Jan 17 — Bulk *Sauniere* has effected repairs and is currently en route to Ile de la Madeleine. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Jan 17 — Bulk *Sauniere* is reported to have departed from Montreal on/about Jan 15.

SEASPAN SOVEREIGN (Canada)

Vancouver, Jan 12 — Tug *Seaspan Sovereign*: After inspection was carried out fault was noted in gearbox. Engine was reassembled and tug was back in operation In August. — Lloyd's Agents.

SICHEM PANDORA (Malta)

See *Kleine Familie*.

SKALVA (Lithuania)

Montreal, Jan 13 — The fire on board general cargo *Skalva* has now been extinguished, the hatches have been opened, and discharging has begun and will continue over the next several days. — Lloyd's Agents.

SKJOLDBORG (Malta)

London, Jan 17 — General cargo *Skjoldborg* sailed from Houston at 1930 hrs, Jan 13.

SOFIA (Malta)

London, Jan 14 — Following received from Corsen MRCC, timed 0915, UTC: C.c. *Sofia* (11977 gt, built 1988), Le Havre for Piraeus, cargo containers, has been stopped with main engine problems in lat 48 48N, long 05 38W, for around four hours. Vessel is attempting to carry out its own repairs, with completion of same expected in around another two hours.

London, Jan 14 — Following received from Corsen MRCC, timed 1445, UTC: C.c. *Sofia* is now proceeding to Brest for repairs.

London, Jan 14 — Following received from Corsen MRCC, timed 2115, UTC: C.c. *Sofia* is expected to arrive at Brest in the next 2-3 hours for repairs. (Note — According to LMIU AIS, *Sofia* was in lat 48 16 52.5N, long 04 49 08.28W, at 2040, Jan 14.)

London, Jan 15 — According to LMIU AIS, c.c.*Sofia* was stationary in lat 48 23 06.72N, long 04 27 28.8W, at 0336, today.

London, Jan 16 — According to LMIU AIS, c.c.*Sofia* was stationary in lat 48 23 08.1N, long 04 27 27.9W, at 0350, today.

London, Jan 16 — C.c. *Sofia* arrived Brest Jan 15 and remains there at present.

Brest, Jan 18 — C.c. *Sofia* is still alongside repair berth at Brest under inspection of survivors and engineers. Repairs are due to take place soon with completion expected in approximately 10 days. — Lloyd's Agents.

SOLIDOR 5 (France)

London, Jan 19 — Passenger *Solidor 5* arrived Palma, Majorca, Jan 10 and sailed Jan 11 for Mormugao.

SPETSES (Greece)

See *Van Gogh*.

SPICA (Germany)

London, Jan 15 — C.c. *Spica* sailed from Fredericia on Jan 4.

STADUM (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Jan 18 — General cargo *Stadum* (1984 gt, built 1989) was heading up the River Elbe towards Hamburg, it then changed lane and collided with bulk *Marigo* (35012 gt, built 1981). *Marigo* sustained a hole in the hull. The superstructure of *Stadum* was damaged and the ship's cook was injured. Police investigations are under way. An alcohol test on the master of *Stadum* proved negative. (Note — *Stadum* sailed Bilbao Jan 12 for Hamburg, and *Marigo* was last reported to have arrived Hamburg 1352, Jan 11.)

London, Jan 18 — A press report, dated Jan 17, states: General cargo *Stadum* was in collision with bulk *Marigo* in the River Elbe this morning. Both vessels were proceeding in their correct navigation lanes then, for a so far unknown cause, *Stadum* changed its navigation lane and collided with *Marigo*. Both ships were damaged in each case on their starboard side. *Stadum* sustained substantial damages. *Marigo* was holed above the waterline. The anchor of the *Marigo* was separated by the force of the impact from the anchor cable and it fell on the deck of *Stadum*. As a result the cook of *Stadum* suffered a head injury. *Stadum* berthed at Hamburg while *Marigo* was given permission to proceed to Brunsbuttel. After first evaluations of the radar images the suspicion exists that as a cause of the collision was *Stadum*. An alcohol test with the master of *Stadum* proved negative. (Note — According to LMIU AIS *Marigo* was stationary in lat 53 53 15.3N, long 09 10 52.38E, at 0442 today.)

London, Jan 18 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: At 0655, local time, Jan 16, general cargo *Stadum* was in collision with bulk *Marigo* on the Elbe, near Teufelsbrueck. *Stadum* had not yet been boarded by a harbour pilot, and the Elbe pilot had left earlier. When the harbour pilot was on the way to *Stadum*, the ship changed course onto the wrong side of the river, close to buoys 130/132, and crashed into *Marigo*. Both vessels were damaged to

starboard. The anchor of *Marigo* fell onto the main deck of the *Stadum*. The deck, the bridge and other superstructures were damaged as well as the bow of *Marigo*. Thirty square metres of the hull of *Marigo* were smashed, the hull torn up to a length of half a metre. The cook on the *Stadum* sustained head injuries. *Stadum*, which had loaded machine parts, proceeded to Hamburg and is actually lying at "Schuppen 81". *Marigo*, which was heading to the North Sea with a load of grain, was allowed to proceed to Brunsbützel and berthed there. The police have commenced investigations.

STAR HERDLA (NIS)

London, Jan 12 — Following received from Coastguard Dover MRCC, timed 1142, UTC: General cargo *Star Herdla*, which sustained a 20 metre hole on the starboard quarter, is under tow of tug *Anglian Monarch*, bound for Boulogne and is now one mile off Bologne harbour. Chemical/oil carrier *Cape Bradley* has been ordered to Dunkirk for investigation by the French authorities. The vessel has a damaged bow and no anchors and will not be given permission to enter until an inspection has been completed by French teams. There were no reports of any injuries as a result of the collision to members of either crew and no reports of any pollution.

London, Jan 12 — General cargo *Star Herdla* and chemical/oil carrier *Cape Bradley* were both damaged this morning after colliding in thick, freezing fog off Boulogne. Visibility was down to between 300m and 600m when the two vessels collided in circumstances which have not yet been elucidated. *Cape Bradley* was en route for Rotterdam with a cargo of 30,000 tonnes of naphtha when the accident occurred. It sustained damage to its stem but was able to make its own way to the port of Dunkirk for examination. *Star Herdla* sustained damage to its rear superstructure on one side and was taken under tow by tug *Anglian Monarch*. The maritime prefecture in Cherbourg said that the incident was being investigated by the maritime gendarmerie in Boulogne but that there had been no injuries or pollution.

London, Jan 12 — A statement received from Columbia Shipmanagement, timed 1400, UTC, today, states: Chemical/oil carrier *Cape Bradley*, cargo naphtha, managed by Columbia Shipmanagement, was involved in a collision with general cargo *Star Herdla* off Cap Gris Nez earlier today. The incident resulted in no injuries to the crew of *Cape Bradley* and no pollution. There is damage to the vessel's forward section. There are no reports of injuries or pollution from *Star Herdla*. *Cape Bradley* intends to proceed under its own power to Rotterdam, the planned discharged port. An investigation into this incident has commenced. *Cape*

Bradley was proceeding in the north-bound traffic lane when the incident occurred.

London, Jan 12 — A report from the managers of general cargo *Star Herdla*, dated Bergen today, states: *Star Herdla* was in collision with chemical/oil carrier *Cape Bradley* earlier today off the port of Boulogne Sur Mer and report that the vessel is now safely alongside within the port. Vessel has suffered damage to the super structure in the aft part well above the waterline. Damage to the electrical systems caused loss of power. We will be co-operating fully with the investigation into this accident and arranging for repair to the vessel.

London, Jan 13 — Chemical/oil carrier *Cape Bradley*, laden with more than 30,000 tonnes of highly volatile naphtha, was ordered to undergo urgent repairs by the French authorities yesterday after colliding with general cargo *Star Herdla* in the English Channel off the French port of Boulogne-sur-Mer. The *Cape Bradley* was given the order by the maritime prefect in Cherbourg, who has responsibility for safety and pollution prevention off the French coast in the English Channel and the North Sea. A prefecture spokesman said: "Taking account of its cargo, it would be a risk for other users of the sea, for the environment and for the interests of our country to allow this vessel to go to sea." The *Cape Bradley*, which is under Marshall Islands flag and is operated by Columbia Shipping of Cyprus, was escorted to the port of Dunkirk with damage to its bow following the collision yesterday morning *Star Herdla*. According to the maritime prefecture, the collision took place at 0820 in thick freezing fog 12 km off Boulogne. The *Cape Bradley* was heading north for the port of Rotterdam, while the *Star Herdla*, which is under Norwegian flag and is owned by Grieg Shipping, was believed to be crossing the traffic separation system under ballast to enter the port of Boulogne. Visibility was limited to 300 to 600 metres but the sea was relatively calm, the prefecture said, adding that the precise circumstances of the collision had still to be elucidated. The collision caused no injuries or pollution but the *Star Herdla* also sustained substantial damage to its rear superstructure on one side. It was taken under tow by the British tug *Anglian Monarch* to the port of Boulogne. The two vessels were being inspected by separate teams of experts yesterday to establish the precise nature and extent of the damage while the maritime gendarmerie in Boulogne was investigating the circumstances of the collision. Six patrol and rescue vessels and two helicopters attended the two vessels following the accident. The maritime prefect said that the area had been ringed off to try to reduce the risk to other vessels.

London, Jan 14 — Chemical/oil carrier *Cape Bradley* arrived at Rotterdam at 1425 hrs, Jan 13.

London, Jan 16 — Chemical/oil carrier *Cape Bradley* was able to unload its cargo of more than 30,000 tonnes of naphtha in the port of Rotterdam on Friday (Jan 13) after having been given authorisation to leave French waters the previous day. The maritime prefect in Cherbourg, who ordered the vessel's operator, Columbia Shipping of Cyprus, to take steps to put an end to the danger represented by the damaged vessel, gave it permission to resume its journey to Rotterdam on Thursday evening after having received the findings of the French inspection and investigation team sent onboard the vessel.

London, Jan 17 — Chemical/oil carrier *Cape Bradley* departed from Rotterdam at 2205 hrs, Jan 16, bound for Bremerhaven.

London, Jan 18 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: The damaged general cargo *Star Herdla* was brought to Bremerhaven for permanent repairs on Jan 16. The vessel was accompanied by the tugs *Thamesbank* and *Smit Ireland*. In Bremerhaven the tug *Hellas* came for assistance. *Star Herdla* had been in collision with chemical/oil carrier *Cape Bradley*, seven miles off Boulogne on Jan 12. While *Cape Bradley* was damaged in the stern region, *Star Herdla* was severely damaged at the bow and lost one anchor and after lightering the load of 30,053 tons naphtha in Rotterdam, proceeded to Bremerhaven.

London, Jan 18 — Chemical/oil carrier *Cape Bradley* arrived at Bremerhaven at 2015 hrs, Jan 17.

London, Jan 19 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: The repair of collision damage to chemical/oil carrier *Cape Bradley* is being carried out at Lloyds Werft Bremerhaven.

STAVTANK (NIS)

London, Jan 17 — According to the agents of chemical/oil carrier *Stavtank*, the vessel is still under repair in the port of Hamburg. Repairs are expected to be finalised on Jan 26/27. It's new destination and ETD have not yet been fixed. — Lloyd's Agents.

STELLA RIGEL (Netherlands)

Gothenburg, Jan 19 — Asphalt tanker *Stella Rigel* is still under repair. The vessel is having a replacement engine and the work will take some time. ETC Feb 15. — Lloyd's Agents.

SUN NEW (South Korea)

See *Sun New* under "Pollution".

SUNNY BLOSSOM (Bahamas)

Hamburg, Jan 16 — Chemical/oil carrier *Sunny Blossom* is still under repair. It is not known how long repairs will last. — Lloyd's Agents.

SYDSTRAUM (NIS)

London, Jan 16 — Chem.tank *Sydstraum* is reported to be still at Gdansk.

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

TANIA (North Korea)

See "Seizure Of Contraband Cigarettes From North Korea Vessel, Greece" under "Miscellaneous".

TARNHAV (Sweden)

London, Jan 14 — Chem.tank *Tarnhav* sailed Fredericia Jan 4, arrived St. Petersburg Jan 7 and sailed Jan 9.

TEEN (Malta)

London, Jan 18 — Bulk *Teen* arrived at Inchon on Jan 11 from Xingang and departed on Jan 15, bound for Gwangyang.

TIBER II (Italy)

Rome, Jan 18 — Passenger *Tiber II* was refloated on Dec 16 and is currently berthed at Ponte Risorgimento quay on the River Tiber. Extent of damages unknown. Repairs scheduled for Apr. — Lloyd's Agents.

TIGER (U.S.A.)

Portland, Oregon, Jan 12 — Tug *Tiger* has been sold to a local company located in Portland, Oregon. Diversified Marine has bought the tug and shall make repairs themselves and then use the tug for their own business use. — Lloyd's Agents.

TONPU

Yokohama, Jan 13 — Understand that salvage operations to barge *Tonpu* and pusher tug *Sumiwaka Maru No.57* have been postponed due to rough sea weather and that a date for the recommencement of salvage operations is unfixed at the moment. — Lloyd's Agents.

TOR DANIA (NIS)

London, Jan 13 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: Ro/ro *Tor Dania* is to be repaired at the Bredo-Werft (Bredo Yard) in Bremerhaven, where it is expected to arrive in the next few hours in the "Fischereihafen".

London, Jan 14 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: Sheerlegs *Wal* will raise the sunken 32-metre, 70-ton section of passenger *Norwegian Pearl* in the next few days. The section sunk during the collision with ro/ro *Tor Dania*.

London, Jan 14 — Ro/ro *Tor Dania* was reported arriving at Bremerhaven at 1130 hrs, Jan 13.

London, Jan 16 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: Repairs to ro/ro *Tor Dania* which caused the sinking will last about two and a half weeks and are being carried out in Bremerhaven. Wreckage of passenger *Norwegian Pearl* was finally raised at 0200, local time, today after two previous attempts had failed.

London, Jan 17 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: The raised section of the passenger *Norwegian Pearl* has reached Medem Roads on the Elbe in the ropes of the sheerleg *Wal* and is loaded onto a barge off Otterndorf to be finally towed to Papenburg. The

Meyer Werft is optimistic that it will still be able to use the section. The *Norwegian Pearl* is due to be delivered in autumn 2007, and the section is not needed soon. Another section of the vessel has reached Papenburg from Gdansk.

London, Jan 17 — Tug *Ems Tug* was reported arriving at Hamburg at 1631 hrs, Jan 15.

UNIVERSE 1 (Cambodia)

London, Jan 16 — Following navigation warning issued today: Engine troubled cargo vessel exists in vicinity of lat 33 55.6N, long 134 59.9E, at 1310, UTC, Jan 15.

London, Jan 16 — Following received from Coast Guard Japan, timed 0005, UTC: General cargo *Universe 1*, XUEV9, (1104 gt, built 1982) is at anchor in lat 33 55.6N, long 134 59.9E, with its crew trying to repair engine.

London, Jan 17 — Following navigation warning issued today: Engine troubled cargo vessel (general cargo *Universe 1*) without light, anchoring in vicinity of lat 33 55.5N, long 134 58.5E at 0530, UTC, today.

VALOUR (U.S.A.)

London, Jan 18 — A press report, dated today, states: Maritrans Operating Company L.P., confirmed that six members of the nine-man crew of the sea-going tug *Valour* (194 gt, built 1975) were rescued by the Coast Guard and a nearby tug after it sank in heavy seas off Cape Fear, North Carolina. Two crew members were known to be deceased and one crew member is still missing. The tug was towing the tank barge *M 192* (11796 gt, built 1979), and began taking on water in heavy seas late yesterday evening. The tug separated from the barge and reportedly sank around 0230, this morning. No information is currently available on the cause of the incident. The *M 192*, a double-hulled petroleum barge, is carrying 135,000 barrels of No.6 oil, and is adrift. No damage has been reported to the barge. The company activated its oil spill emergency response plan to respond to the incident. The barge was destined for Corpus Christi, TX.

London, Jan 18 — Following received from Coast Guard Portsmouth, Va, timed 1530, UTC: Tug *Valour* towing tank barge *M 192*, sank in about lat 33 15.38N, long 77 45.54W. Two persons are still missing. *M 192* is still drifting.

Wilmington, NC, Jan 18 — Tug *Valour*, towing a 500-ft barge (tank barge *M 192*) sank about 40 nautical miles off the coast near Cape Fear, NC, Jan 17. The barge, which has about 140,000 barrels of petroleum by-products, is believed to be drifting afloat but has not been located by the United States Coast Guard. Five crew from the *Valour* were rescued by tug *Justin Fox*, which has also taken one crewman's body on board. — Lloyd's Agents.

Chicago, Jan 18 — Tug *Valour*, operated by Maritrans Inc, sank in

heavy seas overnight off the coast of North Carolina, leaving two crew members dead and a barge (tank barge *M 192*) carrying 135,000 barrels of oil adrift for much of the day today. Six crew members were rescued and another was missing, the company said in a statement. The search for the missing crew member continued throughout the day. The barge was secured with the help of the US Coast Guard after apparently hitting and displacing a floating buoy. The barge was to be towed to Wilmington, NC. Maritrans said no damage was done to either the buoy or the barge, which was double-hulled to provide additional protection. The Tampa, Florida-based company said no information was available as to the cause of the incident. Maritrans said it has activated its oil spill emergency response plan.

London, Jan 19 — A Maritrans press release, dated Tampa Jan 18, states: Maritrans Operating Company L.P said the Coast Guard has secured its drifting tank barge *M 192* off Cape Fear. The barge will be towed to Wilmington, NC, to be surveyed for damage. The barge was set adrift earlier today after tug *Valour* began taking on water and sank off the coast of Cape Fear. Six crew members were rescued alive, two others died and one remains missing. The Coast Guard placed a three man crew on the barge who were able to prepare it for capture by tug *Justine Foss*. *Justine Foss* and its crew were also responsible for the rescue of those crew members forced to abandon the sinking tug. The Coast Guard said the drifting barge appears to have hit and displaced the No.16 red buoy near Frying Pan Shoals off Wrightsville Beach. It does not appear that the buoy caused any damage to the barge. *Valour* was towing the Maritrans tank barge and began taking on water in heavy seas late yesterday evening. The tug separated from the barge and reportedly sank around 0230 this morning. *M 192*, a double-hulled petroleum barge, is carrying 135,000 barrels of No.6 oil. The company activated its oil spill emergency response plan to respond to the incident. The Coast Guard is continuing its search and rescue efforts for the missing seaman with one fixed wing aircraft and two helicopters.

VAN GOGH (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

London, Jan 17 — Human error and poor navigational safety systems in the Bay of Gibraltar led to the collision between passenger *Van Gogh* and crude oil tanker *Spetses* in September 2004, the official investigation into the casualty has found. The potentially disastrous accident happened in zero visibility and, while there were no injuries, both ships sustained significant hull damage. The probe established that *Van Gogh* was sailing from Gibraltar at an "unsafe speed" of 14 knots at the time of the collision, despite dense fog

and numerous vessels at anchorage in the bay. "Commercial pressure more than likely influenced the master of *Van Gogh* in his decision to proceed at 14 knots in such conditions," the report by Gibraltar's Department of Shipping said. Investigators also found that the bridge teams of both *Van Gogh*, operated by Club Cruise, and *Spetses*, operated by Minerva Marine, failed to keep a proper radar lookout as they approached each other and took decisions based on scant information. The report made a number of safety management recommendations to the operators of both vessels. The document also noted that port lookouts in Gibraltar monitored radio communications that day but failed to keep a close eye on ship movements using radar. The situation was further exacerbated by Gibraltar's lack of a proper vessel traffic service system. Although VTS operators in the neighbouring Spanish port of Algeciras, which shares the same bay, tried to prevent the collision, their warnings came too late. "Had Gibraltar port control radar been monitored on a continual basis by qualified personnel, in addition to the monitoring being carried out by Algeciras VTS, the developing situation might have been detected early enough and timely information given, which might have prevented the collision," the report said. Subsequent to the report, the Port of Gibraltar is to obtain a reliable VTS facility and train staff in its use. The investigation into the collision also noted that the Bay of Gibraltar, despite heavy maritime traffic to both Gibraltar and Algeciras, lacks an organised traffic separation scheme. Ships arriving at either port have to weave through busy anchorages and take account of regular ferries, including fast ships, sailing to and from Morocco. Additionally, there is no formal framework for communication between Gibraltar and Algeciras, on the other side of the bay. When the collision occurred, *Spetses* was sailing to Algeciras refinery and *Van Gogh* was en route from Gibraltar to Tangier. Organising maritime traffic in the Bay of Gibraltar is a delicate issue that is complicated by the complex political relationship between the Rock and Spain. However, since the collision officials in Gibraltar and Algeciras have held preliminary talks on how best to improve navigational safety in the bay.

VARANDEY (Russia)

London, Jan 15 — A press report, dated today, states: Salvage tug *Rubin* is awaiting a rising tide off Iturup Island, which is part of the Southern Kuriles archipelago, to pull off a sandbank ro/ro *Varandey* (1491 gt, built 1985) that was washed aground in the bay of Olya Jan 12. Yesterday, divers examined the underwater part of the ship and found numerous cracks and holes in it. *Varandey* crewmembers managed to repair some of them. *Rubin* tried to pull it off the

sandbank into clear water, but its efforts failed because of a beginning low tide. Full-sea period begins at around 0800, Moscow time, (0500, UTC), today and the water near Iturup will rise 40 centimetres, after which *Rubin* will make another effort to refloat the vessel. The 11 crew remains onboard *Varandey* and all the life support systems of the ship are working normally. Auxiliary engines of the ship are switched on to generate electric power and pumps have enough resources to deal with the water flowing through breaches into one of its holds. The ship got into a problem when it was leaving Iturup's wharf after unloading a consignment of coal. It was thrown aground by a squall.

London, Jan 15 — Following received from Vladivostok MRCC, timed 2330, UTC: Ro/ro *Varandey* is still aground with salvage tug *Rubin* in attendance.

London, Jan 16 — Following received from Vladivostok MRCC, timed 1805, UTC: Ro/ro *Varandey* is still aground with salvage tug *Rubin* in attendance. Salvage efforts are being hampered by very bad weather.

London, Jan 17 — Following received from Vladivostok MRCC, timed 2005, UTC: Ro/ro *Varandey* remains aground, with salvage operations stopped at present due bad weather. When weather improves, refloating attempts will resume.

London, Jan 18 — Following received from Vladivostok MRCC, timed 2005, UTC: Ro/ro *Varandey* is still aground, with salvage impossible at present due bad weather.

VASILY CHEAPAEV (Ukraine)

Edinburgh, Jan 17 — Romanian pusher tug *Giurgiu 15*, with a convoy of six barges carrying bauxite from Constantza to Tulcea, was in collision with Ukrainian non specific tanker *Vasily Cheapaev*, loaded with 500 tonnes of diesel, near Tulcea on the Romania-Ukraine border Jan 15. The *Vasily Cheapaev* sustained a seven-metre dent and 20-cm hole above the waterline. Tulcea Harbour-master has granted both vessels permission to leave. An investigation into the incident by Romanian authorities is under way. — Danube Research.

Edinburgh, Jan 17 — Pusher tug *Giurgiu 15*, collision with non specific tanker *Vasily Cheapaev*: The six barges being pushed by pusher tug *Giurgiu 15* are all 1,500 tonnes. — Danube Research.

VLIBORG (Netherlands)

London, Jan 15 — A press report, dated Jan 12, states: Work continues on the repair to the sea wall in the ship canal, damaged last August when general cargo *Vliborg* struck it trying to depart Duluth. First the damaged piling was pulled up and now, new sheet piling is being driven back in to maintain the barrier between the pier and the water. When a ship needs to come through the ship canal, tug *Maxine Thompson* pulls the crane barge around the corner facing the DECC until the ship is passed. It then

pulls the barge back into the ship canal and the work continues. Today, late in the morning bulk *John B. Aird* and bulk *Reserve* came into port, keeping the work out of the ship canal for that period of time. Later in the day, bulk *James R. Barker* departed Duluth. After *James R. Barker* departed, the crane barge came back into the ship canal and the work continued.

VOLGONEFT 120 (Russia)

London, Jan 17 — A press report, dated today, states: No one was hurt in a fire that broke out on board product tanker *Volgoneft 120* (3621 gt, built 1975) under repairs in Sevastopol, a source in the city department of the Emergency Situations Ministry said. The fire started on the tanker's nose in the drydock of the Ordzhokinidze shipyard and was presumed to have been caused by welding. Firemen prevented the fire from spreading into a warehouse, where lacquers and paints are being stored. Six teams of firemen, rescuers of the Emergency Situations Ministry and the shipyard's fire unit put the blaze down.

WESTERSCHELDEBORG (Netherlands)

Visby, Jan 16 — General cargo *Westerscheldeborg* (3164 gt, built 2002) arrived to port of Visby at about 0600, today due to that the forecabin had been flooded by seawater. Since the water, due to coming into pump room etc, has slight oil contamination, vessel had to go to berth for pumping it out and to make damage diagnosis. Water is now being pumped out and hope to be finished by this evening. The flooding happened yesterday while the vessel was under way in ballast from Fredriksverk to St Petersburg. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Westerscheldeborg* sailed St Petersburg Jan 9 for Hundested.)

Visby, Jan 17 — All water from general cargo *Westerscheldeborg* was successfully evacuated at the port of Visby. All found in good order and the vessel sailed from Visby at 1800, local time, Jan 16 to St. Petersburg. — Lloyd's Agents.

YUE DA 28 (Panama)

Yokohama, Jan 13 — Salvage operations to general cargo *Yue Da 28* are now underway. — Lloyd's Agents.

ZENEI MARU (Belize)

London, Jan 17 — A press report, dated today, states: Rescuers recovered the body of another crewmember from Belize fishing *Zeina-Maru* (? Zenei Maru) that sank off the Sakhalin island on Monday night, the Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk rescue centre reported. The number of confirmed fatalities thus reached eight, with three seamen still missing. They are presumed dead as the chances of surviving in icy water temperatures are infinitesimal. The vessel reportedly had a crew of 12 Russians. All the eight bodies were

recovered by the fishing vessels which sped to the scene after an An-24 reconnaissance plane of the Emergency Situations Ministry reported their location. The eighth body was evacuated by trawler *Shestakovo*. The dead sailor had on him the papers of *Zeina-Maru* crewmembers. The document lists the names of the crewmembers and the dates and places of birth. The only survivor of the shipwreck is a resident of Nakhodka, aged 28. He is presently on board trawler *Asanda*, but has not yet given any account of the accident. An emergency beacon on the *Zeina-Maru* maydayed at 0300, Moscow time. Four hours later, *Asanda* detected a raft with one sailor, who said the second raft had failed to inflate and that 11 crewmembers jumped into the water in hydrosuits. However, the gear proved inadequate in adverse weather, with the water temperature at two degrees Celsius and ambient air temperature at minus 10 degrees Celsius. A Force Five storm is reported in the area with wind velocity at 23 metres per second. Taking part in the ongoing rescue effort are five vessels.

London, Jan 17 — Following received from Vladivostok MRCC, timed 2340, UTC: Belize fishing *Zenei Maru*, length approximately 33 metres, no other details known, sank in lat 48 19.4N, long 141 20.5E. One person has been rescued alive, eight bodies have been recovered and three persons are missing.

London, Jan 18 — A press report, dated today, states: Rescuers in the Tatar Strait today suspended the search for three missing seamen from sunken fishing *Zenei Maru* because of the stormy sea and the icing of their vessels. The Vladivostok rescue center reported that all the vessels taking part in the operation retreated to shelters. The An-26 plane that was flying over the Tatar Strait, returned to the base due to poor visibility.

Port State Control



GERMANY

See *Celtic Terrier* under "Marine."

Seizures & Arrests



AEGEAN I (Greece)

London, Jan 13 — A report in the Jan 13 issue of "Newsfront" states: Passenger *Aegean I* (11563 gt, built 1973) was seized in the second half of December by Rivermont Shipping and Trading Inc in pursuit of a Euros 16,167,323.83 claim against the

registered owners, Dolphin Hellas Shipping SA. (Note — *Aegean I* arrived Piraeus Oct 28.)

AGIA KYRIAKI (Greece)

London, Jan 13 — A report in the Jan 13 issue of "Newsfront" states: First seized in mid-October, 2003, by Nissos Thirassia I NE, in pursuit of a claim of Euros 19,683.70 against the registered owners, and after being set for auction in failed proceedings last time in Jan 14 2004, ro/ro *Agia Kyriaki* has once again been seized, this time by Piraeus Port Authority, in pursuit of a Euros 10,181.74 claim against the owners, Dodekanisos NE.

ALCOR (Comoros)

Limassol, Jan 17 — General cargo *Alcor* was released on Jan 13 and sailed the same day for Piraeus. — Lloyd's Agents.

ANGELIKI M. (Honduras)

Port Said, Jan 15 — General cargo *Angeliki M.* is still under arrest at Port Said. — Lloyd's Agents.

AUDREY

London, Jan 17 — A press report, dated today, states: The owner of tug *Audrey* stranded with some of its crew in Bahrain for a year has promised to come here to settle any debts, including unpaid wages. Filipino Richard V Jorge, owner of the stricken *Audrey* was speaking from his home in Manila. He vowed to come to Bahrain soon to auction off the ship and settle a court case filed against him by the UAE company which chartered the ship. Mr Jorge said he was "in a hurry to come to Bahrain to clear my name and help my crew". The businessman, whose office R V J Shipping in Ajman, UAE, is now closed, said he was now in contact with Philippine Embassy officials. He said he hoped to travel to Bahrain some time this month. Embassy welfare officer Venus Bravo met Mr Jorge in Manila earlier this month. "Mr Jorge was the one who initiated the meeting," Ms Bravo said yesterday. "He said he was willing to come to Bahrain but getting a visa was not easy. "We assured him that the embassy could sponsor him." Mr Jorge said that he wanted to make it clear that he was not in hiding, whatever needs to be settled. "I am in touch with the Philippine Embassy in Bahrain and the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration here in Manila. "I need the embassy's assistance because I can only get a 72-hour visa to Bahrain from here and I need to stay in Bahrain for at least 15 days." Mr Jorge said that claims made in court that he has failed to keep in touch with his Bahraini lawyer were false. "In fact, I am in touch with my lawyer regularly via e-mail," he said. He hoped to settle the case filed against him in the Appeals Court by the *Audrey's* UAE-based charter Inventra General Trading Dubai, for losses incurred when the ship failed to reach Iran - its original destination. Inventra is demanding that Mr Jorge

pay \$102,000 because *Audrey* broke down on its way to Iran in December 2004 and was instead re-routed to Bahrain for repairs. "I told Inventra that I was willing to refund them the \$29,000 they paid to use *Audrey*, as long as they returned the ship to Dubai as part of our original agreement, but they refused," said Mr Jorge. He also hoped to settle the unpaid salaries of his nine-member crew, but said that their claim jointly amounting to more than \$34,000 is way too high. "I really do not think that amount is accurate because I have paid them some money in the last few months," he said. "I have records and I am in constant communication with all of them, including the family of Albert Sampollo, the cook of the ship, who died last year. "I have assured my crew that I will pay them whatever I owe them." But he said he does not have the money and would only be able to raise it by selling the ship. *Audrey's* former master Jun Ustares and engineer Greg Cueto are now back in Bahrain in new jobs in separate shipping companies. They left the ship earlier than the others, in March and February last year, respectively. The seven sailors - Romy Grantos, Gengis Contig, Mr Sampollo, Romeo Dacanay, Luis Lamigo, Novi Peregua and Ruben Archangel - were caught in the financial dispute between Mr Jorge and Inventra. Mr Contig and Mr Grantos were allowed to leave for the Philippines because of family emergencies back home. The remaining five were stranded for six months on *Audrey* after a court ruled in June last year that they must stay on board. It was also in June last year that the ship's cook, Mr Sampollo, was rushed to the Salmaniya Medical Complex after he complained of chest pains. He later died of a heart attack. The four remaining sailors were finally sent home to the Philippines last month, when a Higher Court judge ruled that the *Audrey* be docked and its crew sent home. They signed powers of attorney at the embassy, authorising embassy officials to file claims against Mr Jorge for their unpaid salaries. "I have the embassy's official letter addressed to the Foreign Affairs Ministry as well as the Justice Ministry about the sailors' claims and as soon as both ministries reopen this week, I will deliver them," said Mr Nerida. Mr Jorge said that he had hoped that the sailors would not file the case against him and that the matter could be settled out of court. "Unfortunately, I was not informed immediately by my lawyer nor the ship's agent in Bahrain that the remaining four crew members had been sent back to the Philippines," said Mr Jorge. "I only found out they were back in the Philippines when they called me." The next court hearing will be on Feb 26, after the judge adjourned it on Dec 26. "I want this case finished and closed because it has affected many people," said Mr Jorge. "I was told by my lawyer that the case would only take between

three and six months. "If I had known it was going to take this long, almost one year in fact, then maybe I would have taken other action. "It was not in my hands and it was not me who made the crew suffer. I want to help my crew, but I need help first to get to Bahrain."

BALTIC KRISTINA (Latvia)

Riga, Jan 16 — Passenger ro/ro *Baltic Kristina* is still lying alongside at Riga. The Court returned an insolvency order against the owners, Rigas Juras Linija, on Nov 7. The crew members' contracts expired on Dec 8, but the personnel who have maintained the vessel's survival systems were working on board until Dec 15. The Port Authorities took charge of the vessel on Dec 16. The Freeport of Riga bought the vessel at auction on ec 21 for lat 2.56 million (Euros 3.64 million). The Port Authority is presently searching for buyers or charterers for the vessel. — Lloyd's Agents.

BRIGHT QUEEN (South Korea)

London, Jan 16 — A press report, dated today, states: Bulk *Bright Queen* (26014 gt, built 1985) as been detained in the North Port at Port Klang the past month after its owner was declared a bankrupt. The vessel has been confined at Wharf 24 after a detaining order was issued by the Shipping Bank Company Ltd based in South Korea. The bank had appointed a Malaysian lawyer to obtain an order from the Shah Alam High Court to detain the vessel. The crew of *Bright Queen* consist of 10 Korean officers and 11 Filipino crew members. The ship owner, Deashin Shipping Company Ltd, owes the crew one month's salary, amounting to about US\$38,000. An International Transport Workers Federation (ITF) Fair Practices Committee member, A. Balasubramaniam, said *Bright Queen* arrived at North Port from Bangladesh on Dec 15 last year to load cargo for its next destination. "The consignee in Malaysia had loaded about 11,490 tonnes of palm kernel expeller into the vessel when the court order was issued," he said. Balasubramaniam said that since the cargo has been detained at the deep water point for the past month, the local consignee had made an application to upload their goods. "They had started to upload since Friday morning and the work is expected to be completed by tomorrow. They will also be getting another vessel to transport the palm kernel expeller," he said yesterday. Once the uploading work is completed, the vessel will be moved to anchor. It cannot sail without a release letter from the court. Balasubramaniam added that the crew members had sought their help to recover the salary owed to them. He said: "We have informed the ITF's sub-regional office in Tokyo. We are waiting for their advice on the next step." In the case of the crew of *Bright Queen*, Balasubramaniam said that the ITF

would be appointing a lawyer to ensure that the owner pay the salaries soon.

London, Jan 16 — A press report, dated Port Klang, today, states: Bulk *Bright Queen* (26014 gt, built 1985) has been detained in the North Port here the past month after its owner was declared a bankrupt. *Bright Queen*, has been confined at Wharf 24 after a detaining order was issued by the Shipping Bank Company Ltd based in South Korea. The bank had appointed a Malaysian lawyer to obtain an order from the Shah Alam High Court to detain the vessel. The crew of *Bright Queen* have 10 Korean officers and 11 Filipino crew members. The owner, Deashin Shipping Company Ltd, owes the crew one month's salary, amounting to about US\$38,000. An International Transport Workers Federation Fair Practices Committee member, A. Balasubramaniam, said *Bright Queen* arrived at North Port from Bangladesh on Dec 15 to load cargo for its next destination. "The consignee in Malaysia had loaded about 11,490 tonnes of palm kernel expeller into the vessel when the court order was issued," he said. Balasubramaniam said that since the cargo has been detained at the deep water point for the past month, the local consignee had made an application to upload their goods. "They had started to upload since Friday (Jan 13) morning and the work is expected to be completed by tomorrow. They will also be getting another vessel to transport the palm kernel expeller," he told The Malay Mail yesterday. Once the uploading work is completed, the vessel will be moved to anchor. It can not sail without a release letter from the court. Balasubramaniam added that the crew members had sought their help to recover the salary owed to them. He said: "We have informed the ITF's sub-regional office in Tokyo. We are waiting for their advice on the next step." In the case of the crew of *Bright Queen*, Balasubramaniam said that the ITF would be appointing a lawyer to ensure that the owner pay the salaries soon.

COSTILA (Romania)

Bucharest, Jan 12 — Fish factory *Costila* was scrapped and exported at the end of 2004. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Costila* was reported on April 11, 1996, to be under arrest on behalf of Tulcea shipyard due owners' unpaid debts.)

DELOS (Bahamas)

Port Said, Jan 15 — Chem.tank *Delos* is still under arrest at Port Said. — Lloyd's Agents.

EGASCO FORTUNE (Egypt)

See under "Marine."

ELEN (Honduras)

Port Said, Jan 15 — General cargo *Elen* is still under arrest at Port Said. — Lloyd's Agents.

EUROCARRIER (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

London, Jan 13 — A press report, dated today, states: Ro/ro *Eurocarrier* (7662 gt, built 1975) bearing vehicles marked with United Nations insignia and light weapons was berthed in Malabo port today after being seized by the country's navy. Military and port sources said the vessel had been boarded off Malabo yesterday. No reason was given for the action and UN and government officials were not available for comment today. A port source said the ship was reported to the authorities in Equatorial Guinea territorial waters by an oil company. Some 100 white vehicles bearing the letters UN were seen parked on the deck of the vessel by an AFP reporter. Taken off by the local military and driven away to an unknown destination, they included trucks, ambulances and vehicles fitted with machine-guns. A military source said light weapons were also found in containers aboard the ship.

HANKO I (Honduras)

Port Said, Jan 15 — Tug *Hanko I* is still under arrest at Port Said. — Lloyd's Agents.

INDONESIAN FISHING VESSEL SEIZED BY AUSTRALIA

London, Jan 16 — A press report, dated today, states: A group of Indonesian fishermen, who have been apprehended off Western Australia's Kimberley coast, have been taken aboard the Navy vessel HMAS *Fremantle*. Fishing gear used to poach valuable trochus shell has allegedly been found on board their boat. The vessel was spotted by a Coastwatch aircraft Saturday (Jan 14), about 190 km off Cape Leveque on the Dampier Peninsula, north of Broome. The 23 crew were picked up yesterday afternoon by the Navy. They will be taken to either Broome or Darwin to be interviewed.

London, Jan 17 — A press report, dated today, states: Twenty-three Indonesian fishermen caught off the Kimberley coast will arrive in Darwin this morning for questioning. The crew were intercepted by the navy vessel HMAS *Fremantle* on Sunday (Jan 15) afternoon about 190 km north of Cape Leveque. They had been spotted the previous day by a Coastwatch aircraft. Their boat sunk at sea while being towed to Willie Creek, north of Broome.

LUBAVA (Belize)

Gothenburg, Jan 16 — General cargo *Lubava* loaded 3,300 tonnes of grain and sailed Jan 11 for Seville. The crew has been changed, with the exception of the master. The crew have been paid in full and have signed an ITF agreement. — Westax Marine Services AB.

Gothenburg, Jan 19 — A local press report states: Five crewmembers from general cargo *Lubava* returned to St Petersburg, Russia, have been robbed and assaulted, and all the money taken. At the office of Transport

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

Unions, it feels that “representatives” of the Shipping Line may be behind this incident and returned the money to the Line. ITF informed local Unions to support the seamen. As we understand, they all have been visited by persons who knocked them down and requested the money received from the vessel, says Goran Larsson of Transport. — Westax Marine Services AB.

MONTE MEIXUEIRO (Spain)

See “Spanish Fishing Vessels Seized by Norway”.

NISSOS KALAMOS (Greece)

London, Jan 13 — A report in the Jan 13 issue of “Newsfront” states: Tug *Nissos Kalamos* (119 gt, built 1977) was seized at the end of December by a private creditor in pursuit of a Euros 22,961.70 claim against the registered owners, Portolos Salvage & Towage.

ORIENTAL (Egypt)

Port Said, Jan 15 — Fishing *Oriental* is still under arrest at Port Said. — Lloyd’s Agents.

PAN YUN BO 1 (China)

London, Jan 13 — General cargo *Pan Yun Bo 1* is still reported at Western Anchorage No.1, Hong Kong, under detention.

London, Jan 19 — General cargo *Pan Yun Bo 1* is still reported at Western Anchorage No.1, Hong Kong, under detention.

RIKA (Estonia)

Tallinn, Jan 12 — According to the Harbour Master general cargo *Rika* is still under arrest at Meeruse Harbour, Tallinn. Prospects of release are unknown. — Lloyd’s Agents.

SALEM TWO (Egypt)

Alexandria, Jan 14 — General cargo *C.H.M.T.*, ex *Salem Two*, remains under arrest at Alexandria. — Lloyd’s Agents.

SEA EMPEROR (Georgia)

Kochi, Jan 14 — Bulk *Sea Emperor* is still at Kochi. We understand the vessel has been released from arrest following settlement of dues to creditors. However, it is now detained for non-payment of crew wages, which is likely to be cleared by next week, and is also being negotiated for sale. — Lloyd’s Agents.

SENTINEL (Comoros)

Genoa, Jan 18 — General cargo *Sentinel* remains under arrest at Genoa. — Lloyd’s Agents.

SPANISH FISHING VESSELS SEIZED BY NORWAY

London, Jan 16 — On Jan 15, fishing *Monte Meixueiro* was reported to be at the port of Vigo.

SPIROS LEKKAS (Greece)

London, Jan 13 — A report in the Jan 13 issue of “Newsfront” states: Tug *Spiros Lekkas* (258 gt, built 1960) was seized at the end of December by

a private creditor in pursuit of a Euros 72,568.80 claim against the registered owners, Portolos Salvage & Towage.

THETIS

Port Said, Jan 15 — General cargo *Thetis* is still under arrest in the Great Bitter Lakes. — Lloyd’s Agents.

Pipeline Accidents



NIGER DELTA, NIGERIA

See “Nigeria” under “Political & Civil Unrest”.

SUI AREA, PAKISTAN

See “Pakistan” under “Political & Civil Unrest”.

Pollution



GLADSTONE, QUEENSLAND, AUSTRALIA

London, Jan 17 — A press report, dated today, states: The Queensland Government says the operators of product tanker *Larcom* (1195 gt, built 1991) which dumped a tonne of oil in Gladstone Harbour, on the state’s central coast, will have to cover the cost of the clean-up. Maritime Safety Queensland (MSQ) says the oil was dumped yesterday from *Larcom* as it discharged ballast. The vessel was at the RG Tanna Coal Terminal at the time. MSQ and the Central Queensland Ports Authority worked all day to contain the spill. MSQ captain John Watkinson says while most of the oil was contained, some washed ashore and the nearby Spinnaker Beach was closed as a precaution. He says by late yesterday afternoon most of the oil had been cleaned up.

London, Jan 18 — A press report, dated today, states: Gladstone Harbour in central Queensland has been cleaned up after an oil spill earlier this week. Maritime Safety Queensland spokesman Captain John Watkinson said inspections yesterday confirmed all the oil has been removed from the harbour. Product tanker *Larcom* purged about a tonne of oil on Monday (Jan 16) while in the harbour. Captain Watkinson said none of the oil entered the Auckland Creek or marina but some did wash up on nearby rocks and a beach. He said the barge would not be able to operate until authorities were confident it would not be a risk. He said an investigation would determine whether anyone would be prosecuted as a result of the incident.

ISLAND END RIVER, MASSACHUSETTS, UNITED STATES

London, Jan 13 — A press report, dated Jan 11, states: Environmental crews in Chelsea are trying to find the source of a leak that has dumped thousands of gallons of diesel fuel into a river. The Department of Environmental Protection said up to 3,000 gallons of diesel fuel was discovered in the Island End River yesterday. The fuel may have been dumped by a vessel that has since left the area. “It was a combination of what appeared to be fuel oil and, what I am believing to be, gear oil. It is just not fuel,” Coast Guard Lt. Greg Callaghan said. Clean Harbors is helping with the cleanup, which will take a few days.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA, UNITED STATES

London, Jan 19 — A press report, dated Jan 18, states: Two million gallons of raw sewage spilled onto Southern California beaches, closing some 10 miles of coastline to surfers and beach goers for days, officials said on Tuesday (Jan 17). Water quality and sanitation officials said the spillage, which sent raw sewage bubbling up from manholes into a handful of homes, onto the sand and into the Pacific Ocean on Sunday, was the worst in about a decade. “It is definitely one of the largest spills in years. It was pretty significant,” said Bernard Franklin, water quality manager for the Los Angeles County Office of Environmental Health. A nearly 10-mile stretch of beach from Manhattan Beach to Palos Verdes was expected to remain closed until tomorrow or Friday while crews treat and test a football field-sized area of stinking sand and faecal material, Franklin said. Officials said the spillage was caused by an electrical malfunction at a pumping station in Manhattan Beach, south of Los Angeles, and the failure of a telephone-based alarm system intended to alert authorities. Only about 200,000-500,000 gallons of sewage made it into the waters of Santa Monica Bay, where it will be dispersed naturally. Much of the rest was contained by hastily dug sand barriers on the beach, where solid material was removed by bulldozers and the sand was treated with chlorine. “We want to make sure the public is protected. We are still waiting for the full results of tests for bacteria,” Franklin said. Most of those in the ocean in January are surfers but walkers were also told to stay away from the beaches until the health threat was over.

SUN NEW (South Korea)

London, Jan 17 — South Korean bulk *Sun New* (18869 gt, built 1985) is the latest ship to come under the US Coast Guard’s investigative microscope for alleged oily water separator infractions, resulting in the detention in Philadelphia of the chief and second engineers as suspects.

Four Filipino crew members of *Sun New* are also under detention in the Philadelphia area as material witnesses, Lloyd's List understands. Coast Guard sources said the owner of the vessel, Seoul-based Sun Ace, was required to post a surety bond in order to get the ship on its way out of Camden harbour, where the investigation was launched. The charge is a violation of the Act to Prevent Pollution at Sea, the sources said. Cdr Kyle McAvoy, chief of the prevention department of the US Coast Guard's Sector Delaware Bay, told Lloyd's List the agency could not comment officially until the investigation was on, a process that could run into weeks. However, informed sources close to the situation have provided the chronology of events. The vessel called Camden Dec 31 and a few Filipino seafarers lodged a complaint with local authorities alleging, among other things, illegal discharge of oily sludge overboard on the high seas several weeks previously. The Coast Guard investigated and found primary grounds to hold the chief and second engineers as suspects. Reports that the Filipino seafarers alleged physical abuse at the hands of the chief engineer could not be independently confirmed. The *Sun New* joins an apparently growing number of ships under investigation in the greater Philadelphia region for alleged pollution. (Note — *Sun New* arrived Camden Dec 31, sailed Jan 11 and arrived Savannah 2040, Jan 15.)

WASHINGTON STATE, UNITED STATES

Seattle, Jan 12 — As the problem leakage on barge *Barge 340* was noted before more than 10 gallons had been discharged, the owners were able to apply a patch to the tank on site. The USCG inspected the work and vessel authorized to return to service Dec 1. The USCG closed the case on Dec 1 and no further actions or repairs are expected/required. — Lloyd's Agents.



AFGHANISTAN

London, Jan 16 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: At least 13 people have been killed in a landslide while heavy snow has left hundreds of thousands of others stranded in northern Afghanistan's mountainous villages, officials said today. Heavy rain and snow triggered the landslide in remote villages in northern Sar-i-Pul province killing residents including women and children late Friday (Jan 13), provincial governor Mohammad Iqbal Munib told AFP. "Thirteen people, men, women and children were killed when part of a mountain fell over and destroyed five homes in Ghil Dara district of Sar-i-

Pul on Friday night," Munib said. Meanwhile more than 300,000 residents faced "serious disaster" after heavy snow blocked roads leading to their mountainous villages in Badakhshan, also in northern Afghanistan, another official said.

BANGLADESH

London, Jan 17 — A press report, dated today, states: Stranding of thousands of passengers returning from Eid vacation continued yesterday on the roads, rivers and at the airports. Some passengers who were travelling by road were stranded for two days at ferry terminals while the authorities struggled to maintain order as many angry passengers attacked bus drivers and ferry authorities for inadequate services. Flight inquiry sources at Zia International Airport (ZIA) said departures and arrivals of several international and domestic flights were delayed by at least two to three hours due to dense fog. Launch operators said all launches plying the southern routes were delayed in reaching Dhaka by at least six hours. Dhaka bound traffic coming through Maowa ferry terminal was stretched for miles yesterday stranding some passengers on the road overnight. A traffic jam of private cars and buses stretched at least five kilometres into areas where there was no shop or place to rest. Angry passengers set upon the bus drivers to take them to restaurants as children and the elderly became hungry and were getting sick from cold. A number of elderly passengers were reported to be severely ill as temperatures dropped inside the un-heated buses. Dhaka-bound passengers faced immense sufferings at Doulatdia-Paturia and Kazirhat-Paturia ferry terminals as ferry services remained suspended between Sunday (Jan 15) night and yesterday morning due to a thick blanket of fog. Aricha office sources of the Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation (BIWTC) said they were compelled to suspend ferry services for about 10 hours at those three terminals yesterday for dense fog over the rivers Padma and Jamuna. All the ferries were stuck in the middle of the rivers, they said.

HURRICANE "KATRINA"

London, Jan 12 — A press report, dated today, states: Hurricane "Katrina" wiped more than \$1bn from BP's profits in the fourth quarter of the year, but the oil giant is still expected to report record earnings for 2005 next month. BP said lost profits caused by the closure of its Texas City refinery, which was in the direct path of "Katrina," had amounted to \$1.05bn in the three months. It also expects to book \$130m of costs for repairing hurricane damage and ongoing work on its Thunder Horse platform in the Gulf of Mexico, which was blown over in a previous storm.

HURRICANE "WILMA"

Freeport, Bahamas, Jan 17 — Chem.tank *Kera* remains at Freeport awaiting repairs. It was actually at Freeport for engine repairs when the incident occurred. It is our understanding that these original damages should be repaired before the end of this month at which time the vessel will proceed to dry dock for structural repairs. Launch *Hustler III*: Damages to this vessel are extensive and probably beyond viable repair. It has been hauled at a repair facility at Freeport awaiting a decision by the owner. — Lloyd's Agents.

JAPAN

London, Jan 13 — A press report, dated today, states: The nationwide death toll from the recent blizzards rose to 81 yesterday with the finding of five more bodies, and helicopter relief and airlift operations were hampered by poor visibility and strong winds. The Meteorological Agency meanwhile issued an avalanche warning to snow-packed areas because it expects temperatures to rise nationwide from today to Sunday. The number of deaths from snow-related incidents since December rose to 81 in 17 prefectures yesterday after a 75-year-old man in Yamagata Prefecture died after being buried in snow and four other men were found dead in Fukui and Gifu prefectures.

London, Jan 16 — A press report, dated today, states: A government team visited north-western Japan today to measure the damage from heavy snow as the death toll from extreme weather reached 95, an official and a news report said. The team visited Nagano Prefecture, one of the hardest-hit regions, to meet with local officials and survey the relief efforts, according to official Hisashi Yumoto. Heavy snow across Japan since December has cut off mountain villages and been blamed for hundreds of injuries, prompting the military to mobilise about 2,000 troops to remove snow from roads and homes. Nagano officials asked the central government for more money to clear snow and compensate farmers whose crops were damaged, Yumoto said. The team will also visit Tsuman, Niigata Prefecture, which was blanketed with 2.89 meters of snow, the Cabinet Office said in a statement. Kyodo News agency said today there had been 95 snow-related deaths since early December, citing its own tally. Over the weekend (Jan 14-15), rain and higher temperatures triggered several avalanches. No injuries were reported. The snow and cold spell had caused damage to Japan's agriculture and fisheries worth about 3.67 billion yen as of Jan 13, Mamoru Ishihara, vice minister of agriculture, forestry and fisheries, said today. Low temperatures ruined vegetables and fruits, while greenhouses collapsed under the weight of snow, said Agriculture Ministry official Mitsuru Fukuda.

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

MOZAMBIQUE

London, Jan 13 — A press report, dated Jan 12, states: The heavy rains that have been falling over much of southern Africa in the past week have resulted in severe flooding in parts of Mozambique and are causing disruption to rail transport. The railway between Maputo and Zimbabwe which skirts the Limpopo River has been washed away or covered in mud in several places and no rail traffic from the country's main port is possible to its landlocked neighbour. A spokesman for CFM, the rail operator said that repairs will only be possible once the rain stops. In central Mozambique the small port and town of Inhambane is cut off from much of the rest of the country. Elsewhere in southern Africa the road between Zeerust in South Africa and Gaborone in Botswana has also been cut after flooding but road traffic is able to divert to other border crossings.

London, Jan 19 — A press report, dated today, states: Flood-stricken Mozambique yesterday asked international donors for about \$20m to help it provide disaster relief in the southern African country. "The government needs \$23m to set up a contingency plan for the rainy season, which has already caused damage throughout the country," said State Administration Minister Lucas Chomera at a meeting attended by representatives of some 100 donors. President Armando Guebuza's government has come up with three million dollars and is now "hoping to fill the gap with help from our international partners," said Paulo Zucula, director of the national disaster relief institute. At least 21 people have died in the flooding during the rainy season from December to March in Mozambique, while tens of thousands of families have been affected by the rising waters. The national disaster relief institute is planning to send emergency equipment in remote areas. Only 150 boats and 1,000 tents are available country-wide for disaster relief, according to Zucula. Under the proposed plan, rescue services would be able to help 800 000 people during floods, 1.1 million in drought and 1.2 million during cyclones.

ROMANIA

Bucharest, Jan 13 — The Sulina Channel was closed at 0630, Jan 11 due to bad weather, wind north-east 5-7 Bf (fresh breeze-near gale), sea 5-6 feet and was re-opened at 0600, today. — Lloyd's Agents.

RUSSIA

London, Jan 12 — A press report, dated today, states: Russia's second-largest oil port, Novorossiysk, opened to shipping yesterday after high winds and rough seas prevented tankers from docking for six days, local ship agents said. The crude oil tanker *Yannis P.* started loading its cargo at the Sheskharis oil terminal,

according to the agents. Operations were halted on Jan 5 as north-east winds of up to 90 km an hour closed in on the Black Sea harbour, creating 2.5-metre high sea swells. Another five tankers had docked at the facility, while another 15 were waiting to berth. Seven vessels are scheduled to arrive at the facility in the next three days, the agents said. Shipping operations at Novorossiysk are frequently disrupted during the colder months.

London, Jan 18 — A press report, dated today, states: At least eight people across Russia died from the frigid weather yesterday, officials said, as Arctic cold from Siberia swept across western Russia, sending night temperatures as low as minus 36 Celsius and prompting warnings of power cuts. In Russia's Volga region, six people drowned when the ice broke under a minibus that was crossing a frozen river near the city of Nizhny Novgorod. The minibus was driving on the ice at a point normally passable in the summer. "There were 15 people in the vehicle, nine managed to escape and six drowned," an official with the emergency ministry told the Interfax news agency. Interfax also reported two people had died of hypothermia in Moscow earlier yesterday while another 14 were hospitalised with exposure. Forecasters said the cold snap in the Moscow region could reach as low as minus 37 C towards week's end, as local authorities implemented measures to ensure the smooth functioning of public infrastructure amid the sudden plunge in temperatures. Moscow energy officials issued warnings to some 200 companies and other organisations whose energy supplies might be reduced in order to conserve supplies, RIA-Novosti said. State-controlled gas monopoly Gazprom warned power companies throughout the European part of Russia that it might have to reduce gas deliveries by up to 50 percent because of the cold, a spokesman for Russia's power grid RAO EES, Margarita Nagoga, told the interfax news agency. Power plants in Moscow late yesterday started to switch from gas to oil, using the oil in their fuel reserves, Nagoga said. If Gazprom does reduce its deliveries, Moscow power stations will have to use 20,000 tons of oil and 10,000 tons of coal a day. They have sufficient reserves for two weeks. Switching to oil "represents for us more expensive electrical power and, if the cold were to go on for a long time, there is a risk of exhausting our fuel reserves," Nagoga said. The MFB stock exchange suspended trading mid-afternoon after being among those warned of a possible power shortfall.

London, Jan 19 — A press report, dated today, states: Gale and snowstorms that enveloped the Kamchatka Peninsula have caused a suspension of all commercial flights to and from the airport of Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky. Because of bad weather, air controllers had to divert a flight from Moscow's Domodedovo airport to

a standby airport in Magadan. A flight from Novosibirsk was delayed in Vladivostok, where it made a stopover. Also, the aviation authorities cancelled all the local flights inside the Kamchatka region.

London, Jan 19 — Russia's main Black Sea oil export terminal of Novorossiysk was shut today because of strong winds and high sea swells, shipping sources said. The port was shut after a gale warning issued at 1130, local time (0830, UTC). Forecasts predicted winds of 13-18 metres per second in the morning, and as fast as 23 metres per second by the evening. A gale warning is issued when the wind speed reaches 17 metres per second. At the same time, the sea swell was expected to rise to two to four metres. "The worst part is the sea swell," a shipping source said. "Berthing and unberthing is impossible." The nearby CPC oil export terminal was also shut. — Reuters.

TROPICAL CYCLONE "CLARE"

London, Jan 12 — A press report, dated today, states: Operations at the North Western Australian iron ore ports of Port Hedland, Port Walcott and Dampier are returning to normal after the passage of Tropical Cyclone "Clare" earlier this week.

Port Hedland: The port was closed on Sunday (Jan 8). The anchorage reopened and the first vessel berthed on Tuesday (Jan 10).

Port Walcott: The port closed the Walcott berths to all vessels from 1400, Saturday (Jan 7). The anchorage reopened for vessels on Tuesday (Jan 10).

Port Walcott berths are due to re-open at 1600, today for re-berthing of partly loaded vessels.

Dampier: Dampier Port Authority closed the anchorage to vessels from Sunday (Jan 8). The port was closed to all movements from midday on Monday (Jan 9). The Dampier anchorage reopened for vessels on Tuesday (Jan 10). Hamersley Iron EII & Parker Point 2 Berths re-opened at 0800, today. Parker Point 1 berth is due to reopen on Sunday (Jan 15).

London, Jan 17 — A press report, dated today, states: The State Government has announced flood-affected areas across Western Australia have been made eligible for disaster relief. Acting Premier Eric Ripper and Emergency Services Minister Michelle Roberts flew over Lake Grace, Greenough and Walkaway this morning. The flood damage can be clearly seen from the air. Paddocks around Lake Grace are covered in sheets of water, while roads and railway lines are submerged. Parts of Walkaway in the mid-west have also been affected. Those communities and others affected by Cyclone "Clare" are eligible for financial assistance under WA's natural disaster relief arrangement. The cost of damage to housing, farmland and major infrastructure is estimated to be more than A\$3 million.

TROPICAL CYCLONE "DARYL"

London, Jan 19 — A press report, dated today, states: A tropical cyclone off Western Australia's far north has been upgraded to a category 2 storm. Cyclone "Daryl" is hovering about 200 kilometres north-north-east of Broome off the Kimberley coast, and moving south-west at seven kilometres-an-hour. The Fire and Emergency Services Authority (FESA) says areas between Kuri Bay and Cape Leveque have been put on yellow alert. Communities south to Bidadanga, including Broome, are on blue alert. Weather bureau spokesman Joe Courtney says heavy rainfall is also expected across the region. Communities have been advised to prepare for possible destructive winds. Kimberley operations manager Gordon Tiddums says contact has been made with communities on the Dampier Peninsula to ensure preparations are under way. The operators of the Kooljaman tourist resort on the Dampier Peninsula say they have gone into lockdown. The resort's acting manager, Adrian Prendergast, says the wind is intensifying and is close to gale force strength.

London, Jan 19 — Following received from the Meteorological Office: At 0600, UTC, Tropical Cyclone "Daryl" was located within 20 nautical miles of lat 16.5S, long 121.8 E. Recent movement: south-west at six knots. Maximum winds: 50 knots. Central pressure: 976 hPa. Area affected: Within 60 nautical miles of the centre extending to 120 nautical miles in northern quadrants. Forecast: Within 20 nautical miles of the centre: winds increasing to 65 knots by 1800, UTC, Jan 19, and to 75 knots by 0600 UTC, Jan 20, with very high to phenomenal seas and heavy swell. Within 40 nautical miles of the centre: 48/63 knot winds with high to very high seas and heavy swell. Within 60 nautical miles of the centre extending to 120 nautical miles in northern quadrants: Clockwise winds above 34 knots with rough to very rough seas, moderate to heavy swell. At 1800, UTC, Jan 19: Within 50 nautical miles of lat 17.2S, long 120.7W. Central pressure 965 hPa. Winds to 65 knots near centre. At 0600 UTC, Jan 20: Within 70 nautical miles of lat 18.3S, long 119.6E. Central pressure 955 hPa. Winds to 75 knots near centre.

TROPICAL STORM "KAJIKI"

Manila, Jan 13 — The National Power Corporation (Napocor) reported today that the amount of oil which escaped from barge *Napocor Power Barge No.106* was higher than originally estimated. Napocor said in a statement that 150,000 liters of oil spilled into waters off the island of Semirara island in central Philippines and not just 45,000 liters as earlier estimated by the Philippine Coast

Guard. The barge's tanks were consequently breached after heavy pounding by waves. More oil would have spilled except for the immediate pumping of water by the barge's crew into the storage tanks which prevented a larger oil spill. An estimated 56 hectares of coastal mangrove forests in Semirara island have been severely damaged by the oil spill. Napocor estimates that it would take two more months to clean up the area. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

TROPICAL STORM "KAJIKI"

Manila, Jan 16 — Repairs are now being undertaken to barge *Napocor Power Barge No.106* at the Keppel Batangas Shipyard in Bauan, Batangas, following the completion of negotiations between the state-owned National Power Corporation (Napocor) and Keppel Batangas. The power barge, which sustained hull damage after running aground off Semirara island in December, entered the shipyard on Friday. The vessel was moored off Keppel Shipyard for over a week to undergo degassing and emptying of its fuel tanks and to await the completion of negotiations on the cost of repairs. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

TROPICAL STORM "TAM"

London, Jan 13 — A press release from Reuters, dated today: Tropical storm "Tam" struck Niue at about 1000, GMT, Jan 13. Data supplied by the US Navy and Air Force Joint Typhoon Warning Center suggest that the point of landfall was near lat 19.2S, long 170.8W. "Tam" brought 1-minute maximum sustained winds to the region of around 64 km/hr. Wind gusts in the area may have been considerably higher.

London, Jan 14 — Following received from the Meteorological Office: Tropical cyclone "Tam" located near lat 27.2S, long 167.8W, at 0000, UTC: Movement past six hours 165 deg at 40 knots. Position accurate to within 60 nautical miles, based on centre located by satellite. Maximum sustained winds 35 knots with gusts to 45 knots. Dissipating as a significant tropical cyclone over water. Forecast for 0000, UTC, Jan 15: Position lat 43.2S, long 159.2W. Maximum sustained winds 35 knots with gusts to 45 knots. Dissipated as a significant tropical cyclone over water.

UNITED STATES

London, Jan 18 — A press report, dated today, states: Nevada Governor Kenny Guinn made an official request yesterday for national help to recover after the New Year's flood. The Governor sent a letter to President Bush asking him to proclaim a Presidential Disaster Declaration for Northern Nevada. If the State's request is approved, the federal government would provide a 75% reimbursement

for damage costs, now estimated at \$17 million. The letter to the president listed Carson City and the counties of Douglas, Lyon, Storey, and Washoe as areas affected by the floods. It also declares the cities of Reno and Sparks as most impacted by the storm.

London, Jan 19 — A press report, dated today, states: Two people have been killed as high winds hit the north-east coast of America. Authorities have reported that a 52-year-old man was killed just north of New York when a tree fell on his car. Another 80-year-old Massachusetts woman was killed after high winds threw her car off course in Cape Cod. The winds also cut off power to over 440,000 homes and businesses in Connecticut, New Jersey, Philadelphia, Rhode Island, Massachusetts and New York. Gusts exceeding 60 miles per hour were also reported in the Boston area yesterday, delaying flights into Boston's Logan International Airport. Forecasts are predicting that the adverse weather conditions are set to continue over the next few days.

Earthquakes**CHINA**

Beijing, Jan 13 — An earthquake in a remote part of south-west China destroyed 13,752 houses yesterday and 20,000 villagers have been evacuated, Xinhua news agency said today. Only one person was injured. The tremor, measuring 5.0 on the Richter scale, hit Mojiang county in mountainous Yunnan Province was felt by 100,000 people in 67 villages, Xinhua said. "Houses, schools, hospitals and water and transportation facilities have been damaged to different extents," it said, adding that economic damage had reached 56.6 million yuan (\$6.9 million). — Reuters.

FLORES ISLAND, INDONESIA

London, Jan 16 — A press report, dated today, states: A strong earthquake measuring 6.1 on the Richter scale has struck Indonesia's eastern island of Flores but no damage or casualties were reported, the meteorology office said today. The quake struck at 1158, GMT, yesterday with its epicentre 251 kilometres beneath the Flores Sea, some 93 kilometres north-west of the town of Larantuka on Flores, the Jakarta-based office said. Police in Larantuka said they had received no reports of damage or deaths. The US Geological Survey recorded the tremor, which occurred about 1,770 kilometers east of the capital Jakarta, at 6.2 on the Richter scale. Indonesia sits on the so-

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called Pacific Rim of Fire, where the meeting of continental plates causes high volcanic and seismic activity.

Volcanic Activity



MOUNT AUGUSTINE, ALASKA, UNITED STATES

Anchorage, Jan 13 — Three explosions at Augustine Volcano, an island peak 171 miles south-west of Anchorage, sent ash clouds soaring nearly 10 miles above sea level today, officials said. The explosions, lasting three-and-a-half to 11 minutes each, followed two similar events on Wednesday (Jan 11) and were part of an eruptive period that could last for months, said Tina Neal, a geologist with the federal-state Alaska Volcano Observatory. "This is one big eruption period, and it's going to have several sub-events that we might call eruptive pulses," she said. Alaska Airlines announced the cancellation of 28 flights between this afternoon and tomorrow morning as a precaution, including routes from Anchorage to Los Angeles and Seattle. A pilot reported ash from the second explosion as high as 52,000 feet above sea level, Neal said. Ash clouds from the other two explosions reached 30,000 to 36,000 feet, according to the observatory. A "very light dusting" of ash was reported near Homer, a community about 75 miles north-east of Augustine, Neal said. The ash fall was reported by a National Weather Service observer, said Dave Schneider, a US Geological Survey official at the volcano observatory. — Reuters.

London, Jan 14 — A press report, dated today, states: Some flights to and from Alaska have been cancelled after a series of volcanic eruptions. The Augustine volcano has sent plumes of smoke 15 km into the sky. Scientists said the "eruptive period" might last for months. Alaska Airlines cancelled 28 flights using Anchorage and Fairbanks airports, while people living many miles away were warned about possible ash falls. A pilot had reported ash as high as 15,850 metres. Alaska Airlines said flights, including those servicing Los Angeles and Seattle, would be suspended until late on Saturday, at least, while Era Aviation also cancelled flights. Meanwhile, to the south, about 16,000 residents of Kenai Peninsula and Kodiak Island were warned about the ash cloud, and schools were closed.

London, Jan 19 — A press report, dated Jan 18, states: Dark grey veins of ash criss-crossed the upper slopes of Augustine Volcano and a small steam cloud puffed from the summit following the island mount's latest explosion. The volcano in south-central Alaska resumed erupting on Tuesday (Jan 17) after a three-day lull, scattering soft, but abrasive, ash into the mountainous Bristol Bay

region to the west. The 13.7km-high eruption was "a little more energetic", than a series of eight explosions last week on Augustine, according to Michelle Coombs, a geologist at the United States Geological Survey. Winds shifted the plumes away from the Kenai Peninsula towns east of Augustine that had received light ash fallout from the volcano last week. A shading of ash prompted some residents to don dust masks in Iliamna, a village of 90 people 96.5km northwest of the uninhabited volcanic island. The drab ash cloud drifting over Iliamna was visible from the skies over Augustine. Pilot chatter described brown sludge in the waters surrounding the island. The latest blast destroyed a lava dome that had built up during last week's eruptions, with lava blocks tumbling down from the summit, scientists said. The blast from the snowy mountain, 290km southwest of Anchorage, started just before 0800 and lasted for five minutes.

Political & Civil Unrest



AFGHANISTAN

Kabul, Jan 14 — US-led and Afghan government troops have killed about six insurgents in a battle in central Afghanistan, the US military said. The clash erupted when gunmen fired on what the US military called an offensive patrol in the restive central province of Uruzgan yesterday. "An estimated six enemy fighters were killed; the remainder fled the area," the US military said in a statement issued late yesterday. The US military, which said no Afghan or US-led troops had been hurt in the clash, said its offensive patrols were aimed at rooting out insurgents and disrupting supplies. "Such patrols are being conducted through the winter months to deny the enemy sanctuary and hinder the enemy's supply efforts," it said. Also yesterday, a US airstrike in neighbouring Pakistan targeted al-Qaeda's number two, Ayman al-Zawahri, but it was unclear whether he had been killed, US sources knowledgeable about the strike said. — Reuters.

Kandahar, Jan 15 — A Taliban bomb attack on a convoy of Canadian troops killed at least two Afghans in the heart of the southern Afghan city of Kandahar today, according to Afghan police and doctors. "Initial reports indicate that three coalition soldiers were wounded in the incident," said Lieutenant-Colonel Jerry O'Hara, a spokesman based in Kabul with the U.S.-led coalition force. Witnesses said they saw four soldiers being stretched away. O'Hara said the explosion was caused by a roadside bomb, but police said it was a suicide attack and witnesses described how a Toyota saloon rammed into a

Canadian vehicle at a crossroads. Doctor Abdul Qaoum, at Kandahar's main hospital, said at least two civilians were killed and nine others wounded. Taliban spokesman Qari Mohammad Yusuf claimed responsibility. "This attack is part of our jihad and we plan to carry out more such attacks," Yusuf told Reuters by satellite telephone from an undisclosed location. Foreign troops cordoned off the site. — Reuters.

Kandahar, Jan 16 — Taliban suicide bombers killed at least 26 people in two separate attacks in southern Afghanistan today, a day after a Canadian diplomat and two civilians were killed in another attack in the area. The combined toll was the worst in a day from suicide bombings in Afghanistan since US-led forces overthrew the Taliban in late 2001 and came just hours after President Hamid Karzai expressed concern about an increase in such attacks. An adviser to Karzai said the aim of the insurgents appeared to be to frighten NATO members who plan to deploy in the volatile south and donors who are due to meet in London at the end of the month to draw up a new long-term assistance plan. At least 20 people died in the town of Spin Boldak, bordering Pakistan, when a bomber on a motorcycle detonated a device after riding into a playground where hundreds of people had gathered for a festival, officials said. At least 20 people were hurt in the attack, which the Afghan Islamic Press said happened during a wrestling contest. "It was a suicide attack," Spin Boldak police chief Abdul Wasi Alekozai said. "The person rode his motorbike into the crowd and blew himself up. The intention of this attack was to create insecurity and fear." Earlier, another suicide bomber hurled himself in front of an Afghan army vehicle in the heart of the provincial capital, Kandahar, 110 km to the north, killing three Afghan soldiers and two civilians. Four Afghan soldiers and 10 civilians were also wounded. The Taliban claimed responsibility for both bombings. Taliban official Mullah Sabir Momin said the attack in Spin Boldak had been aimed at the commander of the Afghan border force, General Abdul Raziq, but he was not at the event. He said seven Afghan soldiers were among the dead. "We plan more attacks on Afghan army commanders because they support the US presence in Afghanistan," he said. Assadullah, a witness to the bombing in Kandahar city, said the attacker appeared to be a teenager. "I saw a boy of about 15 with an explosives' vest running towards the car and then heard the explosion," he said. "I ran for cover and saw the casualties when I got up." An apparent suicide attack on a Canadian military convoy in Kandahar city yesterday killed 59-year-old Glyn Berry, a veteran Canadian foreign affairs official, and two Afghans. Three Canadian soldiers were wounded, two critically. The past

few months have seen a spate of Taliban suicide attacks, mainly targeting US-led troops and NATO peacekeepers, but they have not caused major casualties among foreign forces. Security analysts suspect the Taliban has stepped up suicide attacks after seeing al Qaeda's success in Iraq. The attacks have come at a time when America's NATO allies are due to take over more responsibility from US troops in Afghanistan and Washington is looking to trim its commitment. The NATO plans have faced some opposition and the Dutch parliament is due to debate on Jan 25 whether to commit 1,400 more troops to the volatile south, a highly contentious issue in the Netherlands given the dangers. The European Union's special representative to Afghanistan, Francesc Vendrell, warned last week it would be a heavy blow for Europe's prestige in Afghanistan if the Netherlands found it impossible to send forces to the south. Karzai said he had intelligence reports months ago that suicide attackers were being trained in frontier areas and most attacks were carried out by "foreigners". Rangeen Dadfar Spanta, an adviser to Karzai, said the aim appeared to be to frighten Afghanistan's foreign allies. "They want to scare NATO and also tell donors Afghanistan has not gained stability and their aid will be wasted," he said. Despite the threat posed by suicide bombings, on Karzai's orders police have begun removing some checkpoints and security barriers set up around Western installations in the capital, Kabul, in order to ease traffic congestion. The US-led force in Afghanistan, embassies and the United Nations have expressed concern about the move. — Reuters.

COLOMBIA

Bogota, Jan 13 — Colombian soldiers killed at least six Marxist rebels in combat today even as the leaders of the guerrilla group prepared for a second round of preliminary peace talks next month, the army said. The gunfight with the National Liberation Army, or ELN, Colombia's second-biggest insurgent group, took place when an army patrol encountered the guerrillas in the south-western town of La Llanada near the Ecuadorean border. The government said the fight would not derail preliminary peace talks that opened last month in Cuba. — Reuters.

Bogota, Jan 17 — Colombia's army killed at least 15 paramilitaries in a gunbattle late yesterday, it said, in the worst one-day loss for the right-wing militias since they began peace talks with the government in 2003. News of the battle in the northern province of La Guajira came as the government formed a high commission to probe accusations that paramilitaries are bribing and threatening politicians ahead of March legislative elections. — Reuters.

HAITI

United Nations, Jan 17 — Two UN peacekeepers were killed and a third wounded by gunfire in the Haitian capital today in the latest clash between UN troops patrolling a Port au Prince slum and the gangs who control it. The three peacekeepers, all Jordanian nationals, were manning a checkpoint in the capital's restive Cite Soleil neighbourhood when they came under fire, UN chief spokesman Stephane Dujarric said. "One of the peacekeepers was reportedly killed on the spot. The other two were taken to hospital where one of them died of his wounds shortly after," Dujarric said. The third peacekeeper, in serious condition, was evacuated to a better-equipped hospital in the Dominican Republic, UN officials said. — Reuters.

IRAQ

London, Jan 15 — A press report, dated Jan 14, states: A British journalist who was kidnapped in Baghdad and held for five days has been rescued by US forces - despite never being posted as missing. Phil Sands, a freelance reporter was taken hostage on Boxing Day and released on December 31, it emerged. Not even his family had reported him missing, and his captors had not made any demands. British authorities were completely unaware he was in the country until he was brought to the British embassy. "We can confirm that Phil Sands was kidnapped on December 26 but we were not notified, nobody told us and the hostage-takers weren't in contact," said a spokesman from the Foreign Office. "He was released during a routine US military operation on December 31 and he left the country after a medical check-up and having been in touch with his family." Mr Sands, who freelances for The Scotsman newspaper, told the paper of his shock when men brandishing AK47 rifles forced him into a car. He said he spent most of his days blindfolded and was regularly threatened with execution. He was also forced to make a video calling on British troops to leave Iraq, but the video was never broadcast. US troops found the reporter by chance while carrying out routine patrols.

Baghdad, Jan 16 — A US helicopter came down near Baghdad today in what appeared to be the second shooting down of an aircraft in three days, and rebel violence is expected to escalate as Iraq's election results are confirmed. Local witnesses said the aircraft went down after coming under rocket fire in the small town of Mishahda just north of the capital. The US military confirmed the helicopter came down but was still investigating the cause. A military spokesman had no comment on the fate of the crew. Two little-known Iraqi insurgent groups issued separate claims for the downing of the helicopter and one issued a video apparently showing the attack, according to Web postings. US commanders have warned of a

possible increase in violence once the results of last month's parliamentary election are finally announced, probably this week. "We expect a hike in attacks in the next days because the multinational forces have destroyed many al Qaeda positions," Brigadier General Donald Alston, chief spokesman for US forces in Iraq, said yesterday. Iraq's electoral commission was due to announce results of its investigation into allegations of vote fraud today. It is expected to annul just a small percentage of ballots, keeping final results in line with preliminary tallies that drew allegations of complaints from Sunnis hoping to ease Shi'ite domination of power. Sunni rebels rarely challenge US air power from the ground but their suicide and roadside bombs have killed thousands of Iraqi and US forces and civilians in a campaign designed to topple the Shi'ite-led government. Guerrillas in northern Iraq apparently shot down an armed US reconnaissance helicopter on Friday (Jan 13), killing its two pilots. A week earlier, all 12 people on board were killed when a Black Hawk helicopter went down close to the nearby northern city of Tal Afar, though that has so far been blamed on weather. A video posted by the Mujahideen Army today appeared to show a missile being fired at a helicopter, which burst into flames at a distance and crashed, leaving behind a plume of smoke. Another militant group, Salaheddin al-Ayubi Brigades, earlier issued an Internet statement claiming what appeared to be the same attack north of Baghdad. "Your brothers in one of the units of the Salaheddin al-Ayubi Brigades shot down an Apache helicopter in the Mishahda area with missiles," said an Internet statement attributed that group. The authenticity of the statements could not be verified. Only three small helicopters were confirmed as being shot down last year, although the causes of some other fatal crashes have not been made public. A British transport aircraft was brought down a year ago, killing all 10 on board. The US government hopes a consensus government will emerge after a parliamentary election on Dec 15 that can quell violence and allow US troops to begin withdrawing this year. The pullout issue will gain importance as Americans review progress in Iraq ahead of mid-term US elections in November. — Reuters.

London, Jan 17 — A press report, dated today, states: Masked gunmen killed two people today in attacks on an election headquarters and a Kurdish political party office in the northern city of Kirkuk, police said. In the first attack, four gunmen walked into the offices of the Independent Electoral Commission of Iraq, or IECI, and fired randomly at employees, killing one official and wounding another, said police Capt. Farhad al-Talabani. Less than a mile away, four gunmen fired on the headquarters of the Kurdistan

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Workers Party, or PKK, about 30 minutes later, killing one person and wounding two, said police Capt. Ahmed Hamawandi. Two of the gunmen fired from a stationary car while two others got out of the vehicle and shot at party employees as they entered their offices at the start of the work day, Hamawandi said. Al-Talabani said police suspect the two attacks may have been conducted by the same group of gunmen. Also in Kirkuk, a roadside bomb exploded this morning on a police patrol, wounding two policemen, Hamawandi said.

Baghdad, Jan 18 — Gunmen killed 10 Iraqi guards and kidnapped at least one Malawian engineer in an attack on a convoy in Baghdad today, an Interior Ministry source said. The source told Reuters the guards had been protecting the engineer, who is employed by Iraqna, part of the Egyptian-owned Orascom Telecom, and had been travelling in three or four cars when the gunmen struck. A spokesman for Iraqna, Shamil Hanafi, said six guards had been killed in the attack and two seriously wounded. "We have two engineers who are missing — one from Malawi and one from Madagascar. We still do not know what has happened to them," he told Reuters. There have been a spate of attacks on Iraqna engineers in the past. Hanafi said eight engineers had been previously kidnapped — six Iraqis and two Egyptians. — Reuters.

Baghdad, Jan 18 — A roadside bomb killed two US private security contractors and seriously wounded a third in the southern Iraqi city of Basra today, the US embassy said. The embassy said they worked for a private security firm and Iraqi soldiers in Basra said the Americans were in the city to train Iraqi forces. "Coalition forces promptly arrived on the scene, cordoned off the area, and transported the wounded personnel to a nearby Coalition medical facility," the embassy said in a statement. A witness said he saw two four-wheel drive vehicles, one of them seriously damaged, at the scene of the attack in the al-Tariq district of Basra. — Reuters.

London, Jan 19 — A press report, dated today, states: Iraqi insurgents carried out two dramatic ambushes yesterday, killing 11 people including two American civilians in a roadside bombing in Basra and an attack on an Iraqi convoy in Baghdad. Meanwhile, Iraqi officials expressed hope that American hostage Jill Carroll would eventually be released, and kidnappers freed the sister of Iraq's Interior Minister after holding her hostage for two weeks. The ambushes, in which gunmen also seized two Kenyan engineers, were part of a surge in violence that left scores of Iraqis dead across the country yesterday. In the most gruesome development, police said militants used this week's downing of a US helicopter to carve out a killing field north of Baghdad, slaying more than 40 people on remote roads that Iraqis were forced to use after American

troops cordoned off the crash zone. Thirty people were dragged from their cars yesterday at crude checkpoints erected on unpaved roads and shot dead execution-style in farming areas in Nibaei, a town near Dujail, about 50 miles north of Baghdad, said police Lieutenant Qahtan al-Hashmawi. Since Monday's (Jan 16) crash of a US Army AH-64 Apache helicopter that killed its two pilots near Mishahda, 25 miles north of Baghdad, American and Iraqi forces cordoned off a large section of the main road near Dujail, police and eyewitnesses said. More than a dozen other Iraqis died yesterday in attacks linked to the insurgency.

London, Jan 19 — At least 15 people have been killed and 23 wounded in a double bomb attack in central Baghdad, an interior ministry official says. A suicide bomber walked into a cafe where he blew himself up killing 12 civilians and injured several more, while a car bomb targeted an Iraqi police patrol passing nearby killing at least three, the official said. The explosions occurred almost simultaneously at 2255, AEDT.

ISRAEL

Jenin, Jan 12 — A Palestinian bomber blew himself up and Israeli forces killed two Palestinians in clashes today in the town of Jenin in the West Bank, security sources and Palestinian witnesses said. Violence also flared up in the city of Ramallah, where gunmen opened fire on the home of Interior Minister Nasser Yousef. Yousef, who was home at the time, was unhurt, but three gunmen were wounded, one critically. "The three wounded are being treated in hospital. We will interrogate them to find out who they are and what their motive was," Palestinian police chief Ala Husni told Reuters. Police also shot at a suspect car near the offices of Palestinian Prime Minister Ahmed Qurie. There were no injuries. Initial reports had suggested gunmen fired at the offices. The incidents broke a relative lull in violence since Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon suffered a massive stroke last week. Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas has been struggling to contain internal disorder in the run-up to Palestinian parliamentary elections on Jan. 25. In Jenin, Israeli troops were on a raid to arrest militants when a Palestinian emerged from a house and blew himself up, according to an Israeli security source. The source said the bomber had appeared to be wearing an explosive belt. There were no Israeli casualties. Another Palestinian militant in the house was shot and killed by the Israeli soldiers, according to Palestinian witnesses. The Israeli security source could only confirm that the gunman was hit. Palestinian witnesses said another Palestinian was killed during a separate clash with Israeli forces in Jenin. In Ramallah, Yousef's bodyguards returned fire and wounded three of the gunmen, who were taken to hospital. — Reuters.

Nablus, West Bank, Jan 15 — Israeli forces killed two Palestinians during a gunbattle in a West Bank village today, an Israeli military source and Palestinian medics said. The military source said troops returned fire after being shot at from a building during a pre-dawn raid in Roujib, near the city of Nablus. Palestinian witnesses said those killed were a 48-year-old woman and her 20-year-old son. Medics said four other family members were wounded. The witnesses said the family had opened fire at people whom they thought were trying to steal their car. The military source had no details on the dead or wounded but said arms and munitions had been found in the building. — Reuters.

London, Jan 17 — A press report, dated today, states: Israeli troops have killed a Palestinian militant during a clash in the West Bank town of Tulkarm. An Israeli spokeswoman said the soldiers had first tried to arrest him, and he was killed only after he had fired at the troops. The militant, 24-year-old Thabet Ayyadeh, was the leader of the Hamas military wing in Tulkarm. A local Hamas political leader accused Israel of seeking to provoke bloodshed and said Hamas would not remain silent.

IVORY COAST

Abidjan, Jan 16 — Hundreds of youths, some brandishing machetes and sticks, burned tyres and blocked roads in Ivory Coast's main city Abidjan today in protest at a call by foreign mediators for parliament to be dissolved. Several hundred youths loyal to President Laurent Gbagbo walked towards the city's business district chanting "enough is enough," while in other areas burning tyres blocked main streets. Police fired teargas to repel one group of protesters. — Reuters.

Abidjan, Jan 17 — Government supporters in Ivory Coast attacked United Nations bases and vehicles today in a wave of violent protests that UN chief Kofi Annan said threatened the divided country's fragile peace process. For the second day running, hundreds of supporters of President Laurent Gbagbo took to the streets of the commercial capital Abidjan and other cities to oppose a call by foreign mediators to end the mandate of the national parliament. The anti-UN riots threw into confusion international efforts to reunite peacefully the world's top cocoa grower, which has been split since a 2002 civil war between a rebel-held north and a government-controlled south. The protesters barricaded streets and besieged the UN mission headquarters in Abidjan, where some tried to batter down the wall, prompting UN troops to fire warning shots and tear gas. Demonstrators threw petrol bombs at the UN headquarters. At least one demonstrator was believed to have been injured, a UN military source said. A convoy of UN vehicles was stoned and at Guiglo in the west of Ivory Coast, hundreds of pro-Gbagbo

demonstrators entered a UN military base calling for the withdrawal of the international peacekeepers. UN Secretary-General Annan condemned what he called "the orchestrated violence directed against the United Nations" in Abidjan, Daloa, San Pedro and Guiglo and other areas. He also criticised the inaction of some national authorities in the face of the attacks, his spokesman Stephane Dujarric said. "The secretary-general demands an immediate end to these attacks, which contravene Ivorian law and seriously endanger the peace process as set out by the African Union and the UN Security Council," he added. The United Nations and international mediators are struggling to implement a long-delayed peace plan that requires a presidential election to be held by the end of October following a process of disarmament. — Reuters.

London, Jan 18 — A press report, dated today, states: Fighting is being reported between Bangladeshi United Nations peacekeepers and supporters of President Laurent Gbagbo in the west of Ivory Coast. At least three people were killed when the UN base in Guiglo, 300km from Abidjan, was attacked and UN staff were being evacuated. France has called for calm in towns and cities in the government-controlled south after three days of protests. Ivorian rebels, who control the north, say the country is on the brink of war. UN Secretary General Kofi Annan has urged an immediate end to "orchestrated violence" in the divided nation. Mr Gbagbo's supporters are angry at international mediators calling for the dissolution of the parliament, which largely backs him. The mediators were appointed by the UN to help steer the country towards elections, due this year. The ruling party subsequently pulled out of the transitional government and UN-backed peace talks and are calling on French and UN troops to leave. "There is not a future for Ivory Coast if the FPI succeeds in making a putsch against the peace process. That means war," New Forces rebel spokesman Sidiki Konate said. Mr Konate said the rebels, who have controlled the north for three years, remained committed to the transitional government under the leadership of Prime Minister Charles Konan Banny. It is reported that youths supporting President Laurent Gbagbo - the "Young Patriots" - now control virtually all the main streets. For a third day, youths are stopping cars and checking identity papers at roadblocks. There is little public transport and debris from yesterday's unrest is strewn across roads. Despite a ban on street demonstrations, the Ivorian security forces have not acted to stop the protests. There have been few violent incidents but Abidjan and several other cities are paralysed. The ruling Ivorian Popular Front (FPI) accused the international community of carrying out a "constitutional coup d'etat". Its leader, Pascal Affi N'Guessan, said the seven FPI

ministers would withdraw from the government of national unity set up under UN auspices. He said a "government of liberation" should be set up, to kick out the rebel New Forces in the north.

Abidjan, Jan 18 — Five people were killed and hundreds of UN peacekeepers forced to abandon base today as anti-UN protests swept Government-held southern Ivory Coast for a third straight day. After repeated attacks on UN compounds, vehicles and offices, a UN official said civilian personnel were being concentrated in central locations. "The security of staff remains our primary concern," he said. As angry protesters loyal to President Laurent Gbagbo took over state television and broadcast calls for mass anti-UN demonstrations in the street, Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo, who also heads the African Union, flew in to help defuse the sudden crisis shortly before nightfall. The main city Abidjan was paralysed for the third straight day by road blocks thrown up by angry youths loyal to Gbagbo. In the volatile western region near the Liberian border, hundreds of blue-helmets based in Guiglo and Duekoue were forced to retreat after young protesters invaded compounds and torched UN buildings bearing the distinctive blue flag. In Guiglo, some 350 km from the main city Abidjan, Bangladeshi soldiers opened fire to repel youths who besieged their barracks overnight. Hours later, the 200-300 men redeployed taking UN civilian personnel with them. At the local hospital, a doctor said that five people were killed and 10 injured from gunshot wounds. UN officials in Abidjan said four attackers were killed. "There was an exchange of gunfire," said UN military spokesman Gilles Combarieu, who confirmed that UN troops had decamped to the nearby buffer zone. UN peacekeepers operate under the so-called Chapter VII of the UN Charter enabling soldiers to defend themselves and the local population if they come under direct attack. "Under ONUC's Chapter VII mandate, UN forces can and will use all means at their disposal to repel direct attacks against UN personnel and property," a UN official told IRIN. — Reuters.

Abidjan, Jan 19 — Pro-government protesters were still manning roadblocks on the streets of Ivory Coast's main city Abidjan today despite an appeal from President Laurent Gbagbo for them to end a wave of anti-UN riots. However, after three days of violent protests, there were signs that some shops and market stalls were reopening and some traffic was circulating in parts of the debris-strewn city, Ivory Coast's economic capital and main cocoa exporting port. Hundreds of young Gbagbo loyalists clamouring for UN and French peacekeeping troops to leave Ivory Coast have attacked UN bases, residences and vehicles with petrol bombs and stones across the government-controlled south since

Monday (Jan 16). Rebels have held the north of the world's top cocoa grower since a 2002 civil war and the UN and foreign mediators have been struggling to implement a peace plan that foresees disarmament and presidential elections by the end of October. Four protesters were killed yesterday when government supporters stormed one UN base in the west, forcing UN peacekeepers to open fire and then evacuate, UN officials said. Ivorian state media said five were killed. After crisis talks late yesterday, Gbagbo and African Union chairman Olusegun Obasanjo appealed to Ivorians to halt the riots, which erupted after foreign mediators recommended that the mandate of the national parliament should not be renewed. Angry government supporters, who besieged UN bases across the south, denounced this as foreign meddling but Gbagbo and Obasanjo, the Nigerian president, said in their public statement this recommendation was not binding and had no legal weight. In Abidjan's central business district today, youths fiercely loyal to Gbagbo known as Young Patriots continued to block traffic with crude roadblocks constructed from debris. About 500 Young Patriots were still protesting outside the UN mission headquarters in Abidjan today, but they were fewer than in previous days and were not attempting to break in as they had tried to earlier this week. The violence threatens to derail what has been a fragile cease-fire since 2003 maintained by nearly 7,000 UN troops and police and 4,000 French soldiers. UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan has called on Gbagbo's government to halt "orchestrated violence directed against the United Nations". The European Union also condemned the rioting. The Security Council planned to meet today to discuss Ivory Coast for the second time in a week and was expected to give a final green light to sanctions on government or rebel leaders blocking the peace process, council diplomats said. The UN Security Council voted for targeted sanctions a year ago, including a travel ban or a freeze on assets, against individuals blocking the peace process. It has not applied them despite renewing them last December, but France's chief of defence staff, General Henri Bentegeat, said he believed the time had come to impose the sanctions. In a blow to peace efforts, Gbagbo's Ivorian Popular Front said on Tuesday it was pulling out of the peace process. — Reuters.

Abidjan, Jan 19 — Up to today, the port of Abidjan and San Pedro have not been affected by the recent and actual political/social troubles in Ivory Coast. The commercial operations during the past four days continue normally. The situation in Abidjan and the country nevertheless stays extremely tense and moving and driving in the towns may be hazardous, more particularly for expatriate people. — Lloyd's Agents.

KENYA

London, Jan 19 — A press report, dated today, states: A battle for livestock between Ethiopian and Kenyan nomads has left 38 people dead in drought-stricken northern Kenya, officials and aid workers said today. Dongiro warriors crossed into Kenya from Ethiopia Friday (Jan 13) and attacked Turkana herders to steal their animals, said Njenga Miiri, district commissioner for Turkana. The fighting killed 30 of the raiders and eight Kenyan women and children. The clashes took place in the remote village of Lokamarinyang along the Kenya-Ethiopia border, about 260 miles north of the regional capital of Lodwar, said Lucas Ariong, an aid worker in the area.

MYANMAR

Guwahati, India, Jan 14 — At least eight rebels were killed and two dozen wounded when troops from India and Myanmar attacked camps along their border, a rebel leader said today. "We have lost a big camp in Myanmar," said K. Mulatonu, leader of the National Socialist Council of Nagaland (NSCN-IM), a rebel group fighting for independence for Naga tribals. He said the camp was "completely taken over and 40 houses burnt down" by Myanmar troops. There were 200 rebels in the camp and the majority had fled. A senior Indian commander confirmed the offensive, saying troops have been reinforced along the border to stop fleeing guerrillas entering the country from Myanmar. — Reuters.

NEPAL

Kathmandu, Jan 14 — Up to 11 Nepalese police officers were killed when Maoist guerrillas bombed two police stations outside Kathmandu today, police and officials said. They were the first attacks in the area around the capital since the Maoists ended their truce on Jan 2 and came just hours after 16 rebels were killed in a firefight. The police officers died in one the bomb attacks at Thankot, about 10 km from capital, just before dusk. "Initial reports say up to 11 police officers could have died," a police officer said. It was not clear if there were any casualties from the second blast that went off near the temple town of Bhaktapur. The two blasts went off almost simultaneously, police said. Earlier, 16 Maoist rebels and a soldier were killed in the biggest battle in Nepal since the guerrilla ceasefire ended, the army said. They were killed during a firefight in Syangja, a Maoist stronghold 225 km west of Kathmandu, two days after soldiers shot dead 10 rebels in the same area. — Reuters.

Kathmandu, Jan 16 — Nepal's royalist government today imposed a night curfew in Kathmandu, saying it was stepping up security after Maoist rebels killed 12 policemen in weekend raids near the city. "Troops have been given orders to shoot to enforce the curfew," the government said in an

order read over state radio. The curfew applies for five hours from 2300 hrs and violators could be arrested and jailed for up to a month. It was not clear for how many days the curfew would last. "It is a request from the government to the people in Kathmandu not to come out except in emergencies," a Home Ministry spokesman said, adding the move was part of new security measures in the capital, home to 1.5 million people. The government, in a separate statement, banned all protest meetings and rallies in Kathmandu indefinitely from tomorrow. Earlier, it had urged the country's seven mainstream political parties to put off a planned pro-democracy rally scheduled for Friday, saying it could be infiltrated by rebels to create trouble. At least 45 people have died across Nepal in a surge of violence since the Maoists ended a four-month truce on Jan 2. — Reuters.

NIGERIA

London, Jan 12 — A press report, dated today, states: Anglo-Dutch oil giant Shell said a pipeline was damaged in an explosion in southern Nigeria, leading to a cut in production of 106,000 barrels per day. "The explosion was caused by unidentified vandals. Four flowstations were affected, causing the company to lose 106,000 barrels per day," a Shell spokesman said. He said the incident occurred yesterday when unknown vandals burst the pipelines taking crude from Brass Creek to the Forcados terminal in oil rich but restive Niger Delta region. "We have to stop production in order to control the resultant spills into the environment as a result of the vandalization," he said, adding that there was no fire. He said the company was making efforts to repair the damaged pipeline. The blast happened on the same day four foreign workers — a Briton, an American, a Bulgarian and Hondurian — were kidnapped by armed gang from Shell offshore oilfield in southern Nigeria. The kidnappers arrived at the E.A field, where Shell was producing some 120,000 barrels of oil per day from its *Sea Eagle* vessel, and shot their way through before seizing the workers, press reports said.

Lagos, Jan 13 — Four oil workers kidnapped from an offshore Nigerian oilfield are safe and are being held on a vessel at sea and the government has dispatched a team to negotiate their release, authorities said today. Security services still do not know who is responsible for a wave of attacks against oil workers, pipelines and platforms in the southern Niger Delta over the past three weeks but industry sources suspect one criminal gang is responsible. "The government dispatched a team yesterday to establish contact with the kidnappers and find out what their grievances and demands are," said Ekiyor Conrad Welson, a spokesman for the state of Bayelsa where the E.A. field

is located. "As it is now, we do not know anything about the group or what their grievances are. We hear that the hostages are being held off the coast." In the nearby city of Warri, chief of naval staff Gani Adekeye said the navy knew the location of the hostages — an American, a Briton, a Bulgarian and a Hondurian kidnapped on Wednesday (Jan 11) — and that they were safe. Nigerian oil output was still curtailed by 225,000 barrels per day (bpd), or 10% today after twin attacks on two Royal Dutch Shell facilities on Wednesday. Shell shut down its 120,000 bpd E.A. oilfield after the hostage-taking and cut another 100,000 bpd from the nearby Forcados area when a pipeline was broken by saboteurs. Shell declared force majeure on 106,000 barrels per day of Forcados crude oil exports today, a Shell spokesman said. The measure releases the company from its contractual export commitments while repairs to the Trans-Ramos pipeline, expected to take 3-4 days, are carried out, he added. A previously unknown group claimed responsibility for the attacks and kidnapping in an email statement yesterday but a diplomat involved said the claim lacked credibility. Violence against the oil sector is frequent in the Niger Delta, where an estimated 20 million people live in poverty alongside a multi-billion-dollar industry. — Reuters.

London, Jan 14 — A press report, dated Jan 13, states: Royal Dutch Shell today declared a force majeure at its Forcados terminal in southern Nigeria after an attack on one of its pipelines, a company spokesman said. "Yes, Shell has declared a force majeure at the Forcados terminal after the Trans-Ramos pipeline was vandalised. It started today," the spokesman said. The force majeure means that the oil giant might not be able to honour its export contracts due to an unexpected or uncontrollable event. On Wednesday (Jan 11), the pipeline operated by Shell in the southern Nigerian state of Bayelsa was attacked by unidentified persons, forcing the firm to shut four of its flow stations with a net production of 106,000 barrels of oil per day. Shell said it was making efforts to repair the damaged pipeline taking crude to the Forcados terminal but it is expected to take three or four days.

Lagos, Jan 16 — Several people were killed when suspected ethnic militants stormed a Nigerian oil platform yesterday, extending a three-week spate of attacks which has hit output in the world's eighth-largest exporter. Dozens of heavily armed men invaded Royal Dutch Shell's Beniside oil flow station in speed boats, exchanged fire with troops, torched two housing blocks and damaged oil processing facilities before leaving, authorities said. Some attackers and soldiers protecting the platform were killed in the gunfight, a top military official said. "There was an attack. There was a fight there, an exchange of fire," Brigadier-General

Elias Zamani, who heads a military task force in the southern delta, said. "We lost some soldiers and some of the other boys were killed also." A senior oil industry official said four soldiers and two cooks working at the platform were killed. A diplomat said recent attacks and kidnappings targeting Nigeria's oil industry appeared to be co-ordinated by one group which has demanded more oil revenue for the Niger Delta and the release of two ethnic Ijaw leaders. It has threatened to halt Nigeria's 2.4 million barrels per day of oil exports altogether. The previously unknown group known as Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta said yesterday it had 5000 active fighters. "We seek control of our resources to improve the lives of our people," the email statement said. "We are committed to destroying the capacity of Nigeria to export oil." It promised to carry out another attack shortly that would "set Nigeria back 15 years and cause incalculable losses". Shell evacuated Benisede and three other flow stations after yesterday's attack, but oil output was unaffected because the stations were already closed after the suspected militants bombed a major crude oil pipeline nearby last Wednesday. However, yesterday's attack will delay repairs to the 100,000 barrel-a-day Trans-Ramos pipeline, which had been expected to resume pumping to the Forcados tanker terminal today or tomorrow, the senior industry source said. "It may mean a prolonged outage," he said. The firefight occurred as a team of government negotiators began talking to kidnappers, believed to be from the same group, who abducted four foreign oil workers from an offshore oilfield operated by Shell on Wednesday. The contract workers - an American, Briton, Bulgarian and Honduran - are being held in the Agoro district of Bayelsa state, in the south of the country, a government spokesman said. Colleagues of the captive workers said they feared a heavy-handed military response to yesterday's bloodshed could endanger their lives. "With the human shield the militants have, such a high-handed approach could lead to disaster," said one. The militant group has demanded the release of Mujahid Dokubo-Asari, an Ijaw militia leader who faces treason charges, and Diepreye Alamieyeseigha, a former delta governor who was impeached last month for money laundering. "His alleged offences are indeed criminal in a sane society but ours is indeed insane. The president is a thief, so is his vice president," the group said. — Reuters.

London, Jan 17 — A press report, dated today, states: Negotiators have made contact with militants holding four foreigners hostage in Nigeria's southern oil region and are working to secure the captives' release, officials said today. Initial reports from security agents and community leaders dealing with militants holding an American, a Bulgarian, a Briton

and a Honduran in Bayelsa state show "positive signals that the matter will soon be resolved amicably," the governor's office said in a statement. "Let it be stated clearly that no ransom has been demanded so far and no amount has been paid," it said. A previously unknown group, Movement for Emancipation of Niger Delta, claims to be holding the oil workers, who were kidnapped when armed men attacked an offshore oil platform run by Royal Dutch Shell last week. The group demands the release of militia leader Mujahid Dokubo Asari, who has been detained on treason charges since September. He has campaigned for regional secession and greater local control of oil wealth. Militant violence has escalated in the restive south, a desperately poor region despite Nigeria's vast oil wealth. Shell said it had evacuated 300 employees from facilities in the western Niger Delta after heavily armed fighters attacked the company's Benisede oil platform in the area on Sunday (Jan 15), killing a catering contractor and damaging the facility. Four days earlier, gunmen had attacked Shell's EA platform in shallow waters near the delta coast, seizing the hostages. A major Shell pipeline leading to its Forcados export terminal was blown up the following day.

London, Jan 18 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Loading operations at the Qua Iboe and Yoho terminals have been suspended until further notice, due to strong rumours of a planned attack on both terminals. Berthing operations at Qua Iboe were aborted late yesterday. Most terminal workers have been evacuated.

Abuja, Jan 18 — Militants vowed today to extend their campaign of sabotage and kidnapping to all oil companies in Nigeria, including Chevron, and said they had already attacked platforms operated by two other companies. The Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta said in statement they have attacked installations run by France's Total and Italy's Agip, a unit of ENI, but spokesmen for the two companies denied it. So far, Royal Dutch Shell is the only major operator in the world's eighth largest oil exporter to have said it suffered attacks by the group, which is also holding four foreign oil workers hostage. Oil prices climbed to their highest level in almost four months today after militants threatened to cripple supplies from the leading OPEC oil exporter. "The reports of attacks on Agip and Total flow stations are correct," the group said in response to a query about attacks on those companies. "We have decided not to limit our attacks to Shell oil as our ultimate aim is to prevent Nigeria from exporting oil," the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta said in an email statement to Reuters. "We will attack all oil companies including Chevron facilities." Spokesmen for the French and Italian companies in Nigeria dismissed the claims. Agip spokesman Akin Aruwajoye said: "We have not

been attacked." Total spokesman Fred Ohwahwa said: "We don't have any problem, nothing has happened to any of our facilities." Shell, the largest producer of oil in Nigeria's delta, has shut 226,000 barrels per day, roughly 10 percent of the West African country's output. "Pipelines, loading points, export tankers, tank farms, refined petroleum depots, landing strips and residences of employees of these companies can expect to be attacked. We know where they live, shop and where the children go to school," the group said. Nigerian newspaper Thisday reported today that U.S. oil giant ExxonMobil had issued a security alert to its staff in Nigeria and asked some employees not to come to work until further notice following the threats. The paper said that Mobil Producing Nigeria Unlimited (MPN) placed all its staff on high alert and asked all non-essential employees to stay away from its oil export terminal which produces some 600,000 barrels a day. Yesterday, the company denied a report by a shipping agent that loadings at its two major oil export terminals were suspended because of a threat of attack. The terminals export 550,000 barrels a day, 23 percent of Nigerian oil. — Reuters.

London, Jan 19 — Normal operations are reported at the Qua Iboe and Yoho terminals yesterday.

London, Jan 19 — A press report, dated today, states: Militants behind attacks aimed at disrupting Nigeria's oil exports said yesterday that they would target all producers in the country, in a message singling out US-based Chevron Corp. The Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta, which has attacked oil facilities run by Royal Dutch Shell and kidnapped four of its foreign workers, said it had also targeted installations run by France's Total and Italy's Agip, a unit of ENI. The kidnappers' 48-hour deadline expired yesterday with no word on the hostages, from the United States, Britain, Bulgaria and Honduras. The announcement helped send oil prices to a four-month high amid concerns about the OPEC cartel's capacity to meet demand. Nigeria is a leading member of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries. US crude oil climbed to \$66.91 a barrel, the highest since Sep 30, before receding to \$66.50. London Brent crude was up 5 cents at \$64.95. So far, Shell is the only major operator to have said it suffered at the hands of the ethnic Ijaw militants, who are demanding greater control over the delta's enormous oil wealth for impoverished residents. Shell has made a partial evacuation of 326 oil workers following attacks on its facilities by heavily armed militants. "The reports of attacks on Agip and Total flow stations are correct," the group said. "We will attack all oil companies, including Chevron facilities." Chevron spokesman Don Campbell said the firm was monitoring the situation. "We have made no plans to shut down

production," he said. The monthlong campaign against oil pipelines and platforms in the delta has led Shell to reduce production by 221,000 barrels a day, roughly a tenth of the output from Nigeria, the world's eighth-largest exporter.

PAKISTAN

London, Jan 12 — A press report, dated today, states: Suspected militants blew up a major gas pipeline in Pakistan's restive Balochistan province today, disrupting supply to several areas in Punjab and Sindh. "The pipeline was blown up early on Thursday by unidentified persons," a spokesperson for the petroleum ministry said. He said though emergency repair teams had reached the area, it would take a day or two to restore gas supply. The pipeline supplies 20 per cent of gas to Punjab and Sindh. An official of the interior ministry blamed tribal militants for the attack. Officials said the blast occurred at around 0200 hrs in Sui area when the attackers allegedly detonated explosives, rupturing the 22-inch-diameter line. "According to our information, it is a terrorist act and the blast is not caused by any technical fault," Rashid Lone, managing director of Sui Northern Gas, told reporters in Karachi. He said the damage to the pipeline was unlikely to cause any major disruption in gas supply.

Islamabad, Jan 13 — Up to 14 people were killed in a series of explosions in Pakistan's tribal region bordering Afghanistan early today, the military said. Military spokesman Major-General Shaukat Sultan said he did not know the cause of the explosions in the Bajaur tribal region, which border's Afghanistan's insurgent-troubled Kunar province. "People heard explosions and as a result, there were a number of casualties. My information is that 11 to 14 people have been killed," he said. — Reuters.

Karachi, Jan 15 — A drilling machine at the Pirkoh gas field, owned by the Oil and Gas Development Co (OGDC), was damaged yesterday night when suspected saboteurs attacked one of the gas wells with rockets in Dera Bugti, Balochistan Province, Pakistan. According to local media reports, suspected miscreants fired at least 16 rockets from an unknown place targeting the No.10 gas well on the Pirkoh gas field. One of the rockets ripped through the rig machine, the officials added. However, the gas supply from the plant remained undisturbed. Soon after the incident, the Dera Bugti district co-ordination officer (DCO) said, law-enforcement agencies personnel rushed to the site and started an investigation into the incident. "The rig machine was partially damaged in the attack," the DCO said, adding that the attackers managed to flee the scene. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Karachi, Jan — Pakistan state owned Oil and Gas Development Co (OGDC) said the repair of gas pipeline

of the 586mw Uch power plant in Balochistan province, was in progress and its supply with full production capacity would be restored soon. In a statement, an official of company said: "The repair work on 26-inch diameter gas pipeline of Uch power plant is in progress on war footing. The maintenance teams are busy at the site to repair the blown section of the pipeline some 14-Kilometre from the Uch Gas Field". It said that Uch power plant was functioning at lowest production capacity and on completion of repair work, gas supply will be restored with full production capacity of the plant, as the welding work has been completed by the OGDCL technical team. The unknown tribal rebels have damaged the gas pipeline in Balochistan on Sunday, shutting supplies to a US- and British-owned power plant for the second time this month. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

SOMALIA

Mogadishu, Jan 16 — At least three people were killed in heavy fighting between rival militias over the control of Somalia's port city of Kismayo, in the latest clashes that have left dozens dead, residents said today. The fighting began yesterday as militia loyal to Barre Aden Shire, the chairman of the Jubba Valley Alliance, battled rivals loyal to Col. Abdi Egal. Sources said the fighting was sparked by a decision by President Abdullahi Yusuf's government to appoint a governor for Kismayo without involving the chairman Barre Aden Shire. — Reuters.

Mogadiscio, Jan 16 — The death toll in heavy fighting between rival militias over the control of Somalia's port city of Kismayo had risen to nine, residents said today. — Reuters.

SRI LANKA

London, Jan 13 — A press report, dated today, states: At least nine Sri Lankan sailors have been killed in a landmine attack by suspected Tamil Tiger rebels, the military says. The sailors were travelling in a convoy of several vehicles as they returned to their posts after a vacation, an official says, adding 13 other sailors escaped with injuries. "Eight sailors were killed on the spot and 14 others escaped with injuries and one of them died on the way to hospital," an official in the northern town of Vavuniya said. (See issue of Jan 13.)

Colombo, Jan 14 — Attackers threw a grenade into the compound of truce monitors in Sri Lanka's restive east early today, damaging vehicles and a building but causing no injuries, officials said, as fears of a return to war grow. The first direct attack against the monitors since a 2002 ceasefire halted a two-decade civil war came just hours after the Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission reprimanded both Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) rebels and the government over a spike in violence. "A hand grenade was lobbed into our compound in Batticaloa and exploded," said Helen Olafsdottir,

spokeswoman for the monitoring mission, known as the SLMM. "We don't know who was behind it. It is the first time one of our offices has been directly attacked." Sporadic violence continued in the north-east today when one sailor was killed and three were injured on the outskirts of Jaffna town in the island's far north by a claymore fragmentation mine planted by suspected Tiger rebels, the navy said. Around 50 military personnel have been killed in claymore blasts since the beginning of December. — Reuters.

Colombo, Jan 16 — Two men were shot dead in eastern Sri Lanka today in violence ahead of visits by U.S. and Norwegian envoys trying to halt a slide back to civil war between the government and Tamil Tiger rebels. On Friday (Jan 13), Nordic truce monitors questioned whether the 2002 ceasefire that halted two decades of fighting still held. Later that night, a bomb ripped through one of their vehicles in the first attack on monitors, but no-one was nearby. "It was definitely not intended to kill anyone," said Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission (SLMM) spokeswoman Helen Olafsdottir. "We cannot rule out that it was someone trying to scare us away. We are not pulling out — it would send a strong message that if anyone threw a firecracker in our direction we would leave." Police said two Tamil men had been shot dead in the eastern Muslim town of Akkaraipattu — scene of tensions between Tamils and Muslims — while the army said it had recovered two claymores on the army-held but Tamil-dominated Jaffna peninsula. — Reuters.

Colombo, Jan 19 — Sri Lanka today extended a countrywide state of emergency as suspected Tamil Tiger rebels kept up sporadic attacks against the military ahead of a last-ditch peace effort. Norwegian peace envoy Erik Solheim is to hold talks with the government and, separately, with the rebels next week in what is seen as the last chance to prevent the resumption of a war that has killed over 64,000 people since 1983. A string of attacks on the military since early December has killed over 100 people and brought a four-year truce to the verge of breakdown. Analysts say that unless the talks produce a new initiative, war seems inevitable. In the Tamil-dominated north and east of the country, which the Tigers claim, tensions were running high. On the road into the eastern port of Trincomalee, government troops were erecting new bunkers with railway sleepers and tree trunks, cladding them with branches and leaves. The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam run a de facto state in the north and east and have threatened to resume their armed struggle this year unless new President Mahinda Rajapakse gives them a separate Tamil homeland and wide autonomy. Both sides are poles apart, and cannot even agree on a venue for peace talks. Sri Lanka's stock market has been steadily falling since reaching a record high in

November last year. On Tuesday (Jan 17), the benchmark index was up about 0.8% on the day at midsession, but volumes were low. The Tigers have denied they are responsible for the attacks on the military but few believe them. Sri Lanka has been under a state of emergency, which gives police and the military wide powers, since the assassination of its foreign minister in August. The Tigers are the prime suspects for that killing too, but they have denied involvement. The government today extended the emergency for another month. In Batticaloa town in the east, a grenade attack on a traffic constable today injured her and seven civilians. An airman was injured in an ambush in Trincomalee and two civilians were shot and injured overnight in Batticaloa. — Reuters.

SUDAN

Khartoum, Jan 14 — Sudan withdrew some 1,000 troops from an eastern rebel-held town, defusing a stand off between the Sudanese army and former southern guerrillas in the first test of a year-old peace deal, ex-rebels said today. The troops entered Hamesh Koreb town on Wednesday (Jan 11), threatened to expel the former southern rebel Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) and set up positions just 200 metres from SPLM trenches. They later withdrew when a UN investigation team arrived, the SPLM said. "I am now seeing approximately two battalions about 500 metres from the town," SPLM officer Benjamin Wol, a member of the joint UN-Sudan army-SPLM team, said from Hamesh Koreb, which borders Eritrea. UN envoy Jan Pronk confirmed there had been skirmishes on Wednesday between eastern rebels and the army troops in Hamesh Koreb but the SPLM was not involved in that fighting. The SPLM said that, now the government had mostly withdrawn, with a few dozen troops left in the town, the tensions had been reduced. UN sources said there were only about 20-30 troops in Hamesh Koreb today, adding they seemed to be from a pro-government militia rather than regular troops. — Reuters.



Kidnappings

NIGERIA

See under "Political & Civil Unrest."



Labour Disputes

CYPRUS

Limassol, Jan 12 — On Jan 11, port workers at both Limassol and Larnaca

ports were participating in a 24-hour strike against the European Directive for the freedom in port services. Another 24-hour strike is scheduled for Jan 16 for the same reason. — Lloyd's Agents.

Limassol, Jan 16 — Today, stevedores at Limassol and Larnaca ports are on a 24 hour strike against the European Directive for freedom in port services. — Lloyd's Agents.

ELWOOD (Panama)

Dublin, Jan 13 — General cargo *Elwood* was detained at Greenore in early December, as the anchor chains were found to be extremely unsafe. The vessel was allowed a single voyage to Dublin where it was to be part dry docked for replacement of chains. The owners have decided not to go ahead with repairs at Dublin, the crew is being sent home on another vessel and the vessel is to be towed back to its home port of Rotterdam. At present, there are still four crew members on board who are taking care of the ropes, etc. As weather conditions in the Irish Sea are not good at present, expected that the vessel will not sail for Rotterdam until Jan 16-17. — Lloyd's Agents.

EUROPE

London, Jan 13 — A press report, dated today, states: Belgian dock workers will join their European counterparts in picketing the European Parliament in Strasbourg on Monday (Jan 9), against planned European Union rules aimed at opening up cargo handling. The demonstration is part of a campaign that included a Europe-wide strike by 40,000 dockers on Wednesday. Dockers at the ports of Antwerp, Ghent, Ostend and Zeebrugge worked four hours less than usual so they could attend union meetings about the proposed European ports directive. However, Monday's protest at Strasbourg will mean there will be a 24 hour dock strike in Flanders to enable the dock workers to attend the demonstration. The Parliament is due to debate the directive the following day, before voting on it on the Wednesday. The bill would open cargo handling to competition, ending the situation in many European ports in which loading and unloading is run by monopoly handlers.

Malta, Jan 13 — General Workers' Union's action at the ports yesterday morning affected another four vessels, delaying them from entering port by between one and three hours. The GWU's ports and transport section brought the ports to a halt for 12 hours in all between Wednesday and yesterday in protest at the proposed Port Services Directive which the European Parliament is due to vote on next Wednesday. Three vessels were delayed on Wednesday. Malta's five MEPs have said they will vote against the directive. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Jan 16 — A press report, dated today, states: Dock workers in Belgium went on a 24-hour strike today to protest plans to open up

cargo handling to competition. In the port of Antwerp alone, some 2,000 dock workers failed to show up for work. Instead, many travelled to Strasbourg, France, to participate in a demonstration at the European Parliament. The EU assembly votes Wednesday (Jan 18) on a bill to end the current situation in many European ports where loading and unloading is run by monopoly handlers.

Rotterdam/Antwerp, Jan 16 — Europe's biggest ports were disrupted by hundreds of striking dock workers today protesting against European Union plans to liberalise port industry services, trade unions said. Some 600 dockers joined a four-hour strike at the port of Rotterdam, Europe's busiest, affecting work at several container, bulk and ferry terminals, a spokesman for the biggest Dutch trade union FNV said. No oil terminals were affected at Rotterdam, where the protest ended in mid-afternoon, port officials said. The port of Antwerp in neighbouring Belgium, Europe's second biggest by volume, was at a standstill. Dock workers across the EU are protesting against a bill aimed at opening up port services across the 25-nation bloc to greater competition. The issue is due to be debated by the European Parliament tomorrow. A coalition of socialists, communists and liberals is expected to reject the EU legislation, strongly backed by industry, in a vote on Wednesday (Jan 18), parliamentary sources said. The strike at Antwerp began at 0500, UTC, today and was expected to last 24 hours. "All dockers are striking today. Vessels can come in but they can't be handled," said Ann Wittemans, spokeswoman for the Antwerp port. The EU's Port Package II programme proposes to end monopolies on cargo handling by terminal companies and to permit shipping firms to appoint independent contractors to load and unload vessels. Dock workers have also staged protests in front of the European parliament in Strasbourg against what their colleagues at the northern French port of Dunkirk called "wild and absurd liberalisation" of the port industry. "It is unbridled social dumping, out-and-out free market ideology. They take who they want, do with them what they want, with no rules," said Franck Gonsse, secretary general of Dunkirk dock workers. Joel Duigou, a CGT union official from the port of Brest, said at the demonstration in Strasbourg: "Our professions are on a tightrope because they want to axe dockers and some of the crane operators." Port activities at France's main grain export hub at Rouen were hardly affected as most dock workers were employed on private contracts, a spokesman said. However, at the Atlantic port of La Pallice/La Rochelle, activities were likely to be disrupted for 48 hours. At Nantes and Bordeaux, port officials said they expected disruption to traffic but not

a complete shutdown. Loading and unloading operations stopped at the Spanish port of Barcelona, a major hub for general cargo, cruise vessels and liquefied natural gas, and at Tarragona, the country's main grain imports port. The Greek merchant marine ministry said all port workers at the country's biggest port of Piraeus as well as those at Thessaloniki in northern Greece and Heraklion in Crete had gone on a 24-hour strike, disrupting mainly container terminals. Portuguese, Danish and Swedish dock workers also joined the European-wide protests. — Reuters.

FRANCE

London, Jan 17 — Work has resumed at Lavera & Fos Oil Terminal following the port staff strike in effect from 0600, yesterday. Currently, there is no confirmation of the tug boats strike called from 0600, today. The tugs are operating this morning.

ITALY

London, Jan 12 — A press report, dated today, states: Some Italian railway workers were on strike today, causing the cancellation of dozens of trains across the country. The strike, from 0900 hrs until 1700 hrs, was called by labour unions in all Italian regions except Lazio, the region around Rome. Unions are calling for more safety provisions on the Italian rail network and greater job security, among other demands.

London, Jan 13 — Tug boat crew at Trieste have called a strike between 1200 and 1600, Jan 16 and from 0400 to 0800 hrs Jan 17. During the strike periods, only emergency services will be provided. This is in line with a national strike that has been called by unions. However, modalities differ from port to port.

London, Jan 18 — A press report, dated today, states: Italian carrier Alitalia announced overnight it was cancelling 74 flights, most of them on international routes, because of a strike set for tomorrow by flight attendants protesting a restructuring plan. The troubled company said in a statement it was cancelling 48 international and 26 internal flights because of the 24-hour strike called by unions representing air stewards and stewardesses. Transport Minister Pietro Lunardi invoked Italian law to force Alitalia pilots' unions to postpone a separate strike, also planned for tomorrow, to another date to ensure a minimum service. "The flight assistants' strike is a protest against those who intend to reduce Alitalia to the level of a simple low-cost company," said Paolo Maras of SULT, one of several airline unions backing tomorrow's strike.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

London, Jan 17 — Papua New Guinea's Porgera gold mine remains partially closed due to a strike by workers over a proposed take over bid by Canadian company, Barrick Gold. The work stoppage has affected gold

production since it began last week. Workers are demanding a guarantee from the current owner, Placer Dome, that their job entitlements and benefits will not change with the take-over of the mine by Barrick Gold. Mine manager Phil Stephenson says Barrick Gold's take-over bid will not affect the mine's operations. Some workers return Mr Stephenson says some mining operations have resumed following the return of a skeleton staff. "Approximately one fifth of the workforce is back at work," he said. Full gold production is expected to resume later this month.

PERU

London, Jan 19 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Volcan Cia. Minera SA's workers at three mines went out on strike against the company, Peru's largest zinc and lead miner, for shorter working hours, the mining federation said. More than 750 workers halted work at Volcan's Andaychagua and San Cristobal poly-metallic mines and Mahr Tunel concentrator plant at the Yauli mine in the central Andes, the federation's secretary-general, Luis Castillo, said in a telephone interview from Lima. Castillo said Cerro de Pasco, Volcan's largest mine, was still operating. Volcan aimed to increase worker shifts from 8 to 12 hours, he said. The three mines account for nearly half of Volcan's output.

SWEDEN

Gothenburg, Jan 16 — Stevedores at Gothenburg and other ports will be involved in a four hour strike this morning from 0700-1100 hrs. This action involves "unions, the Hamnarbetaforbundet as well as the Kommunal supporting the strike", This is in addition to the Port organisations also supporting "the stike in reference to the voting in EU Parliament", where IDC have called for support from their members. There are however "some other parts willing to step in for some limited areas", but these are currently "keeping a low level". — Westax Marine Services AB.

UNITED KINGDOM

London, Jan 15 — A press report, dated today, states: Train journeys on Virgin CrossCountry services were disrupted because of a one-day strike by guards today. The guards held their third strike about payments for working on Sundays, the RMT union said. A union organiser said the union was unhappy that a deal agreed with managers had been blocked by the board. Virgin CrossCountry, which operates between Penzance and Aberdeen, said the strike had less impact than planned engineering works. "The main impact on Sunday has been from the engineering work rather than from industrial action," a spokesman said. He said the company had been able to offer a "comprehensive" service with trains travelling to cities such as Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Newcastle and

Manchester. He said 123 train were in service on Sunday, the same as last week, when services were also disrupted by industrial action. The RMT union's organiser in the Midlands, Ken Usher, apologised for disruption to the travelling public, but said: "It's not a dispute that we wished to enter into anyway," adding that the union had hoped for a much earlier resolution. "It needs them to take our offer and get back round the table. We remain open and available for talks." Managing director Chris Gibb said managers would be drafted in for the day. He said customers were mostly unaware that there was a strike on and warned the union that he was "prepared to let this [dispute] go on indefinitely". The RMT claims the introduction of a 35-hour week has led to its members losing money. However the company says its pay rates are among the most generous in the industry, at over £13 an hour.



Awards & Settlements

CLASS-ACTION SETTLEMENT, UNITED STATES

London, Jan 12 — A press report, dated today, states: Hospital chain Tenet Healthcare Corp. today said it struck a deal to settle class-action lawsuits by shareholders for \$215 million, pushing its stock up as much as 5%. The deal, which awaits court approval, would settle lawsuits pending in the U.S. District Court in Los Angeles and California Superior Court in Santa Barbara, the Dallas-based company said. Of the \$215 million payout, insurance will cover \$75 million. The lawsuits arose amid chaos at the company beginning in 2002, including probes into overbilling to Medicare. Tenet also is under investigation by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, which says the company misled investors about the Medicare probe and other woes. Several analysts cautioned investors to temper their enthusiasm for the settlements, as the Medicare probe is still the main overhang on the company. There are "bigger fish still to fry," said Ryan Beck analyst Robert Mains. "The securities litigation, in our view, was a relatively small item."

DECEPTIVE MARKET-TIMING ACTIVITIES, UNITED STATES

London, Jan 13 — A press report, dated Jan 12, states: UBS today agreed to pay \$54 million to regulators to settle charges that some of its brokers engaged in deceptive market-timing activities and that it failed to adequately supervise brokers. The settlement, including \$18 million to compensate customers who lost money as a result, was made with the New York Stock Exchange, with regulators in Connecticut and

with the New Jersey Bureau of Securities. UBS will pay \$16 million toward investor education programs and enforcement. The NYSE will receive \$5.75 million from the settlement. UBS neither admitted nor denied the charges. "When a brokerage firm permits a hedge fund or any other market participant to trade deceptively and gain an unfair advantage over other investors, it has violated the trust that forms the foundation of our capital markets," said Richard G. Ketchum, chief regulatory officer of the New York Stock Exchange in a statement. Regulators said that the brokers used "under the radar" trading to avoid notice by mutual funds. Typically, mutual funds screened for market-timing trades only above a designated dollar amount. So-called "under the radar" trading refers to splitting one trade into numerous smaller ones to avoid detection. In addition, regulators alleged that during the period, UBS received more than 1,000 notices from mutual funds notifying the firm of the brokers' practices, and that despite a review of trading practices in 2001 took no action against the brokers.

FOREST FIRE, ALBERTA, CANADA

London, Jan 14 — A press report, dated today, states: Canadian National Railway is paying almost \$20-million to settle an Alberta government claim that suggested a faulty freight-train wheel started one of the largest forest fires in the province's history. CN is not admitting guilt or responsibility, but agreed in an out-of-court settlement to pay \$10-million in cash and \$8.6-million over the next decade toward property damage and fire-prevention projects. A 2001 wildfire that started beside the tracks near Chisholm, Alberta, consumed almost 1,200 square kilometres of forest and destroyed about a dozen homes and other buildings.

ILLNESS THROUGH RELEASE OF POLLUTANTS, UNITED STATES

London, Jan 12 — A press report, dated Jan 11, states: Boeing Co. has agreed to pay \$30 million to settle a lawsuit by residents who alleged that pollutants from a company lab caused them to get cancer. The settlement, agreed to in September but not immediately disclosed, ends an eight-year dispute with neighbours of Boeing's Santa Susana Field Laboratory. The plaintiffs said for dozens of years of nuclear and rocket engine testing at the 2,668-acre hilltop lab near Simi Valley was responsible for a wide range of cancers, autoimmune disorders and tumors afflicting nearby residents. Boeing spokesman Inger Hodgson declined to comment today. The settlement included a confidentiality agreement between Boeing and the 133 plaintiffs in the case. The lawsuit alleged that a partial nuclear meltdown at the lab in 1959 released more radiation than originally

estimated. The accident was not widely publicized until 20 years later. For years, Boeing said the meltdown posed no danger to its workers or the public, but the disclosure in 1989 of lingering low-level contamination from past nuclear projects created an uproar, and pushed the company to halt nuclear research there the following year.

NEGLIGENCE, AUSTRALIA

London, Jan 15 — A press report, dated Jan 14, states: A woman seriously injured after falling from the mast of a tall ship off the Northern Territory coast has been awarded more than Aus\$1 million in compensation. Tracey Renehan plunged 16 metres from the mast of the Leeuwin sailing ship in June 1996 and landed on her knees, the Territory News reports. A court heard the safety belt she was wearing at the time of her accident failed, the paper said. Justice Dean Mildren ruled the Leeuwin Ocean Adventure Foundation was negligent on the grounds no one had checked the belt before Ms Renehan, now 40, climbed up. She suffered serious leg injuries in the fall and now relies on a wheelchair or three-wheel electric scooter for mobility.

POLLUTANTS, EL SEGUNDO, CALIFORNIA, UNITED STATES

London, Jan 13 — A press report, dated today, states: Chicago-based Boeing Co. has agreed to pay \$30 million to settle a lawsuit by residents in El Segundo, Calif., who alleged that pollutants from a company lab caused them to get cancer. The settlement, agreed to in September but not immediately disclosed, ends an eight-year dispute with neighbours of Boeing's Santa Susana Field Laboratory.

ROAD ACCIDENT, UNITED STATES

London, Jan 16 — A press report, dated today, states: Clark County jury that deliberated past midnight Friday (Jan 13) decided that three companies owned by Terrible Herbst should pay a total of \$14.1 million to the family of a 58-year-old woman who was run over by a drunken driver in a Terrible Herbst industrial truck in 2001. Rosa Delegado was trying to get into her car on the side of Fremont Street east of Las Vegas Boulevard when Darwin Ray Ellison drove the large truck into the grandmother from behind. Delegado was pinned against her vehicle, run over and killed. Delegado's family sued Terrible Herbst in 2001, and Saturday, a Clark County jury returned with its decision: \$4.1 million in compensatory damages and \$10 million in punitive damages to be paid by Terrible Herbst Inc., Herbst Supply Inc. and ETT Inc.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT, UNITED STATES

London, Jan 19 — A press report, dated today, states: A Jackson County jury has awarded \$6.8 million in a sex

harassment case that lawyers think is the first tried in Missouri courts. The verdicts Friday (Jan 13) awarded Kendra Lynn of Kansas City \$50,000 in actual damages and \$6.75 million in punitive damages. The defendants in this case were TNT Logistics North America Inc. and Michael Gill, a former supervisor there. Lynn also contended that she was improperly fired after making a sexual harassment complaint against Gill, but the jury found for the company on that count. The company's plant at 3600 N.E. Kimball Drive provides car parts to Ford Motor Co. Lynn said that Gill made lewd comments to her about five times in October 2003 and once hit her buttocks with a belt in front of another supervisor. Kirk Holman, her attorney, asked for the punitive damages to send a message to a company that at the time provided no sexual harassment training and took no action on complaints.

Railway Accidents



CUBA, ALABAMA, UNITED STATES

London, Jan 17 — A press report, dated today, states: A train derailment in Cuba, Ala., disrupted business for a lot of people. A CSX freight train travelling east derailed around noon, yesterday. The railroad track is owned by Norfolk Southern, but is also used by Amtrak. Until cleanup is complete, the line through Cuba is unusable. Norfolk Southern's preliminary estimates are that the track will take two to three days to clean up. Between 20 and 30 cars derailed and three completely left the track. The freight train had several tanker cars and was also carrying automobiles, some of which were damaged. Officials say they do not know what caused the train to leave the track, and Cuba's fire marshal says that there is no danger right now. "At this point in time, there is no danger. There should not be any danger at all. Even when they start the cleanup there is nothing out here at this point that has hit the ground that is hazardous," said Reid Vaughan.

DHABLAN AREA, INDIA

London, Jan 13 — Four bogies and engine of the Jodhpur-Kalka Express derailed yesterday morning at Dhablan railway station on the outskirts of the city when this train rammed into two wagons and the guard's compartment of a goods train. Driver of Jodhpur-Kalka Express Jaswant Singh had minor injuries in the accident, while around 350 passengers on board remained safe.

London, Jan 13 — A press report, dated today, states: Four coaches and the engine of the Kalka-Jodhpur

passenger train derailed in Punjab yesterday, probably because it was put on the wrong track, officials said. No casualties were reported from the early morning accident in Dablan station, 12 km from Nabha town in Punjab's Patiala district. Railway officials said the Jodhpur bound train collided with a stationary goods train leading to four of its coaches and engine slipping off the track. The train was running three hours behind schedule. Senior railway officials, including the divisional railway manager, rushed to the spot. They said preliminary investigation revealed that the accident took place due to human error.

KRASNODAR REGION, RUSSIA

London, Jan 13 — A press report, dated today, states: A bus transporting workers after their shift at a local factory today collided with a train in southern Russia, killing 17 people and injuring four, the Emergency Situations Ministry said. Ministry spokesman Viktor Beltsov said that all the victims were on the bus, which was carrying 21 people from the Kotsentrat factory. The accident occurred at an unguarded train crossing, he said. The train was travelling from the resort city of Mineralnye Vody to Krasnodar, about 750 miles south of Moscow. Russian news agencies initially reported that the 17 dead were schoolchildren.

NORTH ALABAMA, UNITED STATES

London, Jan 19 — A press report, dated today, states: About 500 residents evacuated their homes after a train carrying sodium cyanide rear-ended a second train and caught fire, authorities said. No injuries were reported. The collision yesterday evening in north Alabama sent flames and a plume of black smoke into the air that could be seen 40 miles away in Birmingham, officials said. The blaze continued late into the night. Susan Terpay, spokeswoman for Norfolk Southern, which operates both trains, said it did not appear that the train car carrying the chemicals had been breached. Both trains were en route to Atlanta, she said. Terpay said the first train was carrying automobiles and had pulled off into a siding along the main tracks to let the second train pass, but not all of the 81 cars cleared the tracks. Talladega County EMA spokeswoman Shay Cook said residents within one mile of the site were asked to evacuate as a precaution. Deborah Gaither, deputy director of the Talladega County Emergency Management Agency, said air monitoring in the Lomar Ville area, where about 20 to 30 residents were blocked in by the trains, had been completed and no chemicals were detected in the air there.

SHELBY, MONTANA, UNITED STATES

London, Jan 18 — A press report, dated today, states: The final seven

cars of a BNSF Railway freight train derailed near the depot here late Monday (Jan 16), spilling two cars of corn, company spokesman Gus Melonas said yesterday. The train cars derailed at a slow rate of speed, Melonas said, closing one of two mainlines through the Hi-Line town. The derailment is under investigation. No one was hurt and no hazardous material was involved. Melonas said two loads of corn were on their side, three loads of corn were derailed, but upright, and two empty cars were leaning after the 2300 hrs derailment. The spilled corn was being vacuumed up and BNSF hoped to have the mainline reopen by 1600, yesterday, Melonas said. An adjacent mainline was not affected and freight and Amtrak traffic was not interrupted.

VORONEZHSKAYA, RUSSIA

London, Jan 14 — A press report, dated Jan 13, states: A bus transporting workers after their shift at a local factory collided with a train in southern Russia today, killing at least 21 people, the Emergency Situations Ministry said. Ministry spokesman Sergei Kozhemyaka said in Rostov-on-Don that all the victims were on the bus, which was carrying 27 people from the Kotsentrat factory. Six others were seriously injured, officials said. The accident occurred at an unguarded train crossing near the village of Voronezhskaya under heavy fog, and the engine car derailed, said another ministry spokesman, Viktor Beltsov. The bus was severely damaged, complicating rescue efforts. The train was traveling from the resort city of Mineralnye Vody to Krasnodar, about 750 miles south of Moscow. The regional governor's office declared tomorrow and Sunday (Jan 15) as official days of mourning in the Krasnodar Territory, the Interfax news agency reported. Russian news agencies initially reported that 17 schoolchildren were killed but Kozhemyaka said the victims were all being transported from the factory.

Miscellaneous



CLEMENCEAU (Decommissioned aircraft carrier)

London, Jan 13 — A press report, dated Jan 12, states: The misadventures of the French aircraft carrier *Clemenceau*, once the pride of the fleet, took a surprising turn today when Egypt refused to let the decommissioned warship pass through the Suez Canal on its way to an Indian scrap heap, citing concerns that it contained dangerous amounts of asbestos. *Clemenceau's* two-month-long trip behind a tug and with a naval escort, following months of legal battles with environmental groups and refusals from other countries to

decontaminate the ship, has sparked controversy in France and India. Paris says it has taken all necessary precautions to make the ship safe, but opponents have sharply criticized Paris for unloading its nation's toxic waste on the developing world. Mohammed Sayyed Khalil, who heads the Egyptian government's environmental agency, said today: "We have decided to prohibit the *Clemenceau* from entering Egypt's territorial waters." He said Cairo would give way only if Paris provided documents that proved the ship was not violating standards set in the Basle Convention on the cross-border trade in toxic waste. Hours before the announcement, two activists from the environmental group Greenpeace climbed onto the vessel with banners reading "Asbestos Carrier: Stay Out of India." In a statement, Greenpeace accused France of acting illegally: "There is more than sufficient evidence to establish that the French government has failed to decontaminate the ship, even to the standards they agreed to, let alone to international standards." But the French maritime governor for the Mediterranean, Vice Admiral Jean-Marie Van Huffel, told Agence France-Presse, "Whoever tries to convince Egypt that the ship is a dangerous object, as far as transiting the Suez Canal is concerned, is lying." The French Defence Ministry has said that all visible asbestos waste was removed from the *Clemenceau* before it left port in Toulon on Dec 31 and that there were only 45 tons of the material left. But environmental organizations and press reports cite Technopure, the company that undertook the first stage of the carrier's detoxification, which calculated that between 500 and 1,000 tons of asbestos remain. After being taken out of service in 1997, the ship was sold to Spain in 2003, where it was supposed to be decontaminated in the northern port of Gijon before eventually being broken up in Asia. But when the French military discovered that the carrier was on its way to Turkey in what looked like an arbitrage scheme by Spanish entrepreneurs, they repossessed it off Sicily and brought it to Toulon. After a long string of environmental lawsuits, *Clemenceau* left on Dec 31, this time headed for the Shree Ram Vessel Scrap Yard in the Indian state of Gujarat. But even if the path through the Suez Canal is cleared and *Clemenceau* continues its trip on its tow, it is not certain that the break-up will proceed. The commission for the control of toxic waste of India's Supreme Court issued a report last week that said the decontamination of *Clemenceau* would violate the Basle Convention. It is expected to issue a final decision next week. The president of the commission, who cited in the newspaper Le Monde on Monday, said that on the basis of the information the commission had been provided, it "is not encouraged to authorize the vessel to enter India."

London, Jan 14 — A press report, dated today, states: Egypt continued to hold the French decommissioned aircraft carrier *Clemenceau* yesterday, demanding documentation proving the vessel was not carrying dangerous materials. A source at the Egyptian ministry of state for environmental affairs said the vessel, destined for India where it was to be scrapped, was blocked because it had not provided documentation to confirm that it did not contain hazardous wastes. The source said the vessel should have obtained the official documents from its place of origin and destination, that is France and India. "Contacts were made with the navigation company operating the ship to provide such documents but it has not provided them until yesterday (January 12), so Egypt was able to block its passage under the Basel Convention," the source said. The source said that the environment ministry co-ordinated with the Suez Canal Authority and the armed forces after contacts with the French embassy to ensure blocking the vessel's entry. A source at the canal authority was quoted as saying that the authority had asked the company operating the vessel to provide a certificate verifying the vessel was environmentally safe. The *Clemenceau*, which left Toulon harbour on Dec 31, was blocked on Thursday (Jan 12) from entering the Suez Canal by Egyptian officials, who are demanding that the French government furnish the necessary documents to confirm that the vessel is not carrying dangerous materials.

London, Jan 15 — A press report, dated today, states: Egypt today approved the transit through the Suez Canal of decommissioned French warship *Clemenceau*, which had been stranded for three days over fears it was an environmental hazard. The environment ministry said documents provided by Paris proved the asbestos-insulated vessel did not fall under the 1989 Basel convention banning the export of toxic waste. "Following the agreement by the French government to export the *Clemenceau* in its current state and India's agreement to take it for dismantling, the French aircraft carrier does not pose an environmental threat to Egypt," said a ministry statement. The agency said experts from the environment ministry and Suez Canal authority were due to inspect the vessel tomorrow. The documents received by the French embassy in Cairo assert that the *Clemenceau* is still a state-owned warship, which means that it does not legally contradict the Basel convention," the environment ministry said. Port authorities said the vessel had finally entered Egypt's territorial waters and was approaching Port Said today.

London, Jan 16 — A press report, dated today, states: Decommissioned warship *Clemenceau* will not be allowed into Indian waters until Feb 13 when the case will again be taken up in the Supreme Court. The

assurance was given to the court by SDI, the company, which bought the ship from the French government for dismantling in India. The court also directed the custom's department to intimate their stand on the entry of *Clemenceau*. The matter was adjourned until Feb 13 as the court decided to wait for the outcome of the monitoring committee meet on Jan 20. The Committee in its report has said that the ship should not be allowed in Indian waters as it is against the Basle Convention. The report says: The entry of *Clemenceau* in Indian territory, specifically, within the 220 nautical miles exclusive economic zone would be a violation of an earlier court order. There is a wide discrepancy in the various estimates of asbestos on board the ship and it is possible that the ship is not properly decontaminated. A statement or declaration from the French government that it has decontaminated 98 per cent of hazardous materials on the vessel is required. This has so far not been done by the French authorities. Egypt meanwhile, has cleared the way for *Clemenceau* to enter the Suez Canal, saying that the ship does not represent an environmental danger to Egypt. An official from the Suez Canal Authority, which gives approval for ships to pass, said the vessel would be allowed to proceed after a routine technical check.

London, Jan 18 — A press report, dated today, states: The controversy over entry of the decommissioned aircraft carrier *Clemenceau* took a new turn, with Indian authorities asserting that the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) will inspect the vessel and if it is found to be containing hazardous waste it will not be allowed to enter Indian waters. The authorities have ordered the CPCB, Indian Maritime Organisation and Gujarat State Pollution Control Board to check whether the vessel has hazardous material and if found, the government would not allow it to touch Indian shores, Environment Minister A. Raja said at the Sixth Editors Conference on Social Issues. However, the matter would be decided by the Supreme Court and the government would abide by it, he added. The apex court has already set up a monitoring committee which was reviewing the matter and would submit its report to the apex court, on the basis of which a final decision would be taken by Jan 20. Regarding the controversy over the Egyptian Government reportedly getting documents from India, stating that the vessel had no hazardous substance, the minister said there was no question of giving a No Objection Certificate to the *Clemenceau*. The French government had informed that the vessel had no hazardous substance and if the Egyptian government has received any document then it must have come from the owner, which is the French Government, and the Indian company, Sriram, which is importing the vessel for breaking.

OUTBREAK OF "BIRD FLU"

London, Jan 12 — A press report, dated today, states: The World Health Organisation (WHO) said today that the number of people who have caught the deadly bird flu virus in Turkey has risen to 18 from 15, mostly children. Guenaël Rodier, head of the WHO mission to Turkey, said that laboratory tests in Ankara showed that the third dead child from the same family had H5N1. Initial tests showed she did not have the bird flu virus. "The (other) two new additional cases are also children who lived in close proximity to poultry but they come from two geographically separate areas," he said.

Jakarta, Jan 14 — A laboratory in Hong Kong has confirmed Indonesia's 12th human death from bird flu, a senior Health Ministry official said today. Hariadi Wibisono said the latest results from the laboratory, which is recognised by the World Health Organisation, showed the H5N1 virus had killed a 29-year-old Indonesian woman who died this week in a Jakarta hospital. She had been in contact with dead chickens before falling ill, hospital officials have said. "We are still waiting on the other pending result, that of the 39-year-old man," Wibisono said. Local tests have shown that man also died of bird flu earlier this month. WHO-recognised laboratories have now confirmed 12 deaths and five other cases in Indonesia where patients survived. — Reuters.

London, Jan 16 — A press report, dated today, states: A five-year-old boy being treated at a hospital in the eastern Turkish city of Van has tested positive for bird flu, bringing to 19 the number of victims in Turkey, including three who have died, the Turkish health ministry said yesterday. Tests on Muhammed Ozcan, whose 12-year-old sister Fatma died yesterday in the same hospital after presenting symptoms of the deadly H5N1 strand of bird flu, came back positive, the ministry said in a statement. "The preliminary tests on Fatma are negative however," said the document, which added that other tests would be carried out.

Ankara, Jan 16 — Turkey stepped up the culling of poultry across the country today as it battled to stamp out bird flu and Indonesia said a 13-year-old girl died of the virus at the weekend (Jan 14-15). Human victims had been confined to east Asia until this month, when three infected children from the same family died in eastern Turkey, showing the virus had reached the crossroads of Europe, Asia and the Middle East. Bird flu has been found in wild birds and poultry over a third of Turkey's territory, hitting villages from Istanbul at Europe's gates to Van near the Iranian and Iraqi borders. Turkey still has a chance of preventing bird flu from becoming a permanent feature among its poultry, the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organisation said today, striking a more optimistic note than it did a few

days ago. "We are still in time to be able to prevent the virus from being endemic in Turkey if the Turkish veterinary services have enough resources," Juan Lubroth, senior FAO animal health officer, told a news conference in Rome. The FAO expressed fears that the virus could take hold in neighbouring countries such as Georgia, Iran, Syria and Armenia. The World Bank aims to raise \$1.2 billion to fight bird flu, Vice President Jim Adams said today, the eve of a global donor conference in Beijing tasked with securing the resources needed to combat the virus. The virus is already endemic across parts of Asia and scientists fear the H5N1 strain could mutate from a disease that affects mostly birds into one that can pass easily between people, leading to a human pandemic. Already, it has killed 79 people since 2003 and infected nearly 150, according to the latest World Health Organisation figures. Indonesia said local tests showed a 13-year-old girl died of bird flu at the weekend while two of her siblings have tested positive for the H5N1 virus. "We found three positive bird flu cases in one family coming from Indramayu, West Java," said Hariadi Wibisono, the ministry's director of control of animal-borne diseases. He said this was Indonesia's fifth cluster of bird flu cases, where people living in close proximity had fallen ill. There was no evidence of human-to-human transmission and dead chickens had been found in the neighbourhood, he added. Turkey's Health Ministry said initial tests on teenager Fatma Ozcan, who may have died of bird flu yesterday, were negative but doctors suspect she did contract the disease. Her brother Muhammet was in critical condition in Van, the province worst hit by the outbreak that has swept Turkey since late December. If Fatma is confirmed to have died from the virus, it would bring the number of human cases in Turkey to 20. Turkish authorities have culled 764,000 birds over the past two weeks to try to contain the crisis. Anatolian state news agency said the Agriculture Ministry had imposed a nationwide ban on the transit of poultry. Neighbouring Syria yesterday destroyed birds at a market near its northeastern border with Turkey to try to head off any spread of bird flu. Iran, which has also culled tens of thousands of birds, has closed its border with Turkey to day trips and has banned imports of live birds and poultry products from Turkey. — Reuters.

Beijing, Jan 17 — Bird flu experts meeting in Beijing said today the world urgently needed to amass a war chest of up to \$1.4 billion to fight the deadly virus and prepare nations should a pandemic strain emerge. Underscoring that urgency, Indonesia's health ministry said a toddler who died today was being tested for bird flu days after his 13-year-old sister died of the H5N1 virus, according to local tests. A surviving

sister is also being tested. Turkey said yesterday a fourth young person had died of avian flu, as authorities slaughtered tens of thousands of birds to try to contain the outbreak. Neighbouring nations feared the virus might spread. "There is a significant shortfall of funds in many affected countries which will seriously hamper their prevention and control efforts," Qiao Zonghuai, Chinese vice foreign minister, told the donors' conference in Beijing. "In the fight against avian influenza, no country can stay safe by looking the other way," he said. Bird flu has killed at least 79 people since 2003 and has now arrived at the gates of Europe and the Middle East. While difficult for people to catch, nearly 150 people are known to have been infected by H5N1 in six countries, killing more than half its victims, a death rate that reinforced fears about the havoc the virus could wreak if a pandemic occurs. "It is going more and more towards the western part of the world," Food and Agriculture Organisation Chief Veterinary Officer Joseph Domenech said. "If the mobilisation of the funds is not coming immediately, in a couple of months we'll need more money." The World Bank estimates that between \$1.2 billion and \$1.4 billion will be needed to prepare for and respond to outbreaks. The Bank has estimated that a bird flu pandemic lasting a year could cost the global economy up to \$800 billion. A senior World Health Organisation official told delegates the risks from a bird flu pandemic were great. "Timing is unpredictable and the severity is uncertain," Margaret Chan, the WHO's top pandemic expert, told the conference, attended by delegates from 89 countries and more than 20 international organisations. The Bank approved a \$500 million line of credit last week towards the \$1.2 billion target and the European Union has pledged \$100 million in aid. More significant pledges are expected. H5N1 is already endemic across parts of Asia and has been found in wild birds and poultry over a third of Turkey. Poultry sales have plunged since the latest outbreak of avian flu in Turkey was reported in late December, although experts say chicken and eggs pose no health threat to human beings if properly cooked. Turkish officials said the country had recorded a total of 20 human cases, including the four deaths, in two weeks. Turkish authorities have culled around a million birds over the past two weeks to try to contain the crisis. The Agriculture Ministry had imposed a nationwide ban on the transit of poultry. Turkey's neighbours were also under threat, experts said. "The Caucasus region and Iran are countries where the usual trade movements are bringing very high risk of contamination. So the surveillance in these countries has to be intensified," the FAO's Domenech said. — Reuters.

Simferopol, Jan 18 — Officials in Ukraine's Crimea peninsula said today new cases of bird flu had been detected among wild birds and urged residents to exercise caution to prevent a spread to domestic livestock. Officials said tests showed five birds found dead in the port of Sevastopol — including a seagull discovered in the courtyard of a kindergarten — had been infected with bird flu. A municipal spokesman said the city had been declared a "potentially dangerous zone" after the discovery. Residents in and around Sevastopol, home to Russia's Black Sea Fleet and Ukraine's small navy, were told to keep domestic birds in enclosures and to destroy any with suspicious symptoms. No human cases of bird flu have been recorded. Specialised teams of sanitary workers have already destroyed well over 200,000 birds in Ukraine — both privately held and at industrial plants — since the discovery of the H5N1 virus in a dozen villages in north-eastern Crimea late last year. Ukrainian authorities have repeatedly said that the outbreak is under control but expect further difficulties when migratory birds pass through Ukraine on their way north in the spring. — Reuters.

Jakarta, Jan 19 — An Indonesian toddler who died this week has tested positive for bird flu after initial results were inconclusive, a Health Ministry official said today. The boy's 13-year-old sister died last week after being infected with the H5N1 avian flu virus, according to local tests. Both cases still need to be confirmed by outside laboratories recognised by the World Health Organisation. Their father was in hospital with suspected bird flu, said Hariadi Wibisono, the ministry's director of control of animal-borne diseases. "For the boy in Indramayu, local tests show he died from bird flu," Wibisono said. The boy and his sister are Indonesia's fifth cluster of cases, where people living in close proximity have fallen ill. There has been no evidence of human-to-human transmission in their deaths and dead chickens were found in the neighbourhood around Indramayu, in West Java province, officials have said. Indramayu is 175 km east of Jakarta. Their father had been hospitalised in the West Java city of Bandung, Wibisono said, adding test results had not yet come back. WHO-recognised laboratories have confirmed 12 deaths in Indonesia and five cases where patients have survived. It is usually some days before confirmation is available. Apart from the two Indramayu children, Indonesia is awaiting confirmation of local tests that showed a 39-year-old man died of bird flu earlier this month. The H5N1 virus is not known to pass easily between humans at the moment, but experts fear it could develop that ability and set off a global pandemic that might kill millions of people. It is

confirmed to have killed 79 people in six countries since late 2003. The highly pathogenic strain is endemic in poultry in parts of Asia, and has affected birds in two-thirds of the provinces in Indonesia, an archipelago of 17,000 islands and 220 million people. Indonesia has millions of chickens and ducks, many in the yards of rural or urban homes, raising the risk of more humans becoming infected. — Reuters.

OUTBREAK OF VIRUS ON UNITED KINGDOM FLAGGED VESSEL

London, Jan 18 — A press report, dated today, states: Some passengers on passenger *Oriana* (69153 gt, built 1995), which left Southampton Jan 8 on a cruise, have reportedly come down with a stomach bug. Doctors have been treating some of the 1,700 passengers on board the vessel for the contagious norovirus, formerly called Norwalk Virus, it has been reported. The virus causes vomiting and diarrhoea. A spokesman for P&O Cruises said: "We have developed and implemented our extensive sanitisation programme on board to interrupt the spread of illness."

POWER FAILURE TO REFINERY, MEXICO

London, Jan 13 — Zinc prices rose to a record in London Wednesday (Jan 11), topping \$2,000 a metric ton, after Grupo Mèxico suspended production at a refinery in Mexico, reducing supplies as global stockpiles shrink. The refinery was shut down by a power failure that caused "material damage," Grupo Mèxico said. It produced more than 100,000 metric tons of zinc in 2005, equal to about 1 percent of global demand. Zinc stockpiles have plunged 39 percent in a year.

SEIZURE OF CONTRABAND CIGARETTES FROM NORTH KOREA VESSEL, GREECE

London, Jan 19, A press report, dated today, states: A major operation involving Coast Guard vessels and aircraft led to the seizure of general cargo *Tania* (399 gt, built 1990) and the arrest of its seven crew members, after it unloaded three trucks carrying contraband cigarettes, the Merchant Marine Ministry said yesterday. The trucks were stopped in Halkidiki on Tuesday (Jan 17) and authorities were immediately alerted to intercept the ship that had unloaded them after sailing from Romania. The vessel was spotted by a Coast Guard plane in the northern Aegean and was then approached by three patrol boats, which escorted the vessel to the port of Alexandroupolis. The seven men on board are thought to be Ukrainians. Authorities believe that *Tania* set ashore almost two million packs of contraband cigarettes on board the three trucks. The cigarettes are estimated to be worth some four million Euros in lost tax revenues.

Fires & Explosions

AIRPORT, BANGKOK, THAILAND

London, Jan 19 — A press report, dated today, states: One construction worker died after a fire broke out in a catering facility at Bangkok's new international airport, Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra said, adding the airport will open in June as scheduled. "One person died in the fire and three people were injured, mostly from jumping out of windows as the fire engulfed the building. It's just an accident," Thaksin told reporters. "It won't affect the opening. The fire did not affect the terminal building, which is quite far away. The fire was caused by an accident during construction," he added. The fire broke out at four-storey catering facility of Thai Airways International at the almost-complete Suvarnabhumi Airport yesterday. The blaze raged for an hour before it was extinguished. Transport Minister Pongsak Raktapongpaisal said the clean-up at the catering facility could take months because of all the equipment inside. Thai Airways said in a statement that the fire was triggered by workers. "Initially the cause of the fire was believed to have occurred while the construction workers were connecting the steam piping system, which may have been the source of the fire at the kitchen cold room within Thai's Catering Building," the airline said.

BAKERY, EUGENE, OREGON, UNITED STATES

London, Jan 12 — A press report, dated Jan 11, states: A Monday (Jan 9) night fire in the Williams' Bakery at 1760 E. 13th Ave. in Eugene caused about \$1 million in damage, mostly from water in the office space. Production Supervisor Ron Ohlhauser said the bakery lost about eight hours of production and was back in operation yesterday. The fire will not affect the company's plan to sell the property to the University of Oregon and move bakery operations to a new facility in Glenwood, said Bob Albers, CEO of United States Bakery. Albers said the company will confer with university officials regarding the layout and reconstruction of the space damaged in Monday night's fire. He said the university may decide to convert the office space for another use, but no decisions have been made. The fire started about 2130 hrs, from sparks from maintenance work being done inside one of the large ovens. It spread up the ductwork into the second-floor office space, where it burned in ceiling insulation and activated the sprinkler system. Emergency medical personnel evaluated workers for smoke

inhalation, but no one was hospitalized. Fire crews were on the scene until about midnight.

COAL MINE, ANINA, ROMANIA

Bucharest, Jan 14 — Five Romanian miners were killed, three were injured and two are missing after a blast at a mine in the west of the country, authorities said today. Officials said the explosion, which may have been caused by an accumulation of gas, occurred at Anina coal mine in the western county of Caras Severin at around 0530 local time (0330, UTC). An investigation is under way. "Five dead miners were found inside the mine, two are still missing," Ion Purcaru, said an adviser on mining issues for Romania's Economy Ministry. Three miners were admitted to hospital with burns, local media said. The deputy head of the Caras Severin county, Petru Seres, said around 200 people were working in the mine at the time of the blast. They were evacuated and the mine was closed. — Reuters.

London, Jan 15 — Romanian president Traian Basescu today ordered the closure of a 200-year-old coal mine, one day after a deadly blast occurred there. The explosion occurred yesterday in the south-western city of Anina, killing seven miners and injuring five others. "We are closing the mine ... we will seek solutions for Anina," Basescu said. At more than 1,000 meters below the surface, the Anina coal employing 544 miners, is one of the deepest mines in Europe. Local police said the explosion was due to an accumulation of methane gas in the shaft of the mine, which produces some 1,000 tons of coal every day, the biggest in west Romania. An investigation is underway into the causes of the accident.

FACTORY, DHAKA AREA, BANGLADESH

Karachi, Jan 17 — A huge fire broke out in a privately owned export oriented garment factory - EEC Bangla Knitwear Factory at the BSCIC Industrial estate in Narayanganj, near Dhaka in Bangladesh yesterday at about 0200 hrs. As a result, exportable products worth million of Taka and machinery were destroyed. It is said the fire originated in the ground floor of the four-storied building of factory and it soon engulfed other floors inflicting heavy damage to machinery as well as knitwear products readied for export, fire brigade sources said. Shimul Barua, owner of the factory told media that most of the destroyed knitwear products were due for shipment later yesterday and claimed that the damage caused would be worth Tk 80 million (Over \$1.25 million). The five fire fighters from Mondolpara, Postogola and Haziganj fire stations rushed to the spot and brought the blaze under control after effort of five hours. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

FACTORY, EDGEWORTHSTOWN, CO. LONGFORD, REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

London, Jan 16 — A press report, dated today, states: Up to 500 jobs are under threat this morning following a major overnight fire at a petfood factory in Co Longford. An investigation is underway into the cause of the blaze, which caused widespread damage to the C&D Petfoods plant in Edgeworthstown. The fire broke out at around 2330 hrs and completely gutted the production facility, but nobody was injured. Around 500 people are employed at the factory.

HOTEL, ATLANTA, GEORGIA, UNITED STATES

London, Jan 15 — A press report, dated today, states: Fire broke out in suburban Atlanta hotel early today, killing one person and injuring more than a dozen others. Firefighters had to rescue about 20 of the hotel's 168 guests who barricaded the doors of their rooms to keep the smoke out, Cobb County Fire Chief Jackie Gibbs said. The fire started about 0300 hrs, apparently on the second floor of the 30-year-old Holiday Inn, firefighters said. The cause was under investigation, officials said. The hotel did not have a sprinkler system, Gibbs said. Eighteen hotel guests were treated for smoke inhalation and other injuries, including one man who broke his foot. Two firefighters were also injured, Gibbs said.

OFFICE BUILDING, VLADIVOSTOK, RUSSIA

London, Jan 16 — A press report, dated today, states: At least eight people died and 15 others were injured when fire engulfed an office building in Russia's Pacific port city Vladivostok early today, an official with the emergencies ministry's local office said. The toll is "preliminary, as (firemen) are still in the process of putting the fire out, and, when it is over, new casualties may be discovered," he added. The blaze broke out at 0500, Moscow time, on the eighth floor of a nine-storied building that houses a bank and numerous offices, a spokesman for the local office of the emergencies ministry said. The cause of the fire was unknown. It spread rapidly throughout the building, cutting people off from emergency exits, and many of those who died were killed when they threw themselves out of windows in an attempt to escape the inferno, the ministry official said. Others were luckier and could be evacuated from the building with the help of ladders. Later, RIA-Novosti said, quoting emergency officials, that the fire had been contained. According to preliminary information, the fire killed from eight to 10 people, RIA said. Several people were taken to hospital with burns.

OIL DEPOT, HEMEL HEMPSTEAD, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Jan 12 — Owners of homes and businesses damaged in the

Buncefield explosion will be covered, the Association of British Insurers has said. Spokesman Malcolm Tarling said: "As far as home insurance is concerned, damage caused by explosion will be covered." And the same goes for businesses, there are quite a few businesses affected. The standard business policy covers that. "Some businesses may have taken out denial of access cover, which covers the policyholder for loss of profitability if they cannot get to their business. "They may also have business interruption cover, which would cover alternative accommodation." Some homeowners' policies might cover smoke damage, he added. He said businesses might end up making some quite large claims, but declined to speculate on how much the explosion could cost in pay-outs. Police say it could be months before the worst-affected companies can move back into their premises in the area. Shares in online fashion retailer ASOS were suspended after the explosion at the depot damaged its warehouse. The group, which is one of the UK's fastest-growing retail businesses, only moved to the site in Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire, earlier this year. ASOS said it had requested the suspension of its shares because it needed time to assess the impact of the explosion and disruption to the area. Software and IT firm Northgate Information Solutions was also hit and said its head office had been "seriously damaged" by the blast. Four of its employees were taken to hospital but were later discharged. And Dixons and Currys owner DSG International said its head office - housing 1,500 administrative workers - was closed, although it stressed there would be no knock-on disruption to trading.

London, Jan 16 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: A fashion firm has re-opened after shutting down when the Buncefield oil depot fire destroyed stock worth £5.5m. The ASOS warehouse in Hertfordshire was badly damaged by the inferno and the firm refunded 19,000 orders. It is going to be business as usual from tomorrow at ASOS in Hemel Hempstead - which stands for As Seen On Screen. Managers said the interruption to trade was covered by insurance and its new spring and summer collections would be available "within days". Other firms affected by the fire included brewer Scottish & Newcastle which lost wines and spirits valued at some £10m when its warehouse was damaged. Marks & Spencer suffered disruption after it was forced to close one of its six food depots. Software and IT firm Northgate Information Solutions was also hit as its head office was "seriously damaged" by the blast. Four of its employees were taken to hospital but were later discharged.

OIL REFINERY, EHIME PREFECTURE, JAPAN

Tokyo, Jan 17 — A storage tank explosion at an oil refinery in western

Japan run by Taiyo Oil Co. killed at least four workers, a company spokesman said today. The tank, used to store crude oil at the company's 120,000 barrels per day refinery in Kikuma, Ehime prefecture, exploded at 0522, GMT. The fire was extinguished about 10 minutes later, the Taiyo Oil spokesman said. He said seven people were caught in the explosion. Four were killed, one was injured, one was unhurt and one person was still missing. "The tank was empty and workers were cleaning it when it caught fire," he said. Operations at the plant have not been affected. The plant can ship oil products and receive crude oil normally, the spokesman said. — Reuters.

PREMISES, BARCELONA, SPAIN

London, Jan 13 — A press report, dated today, states: A gas explosion in Spanish city of Barcelona yesterday killed two people and wounded 22 others, nine of them in serious condition, emergency medical services said. A four-story building was demolished in the explosion. A group of technicians from local company Gas Natural de Montigala and two workers for a sub-contractor went into the building after a gas leak was reported, only to be caught up by the explosion at 0530, GMT, a spokesman for Gas Natural said. One of those killed was a Gas Natural employee, who was repairing the leak and the other was a young man passing by when the building was blown up. The injured included residents of neighboring buildings, firefighters and other gas company inspectors. Around 150 people from nearby buildings were evacuated after the accident.

PREMISES, BELFAST, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Jan 14 — A press report, dated today, states: A three-storey building on the Woodstock Road in east Belfast has been destroyed in an overnight fire. The blaze is believed to have broken out in a ground floor shop on the premises around 0500, UTC, today. A police spokesperson said no one was in the building when emergency services arrived. Divisional Fire Officer Ken Leathem said it was not yet known how the fire started. He said police had been asked to investigate the cause of the blaze. "Fire-fighting was hampered initially because of a roller-shutter blind which protected the premises and a specialist appliance from our central fire station was mobilised so we could gain access," Mr Leathem said.

REFINERY, KOMSOMOLSK, RUSSIA

Moscow, Jan 13 — Ten 60-tonne oil product storage tanks caught fire at Rosneft's Komsomolsk refinery in Russia's Far East today but the blaze was quickly put out, an Emergencies Ministry official said. He said the fire

had not disrupted the refinery's operations and there were no reports of casualties in the fire, which covered around 2,000 square metres. The plant has processing capacity of 6.24 million tonnes of crude oil a year. A Rosneft spokesman declined to comment on the fire. — Reuters.

SCHOOL, CASTLEFORD, YORKSHIRE, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Jan 18 — A press report, dated today, states: A huge fire has destroyed part of a secondary school in Castleford. More than 100 firefighters were called out to tackle the blaze at the 1,150-pupil Airedale High School on Crewe Road last night. Police closed off surrounding roads as the upper school's main hall was engulfed in flames. People using the nearby sports hall were evacuated. Police and fire service investigators will return to the scene today to determine the cause of the fire. A West Yorkshire Fire Service spokesman said the upper school's main hall and dining area were destroyed and the rest of the school was damaged by smoke. However, the neighbouring lower school escaped damage as firefighters battled successfully to stop the fire spreading. Nobody was injured in the fire.

TIMBER MILL, KAITALA, NEW ZEALAND

London, Jan 17 — A press report, dated today, states: Northland firefighters are battling a massive fire that is engulfing a timber mill just north of Kaitaia. Auckland fire communications shift manager Jaron Phillips said they were alerted to the fire at the Juken New Zealand Triboard Mill at 1020, today. Appliances from Kaitaia, Maungonui, Whangarei, Kerikeri, Okaihau, Paihia and Kaikohe are attending to fight the blaze. Mr Phillips said the 30m by 30m building was "well involved in fire" when the brigade arrived. "We're going to be there most of the day," he said. There were no reports of injuries yet. A Kaitaia police spokesman said the mill was a major source of employment in the area. If the mill were destroyed, it would be "devastating" for the local community, he said. Juken New Zealand general affairs manager Mike Fisher said he could not comment on the fire until he knew the extent of the damage. He said 175 people worked at the mill, most of whom lived locally. The mill was operating today, so those working on this morning's shifts would have had to have been evacuated. Mr Fisher would not speculate about the future of the company until information about damage was known.

London, Jan 18 — A press report, dated today, states: Damage from one of Northland's biggest industrial fires in recent years will run into millions of dollars and has halted production at a Kaitaia mill until at least the end of next month. More than 35 volunteer and professional firefighters

from throughout Northland were needed to tackle the blaze at Juken New Zealand's triboard mill yesterday. The flames gutted the mill's wood fuel store, trip store for raw materials, the mechanical workshop, main store for spare parts and the plant's board waste transport system. No official estimate of the damage was known last night, but plant manager Dennis Clarke said it was likely to run into millions of dollars. It is believed the fire began in a 20m by 40m building housing the bark, trimmings and chips used as wood fuel to fire the plant's boilers. A secondary blaze then began in the main workshops. The Fire Service said the destroyed and damaged area, part of the original mill complex built in the 1980s, did not have fire sprinklers. Firefighters from Mangonui, Kerikeri, Okaihau, Kaikohe and Whangarei were helped by the Kaitaia volunteer fire brigade, which has 12 members who work at the mill. The blaze was brought under control in about 90 minutes. About \$1.8 million worth of machinery was in the workshop when the fire started.

WILDFIRES, NEW ZEALAND

London, Jan 18 — A press report, dated today, states: Fire raged through more than 100ha of farmland, threatening homes and livestock near Kerikeri in the second major blaze in Northland yesterday. The combination of dry conditions and strong winds around the country prompted the National Rural Fire Authority to urge people to take extreme care lighting fires. And last night Whangarei police hunting an arsonist they say is behind several fires in the city urged the public to use cellphones and digital cameras to film crowds who gather at suspicious blazes. Fire Service Northland region commander Trevor Andrews said the Pungaere fire started at 2.30pm after a farmer's burn-off got out of control. The fire destroyed manuka, pines and grass and the farmer had moved livestock from the danger area. The Fire Service reported the blaze was under control just after 1900 hrs and said ground crews would start dampening down hot spots. Late last night, fire crews were fighting a big scrub blaze in the Haywards Hill area, north of Lower Hutt. The Fire Service, responding to a reported car fire, said the blaze quickly spread to a large area of vegetation. They were considering evacuating nearby residents. Earlier yesterday a scrub fire south of Auckland prompted a number of 111 calls from concerned motorists. The fire broke out along old Great South Rd at about 1315 hrs and burned pine trees and scrub. It is not being treated as suspicious. The rural fire authority said several fires had occurred in Northland, Nelson and Canterbury, largely due to high winds associated with dry conditions.

WILDFIRES, UNITED STATES

London, Jan 13 — A press report, dated today, states: Grass fires driven

by high winds destroyed at least 20 homes and forced hundreds of evacuations in Oklahoma, which remained extremely dry despite snowfall earlier in the week. The worst fires raged in southern Oklahoma near Ratliff City after burning through the homes overnight and west of Marlow, said Michelle Finch, fire information officer for the Oklahoma Forestry Department. As many as 18,406 acres burned statewide yesterday and at least 11 fires were reported, said Cliff Eppler, an information officer for the state's fire response centre. There were no reports of injuries, officials said. In Oklahoma alone, grass fires have destroyed more than 220 homes and businesses and killed two people since Nov. 1. Wildfires have also menaced Arkansas, Colorado, New Mexico and Texas. In northern Texas, firefighters were battling a blaze that had consumed at least 4,000 acres and was threatening eight homes about 100 miles west of Dallas, the Texas Forest Service said.

London, Jan 13 — A press report, dated today, states: A grass fire burning with new strength after a strong shift in the wind has blackened about 4,000 acres and forced about 20 homes to be evacuated, a state Forest Service spokeswoman said today. The fire in western Jack County, northwest of Fort Worth, began burning yesterday afternoon. Firefighters almost had it "put to bed" before a wind shift to the south later that evening, spokeswoman Traci Weaver said. Weaver said that at one point about 20 homes were evacuated yesterday evening, but only a few outbuildings were lost.

London, Jan 14 — A press report, dated Jan 13, states: Firefighters today cleaned up the remnants of grass fires in southern Oklahoma that scorched up to 20,000 acres and destroyed more than two dozen homes and businesses overnight. The worst fire had raged in southern Oklahoma near the towns of Ratliff City and Fox. At one time, the blaze in Carter County was four miles wide and burned at least 20 homes. The fire burned in a rural area dotted with oil derricks, oil storage units, ranches and an occasional house. At least four other homes burned near a high school several miles to the west in Stephens County, said fire information officer Richard Reuse. Residents from the more than 800 homes evacuated in Carter County returned to their homes today to assess the damage, said Mark Bays, a spokesman at the state's incident command centre in Shawnee. High winds could potentially spread the flames again, Bays said. The Carter County blaze continued to burn in spots but had been secured by fire crews. In Oklahoma alone, wildfires had charred more than 411,000 acres, destroyed more than 250 homes and businesses and caused two deaths since Nov 1, said Cindy Frenzel, a fire information officer. Statewide, 29 homes and businesses were destroyed

in yesterday's fires. Wildfires also have menaced Arkansas, Colorado, New Mexico and Texas. In northern Texas, firefighters today were close to containing a blaze that had consumed at least 4,000 acres and threatened 20 homes about 100 miles west of Dallas, the Texas Forest Service said. Smaller fires elsewhere threatened more than 50 structures and destroyed at least one home.

Houston, Jan 18 — Wildfires that have scorched some 455,000 acres in Texas are likely to keep burning until the end of April, the state's emergency management co-ordinator said today. Texas, where months of drought and unseasonably warm weather have turned prairies into tinderboxes, is expected to have little rainfall, low humidity, warm temperatures and high winds through April, said state emergency management co-ordinator Jack Colley. So far, most of the 2,017 wildfires have struck rural areas in central, north and east Texas, Colley said during a conference call. Wildfires in Texas and neighboring Oklahoma have been blamed for five deaths since Nov 1. Dry conditions across the central and south-eastern United States have led many states to ban burning to limit wildfires. As of today, 217 new wildfires had been reported from Nebraska to Texas, according to the U.S. National Interagency Fire Centre. — Reuters.



CRASH INTO SEA, CAPE POINT, SOUTH AFRICA

London, Jan 18 — A press report, dated today, states: Police and navy divers are still combing the area off Cape Point this afternoon for the body of a trainee pilot who plunged to his death in a helicopter crash. The man, whom Die Burger identified as Marthinus Erasmus, a Cape Town father of two, was flying alone around 1030, yesterday when witnesses saw his Robinson R22 helicopter crash into the sea.

CRASH, BORROLOOLA AREA, NORTHERN TERRITORY, AUSTRALIA

London, Jan 19 — A press report, dated today, states: A light aircraft has crashed with two people on board near Borroloola in a remote part of the Northern Territory. A male pilot and a passenger were on the five-seater plane but their fate is not yet known. It is believed the chartered twin-engine Beechcraft Baron B58 crashed on approach to the McArthur River Mine airstrip, near Borroloola, this morning. A police spokeswoman said workers alerted police when the Hardy Aviation plane did not arrive at the mine airstrip at 0930 hrs. An air search later spotted the wreckage about nine kilometres south-east of

the mine, she said. Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) spokesman Peter Gibson said the wreckage was sighted "upside down on the ground, with no sign of life". Xstrata's McArthur River Mining (MRM) said the plane had been chartered by another mining company unrelated to MRM. There were no employees and contractors of McArthur River Mining on board the aircraft, the company said. The mine's rescue personnel were participating in the search and rescue effort, it said. The Australian Transport Safety Bureau (ATSB) would investigate the crash, while CASA would review safety aspects, Mr Gibson said, adding "It is way too early to draw any conclusions whatsoever."

CRASH, BOURDEAU AREA, FRENCH ALPS

London, Jan 17 — A press report, dated today, states: A Texas-registered private aircraft with four people on board crashed yesterday in the French Alps. Police say rescue teams headed to the scene through snow-covered terrain. A Federal Aviation Administration Web site indicates the aircraft was built in 2001 and is registered to the Aircraft Guaranty Title, LLC of Houston. Witnesses say the Socata TB-20 Trinidad burst into flames on impact near the town of Bourdeau. It wasn't immediately clear whether there are survivors.

CRASH, IRAZU VOLCANO NATIONAL PARK AREA, COSTA RICA

London, Jan 18 — A press report, dated Jan 17, states: The bodies of a U.S. couple whose small plane had been missing for three days were found today near the Costa Rican volcano where they disappeared, along with the plane's wreckage. The bodies of Conrad Wesley Randell, 69, and his wife, Nancy Randell, 68, both of Des Moines, Iowa, were found with their single-engine Beech D35 plane near the Irazu volcano, said Noemy Coto, spokeswoman for the Red Cross in San Jose. The couple took off from Panama on Sunday (Jan 15) morning along with a group of 22 other planes, which belong to the Baja Bush flying club. They were headed to Nicaragua, Coto said. Authorities started looking for the craft Sunday after officials at the Irazu volcano national park in central Costa Rica and nearby residents reported hearing a loud explosion in the area.

EMERGENCY LANDING, CARDIFF INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Jan 19 — A press report, dated today, states: A passenger jet carrying 46 passengers and four crew has made an emergency landing at Cardiff after developing a problem with one of its engines. Cardiff International Airport said the British Airways flight 4089 bound from Paris to Bristol landed safely just before 1930, GMT, yesterday. Emergency

services were put on standby after the pilot reported a loud bang. The aircraft is being checked by engineers and passengers have been taken to Bristol by coach. A BA spokesman said the aircraft was sent to Cardiff as the nearest airport. Cardiff airport spokesman Peter Phillips said: "We believe the engine was shut down and it came in on one engine. "Fire crews inspected the engine and reported no danger and passengers were allowed to disembark. "They are being put on a coach to Bristol. The crew is still aboard the plane making safety checks."

EMERGENCY LANDING, NAHA AIRPORT, JAPAN

London, Jan 16 — A press report, dated today, states: A Japan Airlines (JAL) jet made an emergency landing at Naha Airport in Okinawa Prefecture yesterday evening after one of its two engines developed trouble during a flight to Tokyo, airline officials said. At around 1727 hrs an alarm went off in the cockpit of a JAL Boeing 777 (B777) twin-engine jet indicating that its right engine had lost hydraulic pressure following takeoff from Naha Airport, JAL officials said. The pilots shut down the right engine and flew back to Naha airport 12 minutes later. None of the 355 passengers or crew members on Flight 1922 was injured. Mechanics examined the right engine and found that it had lost all its oil. Traces of oil were found on the ramp where the aircraft was parked after landing. The company is investigating the cause of the trouble.

EMERGENCY LANDING, PHILADELPHIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, UNITED STATES

London, Jan 16 — A press report, dated today, states: US Airways aircraft was forced to shut down one of its two engines and make an emergency landing at Philadelphia International Airport yesterday, authorities said. Flight 4455, a twin-engine turboprop, declared an emergency about 20 minutes after taking off from the Philadelphia airport bound for Baltimore-Washington International Airport, US Airways spokesman Carlo Bertolini said. "One of the engines was shut down," he said. Fla. The aircraft, carrying 48 passengers and three crew members, returned to Philadelphia, landed at about 1650 hrs and was towed to the gate, Bertolini said. No one was injured, Bertolini and airport spokesman Mark Pesce said.

EMERGENCY LANDING, SACRAMENTO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, CALIFORNIA, UNITED STATES

London, Jan 12 — A press report, dated today, states: Southwest airlines flight made an emergency landing today after the captain smelled smoke, according to airport officials. Flight 1052 took off for Burbank from Sacramento

International Airport around 0625 hrs. Shortly afterwards, the captain noticed the smell of smoke in the cockpit, officials said. The aircraft was turned around and safely landed at 0725 hrs. No one was injured. The 64 passengers on board the aircraft were placed on another flight. Mechanics are trying to determine what may have caused the smell.

EMERGENCY LANDING, SAVANNAH, GEORGIA, UNITED STATES

London, Jan 16 — A press report, dated today, states: Passengers on a Delta Song flight from Tampa landed safely at Bradley International Airport early today after their first aircraft was forced to make an emergency landing in Georgia. A Delta Song spokeswoman said Flight 2009, a Boeing 757, took off from Tampa at 1835 yesterday, about an hour late. Had it taken off on time, it would have been scheduled to land in Connecticut at 2011 hrs. She said the pilot chose to land in Savannah after a short-circuit in an electrical wire caused smoke in the cockpit. The aircraft, which was carrying 167 passengers, landed in Savannah at 1950 hrs. No one was injured. Delta brought in another aircraft, which landed at Bradley about 0115 today, according to the airport's operations centre.

EMERGENCY LANDING, SURGUT, RUSSIA

London, Jan 12 — A press report, dated today, states: A Russian airliner was forced to make an emergency landing today in the Far Eastern city of Surgut, a spokesman for the Emergency Situations Ministry said. The Tu-134, which was flying from Khanty-Mansiisk to Moscow, was forced to land after problems with its landing gear emerged. None of the 32 passengers and three crew members on board the aircraft was hurt in the incident.

EMERGENCY LANDING, SYDNEY AIRPORT, AUSTRALIA

London, Jan 17 — A press report, dated today, states: Hundreds of Qantas passengers have been left stranded at Sydney Airport after their flight to Los Angeles was turned around due to engine problems. Qantas Flight 249 took off around 1500, AEDT. However, it was forced to return to the airport a short time later after the pilot noticed a noise that indicated problems with one of the engines. The aircraft landed safely and no-one was injured. Qantas says the 316 passengers who were on board will leave on a new aircraft later tonight.

London, Jan 17 — A press report, dated today, states: A Qantas Airways Boeing 747 flying to Los Angeles returned to Sydney today after an engine caught fire minutes after take-off. Passengers heard an explosion from one of the aircraft's two right-wing engines, ABC television news reported. The pilot closed down the

engine and dumped 60 tonnes of fuel in the sea off Sydney before landing 75 minutes later, the ABC report said. The incident closed Sydney Airport's main runway for more than an hour. Qantas said the 316 passengers were never in danger. A replacement aircraft later restarted the journey, Nine Network news reported.

FLIGHT DIVERTED TO GOLD COAST AIRPORT, AUSTRALIA

London, Jan 16 — A press report, dated today, states: An electrical fault is believed to be behind a Regional Express (REX) flight being diverted to the Gold Coast Airport today. Flight ZL329 left Lismore in northern NSW about 1140, AEDT, for Sydney but changed course when the captain received warning signals. The flight, carrying 19 passengers, made a normal landing at Coolangatta on the Gold Coast 20 minutes later. As a precaution emergency services were called to the airport. A REX spokeswoman said alternate arrangements were made to get passengers on flights out of Coolangatta and Ballina. She said it was believed the warning signals were due to an electrical fault.

GROUNDING OF EAS AIRLINES' AIRCRAFT, NIGERIA

London, Jan 17 — The four aircrafts of Executive Airline Services (EAS) of Nigeria have been grounded over deficiencies discovered by the task force on the verification of airworthiness status of aircraft and operational competencies of commercial aircraft operators. EAS will only be allowed to resume operations upon evidence of rectification of the problems. EAS operates three Boeing 737 and one HS 125 aircraft.

INCIDENT AT PATNA AIRPORT, INDIA

London, Jan 18 — A press report, dated today, states: All passengers and crew onboard an Indian Airlines Boeing from New Delhi to Patna had a miraculous escape today after both the tyres on the front wheels of the plane burst. Director of Jaya Prakash Narayan International Airport Atul Dixit said that the tyres of the IA flight no. 809 burst due to a 'heavy landing' on the runway. The pilot, however, managed to control the plane and the passengers were taken off the flight, he said. The plane arrived from New Delhi at around 1547 hrs. No passengers were injured.

London, Jan 18 — All 63 persons onboard an Indian Airlines Boeing from New Delhi to Patna en route to Ranchi had a close call today after both the tyres of the right rear wheel of the aircraft burst while landing. Director of the Jayaprakash Narayan International Airport here Atul Dixit said as the wheels thumped on the runway at the airport here at 1530 hrs, the tyres tore and the wheels bent. Fifty-six passengers and seven crew members onboard the flight, IC-

809, were evacuated as emergency services stood by, he said, adding only an inquiry could ascertain if the tyres burst due to a "heavy-landing". None of the passengers or crew suffered any injury, the IA Manager Darshan Singh said. The luggage of the passengers were also intact, he said. Dixit said six flights, including a haj flight of Air India from Kolkata, were cancelled as the runway was blocked. All the flights to and from Patna stood cancelled temporarily, he said and added the Director General of Civil Aviation being the competent authority would order an inquiry. Dixit said other flights which were cancelled were Sahara Airline's 6235 Mumbai-Patna, 6144 Kolkata-Patna, IA 409 Delhi-Patna, Deccan's 579 Kolkata-Patna and Jet Airway's 7227 Delhi-Patna.

N308M

London, Jan 13 — A press report, dated today, states: Mechanical problems forced a small Cessna aircraft N308M to crash-land yesterday afternoon in a paved lot next to the police roll call center on Old Frankfort Pike. Authorities say there were two people on board the aircraft, and they suffered minor injuries. One was taken by ambulance to University of Kentucky Hospital. The Cessna, a four-seater owned by GMR Aerial Survey Inc., a Lexington company also called Photo Science. Lexington police Sgt. Scott May said the aircraft was on its way to Blue Grass Airport when it went down about 1500 hrs. It was not clear last night where the aircraft had taken off. After a rough landing, the aircraft travelled through the paved lot before coming to rest at the edge of a field. The aircraft's nose was broken. Its left wing was bent and dented. A broken wheel lay several feet from the aircraft. Federal Aviation Administration officials were on their way from Louisville yesterday to investigate the cause of the crash. Specifics of why the pilot had to make the emergency landing won't be available until after the investigation, said Kathleen Bergen, spokeswoman for FAA's regional office in Atlanta. The pilot reported losing power before the crash-landing. Police shut down a stretch of Old Frankfort Pike from Forbes Road to New Circle Road for more than an hour yesterday after the crash. Firefighters also were there in case the aircraft's fuel caused problems. Several witnesses, including police officers who were standing outside the roll call center, saw or heard the aircraft's rough landing.

N6034J

London, Jan 19 — Cessna 182P, N6034J, privately operated, crashed on a flight to Lone Pine, California, under unknown circumstances seven miles south of Big Pine, California, at 0520, local time, Jan 17. The one person on board was fatally injured. The aircraft was destroyed.

N6239X

London, Jan 17 — A twin-engine aircraft's nose gear collapsed as it landed at Teterboro Airport yesterday evening, forcing officials to close the airport for an hour. There were no injuries or fire in the incident, said Pasquale DiFulco, a spokesman for the Port Authority, which operates the airport. In the incident, the nose gear of a twin-engine Cessna aircraft collapsed as it landed on Runway 24 at 1511 hrs, said Holly Baker, a spokeswoman for the Federal Aviation Administration, which is conducting an investigation. There were no passengers on board the aircraft. The airport was closed for an hour, but officials did "reopen one runway" while the aircraft was moved, DiFulco said.

London, Jan 17 — Cessna 340A N6239X had a gear collapse on landing at Teterboro Airport, New Jersey, at 2011, Jan 16. The one person on board was not injured.

N7291Y

London, Jan 15 — A press report, dated today, states: Authorities today were investigating an aircraft crash that killed a California couple and their two granddaughters. Bernard Ray Sinor, 67, was flying his Piper Twin Comanche when it crashed at 1830, Friday (Jan 13), about 100 yards short of the Visalia Municipal Airport. Also killed were his wife Betty Ann Sinor, 57, and two granddaughters, Jorjanna McKeah Plumlee, 6, and Kyndal Crystine Plumlee, 3. The Sinors were flying from Byron Airport about 60 miles east of San Francisco after picking up their granddaughters for a family gathering scheduled for today in Visalia, according to relatives. The Federal Aviation Administration and the National Transportation Safety Board, along with the aircraft's manufacturer, were investigating the cause of the crash, said NTSB spokeswoman Kristi Dunks.

London, Jan 17 — Piper PA-30 (Twin Comanche) N7291Y crashed near Visalia, California, at 0220, Jan 14, while on a flight from Byron, CA, to Visalia. The aircraft was destroyed. The four persons on board were killed.

N8745E

London, Jan 17 — Piper PA-32-300 (Cherokee Six) N8745E crashed near Pierre, South Dakota, at 1825, Jan 14, while on a local flight from Pierre. The aircraft was destroyed. One of the six persons on board was killed and the other five were seriously injured.

Space Vehicles**DAICHI SATELLITE**

London, Jan 18 — The Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA)

said today it has indefinitely postponed the launch of a land-observation satellite, originally scheduled for tomorrow, due to a technical glitch in the launch vehicle. The H-2A rocket carrying the Advanced Land Observing Satellite was set to be launched from the Tanegashima Space Center in Kagoshima Prefecture tomorrow morning. A "technical challenge" was found in some of the rocket's electronics, the agency said. The satellite, dubbed Daichi, is intended to orbit about 690 kilometres above the earth and capture images of disaster-hit regions.

Product Recalls**CHAIN SAWS, UNITED STATES**

London, Jan 12 — The following press release, dated Jan 11, states: The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in co-operation with Stihl Inc., of Virginia Beach, Va., today announced a voluntary recall of about 23,500 Stihl-brand MS 192 T Chain Saws. These chain saws can leak fuel, posing a fire hazard. A connection in the ignition grounding system could loosen and create a spark, posing a fire hazard. Also the springs in the clutch assembly could come out of position allowing a spring of the clutch to be projected from the saw housing resulting in injury to the user. However, there have been no incidents or injuries reported. The recalled Stihl-brand chain saws have model number MS 192 T, located on the side of the chain saw's starter housing. They include serial numbers 264371702 through 266087005, which is located on the top/front of the chain saw's housing. Manufactured in the United States, the saws were sold at authorized Stihl dealers nationwide from January 2005 through until July 2005 for about \$280.

FUEL HOSES, UNITED STATES

London, Jan 12 — A press report, dated today, states: The Consumer Product Safety Commission and Generac Power Systems Inc., of Waukesha, Wisconsin, have announced the recall of 20,000 12" Braided Flex Fuel Hose sold with certain Guardian Home Standby Air-Cooled Generators because the fuel hoses can leak if bent in an unreasonable fashion during installation or upon completion of installation. If an ignition source is present, a fire or explosion can occur. Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately. The recalled flex fuel hoses were manufactured in the United States by RB Royal Industries Inc., of Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, and sold with these generators at independent and national dealers between March 2001

and September 2003 for about \$1500 to \$2500. To date, Generac has received no reports of fuel hose leaks, and no injuries or property damage have been reported.

KAWASAKI MOTOR VEHICLES, UNITED STATES

London, Jan 12 — A press release, dated Jan 11, states: Approximately 15,200 Kawasaki 2005-2006 model year Mule 600 Utility Vehicles have been voluntarily recalled conducted by Kawasaki Motors Corp., U.S.A., of Irvine, Calif., in co-operation with the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission. The steering knuckle can twist or break from wheel forces transmitted to the steering system during operation. This can cause a loss of steering control and possible collapse of the front suspension, posing a risk of incident or injury to the operator or passenger. Kawasaki has received 24 reports of the knuckle cracking or breaking. No injuries have been reported. Description: The recall involves Kawasaki 2005-2006 model year KAF400 Mule 600 Utility Vehicles. These models are off-road utility vehicles available in red, green, or camouflage livery. They have "Kawasaki" on the side of the cargo bed and "Mule" on the side of the front cowling. They were sold by Kawasaki Utility dealers nationwide from November 2004 through December 2005 for between \$5,900 and \$7,100.

LEXUS MOTOR VEHICLES, CANADA

London, Jan 16 — Transport Canada report a recall of 645 2006 Lexus IS 250 AWD vehicles, which may have defective accelerator pedals. The accelerator pedal in these vehicles may become temporarily stuck.

LIGHT SETS, UNITED STATES

London, Jan 15 — A press release, dated Jan 13, states: The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in co-operation with Target, of Minneapolis, Minn., today announced a voluntary recall of approximately 861,000 Mini Light and Chasing Light sets. The lights have undersized and exposed wires, which pose a risk of electric shock and fire hazards. No incidents or injuries have been reported. The recall includes 50-count multi-color mini light sets, 100-count blue mini light sets, and 140-count chasing light sets. "Mini Light Set" or "Chasing Light Set" is written on the packaging. The 100-count light sets have UL number E254698 or E182192, or there is no UL number written on the tag attached to the light string. The 50-count light sets have UL number E254698 or E182192, or no UL number. The chasing light sets have UL number E254698 or there is no UL number written on the tag. Manufactured in China, the sets were sold at Target Stores nationwide from September 2005 through to December 2005 for \$1.50 for the 50-count set, \$2 for the 100-count set and \$10 for the 140-count chasing light set.

MUSICAL CHAIR TOYS, UNITED STATES

London, Jan 18 — A press report, dated today, states: About 614,000 musical chair toys, manufactured by Fisher-Price, because a child can become lodged between the seat back and side table of the chair and run the risk of strangulation. The company has received three reports of children getting their necks trapped, including one report of a child receiving a welt on the neck. The recalled Fisher-Price Laugh & Learn Musical Learning Chair bear model numbers H4609, H7167 through H7173, H8157, H8998, and J0272 through J0275 on the underside of the seat. Discount department and toy stores nationwide sold the product from May 2005 through January 2006 .

VALVE ADAPTERS, UNITED STATES

London, Jan 12 — A press release, dated Jan 11, states: The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in co-operation with American Biophysics Corp., of North Kingstown, R.I., today announced a voluntary recall of about 335,500 øLø-Shaped Quick-Clear Valve Adapters used with Mosquito MagnetÆ Insect Traps. The maintenance accessory is an øLø-shaped, Quick-Clear Valve Adapter that can leak or break apart

during use, possibly striking and injuring nearby persons or releasing pressurized carbon dioxide (CO2) that can freeze exposed skin. American Biophysics has received 11 reports of persons struck by broken adapters and three reports of minor skin irritations caused by the CO2 gas. The recall involves a maintenance accessory used to clear obstructions in the fuel delivery system of certain Mosquito MagnetÆ insect traps. The Quick-Clear Valve Adapter is a black and gold, øLø-shaped, brass and plastic device. The adapter was included as a maintenance accessory to clean fuel lines in newly manufactured and retrofitted Mosquito MagnetÆ insect traps sold only under the following Mosquito MagnetÆ model names: Defender, Liberty, Freedom and Commercial Pro. Only øLø-shaped adapters are affected by this recall. Mosquito MagnetÆ products made since November 2003 contain only straight adapters that do not need to be replaced. Adapters for Mosquito MagnetÆ traps that use rechargeable batteries are not affected by this recall. Manufactured in the United States, the adapters were sold at home centres, hardware stores, and industrial suppliers nationwide, as well as online and catalogue retailers, provided the øLø-shaped Quick-Clear

Valve Adapter as an accessory with Mosquito MagnetÆ insect trap products manufactured from October 2002 through to November 2003. The adapters were sold separately for about \$8.



ITALY

Genoa, Jan 16 — Port situation: Genoa: One bulker and one container are currently awaiting berths. Average berthing delay one to two days. Savona: No vessels awaiting normal berths. One vessel awaiting special berth. La Spezia: No vessels awaiting berths. — Lloyd's Agents. (See issue of Jan 12.)

NIGERIA

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

SYRIA

Lattakia, Dec 31 — Waiting period for Lattakia port 24 hours and for Tartous five days. — Lloyd's Agents.

Port Delays

(Information received from BIMCO, Denmark and Indian Ports Association, New Delhi)

Country/Port	Date of report	No. of vessels waiting and/or days delay
Australia		
Abbott Point	16-Jan-2006	Coal: Fourteen vessels due by 5/2; 1-6 days delay expected.
Brisbane	16-Jan-2006	Coal: Fisherman Island coal berth; Five vessels due by 4/2; 2 days delay expected. Grain (Jan 18): 2 vessels due by 22/1, both to load wheat; 5-16 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Dalrymple Bay	16-Jan-2006	Coal: Two vessels loading at berth; 10 vessels arrived; 26 vessels due by 5/2.
Dampier	16-Jan-2006	Iron ore: Parker Point berth 1: One vessel loading at berth; 10 vessels arrived; 7 vessels due by 26/1; Parker Point berth 2: 1 vessel loading at berth, 1 arrived; 6 vessels due by 25/1; Parker Point berth 3: 1 vessel loading at berth; 8-10 days delay expected; East Intercourse Island; One vessel loading at berth, 5 arrived; 4 vessels due by 25/1; 2-5 days delay expected.
Gladstone	16-Jan-2006	Coal: R.G. Tanna coal terminal: Two vessels loading at berth, 1 at berth; 48 vessels due by 29/3; plant shutdown notice: shiploader no. 1 - 30/1 to 9/2; Barney Point: 1 vessel loading at berth; 9 vessels due by 20/3; R.G. Tanna and Barney Point: 10-15 days delay expected.
Hay Point	16-Jan-2006	Coal: One vessel loading at berth; 6 vessels arrived; 8 vessels due by 22/1; 1-10 days delay expected.
Port Hedland	16-Jan-2006	Iron ore: BHP Iron Ore Pty. Ltd., Mt. Newman (Nelson Point), "A" berth: One vessel loading at berth; 9 vessels due by 24/1; "B" berth: 1 vessel loading at berth, 1 arrived; 6 vessels due by 20/1; 1-4 days delay expected; BHP Iron Ore Pty. Ltd., Goldsworthy (Finucane Island "C" berth): 1 vessel loading at berth; 2 vessels due by 23/1; up to 2 days delay expected; (Finucane Island "D" berth): 1 vessel loading at berth, 1 vessel arrived; 6 vessels due by 24/1; 1-3 days delay expected; Cockatoo Island: 2 vessels due by 24/1.
Port Kembla	16-Jan-2006	Coal: Seventeen vessels due by 16/2; no delays expected.
Port Walcott	16-Jan-2006	Iron ore: Two vessels loading at berth; 8 vessels arrived; 10 vessels due by 25/1; 6-8 days delay expected.
Azerbaijan		
Baku	16-Jan-2006	Oil products: Bay of Baku: No information; Azerneftiyag terminal: no information; Azertrans terminal: Nobel Avenue: port open; no vessels; Sangachal District: port open; no vessels.

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Port Conditions

Bulgaria

Bourgas	16-Jan-2006	Ten vessels in port operating, of which 6 loading (1 general cargo, 2 coils, 1 scrap, 1 bulk ammonium nitrate, 1 wheat), 4 discharging (1 billets, 1 metals, 1 zinc concentrate, 1 gasoil); 3 vessels in roads, all to load, of which 1 coils, 1 for bunkers, 1 empty vessel; 20 vessels due, of which 9 to load (4 coils, 2 containers, 1 copper anodes, 1 bulk ammonium nitrate, 1 zinc), 11 to discharge (2 containers, 1 salt, 1 equipment, 1 military equipment, 1 coke, 1 zinc/lead concentrate, 1 zinc concentrate, 1 sugar, 1 iron ore, 1 coals).
Varna	16-Jan-2006	Varna East, Varna West, Electrical Power Station, Balchik: Conditions 9-15 January: Thirty-three vessels in port operating of which 15 loading (2 chamotte/bagged kaolin, 4 bulk wheat, 1 equipment in cases, 1 bulk maize/spare parts, 1 bulk sulphuric acid, 5 soda, 1 TSP), 9 discharging (1 metals in packets, 4 bulk coal, 2 raw phosphate, 1 bulk copper concentrate, 1 petcoke), 9 discharging/loading (7 containers, 1 gypsum board on pallets/soda, 1 bulk copper concentrate/TSP); no vessels in roads.

Chile

Antofagasta	16-Jan-2006	Four vessels berthed, 3 berths vacant; 22 vessels due this week to load/discharge concentrates, bulk copper, containers and general cargo.
Arica	16-Jan-2006	Three vessels berthed, 4 berths vacant; 21 vessels due this week.
Iquique	16-Jan-2006	Four vessels berthed, 3 berths vacant; 19 vessels due this week.
Lirquen	16-Jan-2006	Three vessels at terminal, 3 berths vacant; 20 vessels due this week.
Puerto Montt	16-Jan-2006	Two vessels at terminal, 1 berth vacant; 7 vessels due this week.
Punta Arenas	16-Jan-2006	Five vessels at terminal, 2 berths vacant; 11 vessels due this week.
San Antonio	16-Jan-2006	Seven vessels berthed, 2 berths vacant; 23 vessels due this week.
San Vicente	16-Jan-2006	Three vessels berthed, 2 berths vacant; 20 vessels due during the week; Steel pier: 1 vessel at terminal, 1 berth vacant; 2 vessels due this week; Coronel pier: 2 vessels at terminal, 2 berths vacant; 6 vessels due this week; Oil terminal: 1 tanker at terminal, 1 berth vacant; no tankers due this week.
Valparaiso	16-Jan-2006	Three vessels berthed, 5 berths vacant; 3 vessels anchored; 21 vessels due this week.

Cyprus

Larnaca	17-Jan-2006	Four conventional vessels discharging at berth; 3 conventional vessels due 18/1; no delays expected.
Limassol	17-Jan-2006	Seven container vessels loading/discharging at berth, 3 conventional vessels discharging at berth; 8 container vessels, 3 conventional vessels due 18/1; no delays expected.

Egypt

Adabiya	16-Jan-2006	Three vessels at berth (loading/discharging) of which 2 general cargo, 1 bulk carrier.
Alexandria	16-Jan-2006	Twenty-four vessels at berth (loading/discharging) of which 12 general cargo, 7 bulk carriers, 3 container vessels, 2 tankers; 21 vessels at inner anchorage, 11 at outer anchorage; 21 vessels dry-docked.
Damietta	16-Jan-2006	Twenty vessels at berth (loading/discharging) of which 14 general cargo, 3 bulk carriers, 1 Ro/Ro, 2 container vessels; 1 vessel at inner anchorage, 4 at outer anchorage.
Dekheila	16-Jan-2006	Three vessels at berth (loading/discharging), all bulk carriers; 1 vessel at outer anchorage.
Port Said	16-Jan-2006	Seven vessels at berth (loading/discharging) of which 2 general cargo, 1 bulk carrier, 4 container vessels.
Suez	16-Jan-2006	Five vessels at berth (loading/discharging) of which 2 general cargo, 3 passenger vessels; 4 tug boats; 1 vessel dry-docked.
Suez Canal	16-Jan-2006	Twenty-two vessels transiting Northbound, 25 Southbound.

Estonia

Tallinn	16-Jan-2006	Paljassaare (formerly Kopli): 1 coal vessel loading at berth, 2 vessels discharging at berth (1 fish, 1 cocoa beans); no vessels waiting at anchorage; 3 vessels due, with 8 days berthing delay expected.
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Israel

Ashdod	17-Jan-2006	Two general cargo vessels loading at berth, 15 vessels discharging at berth (9 general cargo, 6 bulkers), 4 container vessels loading/discharging at berth; 1 general cargo vessel waiting at anchorage to discharge, 1 container vessel waiting at anchorage to load/discharge; 1 vessel awaiting orders; 12 vessels due, with 2-3 days delay expected.
Haifa	17-Jan-2006	Five vessels discharging at berth (3 general cargo, 2 bulkers), 6 vessels loading/discharging at berth (4 containers, 2 tankers); 1 general cargo vessel waiting at anchorage to discharge, 4 vessels waiting at anchorage to load/discharge (3 containers, 1 tanker); 6 vessels under repairs/dry-docked, 1 awaiting orders; 32 vessels due, with 2-3 days delay expected

Kazakhstan

Aktau	16-Jan-2006	Oil products: One vessel loading at berth; 8 vessels in roads, all to load; 6 vessels due by 16/1, all to load.
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Pakistan

Karachi	16-Jan-2006	Two vessels loading at berth (1 ethanol, 1 rice), 6 discharging at berth (1 crude oil, 1 palm oil, 3 urea, 1 general cargo), 2 container vessels loading/discharging at berth; 1 cement vessel waiting at anchorage to load, 2 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (1 general cargo, 1 crude oil); no vessels bunkering, none under repairs/dry-docked, 1 awaiting orders; 6 vessels due (1 containers, 2 general cargo, 1 soya bean meal, 1 rice, 1 MOL), with no berthing delays expected.
Port Qasim	16-Jan-2006	One rice vessel loading at berth, 1 acid vessel discharging at berth, 1 container vessel loading/discharging at QICT berth; 1 rice vessel waiting at anchorage to load, 4 waiting at anchorage to discharge (1 containers, 1 wheat, 1 canola, 1 machinery).

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Port Conditions

Poland

Gdansk	16-Jan-2006	Two vessels loading at berth (1 coal, 1 general cargo), 3 discharging at berth (1 general cargo, 1 coal, 1 bulker); 10 vessels under repairs/dry-docked; no vessels waiting at anchorage, none waiting in roads; 23 vessels due.
Gdynia	16-Jan-2006	Six vessels loading at berth (1 bulker, 5 general cargo), 4 discharging at berth (1 bulker, 1 general cargo, 2 grain); 16 vessels under repairs/dry-docked; no vessels waiting at anchorage, none waiting in roads; 41 vessels due.

Russia

Novorossiysk	16-Jan-2006	Seventeen vessels in port operating, of which 16 loading (1 bulk cement, 1 DRI, 1 scrap, 1 coils/tin plate/steel billets/H-beams, 1 steel sheets/coils, 3 wheat, 1 soda ash, 2 steel billets, 1 bulk NPK/bulk ammonium nitrate, 1 coils, 1 oil, 1 bulk fertiliser, 1 diesel oil), 1 discharging oranges; 12 vessels waiting in roads of which 10 to load (1 coils, 1 scrap, 1 tin plate, 2 steel billets, 1 steel billets/wire rods, 1 steel, 1 barley, 1 wheat, 1 slabs), 2 to discharge (1 citrus, 1 debars); 78 vessels due, of which 75 to load (8 bulk urea, 2 bulk ammonium nitrate, 10 steel billets, 1 pipes, 3 bulk NPK, 2 slabs, 1 steel billets/coils/steel sheets, 1 coils/steel billets/pipes/tin plates, 1 steel billets/slabs, 1 cellulose, 1 DRI, 2 WRIC, 1 coils/steel sheets, 6 oil, 5 wheat, 9 copper, 5 coils, 1 WRIC/steel billets, 1 coils/slabs/steel billets, 5 aluminium, 1 copper/steel billets, 1 pig-iron, 1 steel billets/WRIC, 1 steel billets/coils, 1 cement, 1 steel billets/flowers, 1 steel billets/steel sheets/slabs, 1 zinc ore/lead, 1 diesel oil), 2 to discharge (1 bulk sugar, 1 oil), 1 to discharge/load containers; Oil terminal: 3 tankers in roads, all to load crude oil; 5 tankers in roads, all to load crude oil; 9 tankers due, all to load crude oil.
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Slovenia

Koper	16-Jan-2006	Ten vessels berthed of which 2 discharging/loading containers, 4 vessels discharging bulk cargo, 1 loading bulk cargo, 3 loading sawn timber/general cargo; 4 vessels waiting at anchorage to load if which 2 to discharge (1 bulk cargo, 1 general cargo), 2 to load (1 bulk cargo, 1 general cargo); 18 vessels due over the next 2 days of which 5 to discharge/load containers, 3 car carriers to discharge/load vehicles, 2 tankers to discharge liquid cargo, 4 vessels to discharge bulk cargo, 3 vessels to load bulk cargo, 1 vessel to load sawn timber/general cargo.
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Spain

Bilbao	16-Jan-2006	Twenty-one vessels operating (4 tankers, 17 other vessels), of which 4 loading, 10 discharging, 7 loading/discharging.
Sagunto	16-Jan-2006	Twenty-three vessels in port operating, of which 2 loading (1 steel products, 1 cement), 19 discharging (18 steel products, 1 fruit), 2 loading/discharging general cargo; no vessels outside commercial wharf; no berthing delays at present.

Sri Lanka

Colombo	16-Jan-2006	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. Conventional cargo vessels at BQ 1 and 2 are facing navigation delays. Nine vessels loading at berth (8 container/feeders, 1 Ro/Ro), 22 discharging at berth (13 containers/feeders, 2 bulk palm oil, 3 bulk cement, 2 bagged soya bean meal, 1 bagged fertiliser, 1 Ro/Ro); no vessels waiting at anchorage; 6 vessels dry-docked; 8 vessels due (7 containers/feeders, 1 bulk cement), with no delays expected.
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Turkmenistan

Aladja	16-Jan-2006	Oil products: One vessel loading crude oil at berth.
Okarem	16-Jan-2006	Oil products: Three vessels in roads, all to load crude oil.
Turkmenbashi	16-Jan-2006	Oil products: Four vessels in roads of which 3 to load, 1 to discharge crude oil.

Ukraine

Ilichevsk	16-Jan-2006	Five vessels in port operating, all loading, of which 2 steel products, 2 containers, 1 wheat; 5 vessels in roads, all to load, of which 2 steel products, 2 containers, 1 wheat; 16 vessels due, of which 9 to load (8 steel products, 1 sunflower oil), 2 to discharge ore, 5 to discharge/load containers.
Mariupol	16-Jan-2006	Fifteen vessels in port operating, of which 13 loading (6 steel, 2 sulphur, 1 sunflower beans/husks, 2 fire-clay, 1 coke, 1 coal), 2 discharging (1 equipment, 1 ferro alloy); 12 vessels in roads, all to load, of which 11 steel, 1 pipes/fire-clay/containers; 41 vessels due, of which 36 to load (17 steel, 11 coal, 4 sulphur, 1 fire-clay/kaolin, 1 pitch, 1 sunflower beans/busks, 1 equipment), 4 to discharge (1 containers, 3 equipment), 1 to discharge/load containers.
Odessa	16-Jan-2006	Eighteen vessels in port operating, of which 12 loading (1 metal/pig-iron, 6 metal, 1 pig-iron, 1 timber/metal, 1 citrus, 2 fuel oil), 3 discharging (1 luggage, 1 bananas, 1 sugar), 2 loading/discharging containers, 1 passenger vessel; 6 vessels in roads, of which 4 to load (1 metal, 2 oil, 1 fuel oil), 2 to load/discharge containers; 62 vessels due, of which 35 to load (24 metal, 1 pig-iron, 1 corn, 1 timber, 2 barley, 3 oil products, 1 fuel oil, 1 gasoil, 1 LPG), 7 to discharge (2 citrus, 2 bananas, 1 sugar, 1 ore, 1 vegetable oil), 20 to discharge/load containers.

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Port Conditions

United States

Beaumont	17-Jan-2006	No new restriction in draft (40 ft. 0 ins. FW max. channel draft reported). Traffic schedule: outbound 17/1 AM, inbound PM 18/1; Louis Dreyfus terminal: 3 days delay expected.
Columbia River	17-Jan-2006	Columbia River draft advisory: Maximum permissible deep draft is 40 ft. 0 ins.
Houston	17-Jan-2006	Channel open under normal traffic. Low 44 ft. 0 ins. FW max channel draft reported (up to Shell Terminal); low 39 ft. 0 ins. FW max channel draft reported above Shell Terminal to 610 Ship Channel bridge; Normal 36 ft. 0 ins. FW max channel draft reported above 610 Bridge to turning basis area. LDC Dreyfus terminal: 3-4 days delay expected; Cargill terminal: no delays expected.
Kalama	17-Jan-2006	Kalama export terminal: 4 days delay expected; United Harvest terminal: 1 day's delay expected.
New Orleans	17-Jan-2006	Mississippi River terminal berthing delays: Cenex-Harstates/Myrtle Grove: 1-2 days delay expected. Cargill-Westwego: 1 day's delay expected. ADM/Ama: 3-4 days delay expected. Bunge/Destrehan: 4 days delay expected. ADM/ Destrehan: 3-4 days delay expected. ADM/Reserve: 3-4 days delay expected. Cargill/Reserve: 2 days delay expected. ADM/Paulina: 3-4 days delay expected. Zen-Noh/Convent: 1-3 days delay expected. Cargill/Baton Rouge: No delays expected. Mississippi River mid-stream buoys - estimated berthing delays based on new vessel presented as load-ready and weather permitting: Mile 121.5 ADM (Gemini) - Destrehan: 1 day's delay expected; Mile 158.0 Myrtle Grove Midstream terminal: no delays expected; Mile 180.0 Cooper (America) - Darrow: 7 days delay expected
Portland (Oreg)	17-Jan-2006	Columbia Grain terminal: 2 days delay expected; CLD Irving terminal: no delays expected; CLD, O Dock terminals: no delays expected.
Seattle	17-Jan-2006	Louis Dreyfus (Pier 86) terminal: 2 days delay expected.
Tacoma	17-Jan-2006	Temco terminal: 2 days delay expected.
Vancouver	17-Jan-2006	United Harvest terminal: 2 days delay expected.

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