

August 27 2004

Malacca Strait is terror target admit militants

INDONESIA'S intelligence chief says that detained Muslim militants have admitted they were considering attacks on shipping in the key Malacca Strait waterway.

A M Hendropriyono, Indonesia's national intelligence agency chief, said that detained members of Southeast Asian Islamic terror group Jemaah Islamiah, which is linked to al-Qa'eda, admitted that shipping in the Malacca Strait had been a possible target.

"Senior Jemaah Islamiah terrorists now in detention have admitted that attacks on the Malacca shipping lane have been contemplated in the recent past," he said in a commentary published in the Jakarta Post.

He gave no further details on what types of attacks the militants had considered in one of the world's busiest waterways.

Members of the JI group were responsible for the Bali nightclub bombing in 2002 and the attack on the J W Marriot hotel in Jakarta last year. Terror suspects from the group detained in Singapore in 2002 had been planning to attack a US naval base in the republic.

Concern has been mounting internationally that members of JI

were planning to attack shipping in the Malacca Strait, through which over 50,000 merchant vessels pass each year.

Senior Singapore government ministers have repeatedly warned of the danger that terrorists in the region could hijack an oil tanker or gas carrier and turn it into a floating bomb ramming it into the shore or sinking it in the shipping lane blocking world trade and causing an environmental disaster.

An increase in violent and well co-ordinated pirate attacks in the strait have also been seen by some officials as a dry run for a terror attack on shipping, although many terrorism experts believe there is no link between piracy and terrorism.

Regional and international concern about security in the strait, especially in Indonesian waters, resulted in the start of co-ordinated patrols by Singapore, Malaysian and Indonesian navies in late July this year.

Countries such as Singapore would like to see wider international involvement from user states, including the US. However, this has proved controversial with both Malaysia and Indonesia, where senior government officials reacted angrily to the idea of US involvement in patrolling the strait.

Both states are highly concerned over the issue of national sovereignty and Indonesian naval chief Admiral Bernard Kent Sondakh claimed last month that there was an international conspiracy to make the country look bad over its failure to combat piracy so that other countries could gain control of the strategic waterway.

Mr Hendropriyono however welcomed the involvement of other states but stopped short of saying they should be physically involved in the patrols.

"More suitable, perhaps, would have been a measured response that welcomed co-operation from any country wishing to help safeguard the strait," he wrote.

"This might include, for example, intelligence-sharing, the provision of weaponry and training exercises."

The stance of Indonesian and Malaysian government officials to help from other states in securing the strait has softened in recent months with a software and financial role for user states, including the US, being seen as a possibility.

Marcus Hand
Lloyd's List Editorial

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

Vessel	Type	Flag	Class	GT	DWT	Bit	Casualty
CARIBBEAN	barge	USA	AB	8,327	—	1995	Grounded, with tug Lucia, while entering Freeport, Bahamas, Aug 16. Refloating attempts to be made later same day. Both refloated Aug 17 and entered harbour for inspection/repair. Sailed Aug 17 after favourable inspection.
CHRISAMIE	fishing	GBR	—	118	—	—	Vessel had a burst pipe in the engine-room and taking on water in lat 58 06N, long 00 53E, Aug 12. Pumps placed on board were unable to cope with ingress and it sank in lat 58 06N, long 00 53.6E, same day.
DIVINA PASTORA	fishing	ESP	—	136	—	1959	Sank after colliding with Stella Maris Berria, 30 miles off San Vicente de la Barquera, off the Cantabrian coast Aug 16. All crew picked up.
IRAN ARDEBIL	container	IRN	(GL)	27,681	37,875	2004	Grounded on Mayyun Island, in lat 12 39.2N, long 43 25.3E, Bab Al Mandeb Straits, Aug 15. Tugs and lightering barges requested.
KEN EXPLORER	bulker	LBR	NK	26,058	45,719	1997	Grounded near DHIL terminal, Dahej port, in lat 20 42.8N, long 71 59.28E, Aug 16. Still aground Aug 19.
LOK KALYAN	general	IND	—	—	—	1973	Sank 12 miles off Ras Ar Nuz, near Hasik, Salalah on Aug 13. All 10 crew rescued.
LUCIA	tug	USA	AB	656	—	1995	Grounded, with barge Caribbean, while entering Freeport, Bahamas, Aug 16. Refloating attempts to be made later same day. Both refloated Aug 17 and entered harbour for inspection/repair. Sailed Aug 17 after favourable inspection.
LUCKY THREE	fishing	—	—	—	—	—	Sank in rough seas in the South China Sea Aug 8. Nineteen of the 21 crew picked up on Aug 11 by Ha Nam and taken to Qui Nhon for medical treatment. Two other crew died from cold and hunger.
NELSON	tanker	NLD	—	—	—	—	Grounded in the River Rhine, near Koblenz, Aug 17, after ignoring the closure of the river. Part cargo pumped to another vessel.
PHOENIX	fishing	GBR	—	237	143	1988	Reported Aug 17 taking water in lat 59 18.2N, long 00 39.44E, 70 miles south-east of Sumburgh. Engine-room flooding. Fishing vessel Falcon escorting to Lerwick, where arrived alongside same day.
SHELLY	general	PAN	NK	5,552	7,069	1994	In collision with c.c.Fengfa, in thick fog/smog near the River Trade Terminal, TuenMun, Hong Kong, Aug 18. Anchored at the terminal.
STROOMBANK	general	NLD	BV	1,682	2,500	1995	Vessel grounded in lat 54 49N, long 11 02E, Aug 12. Still aground Aug 13 and may require removal of some fuel oil to assist in refloating efforts. No holes or breaches in its hull. Refloated Aug 14 with tug assistance and proceeding to Nakskov.
UNI-FORWARD	general	PAN	NK	13,996	18,821	1978	In collision with an 800 tonne Vietnam barge near Sao Mai, tip of Ba Ria-Vung Tau. Barge capsized, with seven persons missing and two injured.

CONTENTS

Reports appear in alphabetical order under the following headings and relevant page number:

Marine, including Overdue & Missing Vessels	1
Seizures & Arrests	8
Pipeline Accidents	9
Pollution	9
Weather & Navigation	9
Earthquakes	15
Political & Civil Unrest	16
Labour Disputes	19
Awards & Settlements	19
Railway Accidents	20
Robberies & Thefts	21
Miscellaneous	21
Fires & Explosions	22
Aviation	25
Product Recalls	29
Port Conditions	29
Port Conditions charts	29

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The following reports are reprinted from Lloyd's List



AFRIN (Turkey)

Bucharest, Aug 14 — General cargo *Afrin* (2530 gt, built 1981), with 3,900 tonnes of steel, sailed from Galatz Aug 13, with a Danube pilot on board, bound for Diliskelesi. At about 0745, local time, the vessel grounded in shallow water in way of M67, 13 miles downstream of Galatz port and 34 miles upstream of entering the Sulina channel. The vessel's initial attempts to refloat by main engine and handling of ballast failed. *Afrin* was eventually refloated at about 0230, Aug 14, with the help of tugs, *Busteni*, *Gheorghieni 2* and *Targu Ocna*, deployed at site by the Lower Danube Administration. *Afrin* sailed to Sulina at about 0645, same day. Latest information obtained from the vessel's agents and from the traffic controller of the Lower Danube Administration is that the vessel reached M38, four miles before entering the Sulina channel, at 0900 and reported "a good technical status". — Lloyd's Agents.

Bucharest, Aug 16 — General cargo *Afrin* passed Sulina channel, bound for Diliskelesi, at 1330, Aug 14. — Lloyd's Agents.

AGUTOI CHIEF (Papua New Guinea)

Port Moresby, Aug 2 — General cargo *Agutoi Chief* sailed Port Moresby Jul 30. — Lloyd's Agents.

AMANDA

See *Phoenix*.

ARPON 1 (Uruguay)

See "Vessels Abandoned at Montevideo, Uruguay" under "Miscellaneous."

ARTEMIS (Netherlands)

London, Aug 18 — General cargo *Artemis* arrived Seville Aug 10 and sailed Aug 11.

ARUBA (Netherlands Antilles)

London, Aug 18 — General cargo *Aruba* is still at Vacamonte and it is reported that its owners are attempting to sell the vessel for demolition. (Note — *Aruba* was abandoned due an engine-room fire on Dec 26, 1997 and eventually towed to Vacamonte, via Fortaleza and Cristobal, arriving on Nov 21, 1999.)

BALTIC MERIDIAN (Liberia)

Varna, Aug 19 — Ref *Baltic Meridian* arrived Varna Aug 17 from Italy. — Lloyd's Agents.

BANGA BIRAJ (Bangladesh)

Chittagong, Aug 18 — C.c.'s *Banga Biraj* and *Eagle Strength* are still lying in same place. No further development has taken place, as confirmed by the vessel's local agents. — Lloyd's Agents.

BERNISSESTROOM

London, Aug 17 — Inland waterways tank barge *Bernissestroom*, 3170 dwt, built 1987, length 110 metres, owned by the Sluis Groep BV, Geertruidenberg, in ballast, struck the northern boom, which protects the bridge and the lock doors of the Middensluis in Terneuzen, while entering the Middensluis at 1145, local time, Aug 15. The bolts of the boom broke off and Rijkswaterstaat ordered a construction company to repair the boom. The lock was closed all day yesterday for all shipping traffic, while the work pontoon *Dolfijn* was in the lock to repair the damaged boom and to fit it back into place. Two hours after the accident, the tank barge was allowed to continue its voyage, after the owners had paid a security for the damage.

BRITANIS (Greece)

Santos, Aug 16 — While crude oil tanker *Britanis* (157581 gt, built 2002) was being manoeuvred for berthing at No.1 South Pier, Sao Sebastiao, with assistance from pilot and tugs, contact was made with one of the pier's fenders which fell into the water. The berthing manoeuvre was aborted and the vessel returned to the inner anchorage. The berth is temporarily interdicted for use. — Lloyd's Agents.

BUFFALO 405 (U.S.A.)

London, Aug 12 — Following received from Coast Guard Port Arthur, dated Aug 11: The Neches River has been reopened to recreational boaters as of 0700 today. The Neches River had been partially closed and limited to restricted traffic since Aug 2 when product tanker *Torm Mary* was struck by tank barge *Buffalo 405*, causing a 25,200-gallon oil spill affecting 28 miles of the Neches River shoreline. The Neches River is now open to all traffic; however, boaters are asked to slow down and use caution when transiting the areas between Unocal and Motiva where cleanup efforts continue. Heavy wakes from passing boats can create unsafe conditions for cleanup crews. The Coast Guard will be patrolling the area to ensure that boaters operate their vessels at a slow, safe speed and stay away from cleanup crews and equipment. Port Neches Park remains temporarily closed while cleanup operations continue. Cleanup costs rise as river clean up continues, and the latest figures from the unified command put the cost at approximately \$5.8 million.

BUNSHO MARU (Japan)

See *Pan Grace*.

C.CHAMPION (Panama)

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

CANADIAN TRANSFER (Canada)

London, Aug 18 — Bulk *Canadian Transfer* arrived Sombra Aug 4 and sailed Aug 5.

CAPENSIS (South Africa)

Cape Town, Aug 11 — Fishing *Capensis* arrived Cape Town Aug 6 from Port Elizabeth. — Lloyd's Agents.

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

CARIBBEAN (U.S.A.)

Freeport, Bahamas, Aug 16 — Tank barge *Caribbean* (8327 gt, built 1995) grounded while entering Freeport harbour earlier today. The barge, which was light-ship at the time, and its tending tug *Lucia* (656 gt, built 1995), are hard aground on the eastern side of the approach channel, but not significantly blocking the channel entrance. Tugs and pilot from the Bahamas Oil Refining Co are in attendance and it is understood that an effort will be made to free the tug/barge on tonight's high tide, which is about four inches higher than the morning high, close to which it reportedly grounded. There appears to be no pollution concerns at this time and the weather/sea conditions are calm. It is understood that both tug and barge are USA flagged and reportedly owned by Penn, USA. —Lloyd's Agents.

Freeport, Bahamas, Aug 17 — The tug/barge combination tug *Lucia*/tank barge *Caribbean* were successfully refloated late last night and have entered Freeport harbour where owner's are presumably making the necessary inspections and arranging for repairs. — Lloyd's Agents.

Freeport, Bahamas, Aug 18 — The inspections of tank barge *Caribbean* and tug *Lucia* apparently were favourable and the barge loaded its intended cargo of oil. The tug/barge sailed last night for their intended port, New Orleans, USA. — Lloyd's Agents.

CARLA

See "Vessels Abandoned at Montevideo, Uruguay." under "Miscellaneous."

CATHERINE DESGAGNES (Canada)

London, Aug 17 — General cargo *Catherine Desgagnes* arrived and sailed Toledo (USA) Aug 7. Vessel subsequently arrived and sailed Windsor (Can) Aug 8.

CENTURY LEADER NO.3 (Japan)

Yokohama, Aug 18 — Vehicle *Century Leader No.3* (44830 gt, built 1986), Toyohashi for Panama, and fishing *Mansei Maru*, 12 gt, proceeding to Shimoda, were in collision 9.5 miles, 257 degrees from Kouzushima Lighthouse, Tokyo, at 0132, Aug 11. *Mansei Maru*, which sustained bulbous bow damage but no injuries, arrived Shimoda same day. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Century Leader No.3* sailed Toyohashi Aug 10 for Jacksonville.)

CHRISAMIE (U.K.)

London, Aug 12 — Following received from Coastguard Aberdeen MRCC, timed 1319, BST: Fishing *Chrisamie*, MAJF2, 118 gt, five persons on board, had a burst pipe in the engine-room and taking on water in lat 58 06N, long 00 53E at 0759, UTC, today. Coastguard helicopter scrambled with pumps on board. Standby safety vessel *Havila Searcher* proceeded with pumps and rescue craft launched. All crew safely taken off vessel, two pumps unable to cope with ingress and vessel sank in lat 58 06N, long 00 53.6E at 1008, UTC.

CLIPPER ODYSSEY (Bahamas)

London, Aug 17 — Passenger *Clipper Odyssey* arrived and sailed Ketchikan Aug 14.

London, Aug 19 — A new release from Clipper Cruise Line, undated, states: Clipper Cruise Line has cancelled the Aug 15 departure of Alaska's Glaciers, Fjords and Wildlife cruise on board passenger *Clipper Odyssey*. The cancellation was necessary in order to complete repairs to the ship, which was damaged near Dutch Harbor on July 31. Updated reports from our staff in Alaska indicate that *Clipper Odyssey* will not be ready to sail with passengers on our Aug 15 cruise. (Note — As at 2332, local time, Aug 15 *Clipper Odyssey* was at Spit Cargo Dock, Dutch Harbour and not as reported in previous report.)

CORAL ACROPORA (Netherlands)

London, Aug 13 — Following received from Runcorn Docks, dated today: Lpg *Coral Acropora* sailed Runcorn Aug 12.

DEGTYARSK (Russia)

Vladivostok, Aug 18 — Chemical/oil carrier *Degtyarsk* sailed Nakhodka Aug 10 and subsequently sailed Valdivostok Aug 14 for Vanino. — Lloyd's Agents.

DIEPPE (France)

Le Havre, Aug 13 — Passenger ro/ro *Dieppe* sailed Le Havre Aug 6 for Dieppe. — Lloyd's Agents.

DIVINA PASTORA (Spain)

London, Aug 17 — A press report, dated today, states: Fishing *Divina Pastora* (136 gt, built 1959), from Bermeo, sank off the Cantabrian coast yesterday morning after colliding with the Getaria-registered fishing *Stella Maris Berria* (151 gt, built 2003). As a result of the accident, one seaman sustained burns, while cooking, on 5% of his body. The accident occurred between Llanes and San Vicente de la Barquera, Cantabria, not far from the latter town. The in-shore fishermen had stopped after their day's work. There were about 30 or 40 vessels in all. *Divina Pastora* was passing between two other vessels when it came up against *Stella Maris Berria* head on and the two collided at around 0030 hrs. The Bilbao Marine Services immediately alerted the Local Sea Rescue Centre in Santander. The blow damaged the Bermeo vessel and it quickly sank, while *Stella Maris Berria's* hull and bridge will have to be repaired. The thirteen seamen on the vessel that went down were picked by the Getaria-registered vessel and dropped off in Bermeo in the afternoon. The only person injured was flown by a Helimer Cantabrico helicopter to the Santander airport of Parayas at around 0230 hrs. A waiting ambulance took him to the Marques de Valdecilla hospital.

Santander, Aug 18 — Fishing *Divina Pastora* sank Aug 16, 30 miles off San Vicente de la Barquera following a collision with fishing *Stella Maris Berria*. The crew of *Divina Pastora* were rescued by *Stella Maris Berria*. *Stella Maris Berria* sustained hull and deck

damage. The cause of the collision is so far unknown and the Santander harbour-master has opened an inquiry to clarify the case. — Lloyd's Agents.

DRAGA D3

See "Vessels Abandoned at Montevideo, Uruguay" under "Miscellaneous."

EAGLE (U.S.A.)

London, Aug 18 — A press report, dated Aug 9, states: Steamship Authority ferry *Eagle* (276 gt, built 1987) dropped its starboard rudder between Nantucket and Hyannis yesterday afternoon. The ferry was taken out of service for the remainder of the day and sent to the SSA's maintenance facility in Fairhaven. Starting this morning, the SSA ferry *Sankaty* began running in place of *Eagle* and will continue until the other vessel returns to service, interim General Manager Wayne Lamson said. A crew also is being mustered to run the SSA ferry *Nantucket* an extra round-trip between Hyannis and Nantucket late at night and in the early morning until further notice to accommodate cars and trucks bumped from scheduled service. The Authority is putting vehicle reservations on hold until the backlog is whittled down.

London, Aug 19 — A press report, dated Aug 16, states: Steamship Authority ferry *Eagle*, which lost its starboard rudder Aug 8, is expected to return to service at 1500 today. Repairs to the ferry on the Nantucket-Hyannis route were continuing around the clock at the boat line's vessel maintenance facility in Fairhaven throughout the weekend and into today. After examining the vessel, the boat line also decided to replace the ferry's port rudder.

EAGLE MEMPHIS (Singapore)

Houston, Aug 17 — Crude oil tanker *Eagle Memphis* arrived Port Arthur Aug 10. Vessel subsequently arrived Corpus Christi Aug 15 and sailed Aug 16. — Lloyd's Agents.

EAGLE STRENGTH (Panama)

See *Banga Biraj*.

EQUULEUS (Cook Islands)

London, Aug 17 — General cargo *Equuleus* arrived New York Aug 14 and sailed Aug 16.

FAIAL (Portugal)

Ponta Delgada, Aug 13 — General cargo *Faial* has already been released and sold to Arab Emirates interests. Flag now Mongolia. New registered new owner: World Wide Shipping Co, SA. The vessel is now under the necessary Port State Control and official inspections in the port of Ponta Delgada. The estimated time of departure is scheduled for the beginning of next week. — Lloyd's Agents.

FEDERAL MAAS (Barbados)

Troy, Michigan, Aug 16 — Bulk *Federal Maas* (20837 gt, built 1997) reportedly made contact with the

bascule bridge at Iroquois Lock, yesterday afternoon. The bridge was not completely raised at the time. A local resident, who lives in a home overlooking the lock, could see that the bridge was not completely open and then heard the vessel blow to let go the lines. *Federal Maas* then hit the bridge with its bridge wing. The vessel has sustained damage to an extent yet unknown. It was tied up at the south-east tie wall yesterday evening and the Seaway was open for traffic. — Great Lakes & Seaway Shipping.

Troy, Michigan, Aug 17 — Bulk *Federal Maas* sustained damage to its bridge wing after it made contact with the bascule bridge at Iroquois Lock and has since departed for an overseas destination. — Great Lakes & Seaway Shipping.

FENGFA 228 (China)

See "Hong Kong" under "Weather & Navigation."

FOUR ETOILES (Italy)

London, Aug 17 — Bulk/oil *Four Etoiles* sailed Tuzla Aug 7. Vessel passed Istanbul West Aug 14 for Rotterdam.

GANGUIL G4

See "Vessels Abandoned at Montevideo, Uruguay" under "Miscellaneous."

GIGLIO ESPRESSO II (Italy)

See *Tacanuya*

GLOBAL WINNER (Panama)

London, Aug 15 — Following received from Singapore Port Operations, timed 0320, UTC: Bulk *Global Winner* is still at anchor in Singapore port limits.

GORDON C. LEITCH (Canada)

London, Aug 14 — Bulk *Gordon C. Leitch* sailed from Welland on Aug 9.

GREEN ALESUND (NIS)

London, Aug 12 — A press report, dated today, states: A court in Sunnmøre has awarded compensation to the master of refrigerated mv *Green Alesund* that ran aground off western Norway four years ago. The master, Harald Svdnes, says he became a scapegoat in the case. Svdnes was master on board the vessel when it developed problems with its propeller system. He lost control of the ship and it eventually ran aground on rocks not far from Haugesund in December 2000. The grounding led to an oil spill that cost NOK 86 million to clean up. Svdnes was charged with failing to do what he could to avoid the grounding and subsequent pollution. A special police unit spent three years investigating the case but eventually dropped it, and charges against Svdnes were withdrawn. The police unit also acknowledged criticism of its work on the case. Svdnes then sued the state, claiming NOK 100,000 in compensation. The Søre Sunnmøre court agreed that Svdnes had been wronged, but cut his claim to NOK 25,000 (about US\$ 3,500). Svdnes said he was pleased with the award, even though his claim was cut.

GREEN MALOY (U.K.)

Montreal, Aug 16 — Ref *Green Maloy* (5084 gt, built 1990), Port Canaveral for Flushing, cargo frozen juice, had a small electrical fire break out in the engine-room on Aug 12. Vessel deviated to St. John's, Newfoundland for repairs, arriving Aug 14. — Lloyd's Agents.

St. John's, Nf, Aug 19 — Ref *Green Maloy* completed temporary repairs and sailed 1050, UTC, today, for Flushing. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

GSF ADRIATIC IV (Vanuatu)

London, Aug 17 — A press report, dated Aug 16, states: A fire on a natural gas platform in the Mediterranean off the Egyptian coast is still blazing for a seventh day. The platform is run by Petrobel and owned by ENI SpA, BP PLC and Egypt's General Petroleum Corporation. However, the blaze appears to be burning itself out slowly. Nevertheless, it could be several days before the fire at the platform at Temsah, 60 km from Port Said is finally extinguished. Firefighters are trying to limit the amount of gas escaping from the field beneath the platform to starve the fire of fuel. A third drilling vessel is on its way to the site from Italy to help with the operation and will be used to open angled tunnels to pour concrete into the working to cap the fire. The initial blaze began last Tuesday (Aug 10), with an explosion that destroyed drill platform *GSF Adriatic IV* before spreading to the platform. It had been brought under control but, for reasons that are under investigation, erupted into a ball of flames jumping more than 20 metres in the air.

GUY V. MOLINARI (U.S.A.)

Troy, Michigan, Aug 13 — The often delayed delivery trip of new ferry *Guy V. Molinari* began when the vessel left Marinette around noon, yesterday. That should put the vessel in the St. Clair River during daylight hours today, should no further delays arise. — Great Lakes & Seaway Shipping.

HALIFAX (Canada)

London, Aug 17 — Bulk *Halifax* sailed Sombra Aug 7. Vessel arrived Calcite Aug 8 and sailed Aug 9.

HERZOG TASSILO (Germany)

London, Aug 19 — A press report, dated today, states: Overloaded general cargo *Herzog Tassilo*, 120 metres, (DK4117), loaded with 3,100 tonnes of iron ore, ran aground in the Danube river late Aug 17. The river was blocked until the vessel refloated today, after partial cargo discharge.

HORIZON (Malta)

Maassluis, Aug 17 — C.c. *Horizon* arrived Antwerp Aug 16 from Montreal. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

HUMBER ARM (Bermuda)

London, Aug 12 — Understood general cargo *Humber Arm* has already arrived at Aliaga for demolition. It reached port there on Jul 20.

IMPESUR II (Uruguay)

See "Vessels Abandoned at Montevideo, Uruguay" under "Miscellaneous."

INTREPID (U.S.A.)

London, Aug 13 — Following received from Coast Guard Atlantic City, dated Aug 12: Three men were rescued from their sinking fishing *Intrepid* (102 gt, built 1979) last night by the Coast Guard 40-miles off of Manasquan, N.J. Crewman from the 69-foot fishing vessel homeported in New Bedford, Mass, radioed the Coast Guard at 2040 hrs, and reported that the vessel was taking on water. The vessel was also disabled due to water flooding in through the engine shafts. Coast Guard Station Manasquan and Coast Guard Station Barnegat Light both launched 47-foot motor surf boats and Coast Guard Air Station Atlantic City deployed a rescue helicopter. Both the helicopter and one of the 47-foot boats provided dewatering pumps to the crew of the sinking vessel. The pumps were unable to keep up with the flood. All three men were evacuated onto the 47-foot boat and taken back to Manasquan Inlet. *Intrepid* sank 30 minutes later in 176-feet of water.

IRAN ARDEBIL (Iran)

Aden, Aug 16 — C.c. *Iran Ardebil* (27681 gt, built 2004) is reported to have run aground on Mayyun Island (lat 12 39N, long 43 25E), Bab Al Mandeb Straits, at about 2200, Aug 15. Vessel is requesting tugs and barges to lighten, in order to refloat. — Lloyd's Agents.

Aden, Aug 18 — C.c. *Iran Ardebil*: There are no reports of oil pollution at the area of the grounding location, given as lat 12 38.2N, long 43 25.3E, on the south west tip of Mayyun Island, near Lee point. Understand that local authorities are investigating the cause of the incident and have not yet issued any statements or reports. Also understand that salvage agreement has not yet been reached. — Lloyd's Agents.

JENS MUNK (DIS)

London, Aug 13 — Following received from Cape Town MRCC, timed 0835, UTC: We believe that general cargo *Jens Munk* has now sailed from Mossel Bay as we have had no communication from it in the last three days.

JINGAN NO.6 (China)

London, Aug 13 — A press report, dated Aug 12, states: The clean-up of oil spilled in the wake of a vessel collision off the coast of north-east China last month, has been completed. Lpg *Saehan Galaxy* collided with cargo vessel *Jingan No.6* off Lushun on Jul 8. *Jingan No.6* sank, and at least one crew member drowned. The vessel was carrying 60 tons of heavy oil, 20 tons of engine oil and four tons of lubricating oil which spilled into the sea. The humid and rainy weather over the past month helped with the clean-up process. Environmental staff are following up on the impact of the oil on marine organisms.

JO LIND (NIS)

London, Aug 19 — Following received from Madrid MRCC, timed 1145, UTC: The fire in the engine-room of chemical/oil carrier *Jo Lind* has been extinguished, however, temperatures are still too high for the engine-room to be entered. Once the engine-room can be entered a damage assessment will be made. It seems likely that owners will require tug assistance. There were no injuries.

KELSO (Belize)

London, Aug 18 — A press report, dated today, states: A fire that broke out on board fishery protection *Kelso* (1678 gt, built 1971) moored in Cape Town harbour this morning has been put out, Cape Town Port Control said. A spokesperson said the fire which broke out at 0630 hrs had been doused by two harbour tugs and fire-engines by 0700 hrs. It was not known what had caused the fire or the extent of the damage. At one stage the flames were leaping 10 to 15 metres into the air.

London, Aug 18 — A press report, dated today, states: Damage of around one million South African rand (£84,000) has been caused by a fire on board South African fishery protection *Kelso* at Cape Town harbour. A spokesperson for the city's Fire Brigade says three motorboats, as well as equipment on the vessel's top deck were extensively damaged by the blaze. No one was injured. Officials say the cause of the fire will be investigated. The fire was extinguished a short while ago.

KEN EXPLORER (Liberia)

London, Aug 17 — Following received from the managers of bulk *Ken Explorer* (26058 gt, built 1997), in Piraeus, timed 1310, UTC, today: *Ken Explorer*, cargo copper concentrate, grounded near Pipavav (in lat 20 48N, long 70 59E) yesterday. Vessel is still aground and salvage tugs are en route to assist. (Note — *Ken Explorer* sailed Sepetiba Terminal Jul 16 arrived Durban Aug 3 and sailed Aug 4 for India.)

London, Aug 18 — Bulk *Ken Explorer*, from Chile (not Sepetiba Terminal as before reported), cargo 43,000 tonnes copper concentrate: Understand Lloyd's Open Form signed with Tsavlis Salvage (International) Ltd.

Mumbai, Aug 19 — Bulk *Ken Explorer*, while on the way to the DHIL terminal, Dahej Port, ran aground at about 1730, local time, Aug 16, in lat 20 42.8N, long 71 59.28E. The vessel is reportedly in the same location of the grounding and the owners are discussing salvage operations. The local agents inform that there is no apparent damage to the cargo of copper concentrate. — Lloyd's Agents.

KENT (Isle of Man)

See "New Zealand" under "Weather & Navigation."

KHANA (Panama)

Yokohama, Aug 12 — Ref *Khana* sailed Tokyo Aug 11. — Lloyd's Agents.

LADY NORA (Mongolia)

Muscat, Aug 18 — General cargo *Lady Nora* was scheduled to call Salalah

Port, it developed engine problems. Some crew members have been rescued. Vessel is still in the vicinity of Halaniyat Islands. This vessel did call Salalah some two months back. Ship's agents have withdrawn representation following the reported incident. — Lloyd's Agents.

LAKE EVA (Marshall Islands)

London, Aug 18 — Chemical/oil carrier *Lake Eva* departed Montreal at 0548, Aug 10 and arrived back at 0653, same day. Vessel sailed Montreal Aug 11.

LOK KALYAN (India)

London, Aug 17 — A press report, dated today, states: Omani Coast Guard plucked 10 Indian crew to safety - including their captain - from general cargo *Lok Kalyan*, built 1973, in mid-sea, 12 nautical miles off Ras Ar Nuz, near Hasik in Salalah, last Friday (Aug 13). The Omani Coast Guard rushed to their rescue after being informed of their status by passing Omani fishermen. The vessel sank within a few hours after they were plucked to safety. Although everyone on board is safe and sound, the captain of the sunken vessel revealed that it had brought about an estimated loss of Rs25 lakh to the vessel owner. The vessel, developed engine problems en route from Muqala in Yemen to Veraval, a port in Gujarat, India. The engine of the vessel developed problems immediately after the vessel moved from Muqala. "Within hours, the engine burnt and we were all at sea," Yusuf Zikhar, the captain of *Lok Kalyan*, told the Times of Oman yesterday evening. "After the engine burnt, we were on sail for some hours, but the tricky wind and slashing waves put us in a really difficult situation. Water was getting on board and things looked really desperate when a passing Omani fisherman's boat saw us." *Lok Kalyan* sank without a trace within hours. The vessel had unloaded 100 tonnes worth of milk cartons to a port in Yemen and from there carried livestock, which they unloaded in Muqala.

LUCIA (U.S.A.)

See *Caribbean*.

LUCKY THREE

London, Aug 16 — A press report, dated today, states: Vietnamese general cargo *Ha Nam* on its way home from Isabel, Philippines, on Aug 11 saved 19 Filipino fishermen, who were in distress as their fishing *Lucky Three* had capsized. According to the master of *Lucky Three* Dennis Delos Reyes, his ship upturned on Aug 8 and all 21 of his crewmen had to cling on to the hull. They had been drifting at the sea for four days before *Ha Nam* found them. Two of the fishermen died of hunger and dehydration. *Ha Nam* took the 19 survivors to Qui Nhon port where they received medical treatment. Five of the survivors, who were in critical condition, were taken to the provincial hospital. The Binh Dinh People's Committee plans to return the rescued fishermen to the Philippine representatives today.

London, Aug 16 — A press report, dated today, states: Nineteen Filipino fishermen were rescued by Vietnamese general cargo *Ha Nam* following a four-day ordeal at sea that left two men dead, officials said today. Their vessel, *Lucky Three*, sunk in rough seas on Aug 8 and the crew were left clinging to debris as they drifted helplessly in the South China Sea. Two of the 21-member crew died of cold and hunger. *Ha Nam* travelling from the Philippines spotted the remaining 19 fishermen on Aug 11. It picked them up and took them to Qui Nhon where they were given medical treatment. Fourteen crew members were formally handed over today in Qui Nhon to Philippine embassy officials, said Bui Quoc Hong, deputy head of the People's Committee Office of Binh Dinh province. Five others remained in hospital and were expected to be discharged in the coming days, he added.

MANSEI MARU

See *Century Leader No.3*.

MAR CANTABRICO I (Uruguay)

See "Vessels Abandoned at Montevideo, Uruguay" under "Miscellaneous."

MARINCHRIS (Cyprus)

Taranto, Aug 19 — Bulk *Marinchriss* arrived Taranto Aug 7. — Lloyd's Agents.

MARY NOUR (Panama)

See "Cement Dispute, Mexico" under "Miscellaneous."

MELRIVIC TEN (Phillippines)

Manila, Aug 18 — The Philippine Coast Guard reported, today, that ferry *Melrivic Ten* was refloated with the help of sister ship passenger ro/ro *Melrivic 3* on Aug 12. Hull inspection revealed a deformed propeller blade and slight hull paint scratches. After unloading its 65 passengers and cargo, the Philippine-registered passenger ferry, was towed by *Melrivic 3* to Cebu island. *Melrivic Ten* is now dry-docked at Keppel Cebu Shipyard, Cebu island. *Melrivic Ten*, operating between Poro, Camotes island and Cebu city, ran aground 100 metres from the Poro pier, on Aug 10. The vessel, with 65 passengers, had just left Poro pier when it was dragged by high waves and strong winds to shore. All 65 passengers were rescued and cargo off-loaded. The vessel is owned by Cebu-based EB Aznar Shipping Corporation. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

MOBY FREEDOM (Italy)

Genoa, Aug 17 — Passenger ro/ro *Moby Freedom* (36093 gt, built 2001) reportedly sailed Olbia 2200 yesterday for Genoa but at 0400 today returned to Olbia where it is now moored disembarking passengers. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Aug 17 — A press report, dated today, states: Passenger ro/ro *Moby Freedom* which left Olbia at 2200 yesterday for Genoa, with 1,700 passengers, has had to return to the port with a gash of approximately two

metres in its hull from which water entered, belived due to striking a semi-submerged object. The incident happened shortly before midnight in open sea approximately 20 miles from the mouth of the Bonifacio and the decision was taken to re-enter the port as a precaution *Moby Freedom* therefore, re-entered Olbia by own means, shortly after 0400 hrs.

Genoa, Aug 17 — Passenger ro/ro *Moby Freedom* reports damage to port propeller blade and tailshaft housing cracked. Understand leakage of water limited by use of watertight bulkhead and R.I.Na. presently attending on board at Olbia. Vessel expected to sail today for Genoa where repairs will be carried out. — Lloyd's Agents.

Genoa, Aug 17 — Passenger ro/ro *Moby Freedom* is due to depart from Olbia at 1700, local time, today, bound Genoa for repairs. — Lloyd's Agents.

NAZEK T. (North Korea)

Bucharest, Aug 16 — On Aug 14, general cargo *Nazek T.* was partly refloated. Vessel's fore part is floating at present. Divers will further try this week to finalise refloating operations. — Lloyd's Agents.

NCC MEKKA (NIS)

London, Aug 17 - Chemical/oil carrier *NCC Mekka* passed Gibraltar East Aug 13, Rio de Janeiro for Dubai.

NELSON (Netherlands)

London, Aug 18 — Non specific tanker *Nelson* (built 1987), carrying 1800 tonnes of distillate fuel oil, ran aground in the River Rhine, near the German town of Koblenz, early yesterday. The river was blocked to shipping in both directions, near Kilometre 590, until 1600 hrs, yesterday. The Netherlands vessel *Nelson* had ignored the closure of the river under a specific part of the Pfaffendorf Rhine bridge, said the deputy director of the office for navigation in Bingen. Heading upstream from Rotterdam, towards Ludwigshafen, the vessel ran aground immediately after passing the bridge. It turned sideways and blocked the river. The explosive distillate fuel oil did not leak out, said the navigation official. Part of the cargo was pumped into another vessel around noon.

NORDKING (Sweden)

Oxelosund, Aug 17 — General cargo *Nordking* arrived Oxelosund Aug 12. — Lloyd's Agents.

NORWAY (Bahamas)

Bremen, Aug 13 — Passenger *Norway* remains in port at Bremerhaven. — Lloyd's Agents.

OLYMPIC GALAXY (Greece)

Singapore, Aug 17 — Bulk *Olympic Galaxy* arrived Singapore Aug 11 from Trincomalee. — Lloyd's Agents.

PAN GRACE (South Korea)

Yokohama, Aug 18 — General cargo *Bunsho Maru* (468 gt, built 1987), Osaka for Kure, and general cargo *Pan Grace* (4476 gt, built 1985), China for Kure, were in collision 2,270 metres 186

degrees from Kourumeshima Lighthouse, Hiroshima Prefecture, at 0615, Aug 7. *Bunsho Maru* sustained scratching damage to its bow. *Pan Grace* sustained denting and holing damage to starboard. No oil spill, water ingress or injuries involving either vessel. — Lloyd's Agents.

PANORMOS (Cyprus)

Bourgas, Aug 17 — Bulk *Panormos* arrived Bourgias Aug 13. — Lloyd's Agents.

PHOENIX (Netherlands)

London, Aug 15 — Information received from Flushing, dated today, states: Tug *Phoenix*, pushing barge *Amanda* from Stein to Terneuzen, with 2,500 tons fertiliser, caused serious damage to the doors of the Middensluis Lock in Terneuzen at around noon, Aug 13, after the tug experienced an engine black-out. Due to the very low level of the water, the barge passed underneath the boom, which was protecting the doors from damage, and caused damage to some beams of the lock door. The damage was not serious enough to delay shipping traffic. According to Rijkswaterstaat, the managers of the lock, the damage to the boom and the lock door is severe.

PHOENIX (U.K.)

London, Aug 17 — Following received from Coastguard Shetland MRSC, timed 0517, UTC: At 0242, UTC, fishing *Phoenix* (237 gt, built 1988), with five persons on board, reported taking water in lat 59 18.2N, long 00 39.44E, 70 nautical miles south-east of Sumburgh, Shetlands. Fishing *Falcon* on scene and is presently escorting *Phoenix* into Lerwick, ETA 1300, UTC, today.

London, Aug 17 — A press report, dated today, states: A fishing vessel with five crew members on board was at the centre of a rescue operation off Shetland. The alarm was raised after the Fraserburgh-registered fishing *Phoenix* began taking in water. A coastguard rescue helicopter lowered pumps aboard after it was reported that water was flooding into the engine-room and the hold. *Phoenix* was being escorted to Lerwick by fishing *Falcon*.

London, Aug 17 — Following received from Coastguard Shetland MRSC, timed 1322, UTC: Fishing *Phoenix* arrived alongside Lerwick at 1251, UTC. Search and rescue operations terminated at this time.

PONT-AVEN (France)

London, Aug 12 — A press report, dated today, states Ferry services at Plymouth will resume tonight after Brittany Ferries' stricken passenger ro/ro *Pont-Aven* was moved from its berth. Thousands of holidaymakers' travel plans were disrupted this week when a fault stranded *Pont-Aven* in Plymouth for three days. This afternoon the ship left dock for Brest where a cracked cooling valve that resulted in 1,200 tonnes of seawater flooding the engine-room will be repaired. Since the problem was discovered on Tuesday (Aug 10), Brittany Ferries has cancelled all sailings on *Pont-Aven* to Santander

and Roscoff. Services to and from Plymouth on other ferries were diverted because *Pont-Aven* was taking up the port's only berth. The company has cancelled two scheduled crossings to Roscoff tomorrow but the 2300 hrs sailing from Plymouth to Roscoff on a different ferry will operate as normal tonight. Passengers affected are being rebooked on other services or offered a full refund. In a statement Brittany Ferries said: "It is hoped that *Pont-Aven* will resume normal service next week but this cannot definitely be confirmed until investigations at Brest have been completed. Any passengers booked on affected sailings in the next few days wishing to cancel and make alternative holiday arrangements are being given the option of a full refund."

London, Aug 13 — A press report, dated today, states: Around 2,000 passengers were left stranded in France today after the cancellation of passenger ro/ro *Pont-Aven* sailing to Cork. Brittany Ferries said its ferry had been cancelled after a routine inspection in Plymouth uncovered a damaged valve. Part of the ferry's auxiliary engine compartment had been flooded as a result. As well as the passengers in France, another 2,000 passengers in Cork will be unable to sail on the ferry service to Roscoff tomorrow. The ferry has left Plymouth and is now being repaired in Brest. Brittany Ferries general manager Hugh Bruton said it was the company's first cancellation in 12 years. "The ship cannot sail until this is sorted out for the safety of passengers. We genuinely understand their disappointment and their frustration because it's in one of the busiest holiday periods." Brittany Ferries said it was putting alternative travel arrangements in place for the stranded passengers. Some will be brought on ferries to Britain and then on to France. Brittany Ferries will offer full refunds to passengers who do not accept these arrangements and money to those who are seriously inconvenienced. "Most people are opting for the alternative arrangements so they can continue their holiday," Mr Bruton told RT... radio. He said the ferry service would resume next week, when thousands of other ferry passengers on longer continental holidays will be looking to return from France.

London, Aug 17 — A press report, dated today, states: A spokesperson for Brittany Ferries says the company's sailings between Cork and France will resume this weekend (Aug 21/22) following their forced cancellation last week. A cracked seawater valve was spotted on board passenger ro/ro *Pont-Aven* while it was docked in Plymouth last Tuesday (Aug 10). Some 4,000 intending passengers in Ireland and in France were forced to make alternative arrangements when Saturday's sailings were cancelled. *Pont-Aven* is due to recommence its service on Wednesday (Aug 18) sailing from Plymouth to Santander.

Brest, Aug 18 — Following flooding of the auxiliary engine compartment due to a damaged valve, passenger ro/ro

Pont-Aven arrived at Brest from Plymouth on Aug 13 for repairs. On Aug 17 the vessel departed Brest for Plymouth, but was again obliged to divert back to Brest after only three hours, when the crew noticed the failure of a repair carried out at Brest. Reportedly three more days will be now necessary for further repairs. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Aug 19 — Brittany Ferries has had to put back the return to service of newly built passenger ro/ro *Pont-Aven* until the end of the week, after the failure of a first attempt to repair the vessel. *Pont-Aven*, delivered to the ferry company by Germany's Jos L.Meyer yard in February, was taken out of service on Aug 11 after flooding in an auxiliary engine-room, following the failure of a seawater gate valve. The vessel was taken to the port of Brest for repair, but has had to return to the port for further work after failing to complete its return crossing to Plymouth on Tuesday (Aug 17). Meyer Werft personnel were involved in repair work, which was carried out in co-operation with Brest-based repairer, Sobrena. Brittany Ferries indicated yesterday that the provisional repair carried out had not held, but said that it hoped to have the vessel back in service at the weekend. "We think that the ship will be able to resume service on Sunday (Aug 22), but we will confirm at the end of the week," said spokeswoman Marie-Jo Veron. She said that the reasons for the failure of the cooling water valve, which resulted in 1,200 tonnes of water flooding into an auxiliary engine-room, were still under investigation and that, for the moment, there had been no talk about seeking compensation from the builder of the vessel. "We must wait for the results of the investigation," she said. Brittany Ferries said it had not tried to replace the vessel during what it said should remain a short absence.

PORTHOS
(St. Vincent & Grenadines)
See *Turchese*.

PRINCESS OF THE PACIFIC
(Philippines)

London, Aug 16 — A press report dated Aug 14 states: Department of Environment and Natural Resources regional office said that Sulpicio Lines ro/ro *Princess of the Pacific* that stranded off Anini-y, Antique more than a month ago damaged about 1,300 square metres off corals and other marine life. This claim was based on the underwater assessment conducted at the Nogas Island Seascape Jul 11. A joint investigation team from the DENR, the Provincial Government of Antique and the Municipality of Anini-y conducted the underwater assessment. Anini-y Mayor Glenn Hernaez sought assistance from the DENR for the evaluation of the damage on the coral reefs. He also asked for legal assistance in filing charges against Sulpicio Lines. Regional Executive Director Vicente Paragas also required an investigation of a possible oil spill. The Nogas Island Development Council (NIDC) and the

Province of Antique are now coordinating with concerned agencies for the filing of cases for damages against the management of Sulpicio Lines. The NIDC will also request Secretary Elisea Gozun for technical and financial assistance in conducting in-depth research on the valuation of the damages.

PRO "V" ISION (U.S.A.)

Anchorage, Alaska, Aug 16 — Trawler *Pro "v" ision*, based in Kodiak, was grounded at 0205, Aug 5, on the north side of Long Island, in Chiniak Bay. The vessel is an 80-foot salmon tender. The fuel tanks were not compromised upon grounding. The vessel was refloated, upsidedown, "Sunday Aug 11". Eight thousand gallons of fuel were removed prior to refloating. Damages included three holes in the hull, the mast and house were torn off as the vessel went against the rocks. The vessel has been moved to a protected cove near Woody Island, about one mile from Kodiak. According to the salvor, Tony Lair, of motor vessel *Lazy Bay*, *Pro "V" ision* will likely soon be towed to sea and scuttled. He is waiting decision from the Department of Environmental Protection and Coast Guard. According to Lair, approximately 20 gallons of fuel remain. — Lloyd's Agents.

SAEHAN GALAXY (South Korea)
See *Jingan No.6*.

SAMOS SKY (Liberia)

London, Aug 16 — A press report, dated Aug 6, states: Bulk *Samos Sky* (23237 gt, built 1981), Hamburg for Brazil, cargo potash, grounded near Brunsbuttel at approximately 1200 yesterday. Vessel refloated without assistance. According to data of the water police the vessel sustained no damage and there was no oil spill. After refloating vessel proceeded to Cuxhaven where water police investigated the cause of the grounding. (Note — *Samos Sky* sailed Hamburg 0815, Aug 5 and subsequently passed Dover Strait Aug 7.)

SANDSTRAND (Norway)

London, Aug 17 — Suction dredger *Sandstrand* arrived Borg Harbour Aug 5 and sailed Aug 6 for Arendal.

SARAH JANE

Vigo, Aug 18 — Ref *Sarah Jane* is still undergoing repairs at Varaderos Domaio, Vigo. — Lloyd's Agents.

SCOT PIONEER (U.K.)

Southampton, Aug 12 — General cargo *Scot Pioneer* sailed Southampton Aug 11. — Lloyd's Agents.

SEA CELEBRITY (Thailand)

See *St. Joseph the Worker*.

SEASPAN CHARGER (Canada)

London, Aug 18 — Reported that, on Aug 4, tug *Seaspan Charger* (75 gt, built 1969) sustained damage affecting its seaworthiness when a fishing net fouled its propeller, when plying the Fraser River, near New Westminster, B.C.

SHELLY (Panama)

See "Hong Kong" under "Weather & Navigation."

SHIN TOMEI MARU (Japan)

See *Shintomei No.1*.

SHINTOMEI NO.1

Yokohama, Aug 18 — Barge *Shintomei No.1*, 4672 gt, in tow of pusher tug *Shin Tomei Maru* (199 gt, built 1986) bound Tokuyama Shimomatu port ran aground north-east shore of Shu Island (? Su Shima, lat 33 56N, long 131 44E), Yamaguchi Prefecture, 1,350 metres, 260 degrees from Iwajima Lighthouse at 2215, Aug 15. After inspection by divers, refloating operation commenced at 0800, Aug 16. — Lloyd's Agents.

SOUTH SEA (Senegal)

See "Drugs Seized on Senegal Vessel by Spain" under "Miscellaneous."

SOUTHERN MOANA
(Antigua & Barbuda)

Hull, Aug 12 — General cargo *Southern Moana* remains aground at the entrance to Futuna harbour, with salvage operations still under way and progressing well. — United Salvage Ltd.

ST. JOSEPH THE WORKER
(Philippines)

Manila, Aug 12 — Passenger ro/ro *St. Joseph the Worker* (6090 gt, built 1976) and general cargo *Sea Celebrity* (2837 gt, built 1971) were in collision near the port of Manila's breakwater about 1600 today. *St. Joseph the Worker* had just left Manila's North Harbour terminal bound for Bacolod City in central Philippines when it was in contact on the starboard side with *Sea Celebrity*. There were no injuries. It is not known how many passengers *St. Joseph the Worker* was carrying although it has a rated capacity of 1,700 passengers. Both vessels returned to the North Harbour terminal under their own power and are now docked at Pier 12 of the terminal. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Manila, Aug 13 — Passenger ro/ro *St. Joseph the Worker* collided with general cargo *Sea Celebrity* at Manila Bay, pm, Aug 12. *St. Joseph the Worker*, owned by Negros Navigation met head-on with *Sea Celebrity* after communications between the vessels failed to avert the collision. An officer of Negros Navigation said that *St. Joseph the Worker* attempted to contact the master of *Sea Celebrity* but he did not reply. *St. Joseph the Worker* then slowed down until it went to a full stop to avoid the collision but *Sea Celebrity* continued moving toward the port until it was in contact with *St. Joseph the Worker*. No one was hurt in the accident. Initial reports said that *St. Joseph the Worker* sustained damage and will file a protest against *Sea Celebrity*. — Lloyd's Agents.

ST. JOSEPH THE WORKER
(Philippines)

London, Aug 14 — A press report, dated today, states: Officials of Negros Navigation Co. (NENACO) said it

would file a protest against general cargo *Sea Celebrity* that contacted its passenger ro/ro *St. Joseph the Worker* at the Manila North Harbor. NENACO said that despite repeated warnings to *Sea Celebrity* the vessel struck NENACO's *St. Joseph the Worker*, which was on its way to Bacolod. The incident, NENACO said, was immediately reported to all concerned agencies, including the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) and NENACO's head office, which ordered the master to return to port for an immediate assessment of the ship's damages. NENACO, in its letter of intent to the PCG, said *Sea Celebrity* was "clearly at fault," adding that the collision at the entrance of North Harbor could have been avoided. "Based on the Phil. Port Authority-Port Management Office-North Harbor Circular 09, in order to avoid vessel collision and to ensure the safety of passengers and cargoes onboard moving in opposite directions, it is prescribed that a vessel being manoeuvred to leave port shall have priority of passage at the entrance channel. Accordingly, a vessel intending to call port shall stay at the OBW anchorage until the said channel is clear of the departing vessel," NENACO said. An initial assessment revealed minor damages to *St. Joseph the Worker's* port hull, above water level. The vessel was assessed to be repairable, and was to immediately resume operation after the repair. The NENACO management said all the 647 passengers are safe and unscathed and were scheduled to leave Manila for Bacolod onboard *San Paolo* at 1400 today. The passengers stayed overnight at NENACO's terminal lounge where they are given free meals and accommodation prior to their departure today. The cargo vessel was held by the Philippine Coast Guard for further investigation, and for assessment of its obligations to NENACO.

London, Aug 15 — Following received from Coast Guard Manila, timed 0330, UTC: At 1514, Aug 12, passenger ro/ro *St. Joseph the Worker*, carrying 647 passengers, outbound from North harbour, Manila, was allegedly hit on port side by general cargo *Sea Celebrity*, inbound from Malaysia. *St. Joseph the Worker* has a hole 44 metres by one metre, on port side, three metres above the waterline. No casualties reported. Both vessels are currently at North Harbour pier. Coast Guard has advised *St. Joseph the Worker* to post a marine protest against *Sea Celebrity*. *Sea Celebrity* presently restrained from sailing until investigation completed.

London, Aug 16 — A press report, dated today, states: Negros Navigation Co. (Nenaco), owners of passenger ro/ro *St. Joseph the Worker*, would ask the Manila Regional Trial Court to extend a 72-hour temporary restraining order issued Friday (Aug 13) against general cargo *Sea Celebrity*. Nenaco said *Sea Celebrity* slammed into its Bacolod-bound *St. Joseph the Worker* in Manila Bay, on Aug 12, causing damage that would need three weeks to repair. The shipping company filed a P20-million damage suit against the owner of *Sea Celebrity* before the Manila court last

Friday, which issued the temporary restraining order. The restraining order lapses this afternoon. Nenaco spokesperson Gian Galvez said the shipping firm would likely ask the court to extend the order, as the company has yet to get in touch with the owner of *Sea Celebrity*. The vessel is being held by the Philippine Coast Guard for further investigation and for assessment of its obligations. The P20-million sought by Nenaco was only for damages and did not cover the losses the company would incur while its vessel was being repaired. Another source said *St. Joseph the Worker* was one of Nenaco's most profitable vessels servicing the Bacolod and Iloilo routes. It carries cargo and passengers and earns for the company P3 to P4 million each trip.

Manila, Aug 16 — Passenger ro/ro *St. Joseph the Worker* is now under repair at Keppel Shipyard in Batangas. It is understood that the vessels' owners, Negro Navigation, have demanded Php20 million (about US\$357,000) for damages and have secured a temporary restraining order to prevent general cargo *Sea Celebrity* from leaving the country until it has paid for the damages. The court has also given the crew of the foreign vessel 72 hours to explain the accident. — Lloyd's Agents.

Manila, Aug 16 — The Manila Regional Trial Court today granted a petition by local shipping operator: Negros Navigation Inc., for the detention of general cargo *Sea Celebrity* for another 72 hours. The same court ordered the Thailand-registered vessel detained for 72 hours last Friday (Aug 12). The original detention order expired today prompting Negros Navigation to seek an extension. *Sea Celebrity* is now docked at the Manila Harbour Centre terminal. On Aug 12, *Sea Celebrity* collided with the Negros Navigation-owned passenger ro/ro *St. Joseph the Worker* outside the North Harbour terminal breakwater at the Port of Manila. Gian Galvez, corporate communications officer of Negros Navigation, said *St. Joseph the Worker* sent several radio messages to *Sea Celebrity* to change course but did not receive any response. As a result of the collision *St. Joseph the Worker* sustained a hole on its port side about eight metres about the waterline measuring 44 metres long and one metre wide. Galvez said that Negros Navigation had also asked the court to order *Sea Celebrity* to pay Pesos20 million (US\$362,000) in damages. At the same time, Negros Navigation has also asked the court to issue a writ of preliminary attachment against *Sea Celebrity*. "*Sea Celebrity* will serve as security to ensure that damages are paid in the event that Negros Navigation wins its case in court," Mr. Galvez said. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

STELLA MARIS BERRIA (Spain)

See *Divina Pastora*.

STROOMBANK (Netherlands)

London, Aug 13 — Following received from Aarhus MRCC, timed 0900, UTC: General cargo *Stroombank* (1682 gt, built 1995), loaded with 2,400 tonnes of

wheat, grounded in Nakskov fjord, in approximately lat 54 49N, long 11 02E, about 2130, UTC, yesterday. Vessel is still aground at present and it may require the removal of some fuel oil on board to assist refloating efforts. The vessel's hull is apparently free from holes or breaches.

London, Aug 13 — Following received from Aarhus MRCC, timed 1810, UTC: General cargo *Stroombank*: Understood a refloating attempt was to be made this evening. However, if the vessel is not refloated while there is still daylight the refloating will be postponed until tomorrow. Sunset is at 1857, UTC.

London, Aug 14 — Following received from Aarhus MRCC, timed 0520, UTC: General cargo *Stroombank* easily refloated at 0424, UTC, with the aid of a tug, and is bound for Nakskov. No pollution reported.

TACANUYA (Cayman Islands)

Genoa, Aug 13 — Yacht *Tacanuya* arrived at La Spezia on Aug 9 for repairs at Cantiere Baglietto. The vessel is expected to sail for Sardinia around Aug 14/15. Passenger ro/ro *Giglio Espresso II* is presently under repair at La Maddalena, local shipyard. Estimated time of repairs 7/8 days. — Lloyd's Agents.

TASMAN SPIRIT (Malta)

London, Aug 19 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Crude oil tanker *Tasman Spirit* had run aground in Karachi harbour's channel last year due to alleged corruption and negligence of top Karachi Port Trust officials, many of whom are non-technical people, according to a report prepared by the Pakistan Merchant Navy Officers Association. The report, which has been sent to Gen Pervez Musharraf, says that the channel has not been dredged honestly and does not have the declared depth and the huge oil tanker was also not called into the channel at the time of high tide. It says that the KPT had declared the depth of the channel as 12.2 metres, whereas the channel is not actually that deep. Besides at peak high tide there is around 2.8 metres swell which should make the total depth in the channel at around 15 metres. The report says that if the channel was as deep as it had been declared, and if *Tasman Spirit*, which was carrying thousands of tons of oil and having a draught of 11.89 metres, had been called into the channel at the time of high tide, it could not have run aground. The report stated that the high tide, on Jul 27, 2003, started at 1033 hrs and the vessel should have been brought into the channel between 1100 hrs and 1130 hrs to take full advantage of the high tide at peak. But it was not done as a few other smaller vessels were accommodated before the oil tanker and by the time the vessel was called in the tide was beginning to recede. It says that it is imperative that depth of the entire channel should be 12.2 metres, as had been declared by the KPT, but the actual depth is around 9.5 metres at the extremities of the channel due to improper dredging. It says that the

wind effect, heavy air draught due to large tanker super structure, ebbing tide, south westerly winds, heavy swell, long length and deep draught of the tanker, heavy torque on rudder while turning, squat factor, improper depth of channel owing to poor dredging, all contributed to push the vessel to lesser deep contour area towards the extremities of the channel and the vessel grounded at 1257 hrs between the pair number 6 and 7, approximately 50 metres from S7 and S6. The report says that no tug had accompanied the vessel when it entered the channel and the first tug, *Sohrab*, reached the grounded vessel at 1303 hrs in the pushing position on the starboard bow when the vessel had already grounded. The deputy conservator boarded the grounded vessel at around 1315 hrs and a couple of other tugs were also called in and they by applying the push and pull movement tried to bring the vessel to the centre of the channel. It was a wrong action and resulted in rupturing of fuel tanks No 1 and No 2 of the tanker. Oil started leaking from the tanker, which was not declared by the KPT. It says that *Tasman Spirit*, which was a 24 year old single hull tanker, was not fitted with the emergency towing arrangements, required under the Safety of Life at Sea Regulation (15 - 1) saying that all tankers over 20,000 tons dead weight must be fitted with emergency towing arrangements. The report added that one of the main reasons of this catastrophe is the appointment of pseudo-professionals at the helm of KPT affairs and improper dredging of the channel which was not as deep as had been declared. The association chief Shaikh Mohammad Iqbal responding to the queries said that if the channel had been that deep as it had been declared and the vessel had been called in during the peak high tide the vessel would not have run aground. He said that even after grounding if the technical people were running the affairs at the top KPT, they would have handled the situation by shifting the oil to other tanks and should have waited for the next high tide, rather than using the push and pull method on a single hull old vessel that was loaded with heavy liquid cargo. He has urged the authorities to institute a high level probe into the dredging operation in the KPT channel. Another probe to find out why, or who for what reason allowed, the smaller ships' entry to the port during high tide when the huge vessel was told to wait. And finally he demanded that technically qualified people be posted at the helm of affairs of the KPT. He further urged that the ownership of the vessel be ascertained.

TORM MARY (DIS)

See *Buffalo 405*

TRAKYA (Italy)

Cagliari, Aug 13 — Passenger ro/ro *Salamambo 7* is due to berth at Oristano at 1400, Aug 13. Understand that on completion of Customs formalities, the vessel will tranship all the cargo on board ro/ro *Trakya*. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

Oristano, Aug 14 — The transhipment of all the cargo from ro/ro *Trakya* to ro/ro *Salamambo 7* was effected yesterday afternoon and *Salamambo 7* sailed, same day for Tunis. On Aug 16 *Trakya* will be inspected by R.I.Na. in order to grant permission to reach a shipyard in another port. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

TURCHESE (Liberia)

Maassluis, Aug 19 — On entering the Boudewijn-locks, general cargo *Porthos* (2351 gt, built 1977) damaged chem.tank *Turchese* (3503 gt, built 1988), which was already moored on starboard side of the Boudewijn-locks. Fifteen metres of rail on port side of *Turchese* has been damaged. At the moment, both vessels are in the Boudewijn-locks, it is expected that both vessels, after lock-through, will proceed to their berths. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

UNI-FORWARD (Panama)

London, Aug 17 — A press report, dated Aug 16, states: A collision between general cargo *Uni-Forward* (13996 gt, built 1978) and a 800-tonne Vietnam barge injured two people and left seven others missing. The collision took place at 1930 yesterday near Sao Mai tip of the southern province of Ba Ria-Vung Tau. All victims are among the 11 Vietnamese people on the barge. The Southern River Way Project Company's barge, stationed to rebuild a lighthouse, had capsized and flowed to the Sao Mai area

URSULA LEONHARDT (Malta)

Brest, Aug 18 — General cargo *Ursula Leonhardt*: No decision taken yet about repairs or towage of the vessel to another port. Reportedly the cargo in hold is regularly inspected by a cargo surveyor awaiting further disposition. — Lloyd's Agents.

VASSILIOS II (Greece)

Piraeus, Aug 12 — Chem.tank *Vassilios II* sailed Perama Aug 4, bound for Eleusis. — Lloyd's Agents.

WARWICK (Singapore)

London, Aug 17 — Lpg *Warwick* arrived Suape Aug 1 from Manaus and sailed Aug 2.

YMIR (Uruguay)

See "Vessels Abandoned at Montevideo, Uruguay" under "Miscellaneous."

ZODIACO (Uruguay)

See "Vessels Abandoned at Montevideo, Uruguay" under "Miscellaneous."



AL SALAM BOCCACCIO 98 (Panama)

Ancona, Aug 18 — Passenger ro/ro *Al Salam Boccaccio 98* arrived and sailed Ancona Aug 14. — Lloyd's Agents.

BANGA BIRAJ (Bangladesh)

See under "Marine."

EAGLE STRENGTH (Panama)

See *Banga Biraj* under "Marine."

ERTUG (Turkey)

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

MIR DAMAD (Iran)

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

NADYM (Russia)

Durres, Aug 13 — General cargo *Nadym* (4955 gt, built 1996), which arrived at Durres on Jul 27, is detained at the port due alleged shortage of sugar in bags. — Lloyd's Agents.

Istanbul, Aug 16 — General cargo *Nadym* passed Dardanelles Aug 9, Durres for Yeisk. — Lloyd's Agents.

RIHAM-I (Sao Tome and Principe)

London, Aug 19 — A press report, dated today, states: Five stranded sailors, including the master, of abandoned vessel *Riham-I* at Al Hamriya Port are considering filing a petition at the Appeal Court to help recover their dues as the Dubai Court of First Instance's final verdict has not been implemented as yet. The court gave its final verdict last month in the case of four of the five sailors, asking their former employer, Al Maraas Shipping Company, to settle their dues of seven months' salary each. The five sailors of *Riham-I*, include the Iraqi master, Iraqi electrician, two Indian sailors and the Pakistani chef. According to last month's ruling, the two Indians will receive \$3,011, rather than the \$13,000 they expected, while the Pakistani sailor will be paid \$4,158 and the Iraqi \$4,100. The Pakistani and the Iraqi were in fact earning higher salaries than the two Indians, receiving \$500 each per month rather than \$400. "Though the court has given its final verdict in the cases of four of my crew members, the execution of the judgement is yet to take place. Our former owner, who has been asked by the court to settle the dues of the four sailors, has disappeared and there is no news of him," said Captain Noori Abd Khamat. The master's own case for recovering his 31 months' salary is pending with a hearing set for next month. He added that the Iraqi owner of the company has already closed his offices at the port and cannot be traced for settlement of the dues. "I'm not going to leave my crew members in such a situation. We are discussing with our lawyer the possibility of filing a collective petition with the Appeal Court to help recover our pending salaries and other financial dues from the auction money of the ship," he added. Referring to his own case, the master said he has little hope of an early decision. "The way things are going, I don't think there will be any early decision in my case. It might

take three or six months.” He said they had every right to appeal for the recovery of their due salaries from the auction money under both UAE and international maritime laws which place sailors second after payment of port charges and dues. Referring to the ship’s condition, the master said it is deteriorating and could sink if no proper maintenance is carried out. He explained: “Since we ourselves are living in a pathetic condition on board, with food and money given by others, we don’t have the means and the necessary tools to ensure the ship’s safety. “The ship is rusting, the machines are deteriorating. We have to borrow fuel to run the power generator, which is also faulty. We have to spend most of our time without any air conditioning.” According to the Iraqi master, most of them have been on board the ship for more than three years. All the five sailors have been on board *Riham-I*, which is berthed at Al Hamriya Port, since October 2001, when it was impounded and auctioned by the authorities as it had fallen into disrepair and the requisite port fees had not been paid.

SHAMROCK (French Southern Territories)

London, Aug 13 — A press report, dated today, states: *Ro/ro Shamrock* that has been anchored in Portland Harbour for three weeks may be put up for sale. Lawyers for Fortis Bank of the Netherlands are requesting permission to sell the vessel. The vessel was seized by federal marshals last month over an alleged \$14 million loan default by the vessel’s French owner. The owner has until Monday (Aug 16) to tell a federal judge in writing why the vessel shouldn’t be sold. A hearing will be held next week in U.S. District Court in Portland, said Fortis Bank’s local lawyer, Peter Plumb. Several buyers are likely to be interested in it, perhaps at an auction held in Portland, said city Transportation Director Jeff Monroe. Michael Kaplan, the local lawyer for vessel owner Copropriete du Navire Shamrock, said its future will not be decided in Portland. Kaplan said negotiations are under way in Europe, and there is “no way to tell” what they will accomplish. John Hudson, a representative of the contractor that operates the vessel, agreed, saying the vessel’s owner has new financial backing to go back into operation. Plumb said he was unaware of any such plan.

TAI PING QUAN (China)

London, Aug 16 — General cargo *Tai Ping Quan* remains at Western Anchorage No.1, Hong Kong, but it is understood that the vessel is no longer under arrest.

YONGTONG (Panama)

London, Aug 16 — Chemical/oil carrier *Yongtong* remains at Kau Yi Chau Dangerous Goods Anchorage, Hong Kong, under arrest.

Pipeline Accidents



KALA SHAH KAKU, PAKISTAN

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

Pollution



NEDERLAND AREA, NECHES RIVER, TEXAS, UNITED STATES

See *Buffalo 405* under “Marine.”

STORNOWAY AREA, SCOTLAND, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Aug 16 — Following received from Coastguard Stornoway MRSC, timed 1203, UTC: At 0753, UTC, an oil slick was reported by an aircraft after taking off from Stornoway airport. The slick is located approximately two nautical miles south-south-east of Stornoway airport. Its’ most easterly point is at lat 58 10.45N, long 06 15 91W. The most westerly point is at 58 10.18N, long 06 19.51W. The slick has a length of 1.3 nautical miles, in an east-west direction. The slick is believed to be light oil, maybe diesel, with a good sheen in places, but heavier patches in some parts. It varies from a few feet in width up to 50 metres. As it is patchy, this suggests that it is going to disperse naturally. Seaweed/debris is floating with the trail. One vessel was sighted in the vicinity by the aircraft, but the identity is unknown. Anchor handling tug/supply *Anglian Sovereign* is proceeding to investigate.

Weather & Navigation



GERMANY

London, Aug 13 — A press report, dated today, states: At least 21 people were injured overnight as high winds and heavy storms lashed the southern German state of Bavaria, local authorities said today. Trees and branches fell across several railway lines, derailing one regional train, the authorities said. Power cuts hit some areas and firefighters were kept hard at work pumping out flooded basements. The weather was easing in the neighbouring state of Baden-Wuerttemberg, where storms had injured two people and caused road, rail and river traffic chaos yesterday.

HONG KONG

London, Aug 19 — General cargo *Shelly* (5552 gt, built 1994) was in

collision with *c.c. Fengfa 228*, 1000 gt, near the River Trade Terminal in Tuen Mun in the western reaches of the Special Administrative Region, at 0427 hrs, yesterday. A member of the Chinese vessel fell overboard and was rescued by a launch boat of the Marine Department. A hole measuring 100 cm by 60cm was ripped out of the port side of the smaller vessel. Both vessels are anchored at the River Trade Terminal with water being pumped out of the holed ship. The probable cause of the collision was smog. A thick sulphurous yellow hue added to the dense, heavy grey smog that has been permeating the region in the last week. This stifling atmosphere no doubt contributed to an unprecedented spate of scrapes and collisions in Hong Kong waters. Between 0345 and 0500, yesterday morning, there were no fewer than five maritime accidents reported.

London, Aug 19 — Following received from Hong Kong MRCC, timed 1230, UTC: General cargo *Shelly* was in collision with *c.c. Fengfa 228* in Tuen Mun at 2027, UTC, Aug 17. Five containers fell over board as a result of the collision but two containers have been retrieved. The Chinese vessel is holed.

HURRICANE “CHARLEY”

London, Aug 13 — A press report, dated Aug 12, states: Hurricane “Charley” grew in force today as it churned toward Florida’s Gulf Coast, and about 800,000 people from the Florida Keys to Tampa Bay were urged to evacuate as the state braced for 100 mph winds, heavy rain and swirling tornadoes. The hurricane bore down on Florida. Residents braced for the worst as “Charley” made its way toward land, boarding up homes and buying supplies such as water, canned food and batteries. “Charley” was expected to pass west of the Keys early tomorrow before hitting Florida’s western mainland, said Hugh Cobb, a meteorologist at the National Hurricane Centre in Miami. The evacuations included flood-prone sections of the Tampa-St. Petersburg area, along with MacDill Air Force Base on Tampa Bay. Only essential personnel will remain at the base, spokeswoman Lt. Erin Dorrance said. At 1700, EDT, forecasters said “Charley” had top sustained winds of about 105 mph, up from 90 mph earlier today. It was centered about 140 miles south-south-east of Havana, Cuba, and was moving north-west near 18 mph. “Charley” was expected to remain at hurricane force when it passes over mainland Florida, but could move through central and north Florida before leaving the state, forecasters said. Four to eight inches of rain were expected, with higher amounts possible, which could cause life-threatening flash floods and mud slides. Gov. Jeb Bush earlier declared a state of emergency for all of Florida, and activated the Florida National Guard to prepare to respond to any damage. Red Cross workers were preparing to open shelters throughout the areas that could be affected.

Havana, Aug 13 — Hurricane “Charley” pummelled western Cuba and

darkened Havana with howling winds that uprooted coconut trees and ripped roofs off houses on its path to the Florida coast. Charley packed winds of 105 mph and a 10-14 foot storm surge when it hit Cuba's southern coast at midnight near the fishing village of Guanimar. The storm uprooted coconut trees and ripped off roofs of houses, people in nearby Batabano said. The hurricane crossed Cuba at its narrowest point, losing some intensity as it headed for the north coast at Baracoa, just west of Havana. The capital city and its province endured the onslaught in total darkness, as authorities cut off power to avoid electrical accidents. "It's a disaster. The gusts smashed windows and doors, and lifted off the roof of a shelter," said a local official in San Antonio de los Baños, a town in the storm's path 22 miles south of Havana. Weather experts said "Charley" would regain strength and become a "major" hurricane as it headed out over the Florida Straits on a path toward the Florida Keys island chain and the densely populated St. Petersburg-Tampa area. Emergency officials yesterday ordered more than 600,000 people in western Florida to leave seaside dwellings, mobile homes and low-lying areas before the hurricane's arrival. Racing winds and heavy rainfall scattered debris in the empty streets of Havana, where residents left work at midday to form long lines to buy food and water and rush home to secure their houses. Authorities yesterday evacuated 149,000 people from flood-prone areas of western Cuba and precarious colonial-era buildings in danger of collapse in downtown Havana. About 1,300 tourists were flown out of Key Largo off the south coast. Havana's airport was closed and flights diverted to the seaside resort of Varadero. At 0200, EDT (0600, UTC), today, "Charley" was 14 miles west of downtown Havana, the US National Hurricane Centre in Miami said. It was moving north-northwest at 14 mph. The eye of the hurricane was expected to cross the south-eastern Gulf of Mexico towards the west coast of Florida later today, strengthening into a major hurricane as it approached, the centre said. Hurricane warnings stretched up the west coast of Florida and a storm watch was declared for the south-east coast up to South Carolina. Florida Governor Jeb Bush said two million people could be affected if "Charley" pounds the tourist resort island of Key West and then curves into Florida's west coast. In total, 6.5 million Americans lay in the storm's potential path, the US Census Bureau said. Key West, 90 miles north of Cuba, would see hurricane conditions by morning, the hurricane centre said. — Reuters.

London, Aug 13 — Following received from the Meteorological Office: Hurricane "Charley": The hurricane warning has been extended northwards along the Florida west coast to the Steinhatchee River. A hurricane warning is now in effect for the Florida Keys from the Dry Tortugas to the Seven Mile Bridge, and for the Florida west coast from East Cape Sable

northwards to the Steinhatchee River. A hurricane warning also remains in effect for the western Cuban provinces of Pinar del Rio, La Habana, Ciudad de la Habana, Matanzas and the Isle of Youth. A tropical storm warning has been issued for the Florida and Georgia coasts from Cocoa Beach, FL, to Altamaha Sound, GA. A tropical storm warning remains in effect for the Florida Keys, from the Seven Mile Bridge to Ocean Reef, and along the south Florida mainland from Ocean Reef to East Cape Sable, including Florida Bay and Lake Okeechobee. The tropical storm watch has been extended northwards to Cape Fear, North Carolina. A tropical storm watch is now in effect for the south-eastern US coast from Ocean Reef northwards to south of Cocoa Beach and from north of Altamaha Sound, GA, to Cape Fear, NC. Hurricane centre located near lat 23.9N, long 82.9W, at 0900, UTC, Aug 13. Position accurate to within 15 nautical miles. Present movement towards the north-north-west, or 345 deg, at 16 knots. Diameter of eye 20 nautical miles. Maximum sustained winds 95 knots with gusts to 115 knots. Radius of 64-knot winds 10 nautical miles south-west quadrant, 25 nautical miles north-east quadrant, 20 nautical miles elsewhere. Radius of 50-knot winds 60 nautical miles north-east quadrant, 50 nautical miles south-east quadrant, 40 nautical miles north-west quadrant and 20 nautical miles south-west quadrant. Radius of 34-knot winds 110 nautical miles north-east quadrant, 100 nautical miles south-east quadrant, 90 nautical miles north-west quadrant and 45 nautical miles south-west quadrant. Radius of 12-foot seas 60 nautical miles south-west quadrant, 140 nautical miles south-east quadrant, 200 nautical miles elsewhere. Forecast for 1800, UTC: Position lat 26.3N, long 82.9W. Maximum sustained winds 105 knots with gusts to 130 knots. Radius of 64-knot winds 15 nautical miles south-west quadrant, 25 nautical miles north-west quadrant, 30 nautical miles elsewhere. Radius of 50-knot winds 30 nautical miles south-west quadrant, 50 nautical miles north-west quadrant, 60 nautical miles elsewhere. Radius of 34-knot winds 120 nautical miles north-east quadrant, 110 nautical miles south-east quadrant, 100 nautical miles north-west quadrant and 50 nautical miles south-west quadrant. Forecast for 0600, UTC, Aug 14: Position lat 29.8N, long 82.5W. Inland. Maximum sustained winds 80 knots with gusts to 100 knots. Radius of 64-knot winds 20 nautical miles south-west quadrant, 30 nautical miles north-west quadrant, 35 nautical miles elsewhere. Radius of 50-knot winds 40 nautical miles south-west quadrant, 60 nautical miles north-west quadrant, 70 nautical miles elsewhere. Radius of 34-knot winds 50 nautical miles south-west quadrant, 100 nautical miles north-west quadrant, 130 nautical miles elsewhere.

Punta Gorda, Florida, Aug 15 — Rescuers searched devastated communities for dead and injured and thousands of people were homeless yesterday, after Hurricane "Charley"

killed 13 people, shredded mobile home parks and damaged tens of thousands of buildings in southwest Florida. Florida Gov. Jeb Bush described seeing "entire communities totally flattened." The hurricane, the strongest hurricane to hit Florida in 12 years, roared in on Friday (Aug 13) with 145 mph winds, striking with more ferocity and farther south than initially forecast and taking many in the area by surprise. Thirteen people were confirmed killed, a spokeswoman for the Florida Division of Emergency Management said. She had no further details. "Charley" churned north-east through the state and lashed the Carolinas yesterday, but as a weaker tropical storm. Its main impact was felt around the coast near Punta Gorda, Port Charlotte and Fort Myers, and the death toll appeared likely to rise as search crews edged their way through standing water and debris-clogged roads to reach dangerously unstable buildings. "As of yet, they can't get the search and rescue teams out into every possible place in order to quantify the deaths," Gov. Bush said. The Federal Emergency Management Agency estimated 50,000 people were in shelters and 80% of the buildings in Charlotte County were damaged. Many mobile homes were reduced to piles of twisted metal and smashed furniture. Florida sought emergency housing assistance for 10,000 families. Emergency workers were bringing in food, water, cots, blankets and clothes. About 1.1 million people had no power; three cities had no running water and curfews were imposed. National Guard troops, power company workers and search teams streamed in to the area. Emergency services were also ravaged by the storm, complicating rescue efforts. The roof blew off the Charlotte County Sheriff's command centre, the Fort Myers Coast Guard station was seriously damaged and three fire stations were destroyed. Six hospitals were damaged or destroyed. Coast Guard helicopters ferried the most seriously injured patients from Charlotte Regional Medical Centre to a Tampa hospital. Destruction in Punta Gorda was widespread, with few buildings unscathed. Part of a commercial cinder-block building was missing. Twisted pieces of aluminium siding lay everywhere. Boats and cars were overturned and power lines dangled from poles and trees. Pieces of carpet were stuck in trees. Officials called in a team of 25 morticians with refrigerated trucks. They said there were 31 mobile home parks in the Punta Gorda area, at least two with up to 1,000 residents each. Gov. Bush said damage costs would clearly be in the billions of dollars. Damage estimates across Florida were sketchy, but officials in Lee County, next to Charlotte County, said they believed 250,000 buildings were damaged. Those included battered multimillion-dollar homes on exclusive islands off the coast. President Bush, the governor's brother, declared Florida a disaster area to speed emergency aid. Forecasters had expected "Charley" to hit the Tampa

area farther north and nearly two million people were told to evacuate, but the hurricane gained strength and made a last-minute turn that brought it ashore farther south, hitting people who had ignored evacuation orders, because they thought they would be safe. "Charley" has now weakened to a tropical storm and was skirting over the North Carolina coast, with its centre about 75 miles south-south-west of Norfolk, Virginia. — Reuters.

London, Aug 16 — A press report, dated Aug 15, states: Early estimates were that as much as 80% of the buildings in the 10-mile swath of Hurricane "Charley" were damaged or destroyed. A Lee County official estimated that in his county alone, there was at least \$3 billion of damage, and insurance industry officials estimated the total insured damage in Florida at \$5 billion to \$20 billion. One reason "Charley" smashed so many buildings is that the standards for the west coast area, where the hurricane slammed ashore, are nowhere near as high as in the Miami area, said Herbert Saffir, a Coral Gables engineer and co-founder of the Saffir-Simpson scale that categorizes the intensity of hurricanes. Florida is spending about \$3 million a year installing tie-down anchors to protect "manufactured housing," the industry's preferred term for mobile homes. About 12% of Florida residences are mobile homes, but holding the base of a mobile home to the ground will not help when the rest of the house is not built to withstand hurricane-force winds. Builders of site-built homes as well as builders of mobile homes have complained about the increased construction costs associated with stricter codes. According to news and National Weather Service reports, the roof was torn off a hurricane shelter in Arcadia while 1,200 people were inside. A half-dozen hospitals and nursing homes in the area also sustained extensive damage.

London, Aug 17 — A press report, dated Aug 16, states: Florida residents have begun to clear up after the worst hurricane to hit the state in a dozen years. National Guard troops and volunteers have arrived to help distribute aid, while insurance adjusters are assessing damage estimated between \$10 and \$15bn. The death toll continued to rise, reaching at least 16, with two people killed from generator fumes. Many of the victims died after the hurricane had passed. The Orlando Sentinel newspaper reported that two of the fatalities were caused when a family used an emergency generator when their home lost power. Robert Banks, 50, and his stepson Michael Thompson, 33, were found dead in their beds from carbon monoxide poisoning. Mr Banks' girlfriend was one of more than 100 people taken to hospital with breathing difficulties from such incidents. The paper also said a 17th victim died when his car hit a fallen tree, but this could not be confirmed.

London, Aug 19 — A press report, dated today, states: Hurricane "Charley", the worst storm to hit the US

in over a decade, will cost insurers \$7.4bn (£4bn). This figure includes damage to homes, businesses and personal possessions, Insurance Information Institute chief economist Bob Hartwig said. This new estimate is however lower than the previous estimates of \$11bn for damage to homes alone and \$14bn for total damage, but this latest figure doesn't include uninsured property and flood damage. Hurricane "Charley" is set to be America's second most expensive hurricane ever, after hurricane "Andrew" which caused damage totalling about \$22bn. Companies, however, will get help from the US government, which has set up a special fund to pay for repairs. While the total size of claims may seem massive, any damage to the profitability of the insurance companies involved is set to be far smaller. Munich Re estimated that the storm would cost it a "low triple-digit euro sum" — the low hundreds of millions. Insurance giant Allianz said the impact on results could be around 50m euros (\$61m). At Lloyd's of London, experts think they will have to meet about a third of the costs. One group said it did not expect the size of claims related to hurricane "Charley" to cause problems for Lloyd's syndicates. Following hurricane "Andrew" in 1992, many insurance companies raised premiums and some observers are speculating that the same could happen again now.

HURRICANE "DANIELLE"

Miami, Aug 15 — Tropical storm "Danielle", which strengthened to become a hurricane yesterday, was 755 miles west of the Cape Verde Islands at 2300 hrs, today (0300, UTC, Aug 16), and moving out over open water to the west-north-west. Its winds had increased to 105 mph. "Danielle" was not expected to take make land, the U.S. National Hurricane Centre said. — Reuters.

London, Aug 16 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: Hurricane "Danielle" located near lat 17.2N, long 36.3W at 0900, UTC, today. Position accurate within 15 nautical miles. Present movement toward the north-west or 310 degrees at 15 knots. Maximum sustained winds 90 knots with gusts to 110 knots. Radius of 64 knot winds, 20 nautical miles north-east, south-east quadrant, and north-west quadrant, 15 nautical miles else where. Radius of 50 knot winds, 40 nautical miles north-east quadrant, 70 nautical miles south-east quadrant and 30 nautical miles south-west and north-west quadrant. Radius of 34 knot winds, 60 nautical miles north-east, south-west and north-west quadrants, 90 nautical miles south-east quadrant. Forecast position lat 18.7N, long 37.7W at 1800, UTC, today. Maximum winds 90 knots, gusts 110 knots. Forecast position at lat 20.7N, long 39.2W at 0600, UTC, Aug 17. Maximum winds 85 knots, gusts 105 knots.

NEW ZEALAND

Wellington, Aug 18 — Severe storms, with winds gusting up to 180kph,

continued to batter the lower North Island today, bringing widespread misery to thousands of commuters. Wellington and the Wairarapa bore the brunt of the wild weather with no aircraft, trains, or ferries operating out of Wellington. Cars also struggled in coastal areas, as waves dumped seaweed and debris on roads. Further north, heavy snow closed scores of roads, cutting off some rural areas. Slips closed the Paraparaumu and Johnsonville Transmetro lines into the city and flights and ferries out of Wellington were cancelled. The Wairarapa is also under siege with flood warnings in place on several rivers. Police and emergency services have been answering calls overnight. Many central and lower North Island roads had closed because of snow or slips and State Highway 1, just north of Porirua, was down to one lane after a tree fell across it. State Highway 2, between Wellington and the Hutt Valley, was open, but was dangerous as massive waves threatened the coast hugging road. In Hutt suburb Eastbourne, waves had dumped debris on the main road. MetService forecaster Marie Grey said overnight Wellington was battered by winds up to nearly 180kph. She said part of Wellington airport had lost its roof. Wind speeds recorded at the airport had averaged 87kph with gusts up to 115kph. In Mt Kaukau, near the city, the average was 133kph gusting up to 178kph. The average speed for wind on the Cook Strait was 130kph gusting up to 160kph. The Wairarapa was being hit with winds average speeds of 100kph gusting up to 135kph and Wanganui was being hit with 85kph wind. Kaikoura was hit with winds of 80kph gusting up to 105kph. Ms Grey said the winds were likely to continue with the same intensity for most of today, not easing until the evening. Rain has fallen, with 60mm recorded for the Wairarapa, 130mm for Orongorongo range, 110mm for the Wainui catchment, in the Hutt Valley. There was some surface flooding in the Hutt Valley but roads were open. All train lines into Wellington were closed, affecting about 12,000 commuters. The Johnsonville and Paraparaumu lines were closed by slips and downed trees and power lines. Massive waves had swamped the Hutt line. It will be some time for the Johnsonville and Paraparaumu lines to open as there was so much clearing to do and there is a possibility of more slips. The Hutt line may be able to open after high tide later this morning. Air New Zealand communications spokesman Mike Tod said 49 flights, involving an estimated 2000 passengers, had been affected up to 0800 hrs, this morning. These included the 737 main trunk flights and regional links Mt Cook Airlines, Eagle Air and Air Nelson. It is not just affecting aircraft landing or taking off, but the winds are too strong for baggage handlers to load or unload aircraft. Part of the roof of the Koru Lounge had been blown off, partially flooding the interior, and a Boeing 737 parked on the tarmac overnight was being inspected for possible damage. He

did not know if that was caused by debris from the building. Mr Tod said Air New Zealand would review the situation after a new weather forecast about 0900 hrs. Meanwhile Toll spokesman Paul Monk said it was too early to say how many passenger were affected by ferry cancellations. Two return Lynx sailing and two return Interisland Ferry sailings were suspended. The Fire Service was called out to “hundreds” of incidents overnight, with roofs blown off, fences down and other widespread damage. — Lloyd’s Agents.

Wellington, Aug 19 — Strait Shipping’s freight ferry ro/ro *Kent* (6862 gt, built 1977) came through the entrance at 2322 hrs last night and berthed about 0020 hrs, with the aid of a tug. One crew member with a broken leg was taken to hospital by ambulance. At about 0730 hrs this morning, *Kent*, berthed at Glasgow Wharf, started breaking mooring lines and CentrePort tug *Kupe* assisted it to remoor. Pacifica freight ferry ro/ro *Spirit of Competition* came through the entrance at 0708 hrs, from Lyttelton. It has awaited a pilot and two tugs before berthing. Pilot and one tug crew delayed by road traffic problems. Beacon Hill weather at 0845 hrs: South-west 65 to 85 knots, gusting to 105 knots, driving rain. Estimated five metre swell at entrance. Baring Head waverider buoy was recording maximums of about 11 metres from 2230 hrs last night, 13.32 metres at 0030 hrs, 12.4 metres at 0230 hrs, 14.42 metres at 0330 hrs and now at 0800 hrs is 8.65 metres maximum, 5.63 significant. Wind at Beacon Hill at 0200 hrs was 90 knots. Cargo *Tasman Pathfinder*, due at 0930 hrs, has been instructed not to enter port, due to weather conditions and as pilot will be unable to board. Four small boats have come adrift from pile or swing moorings in Porirua Harbour, and are ashore on beach. Ferry positions: *Incat 046* and Passenger ro/ro *Santa Regina* are both staying in Picton. Ro/ro *Aratere*, passenger ro/ro *Purbeck* and *Kent* are staying in Wellington. *Spirit of Competition* will be berthing in Wellington with two tugs shortly. One-way shipping traffic has been imposed at the harbour entrance, so that two vessels do not need to pass each other in prevailing weather conditions, but this largely academic at this time, as no shipping movements. — Lloyds Agents.

NIGERIA

London, Aug 13 — A press report, dated today, states: Flash floods have submerged houses and farms in northeastern Nigeria, drowning at least 23 people as they slept and forcing more than 1,000 to flee their villages, government officials said today. Eight hours of torrential rains hit the villages of Loko, Dumne and Dikwa in Nigeria’s Adamawa state starting Sunday (Aug 8) night, said Willie Zalwalie, a spokesman for the state’s governor. “Most of the houses were submerged, so all the farmers there have been evacuated to primary schools” in the nearby town of Song, he said. The 23 people drowned. Nigerian Red Cross

president Emmanuel Ijewere said the agency plans to send food aid and medical supplies to the victims. The state official said a government medical team has been sent to Song and some emergency food supplies have already been provided.

THAILAND

London, Aug 14 — A press report, dated today, states: Flash floods have hit several areas of Si Sa Ket, Yasothon and Ubon Ratchathani provinces and claimed one life in Si Sa Ket’s Khukhan district, prompting the Public Health Ministry to set up an operation centre to help flood victims and control diseases. Water runoffs from the Phanom Dongrak mountain range, Huay Samran stream and Surin’s Sikhoraphum district have inundated more than 10,000 rai of farmland in Prang Ku district of Si Sa Ket. Villagers in tambon Toom said their area has been under water for more than five days already. A local school has been ordered closed indefinitely and one village has been completely cut off from the outside world, they said. If the water did not recede by the end of this week, they said, rice crops in about 10,000 rai of farmland in Raharn and Tha Nang Khoi villages would be completely destroyed. In Muang district of Si Sa Ket, the water level in Huay Samran stream was rising fast and many houses in the Saphan Khao community have already been flooded. People living along the stream had to move their belongings to higher grounds and were facing food and drinking water shortages. In Khukhan district, an eight-year-old boy fell into a canal in tambon Sadao Yai and drowned on Wednesday (Aug 11). In Yasothon province, Muang district was heavily flooded by overflowing water from the Chee river and Yang stream. The Chee’s water level stood at 10.70 metres yesterday, about one metre higher than the critical point, although there had been no rain for two days. Thousands of rai of farmland in None Thart village has been under floodwater for about three weeks now and rice in at least 5,000 rai was dying. Muang Yasothon district chief Phadungsak Chai-arla said district officials and tambon administrative organisations in flood-stricken areas have provided tents, two 2,000-litre water tanks, mobile toilets, and a truckload of tap water per day for each of the affected areas. Mr Phadungsak said Muang district was the hardest hit by the flooding, which inundated 14 roads in 17 tambons and 79,332 rai of farmland and affected 8,327 villagers. In Ubon Ratchathani, the Moon river yesterday began to overflow and flood inner areas of highly-populated Muang and Warin Chamrap districts including Don Ngiew and Kut Pla Khao communities and roads around a municipality public park. Residents of hard-hit areas had to flee to higher grounds along the road linking Warin Chamrap and Muang districts and were still waiting for help. The floods also inundated a road linking Don Mot Daeng district with Muang district and

caused problems to the construction of Ubon Ratchathani University in Muang district.

TROPICAL STORM “EARL”

Miami, Aug 15 — Tropical Storm “Earl” swirled through the Caribbean today on a track forecasters said was likely to take it to Mexico’s Yucatan Peninsula. The Hurricane Centre projected that “Earl” would head south of Jamaica later in the week, but the center’s latest five-day projection foresaw the storm heading for the Yucatan, or Central America. By 2300 hrs, today, (0300, UTC, Aug 16), “Earl” was about 500 miles south-east of Santo Domingo in the Dominican Republic, at lat 12.7N, long 65.4W. It was moving west at 22 mph and had winds of 45 mph. Hurricane Centre director Max Mayfield said that there was a large degree of uncertainty about the precise track of the storm “so people need to be very vigilant on this, certainly in the Caribbean and eventually in the Gulf of Mexico.” The hurricane centre said Venezuelan authorities did not allow a U.S. reconnaissance aircraft to enter their airspace to check out the storm. — Reuters.

London, Aug 16 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: Tropical storm “Earl” centre located near lat 13.2N, long 67.2W at 0900, UTC, today. Position accurate within 40 nautical miles. Present movement toward the west-northwest or 285 degrees at 18 knots. Maximum sustained winds 40 knots with gusts to 50 knots. Radius of 34 knot winds, 75 nautical miles north-east and north-west quadrants and 25 nautical miles for south-east and south-west quadrants. Forecast position lat 14.1N, long 70.4W at 1800, UTC, today. Maximum winds 45 knots, gusts 55 knots. Forecast position lat 15.0N, long 74.6W at 0600, UTC, Aug 17.

New York, Aug 16 — Tropical Storm “Earl” faded to a tropical wave early today over the central Caribbean Sea, the National Hurricane Center in Miami said. As of 1100 hrs, (1500, UTC), Earl was packing winds near 45 miles per hour as it moved west-northwest near 25 mph. There was no closed circulation center of the storm, the NHC said. However, conditions were favourable for the wave to re-intensify into a tropical storm during the next few days as it heads for the western Caribbean. The NHC said it will not issue further advisories on “Earl” unless the storm regenerates. — Reuters.

TURKEY

London, Aug 18 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Flash floods caused by torrential rains left part of Turkey’s largest city Istanbul and the country’s northwest under water today, leaving two people missing and causing major material damage. Two people, a father and a son, were reported swept away by flood waters in the northern coastal province of Zonguldak, the Anatolia news agency reported. In Istanbul, rescuers pulled nearly 100 people stranded on rooftops or trapped

in their houses to safety in the city's European quarter, and everyone was accounted for. Two streams in the districts of Alibeykoy and Esenler burst their banks following rain which meteorological services say was the heaviest to hit the city in a decade. The water level reached up to two metres in these two districts, forcing some inhabitants to flee their houses and clamber on to the roof, the Anatolia news agency reported. Footage on the NTV and CNN-Turk news channels showed scenes of devastation from the inundated areas as cars, television sets and other household goods were carried away by flood waters. The force of the water caused some vehicles to topple onto their sides while others were piled on top of each other. Istanbul authorities issued a flood alert at the weekend and decided to evacuate some 200 houses in Alibeykoy close to the bed of the stream, but some inhabitants refused to leave their lodgings. More than 2,500 flats and offices have been hit by flood waters and several roads have become inaccessible since yesterday as the rain poured down on Istanbul. Elsewhere in the country, several fields of agricultural land were harmed by the heavy rain in the north-west, where dozens of flats and offices were also flooded, Anatolia said. Meteorology services say the precipitation is expected to continue heavily in sporadic bursts until late tomorrow.

TYPHOON "MEGI"

London, Aug 18 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Heavy rains from Typhoon "Megi" yesterday left one person dead and another missing in western Japan and prompted evacuation orders amid flooding and fears of landslides, officials and reports said. A 78-year-old farmer was suspected drowned after being swept into an overflowing irrigation ditch in Shikokuchuo city, said Kenji Soyama, a police officer from nearby Mishima, some 600 kilometres west of Tokyo. Another 84-year-old man went missing after being swept away in a watery ditch in front of his home in nearby Kotohira, according to Katsumi Watanabe of the Fire and Disaster Management Agency. Flooding and fears of landslides prompted evacuation orders for some 300 households in Kochi and Kagawa prefectures on the rain-hit island of Shikoku, Japan Broadcasting Corp. (NHK) reported. The typhoon dumped as much as 50 millimetres of rain an hour on Japan's Pacific coast, the Meteorological Agency said. "Megi" was just south-west of the southern island of Okinawa at 1000, GMT, packing winds of 90 kilometres per hour, the agency said. The 15th typhoon of the season was heading north, expected to hit the Korean Peninsula late tomorrow and then turn east toward Japan, the agency said.

London, Aug 19 — A press report, dated today, states: Typhoon "Megi" lashed Zhejiang Province with torrential rain and high winds, yesterday. No deaths or injuries were immediately reported as "Megi"

brushed across coastal areas, 380 kilometres south of Shanghai. Winds were reported between 51 kph and 116 kph in northern and middle sections of Zhejiang's coastline. Torrential rain and landslides caused by "Megi" killed six people in Japan yesterday. "Megi" was moving inland early yesterday, but shifted direction to the north-east. The change carried "Megi" away from Shanghai as it moved back out to sea, according to information from the Zhejiang provincial weather station. "Megi" was moving toward South Korea late last night. Despite the directional change, "Megi" still affected Shanghai's weather yesterday. Wind speeds increased to Force 5 or 6 (fresh to strong breeze), 22 kph to 27 kph, in downtown areas. In coastal areas it reached Force 10 (storm). Only suburban Nanhui and Songjiang districts reported rainfall. "Megi" also influenced shipping in Yangshan Deep Water Port yesterday, according to the maritime safety administration. Ferries heading from Luchao Harbor, in Yangshan waters, to Putuo Mountain and Shengsi, in Zhejiang, were delayed due to the storm, as wind speeds reached Force 10 yesterday afternoon, officials said.

Tokyo/Seoul, Aug 19 — Heavy rain from typhoon "Megi" lashed South Korea and Japan today, prompting the evacuation of some 3,000 people and leaving at least 12 dead. Some 165 Japanese children were trapped at a nature centre. Three people were killed in South Korea and two reported missing, while the death toll in Japan rose to nine after flooding and landslides due to the typhoon. "Megi" was pushing north at a speed of 55 km an hour and threatening to make landfall in northern Japan tomorrow, forecasters said. It was 170 kms northwest of western Shimane prefecture at 0500, UTC. Many of those killed in both nations were elderly. In Japan, they included a couple on Shikoku island who died when their house was engulfed by a landslide. Others were swept out to sea or drowned in irrigation ditches, officials said. A 75-year-old woman in South Korea died when she slipped while trying to cross a stream. Japan's latest confirmed fatality was a 45-year-old woman swept away while trying to leave her home. Japanese television footage showed muddy waters swirling around a traditional home and roads made impassable by landslides. Railroad tracks dangled in mid air after supporting banks were washed away. More than 2,700 people in South Korea and around 400 in Japan were evacuated from their homes. About 165 Japanese primary school students spent an anxious night trapped without water or electricity at a nature centre after being cut off by heavy rains that triggered a landslide. Several children were evacuated by helicopter, including one girl who was showing symptoms of appendicitis, public broadcaster NHK television said. South Korea's Yonhap news agency reported military personnel there had been ordered to use explosives to blow a channel for flood

water that threatened to swamp a village near the southwestern city of Kwangju. Some 205 mm of rain had fallen on some areas of the Japanese island of Shikoku by 0900 hrs (0000, UTC) today and forecasters said another 200-250 mm was expected in the next 24 hours. Winds were gusting up to 126 km per hour. The South Korean port of Pusan suffered little damage as shipping firms had taken precautions ahead of the typhoon's arrival, a port official said. "We had heavy rainfall and strong winds between 0500 and 0700 hrs, this morning but the port saw no specific damage because shipping companies had taken full preparations," a Pusan port authority official told Reuters. The storm was expected to continue to move northeast during the day, with the area of heavy rainfall widening and the possibility of landfall in northern Japan tomorrow morning. Heavy rains were also expected to hit parts of northern Japan battered last month by floods that killed 15 people. — Reuters.

London, Aug 19 — Following received from the Meteorological Office dated today: Tropical storm "Megi" near lat 37.6N, long 132.3E at 0600, UTC, today. Movement for the past six hours 50 degrees at 31 knots. Position accurate to within 40 nautical miles. Maximum sustained winds 55 knots, gusts 70 knots. Radius of 50 knot winds 25 nautical miles north-east, south-west, north-west and south-east quadrants. Radius of 34 knot winds 125 nautical miles north-east quadrant, 105 nautical miles south-east quadrant, 125 nautical miles south-west quadrant 105 nautical miles north-west quadrant. Forecast position lat 40.6N, long 138.0E at 1800, UTC, today. Maximum sustained winds 50 knots, gusts 65 knots. Forecast position lat 42.4N, long 144.7E at 0600, UTC, Aug 20. Maximum sustained winds 40 knots, gusts 50 knots.

TYPHOON "RANANIM"

Beijing, Aug 13 — One of the worst typhoons to hit China in several years has killed 63 people and injured more than 1,800 as it battered southeastern Zhejiang province, officials say. Typhoon "Rananim" hit the coast late yesterday, wreaking widespread damage in the rice-growing province and knocking down more than 18,300 buildings, said an official of the provincial meteorological bureau. "There are 63 people dead and more than 1,800 injured," the official said today. "Of them, 185 are seriously hurt." The death toll was likely to rise as the typhoon roared inland into eastern Jiangxi province, officials said. They said most of the casualties occurred when homes collapsed. Officials had evacuated 400,000 people from coastal areas of Zhejiang province to escape the typhoon. "This is the strongest typhoon since 1997," said an official of the provincial civil affairs bureau. "Lots of trees and electricity pylons were toppled." The Zhejiang government had requested aid from the central government to deal with the disaster, one local official said. The storm brought torrential rains and gale-force

winds, with wind speeds exceeding 160 kph and made landfall at about 2000 (1200, UTC) yesterday near the town of Wenling. An estimated 63 fishing vessels with a total of more than 60 crew on board were trapped at sea, the China Daily said. Mud flows, landslides and storm tides along the coast were all dangers, Xinhua quoted Gao Shuanzhu, chief forecaster at the Central Meteorological Station, as saying. The typhoon clipped northern Taiwan yesterday, causing the island to suspend vessel refuelling and to cancel some domestic flights. — Reuters.

London, Aug 13 — Following received from the Meteorological Office: Tropical storm “Rananim” near lat 28.5N, long 118.9E, at 0001, UTC, Aug 13. Movement past six hours 280 deg at 10 knots. Position accurate to within 60 nautical miles, based on centre located by a combination of satellite and synoptic data. Maximum sustained winds 60 knots with gusts to 75 knots. Dissipating as a significant tropical cyclone over land. Forecast for 1200, UTC: Position lat 28.7N, long 116.9E. Maximum sustained winds 45 knots with gusts to 55 knots. Dissipating as a significant tropical cyclone over land. Forecast for 0001, UTC, Aug 14: Position lat 29.0N, long 115.2E. Maximum sustained winds 25 knots with gusts to 35 knots. Dissipated as a significant tropical cyclone over land.

London, Aug 14 — A press report, dated today, states: The death toll from typhoon “Rananim” rose to 115, yesterday, as the coastal province of Zhejiang struggled to recover. The typhoon left a further 16 people missing and injured more than 1,800, officials and state media said. The storm toppled more than 42,000 buildings and damaged nearly 90,000 more, causing most of the casualties. The government estimated economic losses from the typhoon at about 15 billion yuan, Xinhua said. An official in Taizhou, where the typhoon made landfall on Thursday evening, put losses at more than 10 billion yuan in the city alone. Taizhou is the worst affected area in Zhejiang since the typhoon landed in the city. Most of the dead were from the city, said the deputy director of Taizhou’s public relations department. The central government had already pledged 61 million yuan in relief funds. Typhoon “Rananim” dumped up to 300mm of rain in some areas, with strong winds affecting 8.6 million people. Zhejiang officials evacuated more than 450,000 people from coastal and low-lying regions. The storm cut off major roads and shut some airports in Zhejiang, though officials said traffic had returned to normal by yesterday evening. Parts of Taizhou remained without water and power yesterday, while flooded roads trapped many in their homes, residents said. The typhoon flooded more than 270,000 hectares of farmland and killed more than 30,000 livestock. The impact on the mainland’s commercial hub of Shanghai was less than authorities had predicted. Strong winds uprooted trees, but otherwise the city sustained little damage, local television said. Although

the typhoon had already weakened into a tropical storm, it still brought strong winds and heavy rain to parts of Jiangxi and Anhui provinces yesterday. Disaster officials had yet to receive reports of casualties.

London, Aug 16 — A press report, dated today, states: Villagers in eastern China have been using farm tools and their bare hands to dig for survivors from landslides triggered by last week’s typhoon, which has killed at least 115 people, and at least 22 more have died in mudslides on the outskirts of Yueqing, Zhejiang province. More than 1,800 others are reported to have been injured after Typhoon “Rananim” battered Zhejiang on Thursday (Aug 12). It was the worst storm to hit China for seven years. Huge boulders and flows of mud poured down the mountains outside the town of Yueqing, destroying two schools and dozens of houses. Roads and power lines were also cut. Twenty-two people are missing and nine have been injured, according to state news agency Xinhua. At least three people have also been killed by stormy seas whipped up by the typhoon. The storm destroyed more than 40,000 homes. The authorities are concerned that the recent soaring temperatures of up to 38 degs C over the weekend could hasten the spread of dysentery and other diseases among those left homeless. “Rananim” has now been down-graded to a tropical storm. It moved west into Jiangxi province later on Friday (Aug 13), bringing heavy rain. China’s civil affairs ministry has estimated direct economic losses of 15.33bn yuan (\$1.85bn) and that 271,00 hectares (677,500 acres) of crops were damaged.

Beijing, Aug 17 — The death toll in China from typhoon “Rananim” has risen to at least 164 people and another 24 were listed as missing, Xinhua news agency said today. A spokesman with the provincial government said 109 of the victims had died when their houses collapsed. The storm battered the rice-growing province with torrential rain and gale-force winds, knocked down more than 430,000 buildings and caused more than 16.4 billion yuan (\$2 billion) in direct economic losses, Xinhua said. A landslide in Yueqing killed 29 people and left 18 missing and feared dead, the agency and a local official said. — Reuters.

UNITED KINGDOM

London, Aug 13 — A press report, dated Aug 12, states: A Devon fishing village is clearing up after being hit by the worst flooding there in living memory. Dozens of properties at Beer, near Seaton, were completely washed out after heavy rain, while the local cemetery was badly damaged. Two inches of rain fell in four hours, resulting in an estimated 4ft of water cascading through the village streets. The power of the water floated cars down the streets and tore up roads. The flash flood left Beer’s narrow streets covered in rubble, and gouged a huge channel in the famous pebble beach, which was being repaired by

mechanical diggers today. Insurance assessors began looking over the flood damage.

London, Aug 17 — A press report, dated today, states: A huge rescue operation was going on last night after flash floods brought chaos to north Cornwall, trapping more than 50 people in cars, buildings and trees. Thirty vehicles were washed into the harbour in the village of Boscastle, which was worst hit. Nearby Tintagel and Camelford were also inundated by the torrential rain and parts of Bude were said to be under six feet of water, in the worst flooding for 50 years. More than 15 people were airlifted to safety from Boscastle, including a couple and their baby who had been trapped in a car. Four adults and four children were trapped for a time on the roof of the visitor centre. More than two inches of rain, the average for the whole of August, fell in less than two hours, turning the River Valency into a torrent that swept away two buildings. Power was switched off by the emergency services. Six helicopters and two lifeboats were sent to the area after a 10ft wave of water swept through the village. Some people climbed into trees and others lit fires to attract rescuers. Coastguard teams were watching the harbour entrance to make sure that no one was swept away. About 1,000 residents and holidaymakers were thought to be affected in and around Boscastle. Coastguard teams evacuated some to the village hall. Some shopkeepers and residents built up sandbags to try to keep the water out, but others were already bailing water out of their properties. Firemen cut their way into roofs to save some people trapped by the waters. Among those rescued was a kidney dialysis patient who had to be lifted out of his house. Boscastle’s picturesque position in a steep valley made it particularly vulnerable to the downpour. The rain turned the roads into rivers and cars started coming down the High Street then out to sea. A caravan and two cars were washed over the top of a bridge. The helicopters were scrambled from RAF Chivenor, in north Devon, and RNAS Culdrose, in Cornwall. The Cornwall air ambulance was also taking part in the operation. The lifeboats came from Port Isaac and Bude. In Camelford, sandbags were being put in place to protect properties from the swollen River Camel. Stephen Rose, the divisional fire officer at Cornwall fire brigade, said 20 appliances had been deployed but the rescue was being hampered by water up to nine feet deep. Police closed the A39 and A395 roads and drivers were urged to avoid the area. The Environment Agency said that, as flood waters in Boscastle subsided, rivers farther up the north Devon coast could flood today.

London, Aug 18 — A press report, dated today, states: There has been serious flooding in Londonderry following heavy thunderstorms. The rain flooded houses, tore manhole covers off and left motorists trapped in their cars. The water in some areas of the city was a foot high. Duncastle

Road, Strand Road and the Shantallow area were all affected. In Victoria Road and Foyle Road, cars were trapped by the rising water. The storms started at about 1500 BST. There were severe thunderstorms and, very quickly, because of the heavy rain, some of the roads in the city started to flood. This is causing virtual gridlock in the city. The Fire Brigade cannot pump the water away and therefore can only serve the public where life is at risk at these incidents."

London, Aug 19 — A press report, dated today, states: Rescuers began airlifting drivers and passengers from a group of vehicles trapped between two landslides on a central Scotland motorway today, a military rescue official said. Eighteen of about 50 people in 15 to 20 vehicles had been airlifted by a naval helicopter so far in ongoing rescue operations, Michael Mulford, a spokesman for the Royal Air Force base in Kinloss, told Sky News television. Mr Mulford said the motorway, at the western tip of Loch Earn, north of the city of Stirling and about 100km northwest of Edinburgh, was washed out by "a colossal band of rain sweeping up Scotland". Mr Mulford said earlier that the "vehicles had been swamped", and that rescue services had been unable to reach the stranded drivers and passengers amid the sea of mud and debris. "At the moment it looks like the only way in is by helicopter." A Royal Navy helicopter had arrived on the scene and immediately airlifted 18 people within five minutes, he said. Two other military rescue helicopters were possibly on their way, he said. Rescue officials believed a bus was among the stranded vehicles but were unsure whether it contained tourists, Mr Mulford said. A central Scotland police official, who described 14 vehicles involved in the accident, said earlier that no one was believed injured in the landslide. Residents in the hilly area, the picturesque gateway to the Scottish Highlands, described a washout by massive rains and said they were cut off from many routes. But they also said there were unlikely to have been casualties. Sandra Black, a resident of nearby Lochearnhead interviewed by Sky News, said she saw a "heavy deluge of water through the village". "We are hemmed in by the water," she said. Only two days earlier massive rains triggered a devastating flash flood in the village of Boscastle on the southwestern coast of England, washing away dozens of cars and forcing rescue services to airlift villagers from their homes. Rescue services from the RAF Kinloss base coordinated the rescue by helicopter of dozens of residents there. Both Prince Charles and Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott visited Boscastle, and Charles announced he was contributing money to help the seaside village recover from the storm. "This is certainly quite an unusual trend here to have landslides," said military official Mulford. "We tend to get floods, but this is a new and slightly sinister development over the last one or two weeks." He said a "massive

landslide" had taken place a week earlier on a main route between Edinburgh and Inverness.

UNITED STATES

London, Aug 13 — A press report, dated Aug 12, states: A suspected tornado caused widespread damage in Danville, Virginia, today, collapsing roofs and toppling trees and power lines, officials said. No injuries were reported. Dawn Eischen, a spokeswoman for the state Department of Emergency Services, said the storm destroyed a warehouse and collapsed the roof of a Wendy's restaurant and half the roof of a Marshall's department store in a strip shopping centre. "We suspect it was a tornado," Eischen said. Susan Wright, assistant manager of the Marshall's, estimated about 150 people were in the store when the storm hit. She said that she herded panicked customers toward the back of the store as windows broke and ceiling tiles fell. "The top front of our building is laying in the parking lot," Wright said. Eischen said one residential area, Forest Hill, was closed to everyone except residents because of downed trees. She said two power substations were damaged. At the height of the storm, nearly 10,000 customers were without power.

VIETNAM

London, Aug 18 — A press report, dated today, states: Torrential rains and rising river waters have damaged more than 100,000 hectares of rice and subsidiary food crops this month in Vietnam's southern Mekong Delta region. An Giang province, 150 kilometres west of the southern business capital of Ho Chi Minh City, was among the worst affected, with 63,000 hectares of rice fields under water, the ruling Communist Party's Nhan Dan newspaper said today.



CHINA

London, Aug 10 — A press report, dated today, states: A strong earthquake rumbled through south-west China today, killing three people and injuring another 200, the national seismological bureau said. The magnitude-5.6 quake struck at 1826, local time, and was centred in Ludian, a county in Yunnan province, the official Xinhua News Agency said. There were many residents in the area although the number of dead and injured and the extent of damage was not immediately clear, said Sun Xiong, a seismologist at the bureau. "We have three dead and about 200 injured now, but the numbers may grow as we get more information at the site," Mr Sun said.

Beijing, Aug 11 — A moderate earthquake rocked south-western China, killing three people and injuring as many as 500, an official at the State

Seismological Bureau said. Hospitals were overwhelmed with the injured and some had to be treated outside in courtyards, the official Xinhua news agency said in a report from Ludian county in south-western Yunnan province. "We now know that three are dead and 500 are injured and at least 200 of those have serious injuries," the seismological bureau official said today. Officials earlier said four people had been killed in the earthquake measuring 5.6 on the Richter scale that hit Ludian, in the north of remote Yunnan and one of China's poorest counties, yesterday. The tremor struck at 1826 hrs (1026, UTC), Xinhua said. A large number of homes were now too dangerous to live in as a result of earthquake damage, Xinhua quoted a local official as saying. The seismological bureau official said an assessment of the damage was still being carried out and it was not clear if more casualties would be found. — Reuters.

London, Aug 12 — A press report, dated Aug 11, states: Hospitals in south-west China were struggling to cope today as rescuers continued to search for survivors following an earthquake that killed at least three people and injured almost 600. The quake, measuring 5.6 on the Richter scale, rocked Ludian County in Yunnan province yesterday evening, flattening nearly 5,000 mud houses and forcing the evacuation of 50,000 people to safer areas. The county government said 155 schools had been affected, and factories, office buildings and reservoirs had been destroyed or damaged. Xinhua news agency said local hospitals had been overwhelmed by the injured and some patients had to be treated in courtyards.

London, Aug 13 — A press report, dated Aug 12, states: Relief workers were rushing tents and other supplies to more than 126,000 people left homeless by an earthquake in China's south-west that killed at least four people, officials and news reports said today. Nearly 600 people were injured in the magnitude-5.6 quake on Tuesday evening (Aug 10), centred on Ludian county in Yunnan province, the official Xinhua News Agency said. The temblor collapsed 18,556 houses, including mud-and-wood dwellings that were damaged by temblors last November in the earthquake-prone region, Xinhua said. It said nearly one-third of the county's 370,000 people lost their homes. More than 200 of those injured were in serious condition and hospitals were struggling to cope, medical officials said. Casualty wards at the No 1 People's Hospital in the nearby city of Zhaotong were filled to capacity and some injured were being placed in other clinics, said a woman in the hospital's administrative office. "Our doctors are just managing to keep up but there are so many injured," said the woman. She said army doctors were sent from Shanghai to help out. By yesterday, 4,800 tents had arrived on the scene, with another 4,000 on their way, the government's Chinese Central Television reported. Supplies of tents,

rice, clothing and blankets appeared to be adequate because warehouses had been well stocked beforehand, said John Sparrow, a spokesman for the International Federation of Red Cross in Beijing. Wu Xiaoqiong, a duty officer at Ludian's earthquake monitoring station, said 146 aftershocks had been recorded since the quake, including a magnitude-3.9 temblor early yesterday. Those were declining in strength and it was not clear whether they had caused any additional damage, Wu said. The relatively low death toll might have been tied to the timing of the quake, which struck at 1826 hrs, before many families went to bed. Its epicentre was 160 miles north of Kunming, the provincial capital.

JAPAN

London, Aug 19 — A press report, dated today, states: A strong earthquake registering 5.1 on the Richter scale shook northern Japan, the meteorological agency said, but there were no immediate reports of injuries or damage. The quake occurred at 0840 hrs (2340, UTC, Aug 18) today, with the focus located 80 kilometres under the seabed off the coast of Fukushima prefecture, some 200 kilometres north of Tokyo, the agency said.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

London, Aug 11 — A report, dated Aug 10, states: A moderate earthquake occurred at 0537, UTC, Aug 10. The magnitude 5.5 event has been located in the New Ireland region, Papua New Guinea, in lat 03.141S, long 150.373E, depth 19 km.

SOLOMON ISLANDS

London, Aug 13 — A report, dated Aug 12, states: A moderate earthquake occurred at 1559, UTC, Aug 12. The magnitude 5.7 event has been located in the Santa Cruz Islands in lat 11.950S, long 166.715E, depth 205 km.

TURKEY

London, Aug 12 — A press report, dated today, states: A moderate earthquake shook eastern Turkey yesterday evening, leaving eight people injured and causing minor damage, Anatolia news agency reported quoting local officials. An official with the Kandilli observatory in Istanbul said the tremor struck at 1548, GMT, with its epicentre in the province of Elazig, some 720 kilometres south-east of Ankara. The quake measured 5.5 on the Richter scale. The injured came from the village of Kurk, near the city of Elazig. Anatolia reported that several houses and a mosque were damaged while a television reporter with CNN-Turk news channel said the quake rocked Elazig "like a cradle" sending panicked local people into the streets.

London, Aug 13 — A report, dated Aug 12, states: A moderate earthquake occurred at 1548, UTC, Aug 11. The magnitude 5.7 event has been located in eastern Turkey in lat 38.378N, long 39.252E, depth 10 km.

Political & Civil Unrest



AFGHANISTAN

Kabul, Aug 17 — The United States has brokered a cease-fire between a renegade Afghan militia leader and the embattled governor of the western province of Herat, Washington's envoy to Kabul said today. "Our expectation is that the agreement that has been made will be honoured," said ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad, adding that the cease-fire was due to take effect at 1600 hrs. More than 21 people have been killed since fighting intensified at the weekend. U.S. military personnel accompanied Afghan National Army forces sent in to restore order in Herat, and U.S. "air assets" were monitoring the situation, the ambassador added. — Reuters.

BURUNDI

Nairobi, Aug 16 — Burundi has closed its border with the Democratic Republic of Congo after more than 160 Tutsi Congolese refugees were massacred at a camp in the west of the tiny central African country, the army said today. The Burundian army spokesman Adolphe Manirakiza said the government had also increased security along the border and in refugee camps to prevent more attacks ahead of the mass burial of the victims of the massacre later today. Burundi's rebel Hutu Forces for National Liberation (FNL) claimed responsibility for the killings but several other rebel groups and militia operating from inside Congo have been accused by different parties of taking part. "The border with the DRC (the Democratic Republic of Congo) has been closed since yesterday for security reasons. We have also deployed more troops along the border to stop more attacks from Congo," Manirakiza said. The border is normally very busy with traders from the Congolese town of Uvira crossing to Burundi to buy and sell food and exchange U.S. dollars in the black market. Up to 20,000 Congolese Tutsi refugees have taken shelter in U.N. camps in Burundi after fleeing eastern Congo, terrified of being targeted by government troops, local militia and civilians there. Most of the victims of the Friday (Aug 13) night massacre were women, children and babies, shot dead and burned in their shelters at the Gatumba refugee transit camp. The camp is some 10 miles northwest of the capital city of Bujumbura, near Burundi's border with Congo. The U.N. Security Council condemned the massacre and urged Burundi and Congo to work together to investigate the killings and quickly bring those responsible to justice. — Reuters.

GEORGIA

London, Aug 12 — A press report, dated today, states: Georgian

coastguards today seized Turkish general cargo *Ertug* (297 gt, built 1990) off the coast of Abkhazia amid Georgia's intensifying efforts to stamp its control over the separatist Black Sea region, officials said. The incident came on the second day of a visit to the Caucasus republic by Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan, who was touring the nearby Black Sea coast region of Adjara. *Ertug*, which was headed from Potia, Georgia across the Black Sea to Russia, crossed into Abkhaz waters without permission, a Georgian coast guard official said. Its master will now have to pay a \$27,000 fine to get the ship back. The incident came just a week after Georgian patrol guards opened fire on another Turkish ship and threatened to shoot at those coming from Russia, whose tourists frequently sunbathe on Abkhaz shores in the summer. Georgian President Mikhail Saakashvili has vowed to win control of Abkhazia and has tightened control of the region.

Tbilisi, Aug 16 — Rival forces meant to be keeping the peace in Georgia's separatist province of South Ossetia fought a gun battle early today that left two soldiers dead and dashed a short-lived ceasefire. Georgia and South Ossetia each have a 500-strong "peacekeeping" force in the territory — as does northern neighbour Russia, which Georgia accuses of supporting South Ossetia but which was not apparently involved in the clash. "The Ossetians violated the ceasefire agreement last night and opened fire. The shooting lasted for about three hours and we opened fire as well. Two of our soldiers died," the Georgian peacekeepers' commander, Aleko Kiknadze, told Reuters. There were also casualties on the South Ossetian side. "The Georgians were shooting at Ossetian peacekeepers' positions. Three of our soldiers are wounded," said Irina Gagloyeva, spokeswoman for the South Ossetian administration. A ceasefire declared on Friday (Aug 13) night was first broken within hours when a sniper wounded a Georgian soldier, leading the Georgian interior minister to say he would take "personal revenge" if there was any further violation. — Reuters.

INDIA

London, Aug 18 — A press report, dated today, states: A 12-hour general strike, enforced by an influential students group to protest a bomb blast that killed 15 people, brought life to a grinding halt in Assam today. The shutdown that began at 0500 hrs was called by the All Assam Students Union (AASU) to denounce Sunday's (Aug 15) deaths, including of seven children, in a powerful blast during an Independence Day parade Sunday in Dhemaji town. The outlawed United Liberation Front of Asom (ULFA) has claimed responsibility for the attack that has caused widespread outrage in the state. Shops and businesses remained closed today while there was no traffic on the roads. AASU volunteers stood guard in various places to enforce the strike. AASU's shutdown call was also to protest the government's failure in

protecting the lives of innocent civilians. "We condemn any form of violence and at the same time we also condemn the state government for failing to provide security to the people. The (Assam) chief minister (Tarun Gogoi) must resign owing moral responsibility for the blast," AASU general secretary Amiya Bhuyan said.

IRAQ

Najaf, Aug 13 — Iraqi cleric Moqtada al-Sadr has been wounded in the US bombardment of the holy city of Najaf, but his injuries were not life threatening, spokesmen for the firebrand leader of the country's Shi'ite uprising said today. Gunmen also kidnapped a British journalist in the southern city of Basra and threatened to execute him within 24 hours if US forces did not pull out of Najaf, witnesses and a video tape showed. Sadr spokesman Ahmad al-Shinabi said in Najaf that the cleric was wounded at 0430 hrs (0030, UTC) in the city's vast ancient cemetery, which adjoins the Imam Ali Shrine, both strongholds for his Mehdi militia. "He was in the cemetery at the time. He was wounded in the chest, arm and leg," Shinabi said. Other spokesmen said Sadr was being treated at the mosque. There was no independent confirmation. The news could trigger an eruption of violence from Iraq's majority Shi'ite community, where there is growing anger at the US offensive near the country's holiest Shi'ite sites even from those who scorn Sadr's radical views. Interim Prime Minister Iyad Allawi yesterday urged the militia to surrender and leave the mosque. He is walking a tightrope in attempting to assert his authority by crushing a rebellion across seven cities that has killed hundreds and which threatens to undermine his seven-week-old government. Witnesses said gunmen seized the British journalist from a hotel in mainly Shi'ite Basra early this morning. A videotape released showed a hooded militant standing next to the terrified and bare-chested journalist. They threatened to kill him if the United States did not withdraw its forces from Najaf. US marines backed by aircraft and tanks captured the Najaf city centre in a massive attack against the Mehdi Army on Thursday. They also stormed Sadr's home, only to find it empty. They blocked off entry to the Imam Ali Mosque — from where Mehdi fighters have launched attacks during the nine-day rebellion — but kept out of the sacred shrine. The assault on Najaf yesterday capped an uprising in southern and central Iraq that drove world oil prices to record highs. Crude oil futures in New York peaked at \$45.75 a barrel yesterday, the highest price in 21 years of trade on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The Mehdi militia has warned the offensive could trigger more attacks on Iraq's oil infrastructure. Sadr's spokesmen have said he is leading the defence, either from the shrine or the cemetery and its crypts and mausoleums. The US offensive has sparked protests in several cities. Wary of igniting more

anger, the US military has said the attacks would exclude the Imam Ali Mosque. Government officials have said only Iraqi forces would disarm militia inside. The Mehdi Army has vowed no surrender, and Sadr has urged his militia to keep fighting even if he is killed. Analysts have warned of a backlash even if the Imam Ali Mosque is undamaged and the militia beaten in Najaf. They said resentment could pose long-term consequences for Allawi. Despite threats from the militia, Iraq reopened its main southern oil export pipeline after a sabotage attack on Monday (Aug 9). Some 2,000 US servicemen and 1,800 Iraqi security men are deployed around Najaf, a city of 600,000 about 160 km south of Baghdad. US forces say they have killed 360 Sadr loyalists so far in Najaf. Sadr's spokesmen say far fewer have died in what is the second rebellion by the militia in four months. Gunmen have kidnapped scores of foreigners in Iraq since April to press foreign forces and companies to leave Iraq. Many have been released but around nine have been killed. Some 17 foreign hostages are still being held. — Reuters.

London, Aug 16 — A press report, dated today, states: Iraq shut a main oil pipeline in the south for security reasons, a spokesman for the Southern Oil Company said today. "The production has been stopped since the start of the crisis and now we have stopped pumping too through the pipeline," said a spokesman for the Southern Oil Company without providing details. The company halted production today following threats by supporters of cleric Moqtada al-Sadr to blow up vital oil infrastructure in the south if the United States-led assault on Sadr's militia in Najaf to the north was not stopped. Since then crude exports from Basra's two main offshore terminals, the only outlet for Iraqi oil, were slashed in half, costing the government at least \$US30 million (\$42.1 million) a day in lost revenue.

London, Aug 17 — Crude oil tanker *C. Champion* arrived Kharg Island Jul 28 and sailed Aug 3. Vessel arrived Ain Sukhna Terminal about Aug 10.

London, Aug 17 — A press report, dated today, states: A mortar shell has exploded in the business district of Baghdad, killing seven people, including two children. At least 42 people were also badly injured by the blast in the city's busy Rasheed Street, the Iraqi interim Government said. Col Adnan Abdul-Rahman, of the Interior Ministry, said three of the bodies were burned beyond recognition. He added that around 30 people were being treated in hospital following the explosion. At least seven cars were destroyed and a building was set ablaze by the explosion, which was initially thought to have been caused by a car bomb. A US soldier and a civilian security guard were also wounded when another mortar fell near a convention centre where a key national conference began its last day, the military reported. The conference, held in central Baghdad's fortified Green Zone,

is due to elect a 100-member assembly to oversee elections in January. Meanwhile, a delegation of Iraqis due to travel to Najaf to help negotiate an end to fighting has left Baghdad after it was forced to delay its mission. The 60 mediators from the National Conference had planned to leave early today to meet radical Shi'ite cleric Moqtada al Sadr for peace talks. However, they could not get a military escort and it was judged too risky for them to travel alone. They eventually left this afternoon.

Dubai, Aug 18 — A group claiming links to rebel cleric Moqtada al-Sadr said it was responsible for setting an oil well in south Iraq on fire and vowed to attack the main southern oil pipeline if U.S. forces did not leave Najaf. "We set ablaze an oil well in Amara. This is a simple warning to the government of (Prime Minister Iyad) Allawi and to occupation forces, that we will bomb the main south oil export line if they do not leave Najaf within 48 hours and end the siege," said the Internet statement dated Aug 16 and signed by The Secret Action Group of The Imam Mehdi Army. It was not immediately possible to verify the authenticity of the statement posted on a Web site which often carries Islamist militant statements. It was also not possible to establish the group's links to Sadr's Mehdi Army. An Iraqi government spokesman said on Monday (Aug 16) that the oil well near the city of Amara had been targeted on Sunday (Aug 15). The main southern pipeline has been mostly shut, restricting export flows to half normal levels, since Aug 9, when saboteurs attacked it. Another Islamist group, Army of Ansar al-Sunna, said in a statement posted on its Web site today that it attacked five oil pipelines that feed into Baghdad's Dora refinery on Aug 14., accusing the United States of "stealing Iraq's riches". — Reuters.

London, Aug 18 — A press report, dated Aug 17, states: Iran's c.c. *Mir Damad* (4276 gt, built 1997), which was seized by Iraqi troops on Arvandrud river on Aug 12, was released yesterday. Public Relations Department at Iran's Ports and Shipping Organization said today that the ship was released through the efforts by the Organization, governor of Khorramshahr, and Irano-Hind Shipping Company. *Mir Damad* has now berthed in Khorramshahr port.

Baghdad, Aug 18 — Iraq's main southern pipeline was still shut today, restricting the country's oil exports to half their normal flows for the ninth day, oil officials and shipping agents familiar with the situation said. "We could see the situation change by the end of the day, but nothing is certain. More employees turned up to work today and management ordered all staff to report to work tomorrow," said the official, who declined to be named. The pipeline, one of two linking southern fields to two offshore Gulf terminals, has been mostly shut since Aug 9. Crews repaired the 48-inch pipeline, which has a capacity of 1.5 million barrels per day (bpd), and operated it briefly before shutting it as security

worsened. Exports are flowing through a second 42-inch pipeline at around one million bpd. One tanker was loading at the Basra Oil Terminal, formerly known as Mina al-Bakr, at 25,000 barrels per hour, according to a regional shipping agent. Another tanker was loading at the Khor al-Amya terminal at 16,000 barrels per hour. The instability and fighting in the city of Basra forced management of the state-owned South Oil Company to order headquarter employees not to report to work since last week. More sabotage against internal pipelines over the past two weeks helped to create shortages of gasoline and disrupted power station operations in a country already unable to produce enough electricity to meet demand. — Reuters.

Baghdad, Aug 19 — A Shi'ite uprising forced Iraq to keep a main southern pipeline shut for the 10th day today, a South Oil Company official said. "The situation in Basra is still deemed too dangerous to operate the line, although headquarter employees returned to work today and events in Najaf are encouraging," said the official, who declined to be identified. In the north, where sabotage has kept an export pipeline to Turkey mostly shut since last year's U.S.-led invasion, gunmen attacked the North Oil Company security headquarters overnight, killing one officer and injuring two, police said. The attack took place in the Kiwan area, a centre of oil installations 10 km north of Kirkuk. The attackers escaped unharmed, according to Captain Ferhad Mohammad from the Kirkuk police operations room. — Reuters.

Baghdad, Aug 19 — U.S. forces backed by dozens of tanks and Bradley fighting vehicles today overran Baghdad's mainly Shi'ite suburb of Sadr City, a powerbase for radical cleric Moqtada al-Sadr, witnesses said. Soldiers in Humvees called on militiamen, who appeared to have stopped fighting and melted away, to surrender their weapons. The thrust, which began yesterday, marks the biggest push against Sadr's Mehdi Army militia in Baghdad. Armoured vehicles were deployed in all main streets in the suburb, a slum of two million people that has long been a no-go area for the U.S. military. The U.S. forces had advanced into the suburb yesterday, meeting sporadic resistance. The military said it killed 50 militiamen in that advance. — Reuters.

ISRAEL

London, Aug 16 — A press report, dated today, states: Two Palestinians have been killed after Israeli helicopter gunships struck a Gaza Strip town used by militants for cross-border rocket attacks, medics and witnesses said. Israeli military sources said the helicopters fired missiles at a rocket crew that was about to fire from Beit Hanoun into Israel. Two bodies recovered from the scene were too badly damaged to be immediately identified, Palestinian witnesses and medics said. The Israeli military sources said the rocket crew was spotted in a Beit

Hanoun cemetery, near the boundary with Israel. At least one militant was hit, the sources said.

Gaza, Aug 17 — Israeli soldiers shot and killed two Palestinian militants near a Jewish settlement in the Gaza Strip today, Palestinian and Israeli sources said. Israeli military sources said soldiers fired at the two men as they approached the settlement carrying what appeared to be an explosive device. The militant Abu el-Reesh Brigades affiliated with Palestinian President Yasser Arafat's Fatah faction said the two men, from the Gaza town of Khan Younis, were shot while planting a bomb beside an army jeep. — Reuters.

NEPAL

Kathmandu, Aug 17 — Nepal put its security forces on alert today to counter a threat by Maoist guerrillas to blockade the capital, as tourists moved out of a luxury hotel after a bomb blast blamed on the rebels. A leading tobacco firm also prepared to shut down in the face of rebel threats. The rebels have threatened to blockade Kathmandu and prevent food and other supplies reaching the hill-ringed capital from tomorrow unless the government gives in to a series of demands. But the government has vowed to resist the attempt. "We have increased the number of troops to guard highways, the city and sensitive buildings," home ministry spokesman Gopendra Bahadur Pandey told Reuters. Yesterday, a cyclist threw four bombs into the compound of the popular 283-room Soaltee Crowne Plaza hotel in Kathmandu. The bombs landed close to the tennis court, but caused no injuries. There were no claims of responsibility for yesterday's attack but officials blamed Maoist rebels. The attack came on the eve of a deadline by Maoist rebels to shut down 10 companies, including Nepal's oldest luxury hotel, accusing them of unfair labour practices. A leading tobacco firm was also threatened, and it shut down today. "We can't take any chances about security," said Rabi K.C., an official of Surya Nepal (P) Ltd, a joint venture between Nepali investors, the Indian Tobacco Company and the British American Tobacco Company. — Reuters.

PAKISTAN

Quetta, Aug 16 — Four paramilitary troops were killed and at least as many wounded when a blast destroyed their vehicle in south-west Pakistan today, a provincial government official said. The troops were escorting employees of a state-run oil and gas company when their vehicle, the last in an eight-car convoy, was hit by a landmine explosion set off by remote control, said Abdul Rauf, home secretary of the province of Baluchistan. The attack, apparently targeted at workers from Pakistan Petroleum Ltd, took place near the town of Sui, 280 km south-east of Quetta, the provincial capital, he said. In a separate attack, one paramilitary guard was killed and one wounded yesterday, when unidentified gunmen fired at a convoy of employees of the

same company, which operates the largest natural gas field in the country. Four local residents were also wounded yesterday when suspected tribesmen fired 20 rockets at a camp once used by Chinese workers in the same region, a local government official said. Police in the town of Kalat, about 140 km south of Quetta, said their police station was hit by a locally-made bomb early in the morning. It caused only minor damage to the building and no one was hurt. — Reuters.

London, Aug 17 — A press report, dated today, states: A powerful bomb explosion ripped open a gas pipeline in eastern Pakistan, disrupting gas supplies, police said. No injuries were reported. It wasn't immediately clear who was behind the blast late yesterday at Kala Shah Kaku, an industrial town about 250 kilometres south-east of the capital, Islamabad, and police official Mohammed Bashir said officers were still investigating. He gave no other details. An official of the state-owned gas company, Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Ltd., said "apparently some unknown terrorists used a time bomb to destroy the gas pipeline." The official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, said the company will issue a statement about the incident after receiving an initial report from their experts.

SUDAN

London, Aug 17 — A press report, dated Aug 16, states: There has been an upsurge of Sudanese refugees fleeing across the border into Chad following reports of renewed violence in the Darfur region. The United Nations refugee agency says up to 500 people crossed the border close to the Chadian village of Berak. Further north, refugees describe attacks by Sudanese government planes and militia on horseback. The UN special representative to Sudan, Jan Pronk, confirmed that the situation in a number of areas was deteriorating. He said there was a big gap between promises made in good faith in Khartoum, and what was happening on the ground in Darfur. "People are still afraid because of the fighting that is continuing," he said. "It is very difficult at the moment in Darfur to get the humanitarian assistance to all the (refugee) camps." The Sudanese government denies that it is involved in the violence and has said it will work to disarm the Janjaweed. But some of the newly arrived refugees in the town of Bahai in eastern Chad say that despite intense international pressure, the campaign against Sudanese of African descent continues. Eight days ago, they say, the attacks resumed. A UN-brokered ceasefire between Khartoum and two rebel groups in the region, where fighting has claimed 50,000 lives, is supposed to be in effect. About 150 Rwandan troops have arrived in Sudan to help protect African Union (AU) ceasefire monitors in Darfur. Sudanese Foreign Minister Mustafa Ismail told reporters that 150 Nigerian soldiers would join the protection force this month. The UN has said the

deployment of 2,500 AU peacekeepers is being considered, but Sudan has voiced opposition to such a large force. In a radio address, Sudanese President, Omar al-Bashir blamed “unnamed enemies” for the crisis in Darfur and said his government was capable of restoring security in the region. President Paul Kagame said the Rwandan troops would use force if necessary to protect Sudanese civilians, according to the Associated Press. Mr Pronk has said he wanted many more African observers in Darfur. He said that progress had been made in talks with the Sudanese government about the establishment of 20km-wide safe areas around giant refugee camps in Darfur. Under the proposal, which is expected to be finalised in the coming days, neither soldiers nor the pro-government Janjaweed militia would be able to carry weapons of any kind in these areas. Peace talks due to take place in Abuja on Aug 23 between all parties in the conflict - the Sudanese government and the two rebel groups - will go ahead, Mr Pronk said, despite uncertainty about whether the rebel groups will attend.

UGANDA

Kampala, Aug 17 — Ugandan troops killed nine Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA) rebels after a devastating raid on the group’s headquarters in southern Sudan scattered its main force, the army said today. Army chiefs said some LRA had crossed back into northern Uganda, where the rebels have waged an 18-year-old war, after an air and ground assault on their camp on Jul 28 that killed at least 120 people. Joseph Kony, the self-proclaimed mystic who leads the cult-like group, slipped away and is being hunted, they said. “Our troops caught up with one group of rebels under (LRA commander) Odhiambo in Pader district yesterday and killed seven of them,” army spokesman Major Shaban Bantariza said. “We also killed two others in the Kit Valley on Monday.” Bantariza said a constant flow of LRA fighters had surrendered since last month’s attack on Kony’s camp, including 32 rebels who gave themselves up to troops on Sunday (Aug 15) in northern Uganda’s troubled Pader district. “Every day we have been getting between 10 and 15 surrendering to us,” Bantariza said. “This proves that our military policy is paying off.” — Reuters.

Labour Disputes



BANGLADESH

Dhaka, Aug 15 — Paramilitary troops and police are patrolling major Bangladeshi cities as an opposition-led strike in protest against the scrapping of a public holiday shuts businesses, schools and shops, officials and witnesses say. The six-hour strike on a

working day in mainly Muslim Bangladesh also disrupted cargo handling at Chittagong port, officials said today. The main opposition Awami League called the strike to protest against the scrapping of a public holiday today, the day Bangladesh independence leader Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was assassinated, along with most of his family members, in a military coup in 1975. Former prime minister Sheikh Hasina, daughter of Rahman, had declared the day a holiday when her Awami League party came to power in 1996. Current Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, chief of the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), cancelled the holiday in 2002, a year after she returned to power, sparking a row. Each major strike costs the impoverished nation of more than 130 million about \$60 million (32.3 million pounds) in lost production, business leaders say. — Reuters.

INDIA

See under “Political & Civil Unrest.”

ISRAEL

London, Aug 18 — A press report, dated today, states: The Ports Authority and the federation of Israeli Chambers of Commerce both approached the national Labour Court yesterday to ask that Ashdod Port workers be ordered back to work. The port’s crane operators launched a wildcat strike on Monday (Aug 16) to protest not being party to the list of workers sent on management courses. The action, which continued yesterday, cut the crane operators’ productivity to 35 percent of normal, forcing other workers not on strike at the port to reduce their work output. In its deputation to the Labour Court, the Ports Authority said that the decision to send workers on the work management training courses was solely a management matter, and that only suitable candidates would be sent. The authority also pointed out to the court president Judge Steve Adler that Ashdod port workers had only returned to their regular work schedule this week, having been the last out of the three ports to return to work. This delay in returning to work had itself been unlawful, the authority said, as it contravened a back-to-work order from the same court, and was also not supported by the Histadrut labour federation. That industrial action had been over the planned reforms of the ports.

MEXICO

Puebla, Aug 19 — German auto giant Volkswagen AG’s plant in Mexico, the only one in the world producing the popular New Beetle, was shut down by striking workers yesterday in a pay dispute. Thousands of union workers walked out yesterday morning after earlier rejecting a 4.45 per cent salary increase offered by the company. Nearly 10,000 unionised employees work at the Volkswagen plant in Mexico’s central city of Puebla, which produces several models, including the New Beetle that is sold in around 80 countries. The plant was also the last manufacturing

site of the classic “Love Bug” Beetle before Volkswagen stopped building the legendary vehicle last year. As the strike began, chanting workers unfurled a huge red, white and black union banner and hung it on the gate at the main entrance to the factory. The last strike at the plant was in 2001 and lasted for 18 days before the two sides finally reached an agreement. Union leader Jose Luis Rodriguez said negotiations on the latest pay deal would resume yesterday afternoon. He said the union’s demand of an 8.5 per cent wage increase was “still negotiable” and he hoped for a quick resolution. “This is not a strike that suits either side,” he told reporters. “We intend to resolve this as soon as possible.” Volkswagen offered a 4.45 per cent wage rise and other benefits that would improve workers’ overall package by 5.4 per cent. It was rejected by about 60 per cent of union members at an early morning meeting. The plant plans to produce about 235,000 vehicles this year. Its output has slipped in recent years because of a decline in export demand, especially from the United States, and it now produces vehicles just four days a week. Company spokesman Thomas Karig said the Puebla plant currently produces about 1300 vehicles per working day, although he declined to estimate the financial impact of the strike. — Reuters.

SRI LANKA

London, Aug 17 — A press report, dated Aug 16, states: Workers at Sri Lanka’s main oil company have ended a two-day strike, held in protest at government plans to sell more of the company. Last year, the Sri Lankan government sold one third of Ceylon Petroleum Corporation (Ceypetco) to Lanka Indian Oil Corporation. The government now plans to sell its remaining stake in the company.

Awards & Settlements



FRAUD, UNITED STATES

London, Aug 18 — A press report, dated today, states: Two Florida victims of an investment scheme the FBI says was the biggest cattle fraud in U.S. history will receive \$4.2 million, a federal jury has decided. Arky and Debbie Rogers of Lake City, Fla., are to receive the money from Producers Credit Corp. of Columbus, Ohio, the firm they borrowed from to invest in the purchase and feeding of cattle. The cattle were to be bought and cared for by a Missouri cattle buyer whose businesses partnered with Producers Credit. But the buyer, George Young of Grant City, defrauded the Rogers and others, using their money to pay off business debts instead of buying cattle. The Florida couple will likely be given \$1 million in interest along with the \$4.2 million awarded by the jury

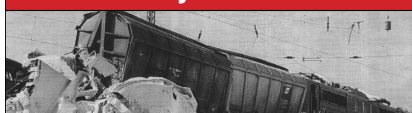
Receive immediate notice as soon as a Casualty occurs. For further information please contact Andrew Luxton on +44 (0) 20 7017 4625.

Thursday (?Aug 12), according to their attorney, Richard Rhyne. They must repay Producers Credit about \$3.6 million for the principal and interest. The parent of Producers' Credit - United Producers - joined with Young in 1997 to form United Livestock Services, which raised cattle for investors and sold them at a profit. After Young's businesses collapsed in August 2001, authorities learned that he and his partner, Kathleen McConnell of Kansas City, had created a Ponzi scheme to pay off investors with money from new clients, investing little of that cash. Records showed the company had taken investments for 343,937 cattle worth \$175 million, but only had 16,946, worth about \$9.2 million. Young and McConnell pleaded guilty in October 2003 to two counts of felony wire fraud, one count of mail fraud, one of false representation and one of criminal forfeiture. In May, Young, 73, was sentenced to nine years in prison and McConnell to seven years and three months. Producers Credit had argued that it, like the Rogers, was a victim of fraud, but the plaintiffs' attorney convinced the jury otherwise. "Even if they did not know he was perpetuating a fraud," said Rhyne, "they undertook the responsibility to identify and secure collateral and they failed to do that."

ROAD TRAFFIC ACCIDENT, UNITED STATES

London, Aug 19 — A press report, dated Aug 18, states: DaimlerChrysler has agreed to pay at least five million dollars in settlements in a 2001 church van crash in North Carolina in which a passenger died. A judge in Roanoke, Va., approved the settlements for the family of Jessika Lewis, who was killed in the crash, and two survivors who suffered serious brain injuries. Eleven of 14 Virginia Heights Baptist Church youth group members returning home from a trip to Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, were hospitalised after the crash. Lewis died five days later. A National Transportation Safety Board report in July 2003 cited tire failure and poor driver response as the probable causes of the wreck. The report also noted that 12 of the vehicle's 14 passengers were not wearing seat belts, and four passengers were thrown from the vehicle. The crash on U.S. 220 near Greensboro became part of a national debate about the safety of 15-passenger vans, now notorious for flipping in fatal crashes.

Railway Accidents



ALLENSWORTH, CALIFORNIA, UNITED STATES

London, Aug 16 — A press report, dated today, states: Crews worked through the weekend to clean up a train derailment in Allensworth that sent a locomotive and 39 freight cars off the tracks, ignited fires and spilled corn

syrup. The northbound train came off the tracks at 1540, Saturday (Aug 14) and struck another freight train on the side tracks, derailing two of its locomotives and a car, said Burlington Northern Santa Fe spokeswoman Lena Kent. The train also started several grass fires as a result of the accident, closed down Highway 43 and blocked the entrance to the Colonel Allensworth State Historic Park. The fire threatened many of the park's historic buildings, but none was damaged and no injuries were reported. As fire crews battled the grass fires Saturday, they were cautious to approach the train cars, many of them tankers, for fear they had hazardous chemicals. The only tank car that ruptured contained corn syrup. "There is corn syrup everywhere out here," Stover said. No hazardous materials were spilled. The cause of the derailment is still unclear, according to Kent. Fires ignited by the train burned 240 acres of grass land. Fire crews kept the grass fire away from the historic buildings at the state park. Highway 43 was closed for several hours Saturday, but Palmer Avenue remained closed until after 1700, yesterday because it was blocked by train cars. Palmer Avenue is the main entrance into the state park. While crews hurriedly rebuilt railroad tracks and pulled disabled cars free from the tracks, Amtrak passengers had to find a different mode of transportation between Fresno and Bakersfield. The main track is expected to be cleared early this morning.

CARDWELL, QUEENSLAND, AUSTRALIA

London, Aug 13 — A press report, dated today, states: North Queensland passenger services will be delayed today after a freight train derailment in a railway yard. Five wagons had come off the tracks in a switching area at the southern end of the Cardwell Railway Station yard at 0415, AEST, said Queensland Rail spokesman Ian Collier. Three had overturned but another 20 had remained upright. A small amount of fuel was spilt on the tracks and emergency services were at the scene but Mr Collier said there was no risk the fuel would spark a fire. No one was reported injured. Mr Collier said the south-bound Tilt Train from Cairns would be delayed for 24 hours. The northbound Sunlander would terminate at Townsville, with passengers bused north to Cairns. Queensland Rail crews were repairing track and an investigation was underway.

JACKSON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI, UNITED STATES

London, Aug 18 — A press report, dated Aug 17, states: Traffic was snarled as rush hour unfolded yesterday after a Mississippi Export Railroad train derailed at the Mississippi 63 rail crossing just north of Mississippi 613. No injuries were reported. The 15-car train was carrying coal to Mississippi Power's Plant Daniel in Jackson County, according to Kurt Brautigam, spokesman for the power company. The Jackson County

HAZMAT team also came to the derailment, but there was no hazardous material to clean up. Mark Miller, maintenance operator for Mississippi Export, said the derailment happened when four cars got off track and plowed up the crossing. "We thought it was a lot more serious than it actually turned out to be," Miller said. "The important thing is that no one was injured." Railroad officials said it would take approximately 10 hours to clear the track, meaning traffic should be able to cross the tracks today. Butch Loper, Jackson County Civil Defense director, said the derailment damaged both sides of the tracks, but he was unsure how much it would cost to repair them. Miller said: "It's going to take a few days before we know how much it's going to cost to repair the tracks."

LEVIS, QUEBEC, CANADA

London, Aug 18 — A press report, dated today, states: A train carrying petroleum products derailed yesterday afternoon, spilling 100,000 litres of gasoline and diesel fuel, a fire department spokesman said. Eighteen cars of the 58-car train jumped the tracks, prompting people to be evacuated from six chalets in the rural area as a precaution. Levis Fire Chief Yves Despres said the fuel had leaked. Authorities said it would take about 24 hours to clean up the mess. Crews from the provincial Environment Department, the Ultramar refinery in Levis, CN and the police and fire department were on the scene.

OLMITO AREA, TEXAS, UNITED STATES

London, Aug 19 — A press report, dated Aug 18, states: Under wet and muddy conditions, Union Pacific Railroad crews used heavy machinery today to repair railroad tracks damaged by a train derailment yesterday. UPR officials said the derailment occurred at 1645 hrs, behind the 77 Flea Market along 77/83 Expressway near Olmito. The 68-car and one-engine train was going from Houston to Brownsville with soybeans, auto parts and chemicals. Officials said no chemicals were spilled. UPR spokesman Mark Davis said 12 cars derailed, nine loaded with soybeans and three with auto parts. Davis said two of the cars carrying soybeans overturned and the remaining cars only derailed. According to Davis, crews will replace about 800 feet of track and were expected to be open to rail traffic by 1800 hrs, today. Some cars remained derailed yesterday afternoon as Hulcher Professional Services Inc. worked with back hoes, trucks and other heavy machinery to clean up the spill. Davis said the derailment is under investigation. Brownsville Fire Chief Lenny Perez said no one was injured and no chemicals were spilled.

YANDICOOGINA AREA, WESTERN AUSTRALIA

London, Aug 13 — A press report, dated today, states: Mining company Hamersley Iron says it is still establishing whether its exports of iron

ore will be disrupted by a major train derailment in the eastern Pilbara yesterday. Eighty carriages smashed into each other and rolled off the tracks near Yandicoogina in the early hours of yesterday morning. No one was injured but up to 8,000 tonnes of iron ore were spilled, and the train and rails badly damaged. Hamersley Iron says it has stockpiles at both the port and the mine and it is unlikely there will be major export problems as a result of the crash. But spokesman Bruce Larsen says the situation is still being assessed. "So it'll just depend how long the track is out of use and what impact it might have for Yandi ore in terms of shipments," he said. The company says it will take up to a week to clear the track and repair damaged rails.

Robberies & Thefts



PAINTINGS FROM HOSPITAL, ROME, ITALY

London, Aug 11 — A press report, dated today, states: Thieves made off with 10 paintings from a collection at a Rome hospital, including a work by Baroque master Giovanni Lanfranco, Italy's art theft police and news reports said today. The artworks had been undergoing restoration and were being kept in a room without an alarm system when they were stolen the night of Jul 31 from the hospital complex, said Carabinieri Colonel Ferdinando Musella. Musella declined to give details about the paintings, which are part of a collection housed in Santo Spirito in Sassia, a hospital founded in the 12th century near the Vatican. Rome daily *Il Messaggero* said the paintings were from the 16th to the 18th century. Among them, it said, are "The Sacra Famiglia" by 16th-century mannerist artist Parmigianino; "Flagellazione" by Cavalier D'Arpino, another mannerist painter who was also known as Caravaggio's master, and "Testa di Vecchio" by Lanfranco, considered one of the greatest artists of the High Baroque. *Il Messaggero* said their total worth was nearly US\$5 million. Before restoration began, the paintings were kept in a 16th-century palace used by the hospital's administration.

Miscellaneous



CEMENT DISPUTE, MEXICO

London, Aug 12 — Operators of cement storage ship *Mary Nour* (20515 gt, built 1972) that has been trying to inaugurate Russian cement imports into Mexico for the last three weeks have accused local port officials of treating the vessel worse than ships

found smuggling drugs or arms. Greek-based Sekur Holdings, a leading operator of bulk cement carriers that is part of the Jordanian-controlled cement trader CTI Group, claimed that its *Mary Nour* has been "unjustifiably harassed" in a number of ways since arriving in Altamira on Jul 17. The vessel is on a long-term charter to a new cement trading company CDM, Comercio para el Desarrollo Mexicano CDM was established by CTI and a group of Mexican entrepreneurs, together with Spanish and Italian partners, to start bringing cheaper foreign cement into Mexico's lucrative 32million tonne per year market, where prices of the commodity have remained stubbornly high. *Mary Nour* is laden with a first cargo of 27,000 tonnes of Portland grade cement from Novorossiysk but is intended to remain at Altamira as a floating terminal for the operation. According to Sekur, *Mary Nour's* Norwegian master Steinar Dahl, and 37-man crew, were denied fresh water and provisions for much of the time the ship has been berthed at the nearby Tampico anchorage. "The crew had to use bottled water for their hygiene needs and were down to canned food only," said the shipping company's managing director Sofian Jaradat. He alleged that officials only allowed water and supplies on board after a direct conversation he had with harbour master Gabriel Perez and complaints from the crew were broadcast on an open emergency channel. *Mary Nour* had stoked controversy in Mexico even before arrival with a raft of allegations being publicly aired against the vessel, including accusations that it threatened pollution and was an alleged severe acute respiratory syndrome risk after trading in China. But Mr Jaradat countered that the vessel had never been in the Guandong province, as Mexican critics had alleged, while the whole campaign was one of disinformation. Mexican manufacturer Cemex obtained a court order preventing the vessel entering port on the grounds that it could be a navigation hazard, but a local court rescinded this on appeal, Mr Jaradat said. Several searches of the vessel have been undertaken by police and customs even since it was granted free pratique on Jul 23. In the last week, police and customs officials boarded to investigate an allegation that the ship had an undeclared cargo of paper bags, which proved false. However, the vessel has still not been allowed alongside to discharge its cargo. Fresh worries in the last few days include a new allegation in the Mexican press that the cargo is radioactive, vehemently denied by the carrier, and reported difficulty in renewing crew shore passes. The vessel had passed its special survey, with a thorough overhaul involving 630 tonnes of new steel, immediately before embarking on its most recent voyage, the company stated.

DRUGS SEIZED ON SENEGAL VESSEL BY SPAIN

Vigo, Aug 18 — Fishing vessel *South Sea* will be auctioned in September by

the Villagarcía Port Authority after the failed auction on Mar 29. Start price for the auction is One Euro. — Lloyd's Agents.

INFESTATION OF LOCUSTS, NORTH AND WEST AFRICA

London, Aug 19 — A press report, dated Aug 18, states: Around 100 million dollars is needed to fight the swarms of locusts that are marauding through west Africa, the head of the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation, Jacques Diouf, said. "Our first request (in early July) was for nine million dollars, but as the funds did not arrive, the scale of the problem now calls for 100 million dollars," he said during a visit to the Senegalese capital. He warned that any further delays in tackling the problem could lead to a repeat of a situation during the last locust invasion in 1987-89, when "600 million dollars and five years of struggle was necessary." Diouf said the "front line" against the plague remains Mauritania, where on yesterday and today the FAO chief visited agricultural land threatened by the locusts. Most of the arable land in Mauritania has been overrun by swarms of the finger-length insects which have infested more than one million hectares since July. "If we don't manage to stop the plague in Mauritania, they will be flying to Senegal, Mali, Niger and Chad ... and beyond this area to Sudan ... and even Afghanistan and Pakistan," Diouf said. FAO has warned from Rome that Senegal faces a new wave of swarms and what scientists call hoppers, newly-hatched wingless locusts, which have been spotted along the Senegal River valley and Ferlo valley. Senegal's agriculture protection chief Mame Nene Lo said earlier today that locusts had infested two new regions, bringing the total number of threatened hectares to 111,133. With swarms of up to 80 million locusts ranging over each square kilometre, it appeared that the insects were winning the battle, President Abdoulaye Wade said yesterday, while expressing disappointment that the international community has not responded with vigour to requests for help. "We have to stop talking about money, it's a waste of time," Wade was quoted as saying by the Senegalese Press Agency. "What we need is concrete help, like equipment and products."

INFESTATION OF TERMITES, HOTEL, NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA, UNITED STATES

London, Aug 19 — A press report, dated today, states: A Formosan termite infestation has shut down the 202-room Wyndham Riverfront Hotel for six months, in what some experts believe is the first time the pests have closed a big business in Louisiana. The hotel, at 701 Convention Center Blvd., closed Tuesday (Aug 17) after the last guests from the International Association of Fire Chiefs convention checked out. Most of the hotel's 75 to 80 employees were transferred to five other Wyndham hotels in the area, as were customers with reservations at the hotel. When

guests at the converted-warehouse luxury hotel complained about flying bugs, hotel executives got nervous because it wasn't swarm season. Local spot treatments didn't work, and when Wyndham executives decided to knock down a wall to root out the termites, they discovered more extensive problems. "We really don't know the extent of the damage," said Gary Froeba, area director of operations for Wyndham Hotels & Resorts. "We decided to shut it down and get it done quick." Froeba said it wasn't an easy decision to close the hotel, which is popular with conventioners and exhibitors because it's across the street from the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center. "That was a very profitable hotel, too. It ran good margins," Froeba said. Fixing the infestation, he said, is expected to cost millions of dollars. The \$18 million Wyndham Riverfront Hotel opened in 1996 as one of the city's first warehouse hotel conversions in a 100-year-old building known as the Old Rice Mill property.

LEAKAGE OF CHEMICAL, BRIERLEY HILL, DUDLEY, WEST MIDLANDS, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Aug 19 — A press report, dated today, states: More than 50 firefighters have been dealing with a chemical spillage in the Black Country. Fifteen crews were sent to Corus on the B4180 Leys Road, Brierley Hill, at around 1915, BST, yesterday. It is thought the leak was caused by a small hole in a 35-tonne tank at the site, causing a cloud of hydrochloric acid to escape, giving off fumes. No-one was injured and residents were advised by the fire service to close all windows and doors.

OUTBREAK OF "BIRD FLU"

London, Aug 12 — A press report, dated today, states: Bird flu has killed three people, including two children, in Vietnam, officials said today, as people nationwide were told to be vigilant against the disease. Deputy Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung sent a telegram to all relevant agencies and provinces after the bird flu deaths were confirmed, Vietnamese Television reported in its evening broadcast. Trinh Quan Huan, head of the Ministry of Health's department for Preventative Medicine and HIV/AIDS Control, said all three victims tested positive for the H5N1 strain of the virus and died between July 30 and August 3. Two children, ages 4 and 1, died in Ha Tay province in the north, while the other victim succumbed to the disease in southern Hau Giang province, about 170 kilometres south of Ho Chi Minh City, he said. Over the past several months, Vietnam has reported a recurrence of bird flu, resulting in the deaths or culling of more than 50,000 birds.

Hanoi, Aug 17 — Vietnam said two children who died of bird flu this month had tested positive for the H5N1 strain, taking to three the number of deaths from the latest outbreak of a virus that killed 24 people across Asia earlier this year. Initial tests by the institute had

shown the presence of the H5 component in the children from the northern province of Ha Tay, and further tests confirmed the presence of the N1 sequence. The Health Ministry has said the boy's family in Ha Tay had eaten poultry that was sick while another possible source of infection might have been the excrement of sick chickens used by locals to fertilise their crops. Taking into account the three H5N1 confirmed cases, Vietnam has reported at least five more suspected bird flu infections in humans. The latest is a 27-month-old boy, Vu Cong Tien, from Hau Giang province, who was hospitalised on Aug 14 for pneumonia. "His condition is stabilising and he can walk now," a doctor at the paediatric hospital in Can Tho city said today, adding that samples from the boy have been sent to Ho Chi Minh City's Pasteur Institute for bird flu tests. Officials said they were concerned about more cases cropping up among the country's scattered small farms. — Reuters.

Johannesburg, Aug 18 — Bird flu has been identified in three more South African ostrich farms but remains within the officially quarantined infection area, the government said today. Nationwide tests are under way to confirm the virus has not spread beyond Eastern Cape province, where 8,600 birds have been culled, Agriculture Ministry spokesman Segoati Mahlangu said. South African officials have identified the bird flu outbreak as the H5N2 strain of the disease, which is dangerous for birds but distinct from the feared H5N1 strain which killed 24 people and decimated poultry stocks in Asia this year. "The information we have at the moment is that the disease has been identified in three more farms in the infected zone, making five farms in total," Mahlangu said. South Africa supplies about 70 percent of the world's ostrich meat, producing around 950,000 tonnes a year. Mahlangu said the government was confident the epidemic was being contained, but had mounted a national testing programme just in case. A veterinarian at the centre analysing the test results said the results of the nationwide tests would be available in about a week's time. — Reuters.

London, Aug 19 — A press report, dated today, states: Singapore has suspended poultry imports from Malaysia after scientists there found a potentially deadly form of bird flu in chickens. It is the first time the H5 strain of the virus has been found in Malaysia. The outbreak was detected in the Malaysian state of Kelantan at a village near the Thai border. Malaysian eggs have also been banned and the Singaporean authorities have warned of shortages until alternative supplies can be found. The Malaysian authorities have described the outbreak as small, establishing a 10 km quarantine zone around the affected area and culling only around 170 chickens, ducks and pet birds. But the response from Singapore has been swift. It has stopped all imports of poultry and

poultry products from Malaysia. The island state imports around two million eggs - around two-thirds of its total supply - as well as a 120,000 chickens and 20,000 ducks each day from its northern neighbour. Scientists of the University Putra Malaysia are expected to announce today whether the infected birds found in Kelantan are carrying the H5N1 or H5N2 variants of bird flu, both potentially fatal to humans. Meanwhile, a team from the World Health Organisation is travelling to Vietnam to determine whether the bird flu virus has mutated there after a new outbreak killed a woman and two children earlier this month.

VESSELS ABANDONED AT MONTEVIDEO, URUGUAY

Montevideo, Aug 18 — Two local companies, Techno-Dive and Dinvert SA, have signed an agreement with the National Ports Administration to clear the Port of Montevideo of eight abandoned vessels which are lying in the water, some of them partially sunk. The vessels are: Stern trawler *Arpon 1*, fishing *Impesur II*, fishing *Zodiaco*, fishing *Mar Cantabrico I*, vessels *Ymir*, *Carla* and *Ganguil G4*, and suction hopper dredger *Draga D3*. The vessels will be refloated when necessary, towed to the local Kambara Shipbuilder's Yard and dismantled. Understand the work has already commenced. — Lloyd's Agents.



CHEMICAL FACTORY, KNOWSLEY, MERSEYSIDE, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Aug 17 — A press report, dated Aug 16, states: Homes and businesses have been evacuated after a fire broke out at a chemical factory. Firefighters were called to Contract Chemicals at Knowsley Business Park, Merseyside, at 1225, BST. About 100 firefighters tackled the blaze at its height. The fire service says it has been brought under control. The area was evacuated, due to a white cloud seen over the building.

ELECTRICAL TRANSMISSION EQUIPMENT, HUNTER VALLEY, NEW SOUTH WALES, AUSTRALIA

London, Aug 14 — A press report, dated today, states: An explosion in electrical transmission equipment in the New South Wales Hunter Valley caused blackouts across four states overnight. More than 200,000 Queensland homes were affected by power cuts, while industrial users in NSW, Victoria and South Australia also suffered blackouts for up to 75 minutes last night. Transmission equipment in the Hunter Valley exploded at about 2145 hrs, said the director of Nemmco, which operates the electrical grid across the four states. The technical fault in TransGrid equipment affected five major power generators, which then

had to be partly shut down. "We lost 2,700 megawatts of power so we had to turn off enough power to equal that," the director said. In Queensland, residents in Darling Downs, the Gold Coast, Logan, north Brisbane, Townsville and Cairns were most affected. In other states only industry, particularly aluminium smelters, were affected. An investigation was underway to establish why the generators were so affected by the fault.

LIBRARY, RAMSGATE, KENT, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Aug 16 — A press report, dated Aug 15, states: A fire which destroyed the library in Ramsgate is being treated as arson, Kent Police said today. Thousands of books, several paintings and historic artefacts were lost in the blaze at the Victorian library building which started late on Friday (Aug 13). Over 100 firefighters fought the blaze as 16 fire engines were called to the library in Guildford Lawn, Ramsgate, just after 2130 BST, on Friday. Senior Divisional Officer Neal Fowler said: "Because it was a library, there was a lot of flammable material inside, and because the structure was Victorian, there was plenty of wood, which meant the roof void became involved at an early stage."

LISTED BUILDING, WOLVERHAMPTON, WEST MIDLANDS, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Aug 16 — More than 100 firefighters spent the night tackling a severe blaze at a former brewery in Wolverhampton. Fire crews were called to the Mitchells and Butlers building on Cambridge Street, Springfield, at around 2140, BST, yesterday. A spokesman for West Midlands Fire Service said crews had struggled to gain access to the premises because much of it was structurally unsafe. An investigation into the cause of the fire is under way. Station Commander Mark Taylor from the fire service said: "Because of the nature of the building, because it is quite an old building surrounded by low level storage warehouses, it was quite difficult for us to get to." A total of 23 appliances, including three hydraulic platforms from West Midlands and Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service, were at the scene. Structural engineers were called in to assess the safety of the four-storey Grade II listed building.

OIL WELL, BULAN, KENTUCKY, UNITED STATES

London, Aug 13 — A press report, dated Aug 12, states: An oil and natural gas well exploded in the small eastern Kentucky community of Bulan yesterday, killing three workmen, authorities said. The well continued to belch flames and black smoke today. The well exploded into flames yesterday afternoon with a force that shook nearby homes; investigators were not sure what sparked the blast. Flames and heat from a fire that raged for more than 24 hours may have destroyed any clues to the cause. "We may never know," said Rick Bender, director of the

Kentucky Division of Oil and Gas, the agency that regulates the state's drilling industry. William Douglas Bell, of Helenwood, Tennessee, died today at Cincinnati University Hospital, a hospital spokeswoman said. Two others, Bill Chandler, of Lost Creek, KY, and Patrick Jeffers, of Winfield, TN, were killed yesterday. Perry County Emergency Management Director Charles Colwell said heat from the fire was worsened by splashes of scalding crude shooting out of the well. He said crews would have to return tomorrow to try to put out the fire. Colwell said about 25 homes and businesses were evacuated because six crude-oil tanks, each in excess of 10,000 gallons, were at risk of catching fire. Mark York, spokesman for the Kentucky Cabinet for Environmental and Public Protection, said a crew from Journey Operating LLC was servicing the well when the explosion occurred. The Houston-based company services gas wells throughout eastern Kentucky. Kentucky State Police Trooper Scott Hopkins said the workers were pulling tubing out of the well and replacing a pump when the blast hit.

PREMISES, CAPE GIRARDEAU, MISSOURI, UNITED STATES

London, Aug 18 — A press report, dated Aug 17, states: Little remained of the building housing Cape Restaurant Supply, 340 S. Frederick St., Cape Girardeau, today, after a backdraft apparently caused the building to explode around 1130 hrs, yesterday. What started the five-alarm fire is not yet known, but Cape Girardeau fire marshal Mike Morgan said he doesn't believe it was intentionally set Morgan and said in all probability a backdraft caused the explosion. However, it will be several weeks before investigators will know what started the blaze in the one-storey brick building. Two residents apparently saw smoke billowing from the building yesterday night and alerted the fire department. As the first appliance arrived the building exploded. The single-storey building erupted into an intense fire, with flames shooting dozens of feet into the air for well over an hour. Firefighters remained on the scene most of today checking for hot spots and making sure the surrounding area was safe. John Heuer, son of Eve Feuerhahn, the building's owner, said he was in the process of getting an insurance estimate, although the estimated loss was around \$1 million. This morning and into the afternoon, investigators from the city, the state fire marshal's office and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms rummaged through the rubble looking for clues.

PREMISES, CLEVELAND, OHIO, UNITED STATES

London, Aug 16 — A press report, dated Aug 15, states: Gas tanks exploded and tyres burned while firefighters struggled for over two hours with a blaze at an auto repair business. No one was injured. Assistant Fire Chief David McNeilly estimated the loss at \$1 million. He said what

remained of the brick building would be demolished. The cause of the fire yesterday was not immediately known, McNeilly said. The business, Horn Auto Inc., had closed at 1400 hrs, yesterday, about an hour before the fire started. By 1730 hrs, the fire had destroyed the 30,000-square-foot building, owner Joe Beck said. About 60 cars were inside the building, and 15 other vehicles parked outside were damaged, McNeilly said.

RECYCLING PLANT, LEICESTER, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Aug 19 — A press report, dated today, states: Repairs to a recycling plant damaged by a huge fire will cost up to £2m. The Biffa site in Hoods Close, Mowacre Hill, Leicester is currently being rebuilt following the blaze in June. Managers hope work on part of the site will be completed by October, but it will not be fully operational until next January at the earliest.

REFINERY, WHITING, INDIANA, UNITED STATES

London, Aug 13 — A press report, dated today, states: An explosion and fire rocked the United States third-largest oil refinery today, but it was not immediately clear how its gasoline production would be affected. The explosion at BP Corp's Whiting Refinery occurred at 0620 hrs and left two employees and a contractor with apparently minor injuries, BP said in a statement issued by its New York office. The BP statement said hydrogen gas in a unit apparently began to burn, but was contained by the refinery's firefighters. The city's Fire Department was not called in to assist. "The unit has been isolated and shut down," the company's statement said. BP spokeswoman Camille Dass said she had no immediate information on any production loss that might result from the fire. The refinery along Lake Michigan near Chicago processes more than 400,000 barrels of crude oil daily. Gasoline makes up half of the 16 million gallons of products it produces daily, the refinery's Web site states. Two of those injured in the fire were BP employees, one who received first aid for burns and another who suffered a back injury, BP said. A contractor was taken to a nearby hospital with apparent shoulder injuries, the statement said.

WAREHOUSE, POOLE, DORSET, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Aug 19 — A press report, dated today, states: A warehouse has been almost destroyed in a huge blaze, which at its height needed 100 firefighters to bring it under control. The fire broke out at about 2030, BST, yesterday night at the old Charlie Brown building on the Nuffield Industrial Estate, in Poole, Dorset. Police are investigating the fire which could be seen raging eight miles away.

WAREHOUSES, TIETON, WASHINGTON, UNITED STATES

London, Aug 19 — A press report, dated Aug 18, states: Damage is

estimated at \$25 million from a fire whipped by 30 mph winds that destroyed three fruit warehouses in Tieton, forced the evacuation of 150 people and burned a square mile of grassland, the Yakima Fire Department said today. Three people were treated for injuries and two of them were transported to a hospital for treatment during the four-alarm fire that broke out late yesterday, Deputy Fire Chief Brian Schaeffer said. Three tanks containing about 23,000 pounds of ammonia and a 9,000-gallon propane tank also were destroyed. Fire crews from across the upper Yakima Valley scrambled to try to contain the flames after the fire started about 2115 hrs at CPC International Apple Co. in Tieton about 10 miles northwest of Yakima. The fire that began in one of the fruit warehouses spread to nearby brush and threatened more than 100 homes. It also triggered an ammonia release and caused the evacuation of about 150 people, authorities said. Cardboard packaging stored next to a warehouse at the company was fully involved in flames when firefighters arrived at the scene. The fire started in packing materials and the cause remained under investigation, according to a statement issued early today by Yakima County sheriff's Sgt. Jeff Ketchum. State fire marshal's officials and agents from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives were at the scene. A shelter was established at Highland High School.

WILDFIRES, SPAIN

London, Aug 13 — A press report, dated today, states: A forest fire fueled by gusty winds charred a large swath of a nature reserve in eastern Spain today and burned its way toward villages, forcing the evacuation of some 6,000 people. No injuries have been reported in the fire in Sierra Calderona, a mountainous area of Valencia province. The blaze has blackened more than 700 hectares of land since it broke out last night, and was burning out of control at midday today, the regional emergency coordination office said. Authorities ordered the evacuation of the town of Naquera, home to around 3,000 people, rushing in chartered buses for people assembling in the town square. They braved choking dust and smoke, and some carried their pets with them, the national news agency Efe reported. Thousands more were forced from their homes in at least three villages. The fire is believed to have been set deliberately, as inspectors have detected four separate fronts, the regional interior minister, Luis Ibanez, told reporters. Some 300 firefighters aided by 20 helicopters and water-dumping planes struggled to extinguish the fire, fed by gusts of wind. Authorities called it the worst fire this summer in the Valencia region.

WILDFIRES, UNITED STATES

London, Aug 13 — A press report, dated Aug 12, states: A wildfire destroyed at least 64 homes in a subdivision near Shasta Lake and forced hundreds of people to flee,

officials said today. The blaze, started by sparks from a lawn mower, has scorched 3,000 acres, said Kevin Colburn, spokesman for the state forestry department. The fire was 40% contained, but a shift in the wind overnight pushed the fire southward, he said. The 64 homes were in a subdivision just south of Lake Shasta and east of Redding, said CDF spokesman Jim Sweet. More than 300 people were evacuated yesterday and a shelter was set up at a nearby school. Additional evacuations were ordered early today from the vast area threatened by the fire, but the size of that evacuation was not available. Five people suffered minor injuries. The fire spread from 100 acres to 800 acres in less than four hours yesterday, branching toward the Silverthorn Resort on the southeast end of Lake Shasta. Sue Collins, Silverthorn's manager, said fire officials evacuated about 150 people from the area near the marina. Some were taken by boat to another marina, she said, while others moved to a dock away from fuel tanks. Additional firefighters arrived overnight, bringing the number on scene to nearly 1,200, Colburn said. In addition, air tankers and helicopters were back on scene after daybreak. Officials cited the lawn mower operator, and the person might be held responsible for the costs of suppressing the fire, Colburn said.

London, Aug 16 — A press report, dated Aug 14, states: Firefighters reported progress today in their battle to contain a nearly 10,000-acre wildfire that destroyed 80 homes after being touched off by a spark from a lawnmower. Crews expected to have the blaze fully contained by Monday evening (Aug 16). "Everything is good news today, so far," said Roy Del Carlo, a spokesman for the state Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. By midday today, the fire had blackened 9,922 acres and destroyed 30 outbuildings and 10 vehicles in addition to the 80 homes, Del Carlo said. The blaze was 80 percent contained and no longer threatening homes, he said. Most residents who were evacuated were being allowed to return to their property. Residents said they were puzzled by the way the blaze spared some homes while destroying others nearby. Del Carlo said 186 homes had been saved. Officials said they don't have an estimate of how much damage the blaze caused but said the cost of fighting the fire will top \$1.8 million. Elsewhere, in central Washington, firefighters worked to gain the upper hand on several wildfires today as forecasters predicted new lightning strikes this weekend. Authorities ordered a new round of evacuations late today after a wildfire in Dryden grew to more than 2,100 acres and burned across a road. About 100 homes were threatened, but it was not immediately clear how many people were ordered to leave. Lightning and thunderstorms were forecast in Clark, Skamania and Klickitat counties, Public Lands Commissioner Doug Sutherland said today from Olympia, "all of which

worries all of us a lot." A fire that covered more than 700 acres on Yakama tribal lands was under control and in the mop-up stage today. A tribal dispatcher said that blaze started Tuesday (Aug 10). Acreage numbers held steady in checks with fire officials Saturday but were expected to increase "because it was very active last night," said Carol Tocco, spokeswoman for the Northwest Interagency Fire Centre in Portland, Ore. Crews had not yet called in updated numbers. About 30 homes remained evacuated, with residents of another 40 to 50 homes put on notice they might have to leave because of a blaze about 20 miles northwest of Wenatchee. The fire was estimated at 2,100 acres yesterday night, fire information officer Stefani O'Connor said. Northwest of Yakima, residents of seven homes that had been evacuated along a mountain road were allowed to return yesterday night. A nearby fire estimated at about 4,200 acres was reported fully contained by this evening.

London, Aug 17 — A press report, dated Aug 16, states: A growing wildfire that tore through the old mining town of French Gulch in the mountains west of Redding headed into rugged terrain filled with open mine shafts and rattlesnakes today, posing new challenges for the nearly 1,950 firefighters trying to contain the blaze. The 9,010-acre fire that destroyed 22 homes and two commercial buildings, including the historic International Order of Odd Fellows Hall, was only 10 percent contained as it moved north into heavily timbered canyons dotted with open sores from once-thriving silver and gold mines, said Dottie Cary of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. Crews were working to contain the blaze within a hand- and bulldozer-dug line and some firefighters were setting backfires to deprive the fire of fuel. Some trucks were protecting individual homes. Smoke from the fire overnight blanketed the picturesque town where flames took a haphazard path, torching some homes and skipping others. Firefighters saved several buildings, including a church, post office, elementary school, hotel "and, of course, the bar," Cary said. More than 300 residents were ordered to leave, but not all abandoned their homes. Those evacuated were still being kept out of the town, but Sgt. Janet Breshears of the Shasta County sheriff's department said residents might be allowed back this afternoon. The fire's cause was still under investigation. There were no injuries reported among the firefighters and residents. Nearly 1,950 firefighters, including about 400 state prison inmates, worked to contain the blaze, Cary said. Many of those were transferred from the so-called Bear fire that began Wednesday (Aug 11) south of Shasta Lake when a lawnmower struck a rock in dry grass, sparking a blaze that burned 10,484 acres, destroyed 80 homes, 30 outbuildings and 10 vehicles before it was contained this morning, Cary said. Officials estimated that the cost of fighting that fire will top \$1.8

million. Yesterday, more than 3,600 firefighters were battling seven significant fires totaling 34,000 acres throughout California, including four in Shasta County, and one each in Tuolumne, Tulare and Santa Clara counties, said CDF spokeswoman Karen Terrill. More than 1,700 firefighters were working to contain a more than 3,000-acre wildfire near Sequoia National Park in Tulare County, where 80 homes and 20 commercial buildings were threatened. The fire was 55 percent contained by yesterday evening. In central Washington state, roughly 400 homes were ordered evacuated in the community of Dryden because of a rapidly growing wildfire. "The fire likes those conditions. It makes it burn very hot, very fast," said Carol Tocco, spokeswoman for the Northwest Interagency Coordination Centre in Portland, Ore. The latest evacuations were ordered by Chelan County sheriff's deputies yesterday, a day after the Fischer fire jumped a road, resulting in an evacuation warning covering at least 100 homes. Earlier evacuation orders covered about 30 homes.

London, Aug 17 — A press report, dated Aug 16, states: Alaska's spreading wildfires yesterday were poised to break the five million acre mark and become the worst wildfire season ever recorded in the state. Dry, hot weather made conditions favourable for the fires to creep over the record 5.05 million acres burned in 1957. As of yesterday morning, just under five million acres had burned. "It's going to be a tough week as far as suppression goes," said Kristy Bryner, a spokeswoman for the Alaska Interagency Coordination Centre. "This week could be the time when it is going to happen." Smoke from 98 Interior fires blanketed much of the state yesterday, leaving a haze over Anchorage and communities as far away as Haines. The smoke hanging over the state's largest city also is due to a 35,000-acre prescribed burn northeast of the city. The burn was started Aug 10 and is meant to reduce fuels that increase the potential for an uncontrolled wildfire and improve the winter habitat for moose living in the area, according to the coordination centre. Fire crews continue to allow the wildfires away from villages and residential areas to burn, but several communities remained threatened, Bryner said. The Central complex of fires, about 100 miles northeast of Fairbanks, saw increased activity because of high temperatures and low humidity. The complex had burned 317,000 acres by yesterday morning. The Taylor complex fire near Tok was estimated at 1.1 million acres. Burnout operations were taking place to protect structures north of the Alaska Highway from Silver Creek to 10 Mile Creek. Several of the fires were merging and burning together, Bryner said. Nine of the 98 wildfires burning in the state were staffed yesterday. Four new fires were reported yesterday.

London, Aug 18 — A press report, dated today, states: A wildfire burning

in rough forest terrain north of Cave Creek, Arizona, was 90 percent contained by yesterday. The New fire, which was burning brush and grassland in Tonto National Forest, had charred about 1,200 acres. Fire officials had said the fire burned 1,250 acres on Monday (Aug 16), but downgraded the acreage after they were able to map the area better, said Emily Garber, a Tonto National Forest spokeswoman. Fire officials expect full containment by today. No structures were threatened. The lightning-sparked fire was spotted Saturday (Aug 14).

London, Aug 19 — A press report, dated today, states: A wind-blown wildfire that had forced hundreds to flee their homes grew to more than 11,000 acres early yesterday as it moved into dry brush and grass in central Washington. "The fire has potential to move quicker in those flashy fuels," fire information officer Robin DeMario said. The blaze 20 miles north-west of Wenatchee had destroyed one home and damaged another residence and an outbuilding, fire information officer Robin DeMario said yesterday. No one was injured. DeMario said smoke from the fire forced crews to temporarily close U.S. 2 between Cashmere and Dryden. The fire has forced hundreds from their homes, and residents had been told to leave two more canyons threatened by the fire. More than 1,500 firefighters were assigned to the human-caused blaze, which has been burning since Aug 8.

London, Aug 19 — A press report, dated Aug 18, states: Firefighters have stopped the spread of what could have been a disastrous fire in the Sequoia National Forest northeast of Springville, officials announced yesterday. The Deep fire, which started Thursday (Aug 12) evening, was 95% contained at 1800 hrs, yesterday, and Highway 190 was scheduled to reopen yesterday night. "Containment means the fire has a line around it and the line has held," said forest Supervisor Art Gaffrey. "That doesn't mean the fire is out." Fire lines are dug into the ground to remove plants that could fuel a fire. The Deep fire burned 3,222 steep, rugged acres and damaged only one structure, a Southern California Edison water flume. The fire was human-caused, but investigators still are trying to decide whether it was accidental or intentional. Aggressive firefighting and past prescribed burns that removed fuel allowed firefighters to slow the fire and prevent it from reaching sequoia groves, officials said. So far, the fire has cost \$5.6 million to suppress. Seven firefighters suffered minor injuries, the most serious being a broken arm. Firefighters will continue to extinguish burning vegetation inside the fire lines, battling flare-ups in the hottest part of the day, between 1530 and 1900 hrs, Gaffrey said. Many of the almost 2,000 firefighters and others working on the fire began leaving yesterday. All evacuation orders have been lifted. An Edison representative said power was restored to all customers, and the company was using helicopters to set new power poles.



ACCIDENT, VIRU-VIRU INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, BOLIVIA

London, Aug 13 — A Lloyd Aereo Boliviano (LAB) Boeing 767-300ER experienced structural failure of the upper fuselage following a hard landing at the Viru-Viru International Airport, Bolivia, on Aug 7. The flight originated in Miami, Florida.

C-FACP

London, Aug 17 — On Aug 15, Air Canada Zip flight WZP6204, registration C-FACP, had just departed Vancouver when the pilots heard a loud bang from the right engine (Pratt & Whitney JT8D-17A SN 709399). The pilots shut down the engine and activated the fire bottles. An emergency was declared and the aircraft returned to Vancouver without further incident.

C-FCBK

London, Aug 18 — At 1225, Aug 12, Air Spray (1967) Ltd, Douglas B-26C, C-FCBK, was departing VFR from High Level, AB to Rainbow Lake, AB as flight ASB11. During take off from runway 31, the B-26 aborted the take off run at approximately 90 knots due to a power loss on one of the engines (Pratt & Whitney R2800-79). The pilot released the load of fire retardant on the runway during the rejected take off. The aircraft was unable to stop in the remaining distance and overran the threshold, coming to rest approximately 1200 feet beyond the threshold. The aircraft came to rest in an upright position in a drainage ditch spilling a significant amount of fuel. The aircraft was substantially damaged; however, there was no post impact fire. The pilot, who was the sole occupant, sustained serious injuries.

C-FURV

London, Aug 17 — At 2110 hrs, Aug 14, a Cessna 175, C-FURV, was landing at an airstrip at Kwatna River. During the landing roll, directional control was lost. The aircraft went off the runway and struck a stand of trees. The aircraft sustained substantial damage. There were no injuries.

C-GLHH

London, Aug 18 — At 1608, Aug 14, the pilot of Bell 206L3 helicopter, C-GLHH, was on a pipeline route inspection and trying to find a suitable landing zone in a marshy area. In anticipation of the skids sinking into the terrain and reducing the ground clearance to the stinger and tail rotor, the pilot touched down but kept some pitch on the blades while he opened the door and visually inspected the skid placement. As everything appeared satisfactory, the pilot closed the door and released the handle. The door had

not latched properly, and suddenly began to swing open in the crosswind/rotor wash. Realising there was no restraint strap on the door, and concerned about the probability of the door damaging the windshield, the pilot grabbed the door with his right hand. Simultaneously a gust of wind began to lift the helicopter before the pilot could react. The right side lifted, the left skid remaining mired in the ground, and a dynamic rollover resulted. The helicopter was substantially damaged, although the pilot and three passengers were uninjured.

C-GTKX

London, Aug 16 — Cessna 172M (Skyhawk), C-GTKX, crashed near Yuba City, California, at 1815, Aug 15. The aircraft was destroyed. The one person on board was killed.

C-GYHX

London, Aug 18 — At 0835, Aug 13, Yellowhead Bell 206-L3 helicopter (C-GYHX) was supporting fire-management activities near Valemount, BC, and had landed on a log pad. Shortly after touch-down, the pad broke apart. The pilot could not prevent the main rotor blades from striking a stump and the helicopter rolled over. The pilot and passenger escaped with minor injuries but the helicopter was substantially damaged. There was a small post-crash fire in the engine compartment which the pilot put out with a hand-held fire extinguisher.

CC-PDL

London, Aug 18 — Beechcraft BE 36, CC-PDL, registered to and operated by Servicios Aereos Casa Blanca Ltda, crashed during landing at San Carlos de Apoquindo, Santiago, Chile, at approximately 1522, EDT, Aug 1. The aircraft was destroyed; the pilot and two passengers reported no injuries.

COLLAPSE OF TERMINAL, PARIS AIRPORT, FRANCE

London, Aug 17 — A press report, dated today, states: A Paris airport terminal has partially reopened to traffic, nearly three months after a roof collapsed there, killing four people. Four flights to Casablanca and two to Istanbul are to operate daily through terminal 2E at Roissy-Charles de Gaulle, serving about 1,000 passengers. Before the roof collapsed, the hi-tech terminal's capacity was about 25,000. An initial inquiry found the 23 May collapse was caused by metal supports perforating the concrete roof. The preliminary report released last month suggested the concrete was probably deteriorating at the ultra-modern, 750m euro (\$927m) terminal. "The part of 2E that reopened is running well," said Secretary of State for French Transport Francois Goulard. The accident had sparked speculation that the whole section of the building, or even the whole terminal, might have to be demolished. But transport ministry sources told French news agency AFP there were currently no plans to knock the rest of the building down.

CRASH INTO SEA OFF DENMARK See OY-CAK.

CRASH, ALMA AREA, QUEBEC, CANADA

London, Aug 19 — A press report, dated Aug 18, states: Parti QuÉbÉcois MNA StÉphane Tremblay is in hospital following a plane crash in the Saguenay. Tremblay, and two passengers, managed to escape as the plane sank to the bottom of a river. All three were taken to the hospital with minor injuries; Tremblay is still under observation. Tremblay, who has been flying for years, was trying to land his float plane on the Petite Decharge river near Alma, Que., when the plane hit a power line and plunged into the water. The National Transportation Safety Board's Jean-Marc Ledoux says the board is investigating the accident, and the S'retÉ du QuÉbec is still on the scene. "There was no mechanical problem with the aircraft, the aircraft was on approach to land on the river and apparently it hit some power lines that were going across the river," Ledoux says. Ledoux says Tremblay knew the area, and that while investigators are speaking to passengers and witnesses, it appears he simply overlooked the power lines. "The plane is at the bottom of the river and they will retrieve the wreckage today," Ledoux said today.

CRASH, ANDERSON, INDIANA, UNITED STATES

London, Aug 16 — A press report, dated today, states: A single-engine plane crashed near the Anderson Municipal Airport this afternoon, injuring the pilot and closing nearby Indiana 32. Pilot James Cooper, 59, of Indianapolis, was taken to Community Hospital with lacerations to the head, eye and forearm and pain in his ankle and ribs, said Anderson Police Detective Terry Sollars. Cooper was in stable condition and was expected to be released soon, Sollars said. No one else was injured, police said. Sollars said Cooper recently had maintenance work done on his plane, which was stored at the airport in the city about 35 miles northeast of Indianapolis. Cooper took the plane for a test flight to prepare for a trip to New Jersey and was circling the airport when the engine started sputtering, Sollars said. Cooper tried to land, but crashed into treetops, Sollars said. The plane spun around and crashed along Ind. 32 shortly before 1530 hrs. It came to a stop on the side of the guardrail away from traffic, Sollars said. The engine was ripped from the plane, and the wings were destroyed, Sollars said. The highway was closed for several hours. A heavy-duty wrecker lifted the plane over the guardrail and took it back to the airport, where it will be examined by the Federal Aviation Administration tomorrow, Sollars said.

CRASH, LITTLE BELT MOUNTAINS, MONTANA, UNITED STATES

London, Aug 19 — A press report, dated Aug 18, states: Two Kalispell-area men died late yesterday or early today when the U.S. Postal Service

contract plane they were in crashed in the Little Belt Mountains roughly 40 miles southeast of Great Falls. Pilot Larry Baier was flying a load of mail from Billings to Kalispell for Alpine Air Express, a Provo, Utah-based contractor for the U.S. Postal Service. His passenger was his friend Scott Kiral, who was not working. Baier had flown the Billings-to-Kalispell route for the 12 years he was with Alpine Air Express, CEO Gene Mallette said. Details about the crash site, near Big Baldy Mountain, were unavailable today. The Judith Basin Search and Rescue team worked in the remote, rugged area with limited radio contact. The airplane was a 35-year-old, twin-engine Beechcraft 99. Officials said it left Billings at about 2110 hrs, yesterday and was reported missing when it failed to arrive in Kalispell at 0030 hrs, today. Its last radar contact was a routine location report at 2340 hrs, according to Debbie Alke, administrator for the Montana Aeronautics Division with the Montana Department of Transportation. Weather conditions in the Little Belt Mountains probably were dicey, said Matt Jackson, meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Great Falls. "Around midnight last night there were thunderstorms in the area," he said. If the plane flew into a thunderstorm, it could have hit strong updrafts or downdrafts, Jackson said. An investigator with the National Safety Transportation Board will begin unraveling the accident scene today. Two, fixed-wing aircraft spotted wreckage from this week's crash at about 1130 hrs, today, Alke said. A five-member search and rescue crew with Malmstrom's 40th Helicopter Flight also participated in the search and confirmed the crash site location. This is the first fatal crash for Alpine Air Express in two decades, Mallette said. The Postal Service will be unable to retrieve any mail from the crashed plane until the NTSB finishes its investigation, said Ted Blazina, manager of marketing for the Billings-based Big Sky District of the U.S. Postal Service. The cargo was bound for Kalispell and other northwestern Montana communities with a 599 zip code prefix, Blazina said.

EMERGENCY LANDING, BUSH INTERCONTINENTAL AIRPORT, HOUSTON, UNITED STATES

See G-VLLD.

EMERGENCY LANDING, MALTA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Valletta, Aug 16 — A local press report, dated Aug 14, states: An Air Malta Boeing 737-300 made a successful emergency landing at Malta International Airport yesterday morning after a tyre in its right undercarriage burst, possibly on take-off. Flight KM572 left Malta for Moscow's Domododevo airport carrying 122 passengers and six crew at about 0620 hrs. Air Malta said that a few minutes after take-off, the pilot reported that one of the aircraft's tyres had lost pressure. An inspection was

held immediately on the runway and traces of tyre rubber were found. It was decided that the plane should return to base and the aircraft circled the island in order to waste fuel as a safety precaution. As an emergency was declared, fire service and airport security vessels were positioned on the apron, close to the spot where it was calculated that the aircraft would land. St Luke's Hospital was also put on alert as a precautionary measure. The B737 then made a circuit and approached the runway from Birzebuga, successfully landing at about 0900 hrs, when the wheels touched the ground in what appeared to be a smooth landing. The damaged tyre tore to shreds as the aircraft came to standstill close to park eight past the passenger terminal. The passengers and the crew left the aircraft via the stairs as no evacuation procedure was deemed necessary. With the situation under control, Air Malta chairman Lawrence Zammit told journalists the aircraft had been directed back home since this was the "best safety precaution to take". He said the landing was extremely successful and the operation was well coordinated. Passengers were subsequently re-routed on other flights. — Lloyd's Agents.

EMERGENCY LANDING, SANTANDER, SPAIN

London, Aug 16 — A press report, dated Aug 14, states: A plane en route to Belfast International Airport has made an emergency landing in Spain. The aircraft had taken off from Malaga this morning, but its windscreen cracked and it had to land at Santander Airport. A spokesperson said a replacement windscreen was being flown in from Palma and would be fitted at Santander. The plane was expected to continue its journey to Belfast later today.

G-VLLD

London, Aug 13 — Boeing 777-200, G-VLLD, operated by British Airways, made an emergency landing at Bush Intercontinental Airport, Houston, Texas, at 2155, Aug 11, following an engine fire after take-off from Houston for a flight to London. The 133 persons on board were not injured.

N1222J

London, Aug 16 — Rockwell Commander 112, N1222J, crashed near Huntington, West Virginia, at 2120, Aug 14. The aircraft sustained substantial damage. The one person on board suffered minor injuries.

N12959

London, Aug 16 — Cessna 172M (Skyhawk), N12959, crashed near Millinocket, Maine, Aug 12, while on a flight from Pushaw Lake, ME, to Lobster Lake, ME. The aircraft sustained substantial damage. The one person on board was killed.

N205XP

London, Aug 13 — A press report, dated Aug 11, states: A helicopter pilot died today when the helicopter crashed

while ferrying supplies to firefighters in the Alpine Lakes Wilderness north-west of Leavenworth town, Washington. The crash, about 20 miles north-west of Leavenworth in the North Cascades, killed the pilot, the only person on board, Chelan County Sheriff Mike Harum said. The cause of the crash was not immediately known. The Bell 205 helicopter had been contracted by the U.S. Forest Service to bring equipment to firefighters battling a small lightning-caused fire when it crashed at 1020 hrs about 20 miles north-west of Leavenworth. Smokejumpers hiked to the scene, both to check on the pilot and to douse the fire caused by the crash.

London, Aug 13 — Bell 205A-1, N205XP, crashed near Wenatchee, Washington, Aug 11 during firefighting operations. The one person on board was killed.

N231LK

London, Aug 14 — Mooney M-20K (turbo Mooney 231), N231LK, operated by Knickerbocker Aviation Inc, while on a flight from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, to Vineyard Haven, Massachusetts, with two persons on board, while approaching Runway 15, Vineyard Haven, crashed just short of the airport, at 2213, UTC, Aug 12. The aircraft was destroyed. The pilot suffered minor injury and the passenger was seriously injured.

N2353W

London, Aug 14 — Air Tractor AT-301 (Air Tractor), N2353W, operated by Jim Burkett, while on an aerial application flight from a private strip 16 miles east of Strother Field Airport, Kansas, with one person on board, failed to clear trees at the end of the runway, clipped the trees and crashed, at 1400, UTC, Aug 12. The aircraft was substantially damaged, but no personal injuries reported.

N2452S

London, Aug 18 — Cessna T210L (Centurion II), N2452S, crashed near Jenks, Oklahoma, at 2213, Aug 17, while on a flight from Tulsa, OK. The aircraft was destroyed. The three persons on board were killed.

London, Aug 19 — A press report, dated Aug 18, states: The fiery crash of a small plane shortly after take-off from Jenks, Oklahoma, killed a Tulsa couple and their young granddaughter who were flying back to her home in southwest Missouri, officials said today. The Cessna T210L crashed within minutes of taking off yesterday afternoon from Jones Riverside Airport and burst into flames in a field southeast of the small airstrip. Richard Dunham, an instrument rated pilot with more than 1,500 flight hours, reported an oil leak that sprayed oil on to the single-engine plane's windshield, said Jim Struhsaker, senior investigator with the National Transportation Safety Board. Struhsaker and an investigator with the Federal Aviation Administration began reviewing the charred wreckage, flight recordings and records today as they search for the accident's cause. The

blackened, crushed aircraft still rests surrounded by yellow emergency scene tape in the field behind a new subdivision. Struhsaker said he would file a preliminary report on the crash within five business days, with a final report coming in about six months. He said Richard Dunham never used the word "emergency" in conversations with the tower preceding the crash. Another pilot flying nearby estimated the Dunhams were between 200- and 400-feet above the ground, Struhsaker said.

N34698

London, Aug 18 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: A pilot died this morning when he lost control of his helicopter while stringing power lines for the Bonneville Power Administration. Nearby BPA workers rushed to the crash site at 0940 hrs and pulled 57-year-old John J. Cooley, of Cheney, from the wreckage. They administered cardio-pulmonary resuscitation but couldn't revive the pilot, Spokane County sheriff's spokesman Cpl. Dave Reagan said. "Paramedics arrived and attempted to treat the pilot. But he was pronounced dead at the scene," Reagan said. The 1994 Bell Jet Ranger crashed in a dusty field on Kaiser Aluminum property.

London, Aug 18 — Bell 206B JetRanger, N34698, crashed near Spokane, Washington, at 1640, Aug 17, while on a flight from Spokane. The aircraft was destroyed. The one person on board was killed.

N3800G

London, Aug 16 — Cessna U206B, N3800G, crashed near Fort Jefferson, Florida, at 1850, Aug 14, while on a flight from Marathon, FL, to Key West, FL. One of the five persons on board was killed and the other four suffered minor injuries.

London, Aug 17 — press report, dated Aug 16, states: Neal Fredericks, the cinematographer of the low-budget but successful horror film "The Blair Witch Project," died in a plane crash while filming a movie over the Dry Tortugas, his agent said. Fredericks, 35, was dragged down by the wreckage of a single-engine Cessna as the pilot and three other members of his film crew escaped and later were rescued, the Coast Guard said. A team of U.S. Army Special Forces divers recovered Fredericks' body inside the submerged plane yesterday, a day after the crash about 70 miles west of Key West. Charles Lenhoff, Fredericks' agent, said Monday the veteran cinematographer was working on a new film when the crash took place.

N48424

London, Aug 13 — Schweizer G-164B (g-Cat), N48424, crashed near Merville, Iowa, at 1642, Aug 11. The aircraft was destroyed. The one person on board was killed.

N529RS

London, Aug 18 — A press report, dated Aug 17, states: A state spokesman says a helicopter crash on Maui yesterday was a result of pilot

error. Transportation spokesman Scott Ishikawa says the pilot, Jed Cameron, was slightly injured but walked away from the crash at the Kahului Airport. Ishikawa says the Bell 206B JetRanger (N529RS), owned by Pacific Helicopters, was lifting off from the airport when it rolled over, causing the rotor blade to detach and spin off. The rotor blade was thrown a distance of 150 feet. The helicopter was taking off to do contract aerial surveying work on the Big Island. Helicopter operations had to be rerouted to another section of the airport for about an hour and a half.

N5765J

London, Aug 17 — At 1820 hrs, Aug 14, Cessna 182, registration N5765J, landed short of the runway at the Kispiox Valley airstrip, in British Columbia. The aircraft sustained substantial damage and the pilot received minor injuries.

N586P

London, Aug 13 — A press report, dated today, states: Convair CV-580, N586P, carrying two people crashed early today near the Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport, killing one of two people on board, an airport spokesman said. Airport spokesman Ted Bushelman said the pilot walked away from the crash and was taken to the hospital. The co-pilot's body was found after daybreak, several hours after the crash, Bushelman said. Authorities have not identified either person. The aircraft took off last night from Memphis, Tenn. and crashed around 0100 hrs into a golf course in Florence, Bushelman said. "He was coming in for a landing. It was less than a mile from the runway," he said. The plane broke apart near some trees lining one of the golf course fairways. The aircraft was flown by Air Tacoma, a central Ohio-based contractor for DHL, Bushelman said.

London, Aug 14 — Convair CV-580, N586P, operators unknown, while on a flight from Memphis, Tennessee, to Covington, Kentucky, with two persons on board, on one mile final approach to Runway 36R, Covington Airport, reported engine trouble prior to crashing on a golf course. The aircraft was destroyed. One crew died and one seriously injured.

London, Aug 18 — A press report, dated Aug 17, states: Workers yesterday began clearing the wreckage of Air Tahoma Flight 185 from the World of Sports golf course, marking the end of the on-site investigation by the National Transportation Safety Board. The crash occurred at 1250 hrs Friday (Aug 13), with the 34-year-old Convair 580 crashing into a clump of trees about 1.2 miles short of its runway at the Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport. The plane was carrying cargo for DHL, which operates a freight hub locally. The co-pilot was killed. The pilot who survived was released Sunday (Aug 15) from University Hospital. Federal investigators who interviewed the pilot Sunday said that he did not recall much

of the accident. Those investigators also talked with Columbus-based Air Tahoma yesterday, and began reviewing company records. Air Tahoma officials would not comment yesterday on the investigation, saying only that they were continuing to work with the NTSB. NTSB investigators also were to begin analyzing the voice data and flight data recorders.

N6194M

London, Aug 16 — A press report, dated Aug 15, states: A small plane crashed near Seward this afternoon, killing two passengers on board. The Coast Guard said a small plane went down near the mouth of the 4th of July Creek around 1330 hrs, this afternoon. State Troopers said the plane was attempting to make an emergency landing when it crashed onto a sandbar. According to the Coast Guard, the plane was found in the water upside-down with one wheel and the tail visible. The rest of the plane was submerged. "The pilot was extracted, and he had a cut on his head and something wrong with his arm," said Petty Officer First Class Dennis Mathers, United States Coast Guard. "It wasn't clear at the time of what that was, and he was being transported. The other two needed to be extracted. That was done apparently by a diver." The pilot, 50-year-old David Alfred, of Eagle River was treated for minor injuries at Seward Hospital. Troopers say 52-year-old Gudrun Arend of Eagle River and 69-year-old Darwin Nielsen of Colorado were unable to be revived due to the nature of the accident. The NTSB is investigating the crash.

London, Aug 16 — Maule M-5-235C (Lunar Rocket), N6194M, crashed near Seward, Alaska, at 2145, Aug 15. The aircraft was destroyed. Two of the three persons on board were killed and the third suffered minor injuries.

London, Aug 18 — A press report, dated Aug 17, states: A pilot who attempted an emergency landing on a sandbar Sunday (Aug 15) reported a serious oil leak to the pilot of a plane following him, a National Transportation Safety Board investigator said yesterday. Gudrun Arend, 62, of Eagle River, and Charles Nielsen, 69, of Colorado, died in the crash in Resurrection Bay near Seward. David Arend, 60, also of Eagle River, was injured. He was Gudrun Arend's husband, the pilot and the owner of the plane. The three were on their way to fish at Johnstone Bay, said Clint Johnson, aircraft accident investigator with the NTSB. Family members and friends were following Arend's 1978 single-engine Maule in the second plane, he said. The planes left the Birchwood area around 1230 hrs, Sunday, Johnson said. About 20 minutes outside of Seward, somewhere along the shoreline over the Chugach National Forest before Johnstone Bay, pilot David Arend radioed the other plane and said there was an oil leak. "Oil was apparently spraying back onto the windshield," Johnson said. Arend turned around to try to return to Seward. His destination was a beach near the Fourth of July Creek, on

Resurrection Bay. But about 300 yards short, the engine quit and the plane crashed. The nose hit the water and the plane flipped, Johnson said. The NTSB is examining the engine and trying to determine the cause of the oil leak.

N806UA

London, Aug 17 — A press report, dated today, states: Dozens of United Airlines passengers are spending an extra night in Chicago. Their flight heading to Vancouver, Canada, was taxiing to a runway at O'Hare Airport when a pilot in an aircraft behind it reported seeing sparks from the engine. The 69 passengers and five crew members left the aircraft by way of the emergency slides. Two passengers and a flight attendant were treated for minor injuries. The flight has been rescheduled for the morning.

London, Aug 17 — Airbus A319-131, N806UA, operated by United Airlines, reported sparks coming from No 1 engine at 0107, Aug 17, while taking off from Chicago O'Hare Airport, Illinois, for a flight to Vancouver, British Columbia. The 89 passengers on board were evacuated by emergency chutes, and four suffered minor injuries.

OK-YIT

London, Aug 19 — Robinson R22 Beta helicopter OK-YIT, crashed after a loss of control during an aerial photo flight, approximately three miles south of Sazava, Czech Republic, at 1005, UTC, Aug 11. The pilot was not injured; however, the passenger was killed. The helicopter was destroyed.

OY-CAK

London, Aug 19 — Socata TB 10 OY-CAK, crashed into the sea abeam the Solroed Strand, Denmark, Aug 6. There was one crew member and three passengers on board, all were killed. The Dutch AAIB is investigating the accident.

VH-DXZ

London, Aug 16 — A press report, dated today, states: Searchers looking for the pilot of a light aircraft which crashed off Queensland's Sunshine Coast located the sunken fuselage today. Police said divers were preparing to examine the wreckage in the search for the pilot, a Sunshine Coast man, who was flying from Cobar in western New South Wales to Caloundra, south of Maroochydore. The aircraft crashed into the sea about 2km off Kawana just after 2000, AEST, yesterday. An overnight search with a helicopter fitted with infra-red equipment and several boats located a lot of wreckage floating in the water. Australian Search and Rescue co-ordination centre spokesman Ben Mitchell said examination of the wreckage indicated the aircraft hit the water at high speed. Mr Mitchell said several witnesses had reported seeing the plane hit the water.

London, Aug 18 — A press report, dated today, states: Police will use special sonar equipment to try to locate the sunken fuselage of a light plane that crashed off Queensland's Sunshine Coast on Sunday (Aug 15). Pilot Barry

Coventon is believed dead after his plane crashed into the sea shortly after passing over his home at Kawana Waters. Efforts by divers to locate the fuselage, which was believed to have sunk in 20 metres of water, have been unsuccessful. A police spokeswoman said the sonar gear would be used today to try to locate the wreckage. A wheel of the aircraft was found washed up on Marcoola Beach yesterday, several kilometres from the crash area.

London, Aug 19 — A press report, dated today, states: The body of a man has been found in the wreckage of a light plane off Queensland's Coast. Police believe the body is that of pilot Barry Coventon, 54, whose plane crashed into the sea on Sunday (Aug 15) night while on a flight from Cobar in western NSW. Police divers found the wrecked fuselage of the plane with the body inside about 0930 hrs, today after a sonar search yesterday of the seabed yesterday. The fuselage will be lifted from the water. (See issue of Aug 19.) London, Aug 19 — Mooney M20K, VH-DXZ, Cobar, NSW for Caloundra, was lost from radar coverage during an approach to Caloundra, Queensland, Australia, at 1015, UTC, Aug 15. The aircraft crashed into the ocean about one nautical mile from the shoreline and was destroyed. The pilot, the sole occupant, was killed.

Product Recalls



CHILD CAR SEATS, UNITED STATES

London, Aug 12 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Britax Child Safety Inc. is recalling 355,516 child seats because a harness can loosen and endanger the child, the government said today. Britax is recalling all

Marathon, Husky, Wizard and Snug Seat Traveler Plus seats. The seats were made between August 2002 and this July and have the model numbers E9L06, E9L30, E9L07 and E9L32, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration said. Britax said no injuries have been reported because of the defect, which was discovered during company testing. Britax found that the adjuster strap could slip within the metal buckle that controls the tightness of the shoulder harness. If the strap slips far enough, the harness could loosen and the child could fall forward in an accident. Britax will provide consumers with a free kit that will allow them to fix the problem by replacing the adjuster strap. Registered owners should receive the kit by Sept. 30. Britax said seats made after Aug. 1 are not affected. The company also said it is recalling all seats not yet purchased and retrofitting them with the new strap. A spokeswoman for the company could not immediately say how much the recall will cost.

COFFEE, UNITED STATES

London, Aug 17 — A press release, dated Oklahoma City, Aug 16, states: On Friday (Aug 13), Neighbors Coffee of Oklahoma City, OK, announced a recall of 25 flavors of whole bean, nut flavored coffees that contain undeclared peanuts, hazelnuts, almonds, and/or pecans. Recalled coffee includes Caffeinated, European Decaffeinated, and Swiss Water Decaffeinated whole bean, nut flavored coffees in eight oz, 12 oz, one lb., and five lb. packaging. Neighbors Coffee announces today the expansion of this recall to include two lb. bulk packages of caffeinated and decaffeinated Amaretto Tea and Cherry Almond Tea because the teas contain undeclared almonds. People who have allergies to peanuts and/or tree nuts run the risk of serious or life-threatening allergic reaction if they consume these coffee and tea products. Recalled teas were sold nationwide in

bulk bins at retail stores. Recalled teas were also sold by mail order, Internet, and telephone orders. The Amaretto Tea and Cherry Almond Tea were produced from Feb 12 through to Aug 12. Both teas, packaged in two pound bags, are marked with lot numbers 0434 through 2254 on the front, bottom centre of the package. The recall was initiated after it was discovered that the almond-containing teas were distributed in packaging that did not declare almonds as an ingredient. No illnesses have been reported to date as a result of this labeling error. Neighbors Coffee has corrected the problem by voluntarily eliminating any and all tree nut additives in their flavored teas. Consumers with allergies to almonds who have purchased Amaretto or Cherry Almond bulk tea are urged to return them to the place of purchase for an exchange or full refund.

Port Conditions



IRAQ

Dubai, Aug 13 — Basrah Oil Terminal Situation provided by our Umm Qasr office, as of 1800, local time, today: There were three vessels alongside Basrah Oil Terminal. One VLCC completed loading at 1342, local time, and sailed at 1730, local time. One VLCC currently loading at the rate of 35,000 bbls/hour. The other two vessels awaiting loadturn. As reported earlier the vessel alongside Khor Al Amaya terminal completed loading at 1824, local time yesterday, and sailed this morning. Currently no vessels at Khor Al Amaya. Two vessels are at anchorage expecting berthing. — Lloyd's Agents.

ISRAEL

See under "Labour Disputes."

Port Delays

Country/Port	Date of report	No.of vessels waiting and/or days delay
Australia		
Abbot Point	18-Aug-2004	Coal: 1 vessel berthed, 1 anchored; 7 vessels due by 28/8; up to 1 day's delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability. Grain: no vessels; no delays expected.
Brisbane	18-Aug-2004	Coal: 3 vessels berthed, 15 anchored; 55 vessels due by 5/10; vessels berthing in order of cargo availability; 2-10 days delay subject to cargo availability and berth congestion can be expected, although vessels with other stems are experiencing longer berthing delays.
Dalrymple Bay	18-Aug-2004	Iron ore: Parker Point: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 5 anchored; 4 vessels due by 23/8; 1-7 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; cargo shortages are evident, long delays are anticipated and vessels may berth out of turn; there may be a maintenance shutdown starting ca. 9/8 until 14/8: East Intercourse Island: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 3 anchored; 11 vessels due by 29/8; up to 9 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; shippers will always consider a shift to a lay-by berth for loaded vessels awaiting HW; cargo shortages are evident, delays are anticipated and vessels may berth out of turn.
Gladstone	18-Aug-2004	Coal: R.G. Tanna coal terminal: 2 vessels berthed, 6 anchored; 26 vessels due by 16/9; up to 3 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; Barney Point: 1 vessel berthed; 4 vessels due by 20/9; no delays expected. Grain: 1 vessel berthed and loading sorghum; no delays expected.

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Product Recalls/Port Conditions

Hay Point	18-Aug-2004	Coal: 1 vessel berthed, 9 anchored; 6 vessels due by 29/8; up to 6 days berthing delay expected subject to cargo availability and berth congestion. Berth No. 1 is closed until p.m. 12/8 for the installation of a new crane.
Newcastle	18-Aug-2004	Coal: Kooragang 4, 5 and 6: 3 vessels loading; 39 vessels due by 30/8; Dykes 4+5: 11 vessels due by 26/8; 2-7 days delay expected prior to berthing due to planned maintenance at Kooragang terminal and heavy shipping schedule. As of 06.45 hrs. 16/8, the duty pilot has classified the entrance as "moderate", with selected inward and outward movements. The entrance will be continuously monitored. Grain: 7 vessels due by 4/9, 6 to load wheat, 1 sorghum; up to 5 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Port Adelaide	18-Aug-2004	Grain: No. 27 berth: 10 vessels due by 7/9, 6 to load barley, 3 wheat, 1 canola; up to 7 days delay expected due to berth congestion.
Port Hedland	18-Aug-2004	Iron ore: BHP Iron Ore Pty. Ltd., Mt. Newman (Nelson Point), "A" berth: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 2 anchored; 7 vessels due by 25/8; up to 6 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; "B" berth: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 4 anchored; 6 vessels due by 25/8; up to 7 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; BHP Iron Ore Pty. Ltd., Goldsworthy (Finucane Island): 2 vessels due by 23/8; up to 1 day's delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; Westyard "D" berth: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 2 anchored; 3 vessels due by 26/8; a 12 hour shiploader maintenance shutdown will take place from 06.00 hrs. 25/8 until 06.00 hrs. 30/8; 2-13 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability. Due to heavy demand for product, acute cargo shortages are being experienced at wharf stockpiles. Vessels will continue to berth as product becomes available.
Port Kembla	18-Aug-2004	Coal: 1 vessel anchored; 11 vessels due by 15/9; CB1: 4 vessels due by 1/9; up to 1 day's delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability. Grain: berth vacant; 3 vessels due by 30/8, all to load wheat; no delays expected.
Port Walcott	18-Aug-2004	Iron ore: 2 vessels berthed and loading, 7 anchored; 17 vessels due by 9/9; 1-6 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; as a result of a heavy schedule for July and maintenance requirements, it is extremely likely that vessels will berth out of order. In the next few days there will only be one lump re-screening plant available, which will mean not being able to load two lump vessels at the same time. Shippers advise that stores, air freight and crew baggage can no longer be delivered to vessels or taken off at berth. With immediate effect, all stores, airfreight and bags must be delivered/removed by launch.
Portland	18-Aug-2004	Grain: 1 vessel berthed to load wheat; 8 vessels due by 28/8, 4 to load barley, 2 wood-chips, 2 wheat; up to 5 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Bulgaria		
Bougas	16-Aug-2004	Ten vessels in port operating, of which 7 loading (2 wheat, 3 coils, 1copper cathodes, 1 iron/concrete), 3 discharging (1 zinc concentrate, 1 billets, 1 iron ore); 5 vessels waiting in roads, of which 4 to load (1 coils, 1 scrap, 2 empty), 1 to discharge coal; 20 vessels due of which 12 to load (1 scrap, 2 steel sheets, 1 general cargo, 1 sheets/zinc, 2 wheat, 2 containers, 1 equipment, 2 coils), 8 to discharge (2 containers, 2 metals, 1 billets, 1 zinc concentrate, 1 equipment, 1 manganese ore).
Chile		
Valparaiso	16-Aug-2004	Two vessels berthed, 6 berths vacant; 3 vessels anchored; 12 vessels due this week.
Egypt		
Alexandria	16-Aug-2004	Twenty-seven vessels berthed (loading/discharging) of which 23 general cargo, 2 containers, 2 tankers; 8 vessels at inner anchorage, 8 at outer anchorage.
Damietta	16-Aug-2004	Fourteen vessels berthed (loading/discharging) of which 9 general cargo, 2 bulkers, 3 containers; 3 vessels at outer anchorage, 1 at inner anchorage.
Suez Canal	16-Aug-2004	Twenty-three vessels transiting Northbound, 27 Southbound.
Israel		
Ashdod	17-Aug-2004	Labour go-slow. Two general cargo vessels loading at berth, 13 vessels discharging at berth (8 general cargo, 5 bulkers), 3 vessels loading/discharging at berth (2 containers, 1 tanker); 3 vessels waiting at anchor to discharge (2 general cargo, 1 bulker); 1 vessel under repairs/dry-docked, 1 awaiting orders; 10 vessels due, with 2-3 days delay expected.
Haifa	17-Aug-2004	No labour problems. Four vessels discharging at berth (3 general cargo, 1 bulker), 7 vessels loading/discharging at berth (5 containers, 2 tankers); 11 vessels waiting at anchor to discharge (5 general cargo, 6 bulkers), 4 vessels waiting at anchor to load/discharge (3 containers, 1 tanker); 3 vessels under repairs/dry-docked, 1 awaiting orders; 14 vessels due, with 2-3 days delay expected.
Pakistan		
Karachi	16-Aug-2004	One MOL vessel loading at berth, 5 vessels discharging at berth (1 crude oil, 1 DAP, 1 steel coils, 1 cement, 1 phosphate), 1 container vessel loading/discharging at berth; 1 container vessel waiting at anchorage to load, 3 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (1 general cargo, 1 containers, 1 MEG); no vessels bunkering, none under repairs/dry-docked, 1 awaiting orders; 4 vessels due (1 containers, 1 steel coils, 1 crude oil, 1 MOL), with no berthing delays expected.

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Port Conditions

Port Qasim	16-Aug-2004	Four vessels discharging at berth (1 project cargo, 1 coal, 1 iron ore, 1 CAN), 1 container vessel loading/discharging at QICT berth; 1 container vessel waiting at anchorage to load, 4 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (1 containers, 1 LPG, 1 palm oil, 1 coal).
Poland		
Gdansk	16-Aug-2004	Six vessels loading at berth (2 coal, 3 general cargo, 1 bulker), 5 discharging at berth (1 general cargo, 3 bulkers, 1 grain); 9 vessels under repairs/dry-docked; no vessels waiting at anchorage; 2 bulkers waiting in roads; 24 vessels due.
Gdynia	16-Aug-2004	Four vessels loading at berth (1 general cargo, 3 coal), 2 discharging at berth (1 bulker, 1 tanker); 16 vessels under repairs/dry-docked; no vessels waiting at anchorage, none waiting in roads; 34 vessels due.
Russia		
Novorossiysk	16-Aug-2004	Eight vessels in port operating, all loading, of which 1 pipes/vehicles/coils/steel sheets, 1 bulk cement, 1 slabs, 1 scrap, 2 wheat, 1 bulk urea, 1 diesel oil; 3 vessels waiting in roads, of which 2 to load (1 steel billets, 1 scrap), 1 to discharge bulk sugar; 53 vessels due, of which 48 to load (4 bulk ammonium nitrate, 1 bulk peas, 2 HBI, 5 coils, 7 copper, 5 aluminium, 2 bulk NPK, 5 bulk urea, 2 steel sheets, 3 pig-iron, 1 zinc, 1 steel billets, 1 flowers, 1 cellulose, 1 pipes/vehicles, 1 pipes, 2 wheat, 1 equipment, 1 diesel oil, 1 UAN solution, 1 vehicles), 1 to discharge equipment, 4 to discharge/load containers. Oil terminal: 2 tankers berthed, both loading crude oil; 4 tankers in roads, all to load crude oil; 8 tankers due, all to load, of which 7 crude oil, 1 fuel oil.
Sri Lanka		
Colombo	16-Aug-2004	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. Eleven vessels loading at berth (10 containers/feeders, 1 fuel oil), 16 vessels discharging at berth (11 containers/feeders, 1 steel cargo, 1 bagged cement, 1 bulk cement, 1 Ro/Ro, 1 general cargo); no vessels waiting at anchorage; 1 vessel under repairs, 7 dry-docked, 2 awaiting orders from principals, 1 changing crew; 5 vessels due (4 containers/feeders, 1 bulk cement), with no delays expected.
Ukraine		
Ilichevsk	16-Aug-2004	Eight vessels in port operating, of which 7 loading (1 containers, 6 steel products), 1 discharging ore; 2 vessels in roads, both to load, of which 1 sunflower oil, 1 steel products; 24 vessels due, of which 15 to load (13 steel products, 1 oil, 1 barley), 3 to discharge (2 nickel ore, 1 billets), 6 to load/discharge containers.
Mariupol	16-Aug-2004	Nine vessels in port operating, all loading, of which 2 steel, 4 fire-clay, 1 sulphur, 2 wheat; 1 ferrous metals vessel undergoing survey; 4 vessels in roads, all to load, of which 2 steel, 2 fire-clay; 64 vessels due, of which 62 to load (33 steel, 1 ferrous metals, 15 coal, 7 fire-clay, 1 fire-clay/containers, 1 barley, 1 ammonium nitrate, 2 wheat, 1 sunflower beans), 1 to discharge equipment, 1 to discharge/load containers/fire-clay.
Odessa	16-Aug-2004	Thirteen vessels in port operating, of which 12 loading (6 metal, 4 barley, 1 corn, 1 pig-iron), 1 loading/discharging containers; 8 vessels in roads, of which 5 to load (2 metal, 1 wheat, 2 containers), 3 to discharge (1 meat, 2 containers); 74 vessels due, of which 31 to load (18 metal, 2 barley, 1 pig-iron, 1 corn, 4 ferro alloy, 1 wood, 1 cars, 2 wheat, 1 general cargo), 7 to discharge (4 metal, 1 ore, 1 general cargo, 1 oil), 36 to discharge/load containers.

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