

CasualtyWeek

October 15 2004

British port congestion dire says freight haulage group

CONGESTION in ports worldwide has brought many supply chains to breaking point, with the situation in Britain "particularly dire", the Freight Transport Association argued.

Both Felixstowe and Southampton were singled out for criticism, with the top UK box facilities described as "badly affected".

The FTA levelled the charges in its regular seafreight email briefing for members. Congestion appears to be widespread across Britain, it maintained.

"There are reports that inbound boxes are routinely being held up on the dockside or even on board ships at anchor awaiting a berth.

"Some ships have bypassed the ports altogether, either to avoid the congestion here or to make up for lost time caused by congestion at other ports across the world."

Switching cargo from road to rail is not a means of avoiding congestion misery, with some trains leaving half empty in order not to miss their slots, or worse, because ships have not called at port in time.

UK exporters are also complaining of container and equipment shortages, the FTA went on.

The root of this problem is said to be the increased pressure on carriers to take empty boxes back to the Far East, where demand is greatest.

To add to shippers' woes, the FTA believes that matters will only get worse in the fourth quarter peak period.

Felixstowe was quick to hit back. A spokesman said his company recognised that there were capacity constraints in the UK, and that is why the port was currently expanding.

"We are busy, not congested," he insisted. "Perhaps [the FTA] could give me their definition of what congestion is?"

Since last year, Felixstowe has added additional storage areas, installed ten new yard gantry cranes, and hired 200 extra workers.

Average waiting time for trucks at Trinity Terminal was 44 minutes as of last week, he went on. "That is not outrageous," he said.

The UK head of one of Felixstowe's biggest users — who has criticised the port in the past — also came to its defence. "Felixstowe is doing much better than at this time last year," he said.

With record volumes of cargo arriving in the UK from Asia, all involved needed to be flexible and

prepared to spread delivery and collection times, he continued.

But many smaller shippers and hauliers seem unwilling to do so.

Southampton Container Terminal recently took the controversial decision to restrict the number of empties allowed on the berth at any one time.

But SCT business development manager Derek Smith said that the problems were seasonal in nature.

"For nine months of the year it works wonderfully well, with hauliers turning around in less than an hour.

"Then we reach the beginning of September and the whole thing goes off the rails."

Although Mr Smith hoped the issue would be resolved by mid-November, he warned that it would recur annually until Britain developed greater port capacity.

Members of the Grand Alliance, Southampton's biggest user, met yesterday to discuss the worsening situation at the port.

The group has been forced to divert a ship to Thamesport to collect empties that could not be handled by Southampton.

**David Osler and
Janet Porter**

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

Vessel	Type	Flag	Class	GT	DWT	Bit	Casualty
<i>AL TAWFIK</i>	general	GEO	—	1,922	3,009	1975	Vessel was allegedly in collision with a Bulgarian fishing vessel off Kavarna Oct 3. The fishing vessel sank as a result of the collision, one person missing.
<i>EUROPA I</i>	passenger	BOL	HV	3,983	735	1963	Vessel had a fire in the auxiliary engine-room about eight miles from Sazani Island Oct 1. Vessel was towed to Vlora, berthed Oct 2. No injuries to passengers or crew. Engine compartments seriously damaged.
<i>FAITH ANN</i>	fishing	GBR	—	49	—	1978	Vessel hit rocks and sank in Loch Eriboll in lat 58 31.3N, long 04 38.0W, Oct 5. Six crew all safely rescued.
<i>HENG SHAN</i>	bulker	PAN	BV	86,192	169,168	1999	In collision with MSC Lucia south of Changi, Singapore Oct 6. Vessel sustained port bow damage. Anchored outside the Singapore strait. No injuries or pollution.
<i>JOHANNA MARIA</i>	standby safety	VCT	BV	230	139	1973	Towed into Aberdeen after it sustained electrical failure off Aberdeen Oct 6.
<i>KORNI</i>	general	NOR	BV	1,515	1,370	1970	Had blackout outside Lillesand in lat 58 12.5N, long 08 28.2E, Oct 2. Taken in tow of two vessels and ar Lillesand same day.
<i>MARIE O.</i>	general	ATG	GL	2,047	2,515	1979	Went aground on rocks after leaving Monsteras Oct 2. LOF signed. Refloated Oct 3. Some compartments breached and flooded. Moved close to a berth for inspection.
<i>MSC LUCIA</i>	container	PAN	KR	14,953	20,239	1978	In collision with bulk <i>Heng Shan</i> 5.5 km south of Changi, Singapore Oct 6. Vessel sustained port side damage measuring 70m by 4m. Minor fire extinguished. No injuries or pollution. Anchored in the Eastern Special Purpose Anchorage.
<i>SUNRISE</i>	fishing	GBR	—	225	71	1984	In collision with fishing <i>Ocean Dawn</i> in lat 58 23N, long 02 17E, Oct 2. Taking water. All 5 crew evacuated. In tow of tug <i>Stril Neptun</i> . Arrived <i>Kopervik</i> Oct 3.
<i>TONG YUN</i>	container	CHN	CS	6,256	6,539	1980	Vessel had engine trouble 6,800 metres from <i>Megijima Lighthouse</i> , Kagawa Prefecture, Oct 2. Crew unable to effect repairs and vessel was towed to <i>Kobe</i> , arriving Oct 3.

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The following reports are reprinted from Lloyd's List



AL TAWFIK (Georgia)

Sofia, Oct 4 — Bulgaria called today for the detention of general cargo *Al Tawfik* (1922 gt, built 1975), which apparently fled after sinking a Bulgarian fishing vessel in the Black Sea off Bulgaria's northern coast late yesterday, an official said. The captain of the fishing vessel was still missing, while the other two sailors were picked up by rescue teams some eight miles off the Bulgarian town of Kavarna, transport ministry spokeswoman Rumiana Yakimova said. "Bulgaria is searching for the Georgian cargo vessel *Al Tawfik*, which most likely has collided with the fishing vessel which sank," Yakimova said. "We have asked all Black Sea countries to detain it." State radio BNR quoted officials from the Bulgarian maritime administration saying they had a tape of the accident which proved the Georgian vessel was responsible for the collision. *Al Tawfik*, travelling empty on its route to Russian port of Novorossiysk, left the site of the accident without offering any help to the fishermen as the sea laws stipulate, the officials said. "The Georgian vessel did not stop but has continued full-speed on its destination. It has neither offered help nor sent a distress signal," Yakimova said. — Reuters. (Note — *Al Tawfik* sailed Varna Oct 3 for Novorossiysk.)

London, Oct 5 — A press report, dated Oct 4, states: Georgia-flagged general cargo *Al Tawfik* struck Bulgarian fishing *Orion* late on Sunday (Oct 3) and then escaped the site of the incident in grave violation of international sea standards. Two of the crew members were rescued by another boat, which occurred in nearby waters, but the captain of the fishing vessel is still missing. Bulgarian Marine Administration has sent signals searching for *Al Tawfik* to other countries' Black Sea administration suspecting the Georgian vessel to have caused the wreckage of the small fishing vessel. The vessel sailing under the Georgian flag has escaped the collision site without any attempt to help the sinking vessel's crew, as required under international sea standards and conventions. It was caught on radar heading full speed toward the Kaliakra Cap, proceeding on its regular route. Neither the Bulgarian, nor the Georgian vessel has sent SOS signals and it was only by chance that the two crew members from the fishing vessel were rescued by another vessel.

ALYSSA M.II (U.K.)

Wellington, Oct 4 — Yacht *Alyssa M.II* remains laid-up at Nelson as of today. Vessel has been regularly advertised for sale, "as is, where is," but no sale has yet eventuated. No work is being

carried out on the vessel. Understood that there are some complications with the New Zealand Inland Revenue Department. The work being carried out on the vessel at the time of the fire was for an "export-order" to Hong Kong, with no GST payable. Now that the conversion order has been cancelled, IRD are seeking to recover the GST element of the work done. — Lloyd's Agents. (See issue of May 7.)

AMUNDSEN (Canada)

See *Pierre Radisson*.

ANDRE-MICHEL 1 (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

London, Oct 4 — Following received from Coast Guard La Garde, timed 1705, UTC: General cargo *Andre-Michel 1* (1318 gt, built 1986) and c.c. *Orkun Kalkavan* (9978 gt, built 2002) were in collision in Gulf of Fos mid-September. (Note — *Andre-Michel 1* sailed St. Louis du Rhone Sep 17, arrived Marseilles same day and sailed Sep 29, arriving Fos same day. *Orkun Kalkavan* arrived Marseilles Sep 17 and sailed Sep 18 and passed Gibraltar Sep 20.)

ANDREW J. BARBERI (U.S.A.)

London, Oct 1 — A press report, dated Sep 30, states: Federal prosecutors are expected to ask a judge tomorrow to look into a potential legal conflict with the city's decision to pay for the criminal lawyer of an indicted Staten Island Ferry official. At a hearing on the mammoth litigation surrounding the \$1.2 billion in legal claims stemming from the Oct 15 accident of ferry *Andrew J. Barberi*, which killed 11 and injured scores, Chief Assistant US attorney Andrew Hruska signalled that prosecutors would be making the request. In a hearing before Magistrate-Judge Victor Pohorelsky, Hruska said prosecutors were concerned about possible legal conflicts that might emerge if the city pays for lawyers for Patrick Ryan, the ferry operations manager who was indicted in August. Law enforcement officials and attorneys for those injured in the crash have said the city's decision to support Ryan raises the spectre of a conflict of interest on a number of fronts. One attorney, Anthony Bisignano, who represents several injured passengers, said the city's decision to pay Ryan's legal fees creates the appearance of "selective indemnification" of those whose help it needs in an effort to limit the city's financial exposure for the crash. Last year, the city filed a special federal court action to cap its financial exposure for the crash at \$14.2 million, the value of the refurbished vessel with a special allowance based on tonnage. Today John J. Hession, who also represents injured passengers, said that an expert hired for his clients is expected to file a report in a couple of weeks that pegs the value of the refurbished *Andrew J. Barberi* at \$50 million. That amount could be important because it could give passengers a bigger pot of money to share if the city wins its effort to limit its liability under federal maritime law.

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

Federal concerns about legal conflicts were expected to be raised this morning before Judge Edward Korman. Ryan was indicted in Aug on 11 counts of seaman's manslaughter stemming from the crash. Port captain John Mauldin was charged with obstruction of justice for allegedly lying to federal investigators. Hession said the city is paying the attorney fees for Ryan but not ferry captain Andrew Gansas or ferry pilot Richard J. Smith. In a statement today, city Corporation Counsel Michael Cardozo, said the city was paying for Ryan's attorney because it does not feel that he was responsible for the crash. "The accident, the first fatal accident in the 100-year history of the Staten Island Ferry, was caused by nothing other than the pilot's sudden loss of consciousness, which resulted from medications he was taking that he failed to disclose to the Coast Guard and the city," Cardozo said. "We will not be paying for John Mauldin's defence." Gansas was also charged with obstruction of justice and has agreed to help prosecutors in return for a deferral of his case. Smith, who admitted passing out at the helm of the vessel, pleaded guilty to seaman's manslaughter charges.

London, Oct 2 — A press report, dated Oct 1, states: A Brooklyn federal judge said the key criminal trial stemming from the accident involving ferry *Andrew J. Barberi* could take place in April. At a hearing today, Chief Judge Edward Korman signalled to prosecutors and defence attorneys that a spring trial for ferry service director Patrick Ryan and port captain John Mauldin was likely. Ryan was indicted in August on 11 counts of seaman's manslaughter stemming from the Oct 15, 2003 accident. He was accused in the indictment of failing to enforce ferry operating rules that could have prevented the crash. He also was charged with obstruction of justice for allegedly lying to federal investigators.

ANITRA (Bahamas)

London, Oct 1 — A press report, dated Sep 30, states: The operator of floating storage *Anitra* (now named *Madiela*), which spilled about 40,000 gallons of oil into the Delaware Bay off the New Jersey coast in 1996, has agreed to pay the state and the federal government a \$1.5 million settlement, the Justice Department said today. The money will help restore beaches and breeding grounds of migratory shorebirds and will also compensate New Jersey residents affected by the oil spill, which damaged 50 miles of the state's coastal beaches over a two-week period. The US Coast Guard first reported the oil spill on May 10, 1996, from *Anitra*, operated by France Shipmanagement SA. The vessel was anchored at Big Stone Anchorage in the Delaware Bay and was in the process of unloading more than 40 million gallons of light crude oil when a misalignment of valves caused the leak below the bay's surface, spilling about 40,000 gallons. About 12,000 gallons of oil were recovered from the vicinity of the vessel but the

remainder floated to the New Jersey coast, affecting several state wildlife management areas, two state parks and the Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge. The beaches impacted by the spill served as breeding and forage areas for local and migratory shorebirds, including the piping plover, which is listed by New Jersey as endangered and by the United States as a threatened species. "The funds provided as a result of today's settlement help us realize the goal of restoring the breeding grounds of migratory shorebirds, like the piping plover," said Tom Sansonetti, assistant attorney general for the Justice Department's Environmental and Natural Resources Division.

ANNTORO (Norway)

Trondheim, Oct 7 — General cargo *Anntoro* is still at Kvernhusvik. No decision has yet been taken regarding repairs. — Lloyd's Agents.

APOSTOLOS P. (Greece)

London, Oct 2 — Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: Ferry *Apostolos P.* is still at Piraeus port undertaking repairs. Vessel's ETD unknown.

ARATERE (New Zealand)

London, Oct 1 — A press report, dated today, states: *Ro/ro Aratere* (12596 gt, built 1998) is under urgent investigation after a steering fault saw it come within 30 seconds of potential disaster while entering Tory Channel with 268 passengers on Wednesday night (Sep 29). Maritime Safety Authority general manager of operations John Mansell said the authority was concerned as there had been the potential for a "serious grounding." "Half a minute later and it could have been very difficult to extract the vessel from that situation. There's not much room for things to go wrong in the Tory Channel and when they do go wrong they happen very quickly. Fortunately, the master was able to alter the course manually and bring it back on track." The channel is less than 600 metres wide at the entrance. An urgent investigation into the incident was being carried out but preliminary indications suggested the rudders failed to respond to the automatic navigation system. The authority has allowed the ferry to continue sailing but it must be manually steered through Tory Channel and in Wellington Harbour. An extra crew member has been assigned to the bridge. Maritime Union Wellington secretary Mike Williams said he believed all Cook Strait vessels should be hand-steered within harbour limits, because of its history of disasters. The crew were concerned about the incident but said they were comfortable with sailing the vessel manually. Toll Shipping divisional general manager Paul Garaty said the company was cooperating with the investigation and would carry out its own investigations into what caused the fault. All other Interislander ferries were run manually, he said. "When the

fault occurred, the master simply switched to the manual system to take *Aratere* through to Picton."

Wellington, Oct 4 — *Ro/ro Aratere* is still being steered manually while authorities investigate the cause of a near-grounding. A fault with the automatic navigation system put the ferry within 30 seconds of potential disaster as it entered Tory Channel last week. Maritime Safety Authority spokesman John Mansell said it had been cleared to keep sailing, on condition that there was a "man on the wheel" steering through Tory Channel and in Wellington Harbour. The condition would be lifted when Toll Shipping, which is carrying out its own internal investigation, was able to find the reason for the fault, fix it, and show it had procedures in place in case it happened again. — Lloyd's Agents.

ATLANTIS CHARM (Cyprus)

See "Brittany, France" under "Pollution."

BAHAMA SPIRIT (Vanuatu)

London, Oct 1 — A press report, dated Sep 30, states: Bulk *Bahama Spirit* that ran aground Tuesday at the Charleston Harbor jetties, prompting the temporary closure of the port's main water highway, continued its voyage up the Cooper River yesterday to deliver what remained of its cargo. The vessel won't be allowed to leave port, however, until the U.S. Coast Guard approves a recovery plan for some 3,500 tons of crushed granite that the vessel was allowed to dump onto the ocean floor to help free its hull from the mud. The recovery effort would be similar to a dredging operation and would require a federal environmental permit before any work could begin, Coast Guard spokesman Kevin Floyd said. Salvage crews and tugs managed to nudge *Bahama Spirit* back into deeper water late Tuesday and the channel was reopened. The vessel was berthed temporarily at the State Ports Authority's Union Pier terminal yesterday while Coast Guard investigators inspected the vessel and interviewed its crew. The ship did not sustain any damage, the Coast Guard said. The Charleston Branch Pilots Association, whose members board transiting ships and guide them through the harbour, is also probing the accident to determine if the pilot on the vessel could have prevented the accident. The pilot association's Bob Bennett, a former Coast Guard commander, said reports of 25 to 30 knot winds around the time the ship entered the harbour may have contributed to the accident. The State Pilotage Commission may bring in an outside investigator to conduct its own review of the accident, Bennett said. The vessel was expected yesterday to discharge its load of rock, most of which still remained on the ship, at the Kinder Morgan terminal on Shipyard Creek. The ship was headed to the terminal before the incident. In addition to submitting a plan for the recovery of the granite, the vessel's owner, Marbulk Shipping Inc., also will

be required to post a bond for the expected cost of the recovery before the ship leaves port, Floyd said.

Charleston, Oct 6 — After being refloated bulk *Bahama Spirit* docked at the South Carolina State Port Authority pier and then shifted to Nucor berth. It sailed the next day, Sep 30, for the Bahamas. — Lloyd's Agents.

BARACUDA II (Honduras)

London, Oct 4 — Information received states: C.c. *Baracuda II* (4044 gt, built 1971) had engine trouble and anchored at Sanyer Bay Aug 1. The rescue boat and tug *Kurtarma 1* were immediately sent to the vessel by VTS Centre and vessel anchored at Buyukdere anchorage area by salvage tugs. (Note — *Baracuda II* had sailed Poti Jul 29 and was next reported to have passed Istanbul, Kherson for Aliaga, loaded, Sep 21.)

BAY TITAN (U.S.A.)

London, Oct 5 — Tug *Bay Titan*, which sank in Miami harbour Jan 19, was refloated by Resolve Towing & Salvage, and delivered to Terminal 12, Miami, on Feb 16.

BELLONA (Sweden)

Gothenburg, Oct 7 — At approximately 2100 hrs, yesterday, when departing from the port of Skarvik product tanker *Bellona* (2366 gt, built 1965), laden with approximately 3,700 tons of oil, went into reverse, causing the vessel to lightly ground on "the opposite side of the river". This was due to "an alleged engine average". The vessel was holed in the area of the stern/engine-room and started to take in water. No outlet of oil reported. The vessel returned, under tow, to the quay at Skarvik, where its hull was inspected by divers. Port Officials have provided the vessel with portable pumps to deal with the water ingress. The vessel is currently discharging its cargo and later today, will be towed to Cityvarvet/yard for repair. — Westax Marine Services AB.

London, Oct 7 — Following received from Gothenburg MRCC, timed 0935, UTC: Product tanker *Bellona*, SIME, bound for Lake Vanern, with a pilot onboard, departed from Skarvik yesterday. Approaching a bend in the river, the pilot instructed the vessel to reduce speed, but it increased speed. The vessel attempted to go into reverse, but ran aground on the south bank. As a result, the vessel sustained rudder damage and lost manoeuvrability. The vessel also sustained bottom damage in the area of the engine-room, resulting in some ingress of water. *Bellona* was subsequently towed back into port, where it is now discharging. Understood vessel will be towed to a repair yard later today.

CAPE AFRICA (Taiwan)

London, Oct 1 — Following received from Singapore Port Operations, timed 0120, UTC: Bulk *Cape Africa* remains in Jurong Shipyard at the present time.

CELTIC CARRIER (U.K.)

London, Sep 30 — Following received from Coastguard Humber MRSC, timed

2250, UTC: General cargo *Celtic Carrier* (1892 gt, built 1984), outbound from Goole, has grounded on mud in the River Humber, in lat 53 42.3N, long 00 39.8W. Vessel has not sustained any damage and is expected to be refloated on the rising tide tomorrow morning.

London, Oct 2 — Following received from Coastguard Humber MRSC, timed 0850, UTC: General cargo *Celtic Carrier* refloated on rising tide at 0705, UTC, Oct 1, and proceeded on voyage. There was no damage or pollution.

CHIHAYA MARU (Japan)

See "Typhoon 'Songda'" under "Weather & Navigation."

CONTRADER (Panama)

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

CORYO NO.302 (South Korea)

See *Suk Jeong No.505*.

CRISTALLO (Italy)

Piraeus, Oct 5 — Chem.tank *Cristallo* still remains in Piraeus roads. Reportedly cracks in the hull's bottom and ingress of water were located and underwater repairs have already commenced. A likely sailing date is not yet available. — Lloyd's Agents.

DAESHIN (South Korea)

See *Suk Jeong No.505*.

EFTYCHIA (Greece)

London, Oct 5 — Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: Ferry *Eftychia* (746 gt, built 1974), Aegina for Piraeus, with 243 passengers, sustained damage to the starboard main engine off Piraeus, during the afternoon of Oct 3. At 1445 hrs, the vessel arrived safely at Piraeus on one engine, where departure was prohibited pending inspection of the repairs. The passengers for the next voyage to Aegina were forwarded to their destination on another vessel. The vessel was permitted to continue normal scheduling this morning.

ENSCO 25

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

ENSCO 64 (U.S.A.)

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

EUROPA I (Bolivia)

Trieste, Oct 4 — Passenger ro/ro *Europa I* (3983 gt, built 1963), 56 passengers, had a fire in the auxiliary engine-room about 8 miles from Sazani Island, Oct 1. The ferry was towed by another vessel to Vlore where it berthed at 0200, Oct 2. No injuries to the passengers or crew. The fire started in the auxiliary generator No.1 and seriously damaged the engine compartments. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Europa I* sailed Brindisi Oct 1 for Vlore.)

Trieste, Oct 5 — Passenger ro/ro *Europa I* was towed back to Vlore by small Albanian vessel *Angela*. — Lloyd's Agents.

FAGERVIK (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Oct 7 — General cargo *Fagervik* arrived Shoreham 2340, Sep 29, from Eemshaven, and sailed 1342, Oct 3 for Kalmar. Vessel subsequently passed Brunsbuttel Oct 5.

FAITH ANN (U.K.)

London, Oct 5 — Following received from Coastguard Aberdeen MRCC, timed 0648, UTC: Fishing *Faith Ann* (49 gt, built 1978), fishing No.WK814, six persons on board, 3,500 litres of diesel, hit rocks and sank in Loch Eriboll early this morning. The six crew are all safe.

London, Oct 5 — Following received from Coastguard Aberdeen MRCC, timed 0819, UTC: Fishing *Faith Ann* ran aground and reported sunk in Loch Eriboll in lat 58 31.3N, long 04 38.0W at 0442, UTC, today. Crew abandoned to liferaft and made own way to shore, no injuries. Coastguards from Melness tasked to locate wreck site and check for any signs of pollution.

London, Oct 5 — A press report, dated today, states: The crew of a fishing boat which sunk off Cape Wrath in the early hours of this morning have been reported safe and well. The six men took to their liferaft when fishing *Faith Ann* began taking on water after hitting rocks. Northern Constabulary said that the crew managed to row to the shore, where they called police and reported the incident. The Wick-registered boat had left Scrabster Harbour last night.

FLYING OFFICER NIRMAL JIT SINGH SEKHON PVC (India)

See "Vasco da Gama, Goa, India" under "Pollution."

FOTINI LADY (Liberia)

London, Oct 1 — A press report, dated Sep 30, states: Crude oil tanker *Fotini Lady* (42210 gt, built 2004), Ventspils for Malta, cargo 63,000 tonnes of gasoline, ran aground today in the Kattegat, the Danish Navy said. The vessel grounded near Hatter Rev, east of the island of Samsø, at 1400, local time, after straying outside of a navigation channel 700 metres wide, the navy said. No leak has so far been found on the double-hulled tanker, which was put into circulation only last February, according to Danish authorities who sent a Coast Guard team and an anti-pollution vessel to the site. A navy spokesman said that Danish maritime authorities were in talks with the tanker's insurance company to discuss ways of lightening the vessel's cargo in order to refloat it. (Note — *Fotini Lady* sailed Ventspils Sep 28 for Malta.)

London, Oct 1 — Following received from Aarhus RCC, timed 0455, UTC: Crude oil tanker *Fotini Lady* remains aground in lat 55 54.04N, long 10 50.88E, with local divers on board.

London, Oct 1 — Following received from Aarhus MRCC, timed 1130, UTC: Crude oil tanker *Fotini Lady* remains aground. Diving operation has been completed. Understand plan is for 7,000 tons of cargo to be removed hopefully starting tomorrow. Understand propeller is free from bottom.

Ymuiden, Oct 1 — Wijismuller Salvage B.V., part of SvitzerWijismuller, was contracted today to refloat crude oil tanker *Fotini Lady*, presently aground in the Great Belt in Denmark. The vessel is loaded with some 63,000 tons of gasoil. A Wijismuller Salvage B.V. team was moved in quickly with the SvitzerWijismuller tug *Frigga* to start up operations. A lighterage tanker is expected to arrive Sunday (Oct 3) to take part of the cargo in order to allow the vessel to be refloated. Further salvage team members, salvage equipment and SvitzerWijismuller tugs are being moved in over the weekend to execute this delicate operation. — Wijismuller Salvage B.V.

London, Oct 2 — Following received from Aarhus RCC, timed 0850, UTC: Crude oil tanker *Fotini Lady* remains aground. Salvors plan to start discharging cargo into barges tomorrow and it is hoped that refloating attempts can then be commenced Oct 4.

London, Oct 3 — Following received from Aarhus RCC, timed 1340, UTC: Crude oil tanker *Fotini Lady* is still aground. The operation to remove cargo has commenced and is expected to continue until after midnight tonight. Refloating attempts should be made tomorrow once the lightering is complete and it is planned that the vessel will proceed into Kalundborg fjord for inspection by divers.

Ymuiden, Oct 4 — At 1015 hrs, today, Wijismuller Salvage B.V., part of SvitzerWijismuller, succeeded in refloating crude oil tanker *Fotini Lady*. Fully loaded with gasoil, the tanker had run aground last Thursday (Sep 30). On Friday evening Wijismuller Salvage B.V. was contracted. SvitzerWijismuller tug *Frigga* and a salvage team were on site and took charge of the operations, which were to include a cargo transfer to sufficiently lighten the grounded vessel. On Saturday further team members were moved in and equipment was mobilised in to ensure a smooth cargo transfer. The Wijismuller arranged lighterage tanker arrived on site at 1300 hrs, Sunday and was moored alongside at about 1500 hrs, using the SvitzerWijismuller tugs *Frigga* and *Fenja*. Pumping started after completion of formalities at 1715, Oct 3, and was completed at 0700 hrs, this morning, having transferred 10,800 tons. The lighterage tanker then was moved off using SvitzerWijismuller tugs again. A controlled refloating attempt then was executed using four powerful tugs, under the command of the Wijismuller Salvage team, which consisted of a salvage master, a mooring master, a naval architect, salvage technicians and salvage divers. Despite the bad weather, at that stage 20-25 knots winds and the expected increase later today, the vessel was safely refloated and moved (out) of(f) the shallows at 1015 hrs. At present the vessel is being towed to Kalundborg Fjord for further inspections and is expected to anchor there at about 1500 hrs, today. — Wijismuller Salvage B.V.

London, Oct 5 — Following received from Oslo, dated today: Western Shipping Agencies PTE Ltd., the

management company for crude oil tanker *Fotini Lady*, report that after the successful refloating yesterday, the vessel proceeded to Kalundborg Fjord where it anchored. The 10,800 tons of gas oil pumped to a lighterage tanker to lighten *Fontini Lady* were transferred back to the vessel. While anchored, the Class Society - Lloyd's Register - made a full survey of the ship and the hull condition, after the grounding. They found minor damages, and recommended to the Danish Maritime Authorities to clear the ship to continue its journey to the designated port at Malta. *Fontini Lady* will leave Kalundborg Fjord at 1600 hrs.

FREITIND (Norway)

Trondheim, Oct 7 — General cargo *Freitind* was sold to Kvernhusvik Shipyard, Hitra, where it arrived on Oct 1. There is a possibility that the vessel will be converted into a barge. — Lloyd's Agents.

FU KUO HSIN NO.7 (Panama)

Yokohama, Oct 5 — Bulk *Fu Kuo Hsin No.7* was towed by salvage tugs to Sasebo, in Nagasaki Prefecture, on Sep 24. According to Japan Coast Guard, water ingress to its engine-room prevented it from proceeding under its own power. After being repaired temporarily at dock yard in Sasebo, vessel will be dismantled in Shanghai. — Lloyd's Agents.

GLOBAL FREIGHTER (Finland)

Turku, Oct 6 — Ro/ro *Global Freighter* is still under repair, ETC and sailing date unknown. — Lloyd's Agents.

GLOBAL WINNER (Panama)

Singapore, Oct 2 — Bulk *Global Winner* sailed Singapore Oct 1 for Esperance. — Lloyd's Agents.

GLORIA (Estonia)

See "United Kingdom" under "Port State Control."

GODEWIND (Antigua & Barbuda)

Kiel, Oct 7 — C.c. *Godewind* is still under repair at Husum. Duration of repairs is unknown. — Lloyd's Agents.

HENG SHAN (Panama)

See *MSC Lucia*.

HOUYA MARU (Japan)

Yokohama, Oct 5 — Vehicle *Houya Maru* (3623 gt, built 1991), bound Matsuyama, ran aground 1600 metres from Nishigobannobae Lighthouse in Hiroshima Prefecture at 0520, Sep 30. Vessel was refloated at 1025 same day. Vessel sustained scratching damage. No personal injuries, water ingress or pollution. — Lloyd's Agents.

JOHANNA MARIA (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

London, Oct 7 — Following received from Aberdeen Harbour office, dated today: Standby safety vessel *Johanna Maria* (230 gt, built 1973) was towed into Aberdeen last night after it sustained electrical failure off Aberdeen.

JOY VICTORY (Hong Kong)

Hong Kong, Oct 4 — Bulk *Joy Victory* remains in port at Hong Kong. — Lloyd's Agents.

KAPTAN ALIOSMAN (Turkey)

London, Oct 4 — A press report, dated Sep 19, states: The General Management of Turkish Coastal Safety and Salvage Administrations reported that Turkish flagged ro/ro *Kaptan Aliosman* (2981 gt, built 1971), cargo 3,200 tonnes of scrap, ran aground near Princess Islands and was salvaged by the tugs of the administration on Sep 18. (Note — *Kaptan Aliosman* sailed Gebze Sep 16 for Istanbul.)

KAPTAN CAVIT (Turkey)

See *Nadya*.

KORNI (Norway)

London, Oct 2 — Information received from Sandnes, dated today, states: General cargo *Korni* (1515 gt, built 1970), bound Kristiansand, experienced blackout outside Lillesand at 1230, local time, today. The weather is rough in the area. There have been no injuries reported to the five crewmen on board. Tugs are under way to assist the vessel and a rescue vessel and another cargoship are already in the area.

London, Oct 2 — Following received from Stavanger RCC, timed 1315, UTC: General cargo *Korni* was broken down in lat 58 12.5N, long 08 28.2E. Two vessels have towlines on board at present and will take vessel to nearest harbour.

London, Oct 2 — Following received from Stavanger RCC, timed 2100, UTC: General cargo *Korni* was towed to Lillesand, where it arrived 2005, UTC.

LA SUPERBA (Italy)

Genoa, Oct 5 — Passenger ro/ro *La Superba* sailed Genoa Oct 2 for Porto Torres. — Lloyd's Agents.

LITUYA (U.S.A.)

Anchorage, Sep 30 — Passenger *Lituya*: Alaskan Marine Highway Department confirmed that the problems were minor and the vessel was brought into Ketchikan for repairs. The vessel was back on its regular service by Sep 25. — Lloyd's Agents.

LONGOBARDA (Italy)

London, Oct 5 — Information received states: It was reported that a fire broke out in the engine-room of chem.tank *Longobarda* (6750 gt, built 1991) in lat 40 49.66N, long 29 11.74E, at approximately 1330, local time, May 14 while it was on a trial trip. The fire was extinguished by ship's own means. In the fire one crewmember lost his life and one person was injured. Emergency response boat *K.E.K. 8* was sent to the scene at 1430, local time, in order to ensure the safety of life and property by the instruction of harbour master. Tug *Kurtarma 1* was also dispatched to the area. In the following hours, it was reported that the fire went out and the ship anchored. The ship was towed by *Kurtarma 1* to Tuzla Shipyard area where it was handed over to local tugs

at 1715, local time. (Note — *Longobarda* arrived Tuzla May 1 and sailed Jun 9.)

LUCKY LADY (Malta)

London, Oct 5 — Following received from the managers of crude oil tanker *Lucky Lady*, dated today: *Lucky Lady* is still anchored off Cilacap. No decision has been reached regarding repairs.

LUDVIG ANDERSEN (Panama)

London, Oct 2 — Following received from Stavanger RCC, timed 0640, UTC: Ro/ro *Ludvig Andersen* (2462 gt, built 1984), loaded with fish, is hard aground in lat 59 58.30N, long 05 21.73E, since 0329, local time, today. One tug is on scene, while tug *Bison* is proceeding to assist. (Note — *Ludvig Andersen* sailed Aalesund 2335, Sep 30 for Klaipeda.)

London, Oct 2 — Information received from Sandnes, dated today, states: Ro/ro *Ludvig Andersen*, Aalesund for Lithuania, with frozen fish, grounded on Stord Island between Bergen and Haugesund about 0330, local time, today. Weather on scene is reportedly very rough and the vessel has a hole in its hull. A Coast Guard vessel is in the area. At 1200, local time, today the vessel developed a list and four of the eight crewmen were taken off.

London, Oct 2 — Following received from Stavanger RCC, timed 1320, UTC: Ro/ro *Ludvig Andersen* has been refloated within the last hour. Some crew remain on board the vessel, which has a hole. Two tugs are on scene.

London, Oct 2 — Information received from Sandnes, dated today, states: Ro/ro *Ludvig Andersen* was refloated at 1400, local time, today. All of the crew are now on board, and an inspection has been carried out. A rescue vessel is in the area, standing by if there are any problems.

London, Oct 5 — Following received from Stavanger RCC, timed 0930, UTC: Understand ro/ro *Ludvig Andersen* was taken to a port for inspection following its grounding and refloating on Oct 2.

MARIE O. (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Oct 2 — Following received from Gothenburg MRCC, timed 1630, UTC: General cargo *Marie O.* (2047 gt, built 1979) went aground soon after leaving Monstera at 0151, local time, today. Understand tugs are on scene ready for a refloating attempt either tonight or tomorrow. Damage unknown. (Note — *Marie O.* sailed Rotterdam Sep 25 for Norrkoping.)

Ymuiden, Oct 2 — Wijsmuller Salvage BV, part of SvitzerWijsmuller, was contracted early this morning on Lloyd's Standard Form SCOPIC terms together with SvitzerWijsmuller member Roda Bolaget to refloat general cargo *Marie O.*, presently aground in the Baltic on the Swedish east coast near Monstera. The vessel is aground on rocks and fully loaded with a cargo of wood. A salvage team from Sweden and The Netherlands is on site and has, during the day, performed the first diving surveys to determine the situation. A tug is on stand-by in case it is required, while salvage equipment from the

Salvage Divison's Swedish warehouse arrived on site at the end of the afternoon. — Wijsmuller Salvage BV.

London, Oct 3 — Following received from Gothenburg MRCC, timed 1120, UTC: General cargo *Marie O.*: Refloating operations commenced about 1000, UTC.

Ymuiden, Oct 3 — Wijsmuller Salvage BV succeeded in refloating general cargo *Marie O.* in a controlled operation at 1351, MET, today. The vessel, loaded with wood, had grounded on rocks just after midnight yesterday. During yesterday, immediately after the grounding, operations started with Swedish and Dutch salvage teams coming in. One of Wijsmuller Salvage's naval architects formed part of the salvage team engaged in these operations. Salvage equipment was moved in as well. Overnight and during the morning hours of today preparations were executed for the refloating operation. These included regaining buoyancy techniques since certain compartments had been breached and flooded. The refloating operation itself was executed under command of the Wijsmuller Salvage Master and with the use of one tug after appropriate permissions had been obtained from the Swedish authorities. The casualty is now moved to a berth close by for further inspections. — Wijsmuller Salvage BV.

MECIT KAPTAN (Turkey)

Istanbul, Oct 5 — General cargo *Mecit Kaptan* is still lying "as is" and there is no progress regarding repairs. — Lloyd's Agents.

MED GENERAL IV (Cambodia)

Istanbul, Oct 4 — Bulk *Med General IV* (8670 gt, built 1972), Chalkis to Kavkaz, sustained engine breakdown while transitting Dardanelles and anchored off Gelibolu at 1720, local time, Oct 3. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Med General IV* sailed Gabes Sep 26 for Kavkaz.)

Istanbul, Oct 5 — Bulk *Med General IV* completed repairs by own means and, upon completion of inspection and formalities, sailed from Canakkale at 1300, local time, Oct 4. — Lloyd's Agents.

MELLUM (Liberia)

Melbourne, Oct 4 — General cargo *Mellum* arrived Melbourne Oct 2 from Thevenard. — Lloyd's Agents.

MIDDLETOWN (U.S.A.)

Troy, Mich, Oct 1 — Bulk *Middletown* (13206 gt, built 1943) was tied up at the Carbide Dock in Sault Ste Marie yesterday. Divers are reported working from the MCM Marine tug *Kelly Ann*. Initial reports indicate vessel may have sustained some bottom damage in the St. Marys River. — "Great Lakes & Seaway Shipping."

Troy, Michigan, Oct 6 — Bulk *Middletown* remained in dry dock yesterday at Fraser Shipyards undergoing bottom repairs. The vessel rubbed bottom in the St. Marys River while upbound. — Great Lakes & Seaway Shipping.

MINI COY (India)

London, Oct 1 — Ferry *Mini Coy* sailed Kochi Sep 28.

Kochi, Oct 7 — Ferry *Mini Coy* which sustained damage in the collision has sailed after minor repairs. According to the vessel's agent final repair will be carried out later. The other vessel, research *Samudra Manthan*, has also sailed from Kochi since it did not sustain any damage in the accident. — Lloyd's Agents.

MSC LUCIA (Panama)

London, Oct 6 — Following press release received from the Maritime & Port Authority of Singapore, dated today: About 0447 today a collision occurred between bulk *Heng Shan*, 86192 gt, (built 1999), departing Singapore for China, loaded with 160,000 tonnes of iron ore, and c.c. *MSC Lucia*, 14953 gt, (built 1978), bound Singapore, with more than 700 containers on board, about 5.5 km south of Changi in Singapore waters. Prior to the collision, warnings were given to the two vessels by the MPA Vessel Traffic Information Service and both vessels were communicating with each other. *Heng Shan's* port bow was damaged. *MSC Lucia* also sustained damage on its port side measuring about 70 m by 4 m. A minor fire broke out in the steering gear-room of *MSC Lucia*, which was immediately put out by the ship's crew. Both vessels are in stable condition. *MSC Lucia* is anchored in the Eastern Special Purpose 'A' anchorage while *Heng Shan* is anchored outside the Singapore Strait away from the main shipping lane. There was no report of any injury and no oil pollution. Port operations and vessel traffic remain unaffected. The MPA will be investigating the incident.

NADYA (Turkey)

London, Oct 4 — A press report, dated today, states: General cargo *Nadya*, which was in collision with general cargo *Kaptan Cavit* and ran aground at the northern entrance of the Straits of Istanbul in January 2001, has remained aground in the same place with its cargo, the legal processes went on for three years. The general director of Turkish Salvage Administration Mr. Tozar said that the lighterage work is in progress and the vessel will be removed in three days.

NANDU (India)

London, Oct 2 — Following received from Cape Town MRCC, timed 0630, UTC: Crude oil tanker *Nandu* (80569 gt, built 1992) reported being not under command following engine fire in lat 18 44.3S, long 11 23.9E, at 0329, UTC. Fire is now extinguished and crew are attempting to effect repairs. They have stated that they do not require assistance at this stage.

London, Oct 2 — According to the managers of crude oil tanker *Nandu* the engine fire was minor and is not believed to have caused significant damage; they do not anticipate requiring any salvage assistance. The

crew are currently waiting for the affected areas to cool down before inspecting the damage.

London, Oct 3 — Following received from Cape Town MRCC, timed 1330, UTC: Crude oil tanker *Nandu* completed repairs at 1752, UTC, yesterday and proceeded on voyage for Democratic Republic of Congo.

NAZEK T. (North Korea)

Bucharest, Oct 1 — A decision was taken to repair general cargo *Nazek T.* and on Sep 29, the vessel was reportedly dry-docked. The extent of damages and estimated time involved in repairs are not presently known. — Lloyd's Agents.

NINA (Comoros)

London, Oct 1 — Following received from Singapore Port Operations, timed 0125, UTC: Bulk *Nina* remains at Raffles Anchorage in Singapore.

Singapore, Oct 1 — Bulk *Nina* was beached in the area of Raffles Anchorage at 1215, local time, yesterday to allow its holds to be flooded with seawater in order to stop the vessel's cargo of coal from emitting smoke. The next stage of the operation will involve lightering the cargo to allow the vessel to be safely refloated and redelivered to its owners. — Semco Salvage & Marine Pte Ltd.

London, Oct 1 — Information received, dated today, states: Semco Salvage in control of the salvage/firefighting operation has successfully shifted and beached bulk *Nina* at a nearby approved coastline at Pulau Senang, Singapore Southern Island, in lat 01 01.1N, long 103 44.4E. Salvage and firefighting operation to the burning cargo holds are in progress. Hatch covers of the affected cargo hold were opened and flooded with seawater in an effort to put out the fire. It is anticipated the firefighting operation will last for another one to two days before any assessment can be made on board on the extent of damage to cargo and vessel. It was reported that General Average has been declared by owners.

London, Oct 7 — Bulk *Nina*: Situation at site is under full control of the salvor. Fire onboard has been completely extinguished. Salvor is preparing vessel for refloating. There is a possibility that some cargo will have to be transferred from casualty to receiving barges before any refloating attempt. Investigation onboard is in progress.

NIRINT CHAMPION (Bahamas)

Ponta Delgada, Sep 30 — General cargo *Nirint Champion* is still berthed alongside the inner quay in the port undergoing repairs to its main engine damage. Repairs are scheduled to be completed by Oct 4. — Lloyd's Agents.

Ponta Delgada, Oct 4 — Main engine repairs to general cargo *Nirint Champion* have been completed. After satisfactory trials the vessel left Ponta Delgada at 1030 hrs, today, bound for Havana, Cuba. — Lloyd's Agents.

NORDBEACH (Cyprus)

Durban, Sep 30 — C.c. *Nordbeach* has completed repairs and departed from Durban this morning. — Lloyd's Agents.

NORTHICA (NIS)

See "Skagen Area, Denmark" under "Pollution."

NORWAY (Bahamas)

Bremen, Oct 1 — Passenger *Norway* remains in port at Bremerhaven. — Lloyd's Agents.

NYSA (Singapore)

See "Hurricane Frances."

OCEAN ADY (DIS)

London, Oct 1 — Ro/ro *Ocean Ady* arrived Esbjerg Sep 27 and sailed same day.

OCEAN DAWN

See *Sunrise*.

OCEAN GALAXY (Hong Kong)

See "Collapse of Bauxite Loading Equipment, Discovery Bay, Jamaica" under "Miscellaneous."

ODIN (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Oct 5 — General cargo *Odin*, Oskarshamn for Goole, passed Brunsbittel Oct 4.

ORION (Bulgaria)

See *Al Tawfik*.

ORKUN KALKAVAN (Turkey)

See *Andre-Michel 1*.

OSIRIS (Netherlands)

Maassluis, Oct 4 — General cargo *Osiris* remains under arrest at Rotterdam. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

PARTNER (Russia)

Rijeka, Oct 7 — General cargo *Partner* is still at Sibenik waiting for spare parts. Prospects of its sailing are not known at the moment. — Lloyd's Agents.

PAX PHOENIX (Panama)

See "Gloucester Island, Australia" under "Pollution."

PENG YANG (China)

London, Oct 7 — Following received from Hong Kong MRCC, timed 0145, UTC: Bulk *Peng Yang* was refloated a couple of days ago and towed to mainland China for repairs.

PIERRE RADISSON (Canada)

London, Oct 1 — Icebreaker *Pierre Radisson* (5910 gt, built 1978), while swinging at anchor at Payne Bay, New Quebec, in lat 60 00.30N, long 69 37.30W, made contact with icebreaker *Amundsen* (5910 gt, built 1979), while this vessel was preparing to tie up alongside at 2317, UTC, Sep 22. *Pierre Radisson* sustained minor damage, the damage to *Amundsen* was unknown.

PONGOLA (Antigua & Barbuda)

Durban, Oct 2 — General cargo *Pongola* is still under repair at Durban. Anticipated that the ship will be undocked at the end of next week, repairs to be complete two days after undocking. — Lloyd's Agents.

PRESTIGE (Bahamas)

London, Oct 5 — A press report, dated today, states: The last of the fuel oil

trapped inside the wreck of crude oil tanker *Prestige* has now been removed and transported to La Corunna. About 95% of what was on board has been recovered. The remaining 5% remains adhered to the inside of the hull. The task of neutralising the oil left on board is ongoing.

PRIDE A. (Greece)

Tarragona, Oct 5 — Product tanker *Pride A.* sailed Tarragona Sep 27 for Antwerp. — Lloyd's Agents.

ROSEBANK (U.K.)

Maassluis, Oct 6 — General cargo *Rosebank* remains under repair at Ridderkerk, ETC still unknown. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

ROTTERDAM (Netherlands)

London, Oct 2 — Passenger *Rotterdam* arrived New York Sep 30 from Halifax.

SAMUDRA MANTHAN (India)

See *Mini Coy*.

SAN DOMENICO (New Zealand)

Wellington, Oct 4 — As of today, fishing *San Domenico* remains on a slipway at Shelly Bay, Evans Bay, Wellington. Work has been progressing on preparing the vessel for scuttling outside Wellington, about 13 miles off the coast, in deep water. Final permit approval from the MSA is expected to be obtained "in the next few weeks," after which the vessel will be towed-out and scuttled in favourable weather conditions. — Lloyd's Agents.

SEA CELEBRITY (Thailand)

Bintulu, Oct 4 — General cargo *Sea Celebrity* arrived Bintulu Sep 28 from Batangas and sailed the same day for Bangkok. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

SEAVINHA (Malta)

London, Oct 1 — Following received from Coastguard Solent MRSC, timed 0510, UTC: Product tanker *Seavinha* reported all repairs complete at 2233, UTC, yesterday. Vessel is now awaiting arrival of class surveyor before resuming voyage.

London, Oct 1 — Following received from Coastguard Solent MRSC, timed 0916, UTC: Product tanker *Seavinha*: Repairs carried out, trials undertaken and class surveyor has cleared vessel for onward voyage to New York.

SELIN S. (Honduras)

London, Oct 4 — A press report, dated Sep 19, states: Residents of Istanbul protested the authorities for the wreck of general cargo *Selin S.*, which ran aground in February 1999 at the very centre of Istanbul, for the earliest removal of the wreck. They all took part in marking in International Sea and Coast Clean Up Day by collecting garbage on coastal areas.

SERENITY (U.K.)

London, Oct 6 — Following received from Coastguard Aberdeen MRCC, timed 0445, UTC: Fish *Serenity*, BF24, (158 gt, built 1991), reported at 0300, GMT, drifting at 0.7 knots, 110 miles

south-east of Aberdeen due lost power. A supply vessel en route to tow vessel to Aberdeen.

London, Oct 6 — Following received from Coastguard Aberdeen MRCC, timed 1600, UTC: Fishing *Serenity*, in tow, ETA Aberdeen midnight. (See issue of Oct 7.)

London, Oct 7 — Following received from Coastguard Aberdeen MRCC, timed 0615, UTC: Fishing *Serenity* was taken in tow by supply *Troms Falken*. Tow commenced at 0713, UTC, (Oct 6) and was passed to an Aberdeen harbour tug at 2105, UTC, when the Aberdeen fairway buoy was reached. *Serenity* safely alongside at Commercial Quay East Berth, Aberdeen harbour, at 2142, UTC. Search and rescue operations terminated at this time.

SHEN QUAN HAI (China)

Lima, Sep 29 — Bulk *Shen Quan Hai* and tugs *Lobos* and *Kuelap* left Salaverry Aug 13 for Balboa. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Lobos* and *Kuelap* subsequently arrived Callao Aug 24 from Balboa.)

SHINTOMEI NO.1

Yokohama, Oct 7 — Barge *Shintomei No.1* was refloated by Fukada Salvage & Marine Works Co Ltd at 0700, Aug 16. After inspection by the Ministry of Transport, it berthed at Shunan in Yamaguchi Prefecture. — Lloyd's Agents.

SILVA (Cambodia)

Esbjerg, Oct 1 — General cargo *Silva* is still in port at Esbjerg. — Lloyd's Agents.

SOUTHERN TIARE (New Zealand)

Wellington, Oct 3 — General cargo *Southern Tiare* sailed Timaru Sep 29 for Bluff. — Lloyd's Agents.

SPETSES (Greece)

See *Van Gogh*.

STIG HALLE (Norway)

Trondheim, Oct 7 — General cargo *Stig Halle*: Kvernhusvik today advised that they estimate that they will complete repairs by the end of next week. — Lloyd's Agents.

SUK JEONG NO.505 (South Korea)

Busan, Oct 6 — General cargo *Suk Jeong No.505*, collision with barge *Coryo No.302*, which was in tow of tug *Daeshin*, Jun 23: *Suk Jeong No.505* is currently at Mokpo and is expected to sail in tow for a Chinese port today. We are unable to confirm whether the vessel will be repaired or scrapped in China. *Coryo No.302* and *Daeshin* were released by the courts on Sep 15. *Coryo No.302* was permanently repaired at Mokpo between Sep 16 and 23 and tug and barge then returned to normal service. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

SUNRISE (U.K.)

London, Oct 2 — Following received from Coastguard Aberdeen MRCC, timed 0800, UTC: Fishing *Sunrise* (225 gt, built 1984) was in collision with its pair-trawling vessel, fishing *Ocean Dawn* (269 gt, built 1974), in lat 58

23N, long 02 17E, at 0555, UTC. *Sunrise* contacted Aberdeen Coastguard, requesting pump assistance due taking water. Aberdeen Coastguard contacted Stavanger RCC and requested a rescue helicopter to scramble with rescue pumps. *Ocean Dawn* appears to be in sound condition and is standing by on scene. Tug/supply vessel *Stril Neptun* was requested to proceed and it arrived on location at 0716, UTC. Rescue helicopter Saver 53 delivered two pumps on board the *Sunrise* and is also standing by in the area.

London, Oct 2 — Following received from the Maritime & Coastguard Agency, dated today: Early this morning fishing *Sunrise* and fishing *Ocean Dawn* experienced an impact whilst pair-trawling in Norwegian waters. *Sunrise* is now taking in water. Aberdeen Coastguard received a long range radio call at approximately 0700 today requesting assistance from *Sunrise*. The vessel has five persons on board and operates out of Fraserburgh. The position of the vessel was 142 miles east north-east of Fraserburgh, in Norwegian waters. Aberdeen Coastguard scrambled a Rescue helicopter from Norway, which is proceeding with pumps. *Ocean Dawn* that was trawling with the casualty vessel is standing by, as is tug/salvage *Stril Neptune* from the Slepner Platform. Matthew Mace, Aberdeen Coastguard Watch Manager, said: "Sunrise is taking in water, additional pumps will shortly be airlifted to the vessel by the Norwegian Rescue helicopter. The crew will then be able to assess the situation further as to the whether to abandon the vessel or not." The weather conditions on scene are moderate, southerly winds with good visibility.

London, Oct 2 — Following received from Coastguard Aberdeen MRCC, timed 0945, UTC: Fishing *Sunrise*, collision with fishing *Ocean Dawn*: All five crew from *Sunrise* were airlifted by helicopter Saver 53 and loaded on tug/supply *Stril Neptun*. *Sunrise* remains afloat and is currently under tow of *Stril Neptun*, bound Norway. Coordination has been passed to Stavanger RCC.

London, Oct 2 — Following received from Stavanger RCC, timed 1325, UTC: Fishing *Sunrise* is now in tow of tug/supply *Stril Neptun*, bound Skudenes, where ETA 0800, local time, tomorrow.

London, Oct 3 — Following received from Coastguard Aberdeen MRCC, timed 0800, UTC: According to agents of fishing *Sunrise*, vessel arrived Kopervik safely at 0615, UTC.

SUPERFLYTE (New Zealand)

Auckland, Oct 5 — Catamaran ferry *Superflyte* is currently under repair alongside at Auckland and expected to return to service with repairs completed in the next week to 10 days. — Lloyd's Agents.

SVEAFJELL (Norway)

Trondheim, Oct 7 — General cargo *Sveafjell* is to be repaired at

Kvernhusvik Shipyard, Hitra. Estimated repair time eight-nine weeks. — Lloyd's Agents.

SVEN (Germany)

London, Oct 1 — Following received from Malmo VTS, timed 0615, UTC: C.c. *Sven* proceeded two or three hours after anchoring.

London, Oct 3 — C.c. *Sven* arrived Hamburg 0950, Oct 1, from Copenhagen.

TENACITY (Malta)

London, Oct 1 — Following received from Coastguard Falmouth MRCC, timed 0520, UTC: Bulk *Tenacity* is still anchored in Falmouth Bay.

London, Oct 3 — Following received from Coastguard Falmouth MRCC, timed 1150, UTC: Bulk *Tenacity* is still anchored in Falmouth Bay. At present better weather is awaited to allow delivery of the required spares on board the vessel.

London, Oct 6 — Following received from Coastguard Falmouth MRCC, timed 1300, UTC: Bulk *Tenacity* completed repairs and departed Falmouth Bay at about 2200, last night.

TENAGA LIMA (Malaysia)

Yokohama, Oct 5 — According to the local agents, Ing *Tenaga Lima* is still under repair and will resume its voyage services around May 2005. — Lloyd's Agents.

THOR R. (Denmark)

Esbjerg, Oct 4 — The attempted raising of trailing suction hopper dredge *Thor R.* over the weekend was not successful. It is therefore planned to retry salving the vessel again on Wednesday, Oct 6, at high tide. — Lloyd's Agents.

Gothenburg, Oct 4 — A special Dutch team are engaged in the difficult salvage of trailing suction hopper dredge *Thor R.*, outside of Esbjerg. Due to the tide, changing every 6th hour - and sand flooding the ship - the vessel has now sunk deeper and deeper into the bottom at Grrdyb. A pontoon crane is available for lifting, but despite several attempts, they have not yet succeeded in getting the vessel up to the surface. — Westax Marine Services AB.

Esbjerg, Oct 6 — The raising of trailing suction hopper dredge *Thor R.* has been postponed to Friday (Oct 8), at high tide at 0952. — Lloyd's Agents.

TONG YUN (China)

Yokohama, Oct 5 — C.c. *Tong Yun* (6256 gt, built 1980), Shanghai to Tokyo, had engine trouble 6,800 metres, 304 deg, from Megijima Lighthouse, Kagawa Prefecture, at 0010, Oct 2. Crew unable to effect repairs and towed to Kobe. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Tong Yun* arrived Kobe Oct 3.)

TRAKYA (Italy)

Genoa, Oct 5 — Ro/ro *Trakya* is still under repair at Mariotti shipyard, in Genoa. ETC end of October. — Lloyd's Agents.

TULINE (Lebanon)

London, Oct 4 — Information received states: General cargo *Tuline* (3956 gt, built 1973), Unye for Durres, cargo 5,700 tons clinker, grounded in lat 41 07 22N, long 29 04 29E, at 1352, local time Jun 24. The rescue boat *Tahlisiye 3* was immediately sent to the scene. No environmental pollution was recorded. Rescue boat *Kurtarma 1* was also dispatched to the area. The vessel did not requested any salvage and rescue services. Eventually the vessel refloated by own means at 1950, local time. It went to anchorage area in order to complete necessary survey inspections, escorted by a tug. (Note — *Tuline* subsequently arrived Durres Jun 30.)

TUNAS MAKMUR (Indonesia)

Jakarta, Oct 5 — General cargo *Tunas Makmur*, Ternate to Gresik, cargo wood, when passing the Strait of Madura, struck the wreck of a vessel causing hull damage. Vessel still afloat in the Strait of Madura. — Lloyd's Agents.

ULLA (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

Iskenderun, Oct 7 — General cargo *Ulla* is still in the same condition. — Lloyd's Agents.

VAN GOGH (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

Gibraltar, Oct 1 — Local agents of passenger *Van Gogh* inform us that vessel has entered dry dock today and will be undergoing repairs during the next two weeks. The agents for crude oil tanker *Spetses* have informed us that vessel has sailed to Greece where it will be repaired. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Oct 1 — Crude oil tanker *Spetses*, Algeciras for Mediterranean, passed Gibraltar 1619, Sep 29.

VASTSJO (Sweden)

See "Skagen Area, Denmark" under "Pollution."

VENUS (Lebanon)

Leghorn, Oct 7 — The wreck general cargo *Venus* has been totally removed and the entire area is now clear from any debris. — Lloyd's Agents.

VIKING II

Auckland, Oct 5 — Fishing *Viking II* has been sold unrepaired, with the purchaser intending to make good the damage and return it to service. — Lloyd's Agents.

WELS (Germany)

Aalborg, Oct 4 — Chemical/oil carrier *Wels* is scheduled to test its seaworthiness at 0800, Wednesday (Oct 6). If successful, it is anticipated that the vessel will depart from Frederikshavn. — Lloyd's Agents.

YUMING OIL 1 (China)

London, Oct 6 — A press report, dated today, states: A gasoline-laden tanker caught fire today on a river in southern China and burned for 13 hours, spreading a pall of smoke across a city,

the government said. One crew member was missing. Non specific tanker *Yuming Oil 1*, which was carrying 800 tons of gasoline, caught fire at a wharf on the Gan River in Nanchang, capital of Jiangxi province, the official Xinhua News Agency said. The blaze was finally extinguished by firefighters using 20 fire engines, the agency said, citing Liao Shihuai, a provincial fire official. One crew member who jumped into the river was missing, Liao said. Six others were rescued. The disaster left a slick several kilometres long on the river, Xinhua said. It said the cause of the fire was under investigation but cited a crew member who said it started in the engine cabin.

ZUARA (Malta)

See "French Atlantic Coast" under "Pollution."



Port State Control

UNITED KINGDOM

London, Oct 6 — A press report, dated today, states: Stricken Estonian general cargo *Gloria* (657 gt, built 1965) has been dumped by its owners Timant Ltd. And now responsibility for the ship rests in the hands of the Port of Tyne. The grain ship was impounded by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) in August last year, when inspectors found 57 deficiencies. Among the faults was corrosion in the deck beams, distorted side frames and signs of insect infestation. The coastguard declared it dangerously unsafe and a threat to other shipping. The crew of Estonian sailors were left stranded with no pay after their firm refused to pay for repairs to the ship. They were eventually able to return to their homeland. Now the ship has been declared abandoned by the MCA, which says the Port of Tyne is now responsible. A spokeswoman said the port must now pay for the repairs in order to have it removed or face taking the ship apart at the dock. The only other alternative is to leave it where it is, taking up important berthing space. The ship is berthed on Factory Quay, one of the port's main bays for unloading materials. A Port of Tyne spokeswoman said it would be difficult to give an estimate on how much the vessel is costing the port. She said: "I can confirm *Gloria* entered the Tyne in August 2003 and was subsequently detained by the Maritime Coastguard Agency. "The Port of Tyne is working closely with the MCA and the Environment Agency to ensure a safe and environmentally sound solution.



Seizures & Arrests

ARDEAL (Romania)

Khulna, Oct 4 — General cargo *Ardeal* is still under attachment at Mongla. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

ATLANTICA (Honduras)

London, Oct 5 — An all-Ukrainian crew of 13 that includes a cancer patient has effected the arrest of tanker *Atlantica* (1979 gt, built 1983) in Fort Lauderdale, claiming more than \$112,000 in back wages. The crew, according to its attorney Ross Toyne, claims to have survived for more than four months with few provisions while plying the Caribbean trades, often being reduced to eating barracudas fished off the ship's side after being "abandoned" by the shipowner. However, shipowner Maurice Denis, a Miami businessman, has filed a motion to release the ship, saying the arrest was effected improperly and in contravention of prior agreements with the crew. The owner has paid the cancer-stricken crew member Mikola Kovalenko his back wages, and the seafarer was repatriated to Ukraine last Thursday. Mr Kovalenko has signed a release seeking to dismiss the case with prejudice, saying the owner provided him with "all necessary doctors at its expense", and that he would fund further treatment on his own. Judge Jose Martinez of the US District Court for the Southern District of Florida ordered the arrest of the vessel Sep 24, acting on a maritime lien motion filed on the crew's behalf by Mr Toyne. The shipowner's motion says the crew had agreed prior to the last voyage to "temporarily delay" its wages until the owner could receive future freight revenue. It includes a letter dated Sep 10 on Denistank stationery, signed by master Gennadiy Gorbanyov, in which the latter agrees to receive \$40,000 on behalf of the crew on completion of loading on the last voyage, and the balance in the future. National Liquidators, the Fort Lauderdale-based ship repossession firm, has been appointed substitute custodian in charge of stocking the ship with supplies and otherwise coming to the crew's aid. The firm was forced to move the ship temporarily to Key West after its arrest to avoid Hurricane "Jeanne". This contributed to the owner not getting access to the ship, the Denistank motion states. But it also accuses Mr Toyne of preventing direct communication between the crew and the owner "to settle any differences that may exist". The 13-man crew under Captain Garbanyov states in the original lawsuit that the shipowner "refused to pay earned wages and accumulated benefits for more than four months", with total arrears including overtime through to Aug 31

amounting to \$112,391. The lawsuit demands double wages in penalty, and reimbursement of the crew's legal expenses. The lawsuit also highlights the predicament of Mr Kovalenko, an able-bodied seaman who is said to have contracted cancer of the lip while in the ship's service. The employer "has a duty to provide prompt maintenance and care" but had failed to do so despite Mr Kovalenko's repeated demands, the lawsuit alleges. Mr Toyne said yesterday he intended to prosecute the original lawsuit, and suggested that the entire crew had not signed off on the master's decision to accept a settlement. He said it was understandable for the crew to want their money in any manner, but it was for Mr Denis to actually produce the funds. He said the maritime lien attaches to the entire freight, and Mr Denis would be required to deposit it into the court registry or post a bond. The cargo of tallow remained onboard yesterday. Separately, Mr Toyne suggested that the original claim of \$112,319 could be augmented by about \$50,000 in wage arrears on behalf of three other seafarers, who are understood to have jumped overboard during the ship's call in Miami in June allegedly out of desperation. They were caught by US authorities and subsequently deported to the Ukraine. But their case is contiguous in principle with that filed by their 13 mates, Mr Toyne said.

AUKUREN (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

Oslo, Oct 5 — Lloyd's Sub-agents at Fredrikstad inform that cement *Aukuren* is still in port at Fredrikstad Borg Harbour. — Lloyd's Agents.

BANOWATI (Indonesia)

Maassluis, Oct 4 — Bulk *Banowati* (35119 gt, built 1982) is currently under detention at Rotterdam, where it arrived Sep 25. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

CAPE ENDURANCE (Panama)

Cape Town, Oct 7 — The Cape Town Sheriff has advised that standby safety vessel *Cape Endurance* remains under arrest at Cape Town. — Lloyd's Agents.

CEM ADRIATIC (Bahamas)

See "Tordenskjold A/S."

CORYO NO.302 (South Korea)

See *Suk Jeong No.505* under "Marine."

DAESHIN (South Korea)

See *Suk Jeong No.505* under "Marine."

DERYA 3 (Turkey)

See "Turkish Fishing Vessels Arrested at Constantza."

DIAGORAS (Greece)

London, Oct 1 — A report in today's edition of "Newsfront" states: After being seized several times, the latest by a private creditor at the end of August, in pursuit of a Euros 37,850 claim against the registered owners Dane Sealine, passenger ro/ro *Diagoras* (6939 gt, built 1990) has been listed for

auction on Oct 13. Currently lying in Drapetzona, the vessel carries a start-up price of Euros 15 million.

EMINO GULLARI (Turkey)

See "Turkish Fishing Vessels Arrested at Constantza."

ERENLER 2 (Turkey)

See "Turkish Fishing Vessels Arrested at Constantza."

FAIAL (Mongolia)

Beirut, Oct 5 — General cargo *Faial* arrived Beirut Oct 1 from Limassol. — Lloyd's Agents.

GULF FLEET NO.74 (U.S.A.)

Limassol, Oct 6 — Anchor handling tug/supply *Gulf Fleet No.74* (287 gt, built 1984), which arrived at Limassol Aug 23, has been arrested as from Oct 6. — Lloyd's Agents.

KADIR KAPTAN (Turkey)

See "Turkish Fishing Vessels Arrested at Constantza."

MILOS (Greece)

Maassluis, Oct 4 — Bulk *Milos* (37337 gt, built 1978) is currently under detention at Rotterdam, where it arrived Sep 28. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

NAVIGATOR

Cape Town, Oct 7 — The Cape Town Sheriff has advised that tug/supply *Navigator* remains under arrest at Cape Town. — Lloyd's Agents.

ORALAKE (Netherlands Antilles)

London, Oct 2 — Product tanker *Oralake* sailed Rotterdam Sep 30 for Brake.

OSIRIS (Netherlands)

See under "Marine."

OSTWIND (Antigua & Barbuda)

Maassluis, Oct 4 — General cargo *Ostwind* remains under arrest at Vlaardingen. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

PIRLAN TKARDESLEK (Turkey)

See "Turkish Fishing Vessels Arrested at Constantza."

RESHID BEHBUDOV (Azerbaijan)

Mersin, Oct 4 — Local agents of general cargo *Reshid Behbudov* advise that the vessel is still under detention. — Lloyd's Agents.

SAHIN (Turkey)

See "Turkish Fishing Vessels Arrested at Constantza."

SEAGREEN (Cyprus)

London, Oct 4 — C.c. *Seagreen* remains at South East Lamma Anchorage, Hong Kong, under arrest.

SPIRIT OF ONTARIO I (U.S.A.)

London, Oct 1 — A US federal judge has ordered the arrest of passenger ro/ro *Spirit of Ontario I* in the Great Lakes port of Rochester after Amerada Hess filed a suit claiming \$372,868 in unpaid bunker bills. US District Judge Michael Telesca has ordered the US Marshal to ensure that the ferry stays

in port until the case is resolved. The Amerada Hess suit demands a sale of the fast ferry to settle the firm's maritime lien. The new twin-hulled catamaran has been in service since June, running a service across Lake Ontario between Rochester and Toronto and carrying a reported 140,000 passengers. However, service has been suspended since Sep 8 after operator Canadian American Transportation Systems admitted to financial difficulties. A recorded message on the company's telephone number says the Toronto marketing and sales office has closed as of Sep 22 and refunds would be provided. Passengers with bookings are also advised to contact their credit card companies to void the charges. However, a separate recording promises that CATS is "diligently working to restore service" and that passengers will be contacted to re-book their trips "once service resumes." The message does not say when this might happen but encourages callers to "monitor local media for updates." US news reports say that the Export, Finance and Insurance Corp, the Australian state export credit arm, is to decide this week on "how, when or if" the ferry could leave port. EFIC is one of the project's backers, having provided a A\$33.7m (\$23.9m) guarantee. CATS president Cornel Martin told the Rochester Democrat and Chronicle newspaper that "EFIC is aware of all the creditors and what is due to them, so this should not come as a surprise to them." CATS had paid Amerada Hess \$2m since June, Mr Martin said.

STRILBAS (Norway)

Maassluis, Oct 4 — Standby safety vessel *Strilbas* remains under arrest at Rotterdam. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

TORDENSKJOLD A/S

Piraeus, Oct 3 — General cargo *Cem Adriatic*, now renamed *Adriatic Arrow*, sailed Piraeus Oct 2 for Cyprus. — Lloyd's Agents.

TURKISH FISHING VESSELS ARRESTED AT CONSTANTZA

Bucharest, Oct 4 — Turkish fishing vessels *Derya 3*, *Eminogullari*, *Erenler 2*, *Kadir Kaptan*, *Pirlan Tkardeşler* and *Sahin* arrested at Constantza: Vessels are still under arrest at Constantza, the prospects of their release are not known at present. — Lloyd's Agents.

VOYAGER (Netherlands Antilles)

Maassluis, Oct 4 — General cargo *Voyager* is still under arrest at Rotterdam. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

Pollution



BOWEN, QUEENSLAND, AUSTRALIA

London, Oct 1 — A press report, dated today, states: A major council clean-up

will continue today to clear an oil spill on Bowen's coastline in north Queensland. The slick stretches 1.5 kilometres along the high tide mark at Queen's Beach it was reported yesterday afternoon. Rose and Horseshoe bays and Kings Beach are also affected. Bowen Shire Council's director of health and environment, John Gibbons, says the oil is thick and very fresh. "The oil looks very fresh, we had a similar incident in February this year, in that particular case oil was probably up to a week old, this time the oil is very fresh, looks like melted tar that you might associate with bitumen works on a roadway, it's very fresh indeed," he said. The council has contacted the Department of Transport to identify the vessel responsible.

BRITTANY, FRANCE

Klaipeda, Oct 1 — Bulk/c.c. *Atlantis Charm* arrived Klaipeda Sep 23 and sailed Sep 30. — Lloyd's Agents.

DELAWARE BAY, UNITED STATES

See *Anitra* under "Marine."

FRENCH ATLANTIC COAST

London, Oct 5 — A press report, dated today, states: General cargo *Zuara* (6425 gt, built 1989), Milos for Rotterdam, laden with perlite, diverted to Brest on Friday (Oct 1), where the vessel was detained on suspicion of causing pollution along the French coast, after having been observed 115km off Brittany with a 55km-long oil slick in its wake. "This is a huge amount of pollution, which could have even threatened our coast had the ship been closer," the Brest Prefecture said. Bail of Euro500,000 (£344,000) has been requested for the release of the vessel.

GLOUCESTER ISLAND, AUSTRALIA

London, Oct 6 — A press report, dated today, states: The owner of bulk *Pax Phoenix* (28021 gt, built 2001) that caused a large oil slick off the North Queensland coast three years ago has been fined \$85,000 in a Cairns court. Scientific tests determined the vessel was the source of an 80 km-long oil slick off Gloucester Island near Bowen. Both the ship's owner, Japan-based Sanzo Enterprises, and its master Jonathon De Pedro had already pleaded guilty to discharging an oily substance at sea. District Court Judge Michael Shanahan accepted junior crew members discharged around 500 litres of heavy fuel oil without the knowledge of the master or owners. He said it was a substantial spill in an environmentally sensitive area but luckily there had been no significant damage. The maximum fine for the company is \$275,000 but Judge Shanahan said Sanzo had done everything it could to avoid such an incident and had co-operated fully with authorities. He dismissed the charge against the master Mr De Pedro.

NEW PROVIDENCE ISLAND, BAHAMAS

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

SKAGEN AREA, DENMARK

Gothenburg, Oct 3 — Chemical/oil carrier *Vastsjo* (903 gt, built 1970) had an oil spillage outside the port of Skagen yesterday morning when oil was discharged from a larger vessel onto it. This was because the larger tanker was not able to call at Hanstholm port where delivery was to take place. A small amount and some lumps of oil was noticed all along the coastline of Skagen and 15 km south from there. An unfortunate mistake where the speed of the pumps was misjudged led to the spillage of some oil into the water. According to SOK Denmark, a helicopter observed areas of oil spillage and lumps of oil and samples were taken; however, due to strong winds in the area last night no oil has been collected yet but will probably affect the shores and wildlife, etc. Clean up will be commenced this morning — Westax Marine Services AB.

London, Oct 3 — Following received from Aarhus RCC, timed 1130, UTC: The other vessel involved in the oil spill incident at Skagen was tank *Northica* (4462 gt, built 1980). Clean-up operations are under way.

VASCO DA GAMA, GOA, INDIA

London, Oct 2 — A press report, dated today, states: Petroleum products leaked from pipes into the sea while being discharged from product tanker *Flying Officer Nirmal Jit Singh Sekhon PVC* (28704 gt, built 1985) to the Indian Oil tanks in the port town of Vasco yesterday evening, causing major alarm among fishermen and the local people. Police said they have filed cases of offence against four senior officers of the Indian oil corporation and the discharge operations from the vessel that had come from Jamnagar (Gujarat) has also been stopped. Fishermen returning to Goa shore detected the spill into the sea and raised the alarm. BJP MLA, Rajendra Arlekar and a former minister Jose Phillip D' Souza, residing in the locality, helped mobilise the authorities for a clean-up action and also to prevent any further pollution. Police sources said while some 3000-5000 litres of kerosene spilled into the sea, the oil leak has been neutralised for which concerted efforts by the Mormugao Port Trust (MPT), fire brigade and oil company authorities continued until the early hours of this morning. The deputy conservator of MPT, Anil Panjwani said the leakage took place from *Flying Officer Nirmal Jit Singh Sekhon PVC*, owned by the Shipping Corporation of India. The cargo was for Hindustan Petroleum and was being transferred to the IOC tankers as they have more capacity to store.



AUSTRALIA

London, Oct 2 — A press report, dated today, states: The State Emergency

Service will continue cleaning up this morning after heavy rain caused flash flooding in some areas of New South Wales yesterday. The SES has received more than 300 calls for help since the heavy rain started yesterday afternoon. The worst affected areas are from Gosford to Wyong on the State's central coast. An SES spokeswoman says most of the damage was caused by trees falling, localised flash flooding and water flooding the lower floors of houses. Several roads are still closed as a result of the rain, such as Grange Road in Schofield in Sydney's west, several roads in the Broken Hill area and all unsealed roads in the Cobar Shire area. The SES says the clean up should be finished by midday.

AZORES

London, Oct 7 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Heavy rains have caused flooding on Portugal's mid-Atlantic Azores islands that damaged homes and cut power to thousands of residents, the Lusa news agency reported today. The roughly 4,300 people who live on Flores, the westernmost island in the nine-island archipelago, were left without electricity yesterday night because of flooding in the island's main electricity plant, the agency said. Electricity was restored to the entire island today, the archipelago's power company Electricidade dos Acores, said. The rains damaged several homes, emergency services workers told the agency.

CYCLONE IN ARABIAN SEA

London, Oct 2 — A press report, dated today, states: A low-intensity seasonal cyclone is likely to hit the coastal areas of India's western Gujarat state tomorrow, a weather official said. The storm in the Arabian Sea was some 250 kilometres south-west of Gujarat's coast and could make a landfall between the towns of Nalia and Porbander, said Kamaljeet Singh, director of the Indian Meteorological Department. "It's a seasonal cyclone and could lead to heavy rains and a tide surge of two to three metres. Considering the low intensity of the cyclone, it is unlikely to cause heavy damage," she said. Authorities have alerted ports and fishing harbours in the region and warned fishermen against venturing into the sea.

London, Oct 3 — A press report, dated today, states: Due to a severe cyclonic storm over north-east Arabian sea moving in a north-east direction and likely to cross Kutch Coast with wind speed 80 to 100 kms along the coastal area, Kandla Port Authorities hoisted cyclonic warning signal No.10 (Great danger) at 1600 hours and all vessels from inside harbour/berth have been shifted to outer anchorage. Entry to port is restricted and people from hutments in low area at Kandla were being evacuated to safer places.

London, Oct 4 — A press report, dated today, states: The thrust of cyclone 03-A emanating from the Arabian Sea has died down after having caused heavy rains and windstorms in lower Sindh

including Karachi and Hyderabad during the past over 24 hours. Hyderabad recorded the heaviest downpour of 93 Millimetres. Meteorological department told that the cyclone after hitting Sindh's coastal areas at Ketī Bandar and Badin died down but prior to that it caused heavy downpour in Ketī Bandar and Mirpur Sakro. Besides, Badin received rains measuring 73 mm, Ketī Bandar 80 mm, Mirpur Khas 65 mm, Thatta 60 mm, Mirpur Mathelo and Jati 40 mm each. The administration has set up relief camps in the district of Badin where some 900 people have been reportedly shifted from unsafe coastal areas. The recorded rains in Karachi during past two days stood at 27 mm. At least nine people were killed, an official said on Sunday (Oct 3). The deaths occurred on Saturday in Karachi city and coastal towns when the storm snapped power lines and flooded streets, said Salahuddin Haider, a spokesman for the government of southern Sindh province.

London, Oct 5 — A press report, dated today, states: Around 2000 fishermen from Gujarat have been reported missing from Jakhau sea area of Kutch district during the recent cyclone in the Arabian sea, a fishermen's association claimed yesterday. "Several boats carrying fishermen have not reached back to their base. The Coast Guard has to intensify its search operation and press in more boats," Veljibhai Masani, President of Indian Fishermen's Association said in Vadodara. Masani has informed Coast Guard authorities and has also contacted his counterpart in Pakistan to be on a watch out in case any Indian fishermen are arrested by Pakistani Navy or Coast Guard officials. However, a senior official of the state fisheries department said they had received information of only 200 boats and 1000-odd fishermen not reaching their bases.

HURRICANE "FRANCES"

London, Oct 4 — A press report, dated Sep 29, states: Crude oil tanker *Nysa* that "ran aground" during Hurricane "Frances" near Freeport, Bahamas, and damaged its rudder, will be towed close to Bermuda on Sunday (Oct 3). *Nysa* is too large to moor in Bermuda so it will be around five to six miles offshore, weather permitting, Joe Simas of Meyer Shipping said. "What probably is going to happen is the tug *Maersk Bonavista*, will release the towline and a local tug will keep *Nysa* offshore while *Maersk Bonavista* heads for Ireland Island to pick up provisions like water and fuel." The tug will then go back to tow *Nysa* to Portugal on the same day. *Nysa* is being towed to Portugal, where it will go into dry dock. Mr. Simas said: "The vessel's arrival was delayed due to storms, but it is due to come in (to the Island) soon". Mr. Simas said he did not think there was any crude oil left in the vessel.

HURRICANE "IVAN"

London, Oct 1 — Gulf of Mexico oil production remains a third down following damage to infrastructure from

hurricane "Ivan" and continued shut-in of platforms. According to the Minerals Management Service, around 500,000 barrels of oil per day in production capacity is shut down, representing 29% of the region's daily output. Around 12.5m barrels of Gulf of Mexico production has been lost so far this year due to hurricanes. Additionally, 2.3bn cu ft per day of gas production is also shut in because of damaged platforms and pipelines. This represents 55bn cu ft of total output lost this year. Repair crews are working on restarting production from 39 platforms and repairing damaged oil and gas pipelines, a week after "Ivan" ripped through the area. Two drilling rigs remain out of action, including jack-up platform *EnSCO 64*, which is insured for \$65m, and platform *EnSCO 25*, which sustained damage to the helideck. The US Energy Department has released around 2.5m barrels from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve to cover output lost to "Ivan."

London, Oct 5 — A press report, dated today, states: The preliminary figure from damage suffered from Hurricane "Ivan" to Jamaica was yesterday put at J\$22.4 billion (US\$362 million). However, Prime Minister P J Patterson said the figure was almost certain to "understate the actual impact" of the hurricane. He said that the final figures were anticipated in about two weeks, as assessments were still being done. But, the prime minister told reporters at yesterday's post-Cabinet press briefing that he was releasing the preliminary estimates so that the country could have some indication, at this point, as to the ball park of monetary damage suffered as a result of the hurricane that battered the island just over three weeks ago. He said that direct damage was estimated at \$18.57 billion (US\$300 million) and indirect losses at \$3.87 billion (US\$62 million). The figures represent damage amounting to 4.8 per cent of the country's GDP, with direct damage at 3.9 per cent and indirect at 0.9 per cent. "Damage assessment is still being carried out in most sectors, but we have significant gaps in infrastructure, particularly as they relate to housing and utilities and in tourism, hence the preliminary estimate is likely, if not certain, to understate the actual impact," the prime minister pointed out.

London, Oct 6 — A press report, dated today, states: Damage to Gulf of Mexico oil platforms and pipelines from hurricane "Ivan" may push up heating oil and diesel prices to records during North America's coldest season. The hurricane on Sep 16 wrecked at least 40 derricks and undersea pumps operated by companies such as ChevronTexaco Corp and BP Plc in the Gulf of Mexico. Oil output in the Gulf of Mexico remains 27% below normal three weeks later, making total U.S. production the lowest since 1950. At least a dozen refineries closed or scaled back operations as "Ivan" dumped sheets of rain and seawater flooded coastal towns, including San Ramon, ChevronTexaco's plant in Pascagoula, Mississippi, the company's largest,

which was closed for two weeks and ran at reduced rates for a third. BP says its daily Gulf of Mexico oil and gas production has been reduced by the equivalent of 200,000 barrels, and it won't be restored until the end of next week at the earliest. The Royal Dutch/Shell Group, which had three platforms damaged in the storm, says daily output in the region is equivalent to 135,000 barrels less than normal. Some Shell platforms may not return to service until the end of the year, spokesman Fred Palmer says. Marathon says production cuts related to "Ivan" lowered its third-quarter worldwide output to the equivalent of 304,000 barrels a day, 9.8% less than the company forecast on Jul 27. EnSCO International Inc.'s *EnSCO 64* rig was ripped from moorings and partially crushed when "Ivan" kicked up waves that collapsed a multistorey derrick and reduced a crane to twisted metal, says Richard LeBlanc, treasurer at the Dallas-based company. The rig's 50 employees had already evacuated. The rig, which was found floating by an EnSCO search team on Sep 16 about 40 miles away from where it had been anchored, has been hauled to a Brownsville, Texas, shipyard so the company can decide whether the equipment is salvable, LeBlanc says. Repair work on some damaged platforms and pipelines has been delayed by 5 feet of mud that the hurricane swept into the mouth of Port Fourchon, Louisiana, the largest base for companies that service oil and gas facilities in the Gulf of Mexico, says Roger White, senior vice president at Galliano, Louisiana-based Edison Chouest Offshore, the biggest service-boat operator at the port. White says his vessels can't exit the port fully loaded without becoming stranded on accumulated sediment, requiring two or three vessels to haul a load of pipes, welding equipment or tools that would normally sail on one boat. "No one knows yet how long it's going to take to get all that equipment back up and running," says Jeffrey Smith, treasurer at Houston-based oilfield-services provider BJ Services Co. "Everybody is still trying to quantify how much damage they've suffered and get their arms around how much this is all going to cost."

London, Oct 7 — A press report, dated Oct 6, states: Hurricane "Ivan" punched holes in the network of oil and natural gas pipelines in the Gulf of Mexico, causing oil and gas to leak out at numerous points along the thousands of miles of pipelines. By today, nearly two weeks after "Ivan" hit the Gulf Coast, the Minerals Management Service and the U.S. Coast Guard were unsure how many oil spills were caused by cracked pipelines. Most of the pipelines in the hurricane path were shut in and are being inspected. In one spill at a Shell Oil Co. pipeline about 30 miles east of Venice, near the mouth of the Mississippi River, crews had gathered about 101,000 gallons of water polluted with oil. In the wake of the hurricane, oil production in the Gulf is more than three million barrels per week below

average, putting U.S. crude inventories at historically tight levels and contributing to the record price of oil. "We all know there was certainly a lot of damage caused by "Ivan" to the pipeline system," said Caryl Fagot, a spokeswoman for the Minerals Management Service. "I do not have a good count as to how many leaks there have been." She added that there were no reports of major pollution in federal waters, which extend 200 miles out from the mainland. The extent of what happened during "Ivan" may never be known, Fagot said. Although many pipelines were closed and emptied, companies have much leeway in what they do with their pipelines, she said. "If there were oil spills during the storm, and they were dissipated, we will never know," she said. Roland Guidry, the oil spill coordinator for Louisiana, said companies sometimes take a chance and leave oil and gas in their pipelines when a storm approaches. "Ivan" also damaged and knocked over several oil rigs \emptyset which dot parts of the Gulf south of Mississippi, Alabama and Louisiana \emptyset but there were no reports of oil leaks from them. The Minerals Management Service has asked companies to inspect oil rigs and pipelines in the path of "Ivan" for damage. That work, much of it done underwater, may take months to finish.

HURRICANE "JEANNE"

London, Oct 4 — A press report, dated today, states: The death toll from floods unleashed by Tropical Storm "Jeanne" rose sharply to nearly 2,000 people, with many still missing, as officials said they found hundreds more bodies in Haiti's devastated northwestern region. Officials, who had previously put the toll at 1,550 dead and about 900 missing, could not immediately provide specifics on the higher toll announced yesterday night, but said hundreds more bodies were found in recent days in areas outside the hard-hit town of Gonaives. The new toll stands at 1,970 dead and 884 missing, said Dieufort Deslorges, a spokesman for Haiti's civil protection agency. An estimated 300,000 Haitians were left homeless, most in Gonaives, by floods unleashed by "Jeanne" more than two weeks ago. Officials said most of the missing can be presumed dead, washed out to sea or buried in debris. Last week, President Bush asked Congress for \$50 million for storm-hit Caribbean countries, about half planned for Haiti.

London, Oct 5 — A press report, dated Oct 1, states: Having spilled hundreds of gallons of diesel fuel and lubricating oil into the ocean at Clifton Pier since Saturday (Sep 25), cement *Contrader* remains capsized and continuing to pollute. "The difficulty is continuous release," said Pat Bain, operations manager of Baychem Technologies, the oil spill response company that responded to the mishap Sunday afternoon. "That means oil is continuously coming off of the vessel." Mr Bain, speaking with reporters at the site yesterday said Baychem made an initial assessment Sunday and began

pumping diesel fuel into onshore containers. By Monday floating booms were used to set up a perimeter around the vessel and contain the lube oil. But the fluids continued to pour into the ocean within the contained area and on Tuesday, peat sorb, an environmentally-friendly oil absorbing material, was applied. In addition to the more than 200 gallons of diesel and lube oil collected, Mr Bain said, an additional 15,000 gallons of diesel and an undetermined amount of oil remained on board the vessel. While Baychem contained the spill, assessment crews from various companies, including US-based Titan Maritime Resolve made underwater assessments of damages sustained to the vessel. Brendan DeWolfe, a maritime architect with the company explained that dive crews were trying to locate pollutants and determine which portions of the vessel had been damaged. Once preliminary assessments were complete, he said, a series of surveys would be carried out and a plan initiated to remove the vessel. Considering some of the spills he had seen, Mr Dewolfe opined, the *Contrader* spill was "a light one. It's not that much oil and diesel evaporates easily." Ron Pinder, parliamentary secretary in the Ministry of Health said, "Anytime there are foreign product or objects coming into contact with our marine environment or the general environment there is always concern." Speaking with reporters while assessing the spill with members of the Department of Environmental Health's technical staff, he said the Department was concerned about possible effects the oil could have on coral reefs, fish and other organisms. "The main focus is to contain this area and not allow to impact anymore of the ocean," said Mr Pinder. "The concern going forward is to raise this vessel, float it and then get a sense of the amount of petroleum oil product that has already seeped into the marine environment." He noted that significant damage had also been done to the cement dock where the boat was moored when it capsized. Based on information reaching the Government, Mr Pinder said, it would likely be another week before the vessel was raised. The vessel's owner, Sea Star Holdings, and insurance consultants London Offshore Consultants who represent underwriter West of England P and I were also on site but were unavailable for comment. *Contrader* was set to make its return to Cuba Friday, after delivering cement to the Island Cement Company when it unloaded contaminated fuel. As a result the vessel was forced to stay at Island's dock and reportedly capsized during sea surges that accommodated Hurricane "Jeanne" on Saturday.

Fort Lauderdale, Oct 5 — Titan Salvage and Resolve Marine have been contracted to remove the fuel from the grounded cement *Contrader*. The operation is going well and should be completed by Friday if not sooner. It is expected that the wreck removal operation will then be put to tender. — Titan Salvage.

HURRICANE "LISA"

London, Oct 2 — Following received from the Meteorological Office: Hurricane "Lisa": National Hurricane Centre, Miami, reports hurricane centre located near lat 40.8N, long 40.5W, at 0900, UTC. Position accurate within 30 nautical miles. Present movement towards the north-east, or 050 deg, at 21 knots. Estimated minimum central pressure 987 mb, eye diameter 20 nautical miles. Maximum sustained winds 65 knots with gusts to 80 knots. Radius of 64-knot winds 20 nautical miles north-east and south-east only. Radius of 50-knot winds 50 nautical miles north-east and 75 nautical miles south-east only. Radius of 34-knot winds 100 nautical miles north-east, 150 nautical miles south-east, 75 nautical miles south-west and 50 nautical miles north-west. Radius of 12-ft seas 200 nautical miles north-east, 200 nautical miles south-east, 125 nautical miles south-west and 150 nautical miles north-west. Winds and seas vary greatly in each quadrant. Forecast for 1800, UTC: Position lat 43N, long 36.1W. Maximum winds 60 knots with gusts to 75 knots. Forecast for 0600, UTC, Oct 3: Position lat 44.9N, long 28.1W, extratropical. Maximum winds 50 knots with gusts to 60 knots.

London, Oct 2 — A press report, dated today, states: Tropical Storm "Lisa" became a hurricane again today in the northern Atlantic, but forecasters said it didn't threaten land and expected it to weaken over the day. Hurricane "Lisa" had top sustained winds of 75 mph, just above the 74 mph threshold to become a hurricane, according to the National Hurricane Centre in Miami. At 1100, EST, "Lisa" was located 585 miles west-north-west of the Azores and moving east-north-east at 30 miles an hour. Forecasters expected the hurricane to weaken and lose its tropical characteristics as it moved over colder waters in the northern Atlantic.

London, Oct 3 — A press report, dated Oct 2, states: Tropical Storm "Lisa" briefly became a hurricane again today before weakening in the northern Atlantic, but forecasters said it did not threaten land. Hurricane "Lisa" had top sustained winds of 65 mph, down from the 75 mph threshold for a hurricane it had reached earlier in the day, according to the National Hurricane Centre in Miami. At 1700, EDT, "Lisa" was located 535 miles west-north-west of the Azores and moving east-north-east at 32 miles an hour. Forecasters said the storm weakened and lost its tropical characteristics as it moved over colder water in the northern Atlantic.

INDIA/BANGLADESH

London, Oct 5 — A press report, dated Oct 4, states: The depression, which had left a trail destruction after changing its course, crossed the coast between Kalingapatnam in the district and Gopalpur in Orissa this evening. According to officials in the Cyclone Warning Centre at Visakhapatnam, the depression would weaken as it moved over land. As many as 3,000 people were evacuated by the district

authorities in Boppaipuram and Changudi villages after rain water entered their villages in the worst hit Tekkali Division. More than 50 tanks were breached and large parts of paddy fields were inundated. The loss was being estimated. According to reports reaching here, the tanks and canals in most areas in the districts were overflowing. However, no reports of any rain related deaths had come in so far, revenue officials in the Collectorate said. Normal life was severely affected in Ichapuram, Kaviti, Kanchili, Sompeta, Mandasa, Kotabommali, Vajrapukotturu, Palasa and Santa Bommi due to the heavy downpour since last night. Many villages in Tekkali Division were in the dark as there was no power supply due to the rains.

Chittagong, Oct 5 — According to our local Met. Office the depression over west central Bay, moved north-east wards and has crossed North Andhra coast near Visakapatnam, India at 0300, today, presently it has turned as a land depression over North Andhra Pradesh and South Orissa in India. It is likely to move in a north-westerly direction further inland and has weakened gradually accompanied by heavy rain fall in and around Bangladesh. Maritime Port of Chittagong have been advised to keep Local Cautionary Signal No.3. — Lloyd's Agents.

Chittagong, Oct 6 — Local Met. Office today informed that the Local Cautionary Signal No.3 is still being hoisted. — Lloyd's Agents.

RUSSIA

London, Oct 2 — A press report, dated Oct 1, states: A powerful cyclone brought heavy rains and a strong cold wind of up to 20 metres a second to the Primorsky Territory today. A storm warning is issued for seaports. Visibility is poor on roads in the region at present. It will stop raining no earlier than in 12 hours, the local meteorological centre told Itar-Tass this morning (Moscow time). After the rains it will become sharply colder. The temperature will go down from 17 to five degrees Centigrade and to frosts in the north at night. The cold will come not only to the Primorsky territory, but also to the Korean Peninsula. Meteorologists said however, the rains would not raise the water level substantially in the Artemovskoye reservoir, which is only half filled at present.

London, Oct 2 — A press report, dated today, states: A powerful rainstorm with hail and a wind of up to 15 metres a second hit the city of Zheleznovodsk in South Russia overnight. Three electro-transmission lines fell, 15 residential buildings were partially inundated and 50 buildings and four kilometres of motor transport roads were seriously damaged. The hail formed 50-cm-high drifts. Roofs were destroyed and windows were broken in many buildings. Southern plants lost leaves before the cold season. Fortunately, nobody was hurt. A commission is set up to deal with the

rainstorm consequences, the city administration told Itar-Tass. The electricity supply has already resumed. The damage is estimated at about six million roubles, according to the preliminary data.

TROPICAL STORM "LISA"

London, Oct 1 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: At 0600, UTC, today, the centre of tropical storm "Lisa" was located near lat 35.1N 47.6W. The position is accurate to within 30 nautical miles. The present movement is toward the north or 10 degs at 10 knots. The estimated minimum central pressure is 990 mb. The maximum sustained winds are 60 knots with gusts to 75 knots. The radius of 50 knot winds: 40 nautical miles in all four quadrants. At 0600, UTC, Oct 2, the centre is predicted to be near lat 40.5N, long 42.5W, with maximum sustained winds of 50 knots and gusts to 60 knots.

TYPHOON "MA-ON"

London, Oct 4 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: At 0600, UTC, today, the centre of tropical storm (26W) "Ma-on" was located near lat 16.9N, long 134.2E, approximately 600 nautical miles south-west of Iwo Jima and has tracked west-northwestward, or 285 degs, at four knots over the past six hours. The position is accurate to within 60 nautical miles and is based on the centre being located by satellite. Present wind distribution: maximum sustained winds: 35 knots, with gusts to 45 knots. Radius of 34 knot winds: 60 nautical miles in the north-east and south-west quadrants and 40 nautical miles in the south-east and north-west quadrants. The maximum significant wave height is 12 feet. At 0600, Oct 5, the centre is predicted to be near lat 17.7N, long 133.1E, with maximum sustained winds of 055 knots and gusts to 70 knots.

London, Oct 6 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: At 0600, UTC, today, the centre of tropical storm (26W) "Ma-on" was located near lat 20.7N, long 132.7E, movement in past six hours 285 degs at seven knots. The position is accurate to within 40 nautical miles and is based on the centre being located by satellite. Present wind distribution: maximum sustained winds: 60 knots, with gusts to 75 knots. Radius of 50-knot winds: 30 nautical miles. Radius of 34-knot winds: 60 nautical miles in the south-east and south-west quadrants, 100 nautical miles in the north-west quadrant, and 110 nautical miles in the north-east quadrant. At 0600, Oct 7, the centre is predicted to be near lat 22.3N, long 131.4E, with maximum sustained winds of 75 knots and gusts to 90 knots.

London, Oct 7 — Following received from Reuters, dated today: Typhoon "Ma-on" is forecast to strike Japan at about 0900, UTC, on Oct 9. Data supplied by the US Navy and Air Force Joint Typhoon Warning Centre suggests that the point of landfall will be near lat 32.6N, long 134.6E. "Ma-on" is expected to bring one-minute maximum

sustained winds to the region of around 129 km/hr. Wind gusts in the area may be considerably higher.

TYPHOON "MEARI"

London, Sep 30 — A press report, dated today, states: Eighteen people were confirmed dead and seven others remained missing today as a result of Typhoon "Meari", which swept through Japan and weakened into an extratropical depression around noon. The Japan Meteorological Agency warned of landslides and swollen rivers following massive downpours in the Tohoku region. Among the fatalities confirmed today were four people listed as missing in a mudslide in Ehime Prefecture and a 34-year-old man who was found dead on a slope near his home in Mie Prefecture. More than 80 people were injured in typhoon-related accidents. About 10,000 people evacuated their homes, including 4,000 in Mie, according to the authorities.

TYPHOON "SONGDA"

Yokohama, Oct 7 — Cement *Chihaya Maru*: Vessel's bow was refloated Sep 9 and its stern Sep 10. It anchored at quarantine anchorage in Matsuyama port same day. — Lloyd's Agents.

Earthquakes



GREECE

London, Oct 7 — A report, dated today, states: A moderate earthquake occurred at 0105, UTC, today. The magnitude 5.6 event has been located in the Dodecanese Islands, Greece, in lat 36.64N, long 26.83E, depth 132 km.

JAPAN

London, Oct 7 — A report, dated Oct 6, states: A moderate earthquake occurred at 1440, UTC, today. The magnitude 5.8 event has been located near the south coast of Honshu, Japan, in lat 35.88N, long 139.96E, depth 62 km.

LOYALTY ISLANDS

London, Oct 2 — A report, dated Oct 1, states: A moderate earthquake occurred at 1946, UTC, today. The magnitude 5.7 event has been located south-east of Loyalty Islands in lat 22.483S, long 173.192E, depth 10 km.

PACIFIC-ANTARCTIC RIDGE

London, Oct 5 — A report, dated Oct 3, states: A moderate earthquake occurred at 1834, UTC, today. The magnitude 5.5 event has been located near the Pacific-Antarctic Ridge in lat 56.566S, long 141.927W, depth 10 km..

ROMANIA

Bucharest, Oct 3 — An earthquake measuring 5.5 on the Richter scale shook south-east Romania today and was felt in the Black Sea port of Constantza and in the east of the country but no injuries or damage were

reported, officials said. The Earth Physics Institute said the tremor struck at 0902, UTC, on the border between Ukraine and Moldova and was felt in both countries. — Reuters.

ROTA REGION, NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

London, Oct 5 — A report, dated Oct 4, states: A moderate earthquake occurred at 1920, UTC, today. The magnitude 5.9 event has been located in the Rota region, northern Mariana Islands, in lat 14.569N, long 146.929E, depth 10 km.



MEXICO

London, Oct 2 — A press report, dated Oct 1, states: Mexico's so-called "Fire Volcano" spewed lava, glowing rocks and flames today in an eruption that authorities said was not yet serious enough to evacuate nearby villages. A wide stream of lava had been clearly visible at night flowing down the 12,540-foot volcano in Colima state. A giant column of smoke billowed several miles into the air during the day, an eyewitness said. The "Fire Volcano" is located in a sparsely populated rural zone between the western, coastal states of Colima and Jalisco, about 300 miles from Mexico City. Emergency authorities said the explosions have continued since activity started with small blasts on Wednesday, but that the situation was still not serious enough to move the roughly 100 residents of the tiny villages around it. In a statement, Colima's Volcano Observatory said it hoped the lava flows would continue, relieving pressure inside the cone-shaped mountain.

MOUNT ASAMA, JAPAN

London, Sep 30 — A press report, dated today, states: Mount Asama erupted for the second time in a week yesterday, the Japan Meteorological Agency said. There were no immediate reports of injuries from the 1217 eruption, which is thought to be medium in scale and smaller than the Sep 23 eruption.

MOUNT ST. HELENS, UNITED STATES

London, Oct 2 — A press report, dated Oct 1, states: Just as scientists predicted could happen, an explosion has rocked Mount St. Helens and sent a huge plume of either steam, ash or both into the sky. The explosion happened at 1203 today, sending the scientists, seismologists and geologists who have spent the past week monitoring the volcano into a frenzy of activity.

London, Oct 2 — A press report, dated today, states: Mount St. Helens quietened down after spewing a plume of steam and ash but only briefly. Within hours of the eruption yesterday, seismic readings suggested pressure was building again inside the volcano,

which had been dormant for 18 years. It began rumbling last week, set off by small earthquakes occurring as often as three or four times a minutes, and scientists said there could be more steam eruptions soon. Yesterday's eruption, described by government scientist Jeff Wynn as a "throat-clearing," was the sleeping giant's first since 1986. A haze was cast across the horizon as the roiling plume rose from the nearly 1,000-ft-tall dome. After about 20 minutes, the mountain calmed and the plume dissipated. The ash appeared not to pose a threat and there was no sign of lava. The earthquakes started Sep 23 and grew steadily stronger, finally reaching a magnitude of 3.3 Thursday (Sep 30) and yesterday. After the eruption, they stopped for several hours, said Wynn, of the US Geological Survey. Then, the tremors resumed, hitting a one-per-minute pace, said Bill Steele at the University of Washington seismic laboratory. A couple exceeded magnitude 2. A few more steam explosions are likely, Steele said, "until enough debris is cleared, and then there is a significant chance that lava could be extruded at the surface." Tom Pierson, a USGS geologist, said officials will monitor the site "on a very intense scale until we can determine that the thing has really gone back to sleep." Mike Fergus, a spokesman with the Federal Aviation Administration in Seattle, said the plume had reached 16,000 ft in altitude. Alaska Airlines cancelled five flights scheduled to take off from Portland International Airport in Oregon but quickly resumed its normal schedule, said spokesman Sam Sperry.

London, Oct 3 — A press report, dated today, states: Mount St. Helens volcano, which roared to life yesterday with a giant plume of steam and ash, remained dangerous and could erupt again at any time, US scientists warned today. "An eruption could happen right now, in a few days or a few weeks," said Catherine Puckett, a spokeswoman for the US Geological Survey. She said agency scientists were co-ordinating possible alerts with authorities, including the Federal Aviation Administration, which warned aircraft yesterday to avoid the area around the volcano.

London, Oct 4 — A press report, dated Oct 1, states: The 24-minute eruption of steam and ash from Mount St. Helens prompted Alaska Airlines today to diverted four aircraft on their way to Portland International Airport to Seattle. Federal officials contacted airline pilots heading toward Portland to let them know Mount St. Helens was belching steam and ash, the Federal Aviation Administration said. It's up to pilots and the airlines they fly for to decide whether to reroute, said Mike Fergus, a Seattle-based spokesman for the FAA. Steve Johnson, spokesman for the Port of Portland, which manages the airport, said he knew of no other airlines that diverted or cancelled flights. "The airport is open and fully operational," Johnson said. "We have given consideration over the past few

days to operations in the event of a major eruption. But at this time there are no changes in operation."

London, Oct 5 — A press report, dated Oct 4, states: Geologists warned late today that two small eruptions of steam and ash from Mount St. Helens earlier in the day were likely precursors of a much larger explosion that could soon occur. An eight-mile radius around the volcano has been cleared and a Level 3 alert is in effect, the highest issued by the U.S. Geological Survey. Tourists are being kept away from Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument, a large park surrounding the peak. "What we are expecting is a blast of ash that will rise quickly up in the air tens of thousands of feet, form an ash column and then a big expanding ash cloud that will drift with the wind," said Tom Pierson, a USGS scientist. The volcano gave off a burst of steam and ash for about 40 minutes this morning and was followed in the afternoon by another small eruption. The plumes unleashed today were larger and darker than those of Friday's (Oct 1) steam eruption, rising to about 10,000 feet above sea level, roughly 1,600 feet above the volcanic peak, according to geologists and pilots in the area. And unlike in Friday's steam eruption, which did not contain ash, minor earthquake activity that has been going on since Sep 23 did not stop during today's eruption. The earthquakes indicate releases of seismic energy and magma movement. Officials are concerned that magma is pushing up closer to the surface, and they believe it is rich in super-compressed carbon dioxide gas bubbles that could unleash a powerful explosion. Geologists said the lava dome inside the volcano is now deforming, or growing, by tens, maybe hundreds, of feet. Surrounding it is a glacier containing 80 million cubic meters of water and ice. Increased concentrations of carbon dioxide and hydrogen sulfide were detected in the air, signs of fresh magma rising. Willie Scott of the USGS said there was little to worry about in today's activity. "What we're more concerned about is what's following behind it," he told reporters.

London, Oct 6 — A press report, dated Oct 5, states: Mount St. Helens exhaled a spectacular rolling cloud of steam and ash today, sprinkling grit on a small town some 25 miles away. The volcano has been venting steam and small amounts of ash daily since Friday (Oct 1), but this morning's burst was the largest, producing a billowing, dark gray cloud that rose thousands of feet above the 8,364-foot-high rim of the crater and streamed to the north-east. For days, scientists have been warning that the volcano could blow at any moment with enough force to endanger lives and property. But geologists said today a more likely scenario was weeks or months of smaller-scale venting, with the possibility lava could enlarge the dome within the mountain's gaping crater. Scientists said today's steam burst opened two small new vents in the crater's floor, and that the floor continued to lift up, a sign that magma was still building beneath the volcano.

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In the last several days, the lava dome within the crater has swelled by about 150 feet.

Political & Civil Unrest



AFGHANISTAN

Spin Boldak, Afghanistan, Sep 30 — Guerrillas from the ousted Taliban regime killed at least 12 soldiers in Afghanistan's south today in a sharp escalation of violence ahead of next month's landmark presidential election. At least seven more soldiers were killed in other clashes in the southern province of Zabul on Tuesday (Sep 28) and yesterday, provincial officials said. They said some Taliban members were also killed, but no details were available. Kheyal Mohammad Husseini, the Zabul governor, said the latest fighting erupted when guerrillas attacked a government post in Sori district of the restive province and killed 12 soldiers. The governor did not have further details of the fighting in Zabul, scene of repeated attacks by the Taliban over the past three days. Yesterday, guerrillas attacked a joint convoy of US and Afghan forces. The Taliban said several US soldiers were killed, but there has been no independent verification. — Reuters.

London, Oct 2 — A press report, dated today, states: Reports from Afghanistan say 25 suspected militants have been arrested in a pre-dawn swoop in the capital, Kabul, and a cache of explosives seized. The arrests were made one week ahead of Afghanistan's historic presidential elections. Afghan intelligence sources say the men were detained after a shipping container holding explosives, rockets and a waistcoat of the type used in suicide bombings was discovered. A US military spokesman in Afghanistan says the detained men have reported ties to Osama bin Laden's Al Qaeda terrorist network and the ousted Taliban regime.

London, Oct 5 — A press report, dated today, states: Afghan soldiers and police overran a hideout where a large group of suspected Taliban were preparing to disrupt upcoming presidential elections, prompting a three-hour firefight that left seven insurgents dead, officials said today. The fighting broke out at about 1500, yesterday in a mountainous area of southern Uruzgan province, hours after rebels had attacked a police checkpoint, said Matiullah Khan, the provincial chief of police. Police in pursuit followed the rebels into the mountains, where they came across dozens of other Taliban fighters. Seven rebels were killed, and five others arrested. Khan said officials believe the men were plotting to launch attacks ahead of landmark Oct 9 presidential elections. The Taliban has kept up a steady drumbeat of violence ahead of the vote, with attacks on election

workers, frequent rocket assaults on U.S. bases, and occasional ambushes. The threat of violence has kept many of the 18 candidates, especially interim President Hamid Karzai, largely off the campaign trail. Karzai survived an assassination attempt in September when Taliban rebels fired a rocket at his helicopter on one of his few forays out of the capital. His vice president was targeted later, surviving a bomb attack on his convoy in northeastern Afghanistan.

London, Oct 6 — A press report, dated today, states: Seven policemen in Afghanistan have been killed just days ahead of landmark presidential elections. The policemen were travelling in a four-wheel drive vehicle in the Maruf district of Kandahar province, when it was blown up by a remote-controlled mine. The area, in the south of the country, has been hard hit by an insurgency headed by remnants of the ousted Taliban regime.

ALGERIA

Algiers, Oct 3 — Two Islamic militants were killed and two policemen seriously injured in a rare gunbattle in central Algiers this afternoon, security sources said. The sources said rebels suspected of belonging to the al Qaeda-aligned Salafist Group for Preaching and Combat (GSPC) fired with automatic weapons on a police patrol in the city before escaping. State radio said army anti-terrorist units tracked down the militants, who had taken refuge in a building in the poor Belcourt district. "We're relieved. We wiped out two terrorists," said a policeman at the scene. Several officers and one civilian were injured. — Reuters.

BANGLADESH

London, Oct 1 — A press report, dated today, states: At least 10 suspected terrorists were killed yesterday in a six-hour gun battle with the elite police force Rapid Action Battalion in Kalampati village, about 30 kilometres from the Bangladeshi port city of Chittagong. Two senior RAB members were also injured in the gun battle and taken to Combined Military Hospital in Chittagong.

COLOMBIA

London, Oct 4 — A press report, dated today, states: Heavily-armed attackers opened fire on a group of people in a farmhouse in southwest Colombia, killing 14 of them - including a toddler and a pregnant woman - and wounding five others, authorities said today. No motive was immediately apparent for the massacre near the village of Candelaria, 300km southwest of Bogota. The assailants reportedly used rifles and even a grenade launcher in the attack, which occurred late yesterday. A police patrol that was nearby engaged in a firefight with the attackers and killed one of them. That person was not immediately identified. Oscar Lopez, mayor of Candelaria, said the massacre victims apparently were related and that the family had recently bought the hacienda where the massacre occurred.

GUINEA-BISSAU

London, Oct 6 — A press report, dated today, states: Hundreds of soldiers have taken to the streets of Guinea-Bissau's capital in protest at unpaid salaries. In the early hours soldiers surrounded the army headquarters and gunshots were heard, but the capital Bissau is now reported to be calm. Prime Minister Carlos Gomes Junior said he believed those leading the protest had recently returned from UN peacekeeping duty in Liberia. Describing the situation as a revolt, Prime Minister Gomes Junior said a delegation from the Ministry of Defence had been meeting the renegade soldiers, AP news agency reports. "We can't accept demands being made at the point of a gun," he said. Guinea-Bissau soldiers made up a contingent of West African troops sent to Liberia in August last year. The tour of duty ended in June, AFP news agency reports. Schools and shops initially remained open in Bissau, but the appearance of armed soldiers on the streets caused alarm.

London, Oct 7 — A press report, dated Oct 6, states: Soldiers in Guinea-Bissau have killed the head of the country's army in a revolt over unpaid salaries. A spokesman for the Portuguese foreign ministry said Gen Verissimo Seabre Correia had been killed by the mutinous soldiers. He gave no further details. Gen Seabre, who led a military coup in Guinea-Bissau a year ago, had been held at gunpoint at the navy's headquarters. The rebel soldiers blame army chiefs for pocketing their salaries. Describing the situation as a revolt, Prime Minister Gomes Junior said a delegation from the Ministry of Defence was meeting the renegade soldiers, AP news agency reported. "The results of the negotiations will let us know how to find a resolution to this crisis." Guinea-Bissau soldiers, who have not been paid for five months, made up a contingent of West African troops sent to Liberia in August last year. The tour of duty ended in June, AFP news agency reports. Gunshots were heard in the early hours of the morning as the soldiers deployed along the road from Bissau to the airport and at the national radio station, but the city is now reported to be calm.

HAITI

London, Oct 1 — A press report, dated Sep 30, states: UN peacekeepers in Haiti have intervened to restore order in the capital, Port-au-Prince, after three policemen were killed in protests. Demonstrators called for the return of ex-President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, who fled the country earlier this year. Looting and armed gangs are threatening the relief effort in the city of Gonaives, ravaged by Hurricane Jeanne. The crisis is overstressing the UN mission to stabilise the island, officials say. Gunfire broke out as Mr Aristide's loyalists emerged from the slums promising that he would return from exile in South Africa. They were marking the 13th anniversary of his being ousted from power in 1991 by Haiti's army. Interim Prime Minister Gerard Latortue vowed to capture those responsible for the violence, in which

some civilians were also reportedly hurt. UN peacekeeping forces say they turned away about 150 armed men who tried to enter Gonaives yesterday. Witnesses say the men, said to be former Haitian soldiers, told UN troops they wanted to take food to those residents affected by the storm. The men accused the UN mission of not doing enough to protect local people, and some said they would try to enter the city again. The UN says it needs a 1,000 more peacekeepers to help to protect food convoys heading for Gonaives. More than 1,500 are known to have died in the port city while about 900 are missing, many of them possibly washed out to sea during the storm nearly two weeks ago. Armed gangs roam the flooded streets, shooting people in their search for food and looting aid lorries. Tonnes of food aid are piled up in a warehouse guarded by peacekeepers. "The problem is not a lack of food. It's security and a lack of trucks," Ricardo Mena of the UN's Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) said today. An AP correspondent who visited a slum in the city found mud 1.5m deep still mired streets where unclaimed dead bodies have been buried in mass graves. A lack of clean drinking water is adding to the food crisis in Gonaives. Volunteer doctors have spoken of appalling conditions as they try to help the storm survivors in makeshift clinics. Amputations have been carried out under primitive conditions, many people have infected wounds, and there are widespread cases of diarrhoea.

London, Oct 4 — A press report, dated today, states: Gunfire erupted in a Port-au-Prince slum teeming with loyalists of ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide yesterday, sending people scattering following days of political clashes that have left at least 14 dead. Residents said men fired into the air, stole food from market vendors and burned tires in the slum of La Saline. The unrest came a day after police arrested Haiti's Senate president and two other pro-Aristide politicians following a six-hour standoff in a radio station. Latortue said the three were arrested on suspicion of orchestrating violence that erupted Thursday (Sep 30) during protests demanding Aristide's return. Among those killed in clashes were four policemen, three of whom were beheaded after being shot to death. But he said one of the politicians arrested, former Sen. Gerard Gilles, would be freed shortly after investigators determined he wasn't involved. Latortue said the police killings were part of a new offensive by pro-Aristide gangs that they have dubbed "Operation Baghdad." "You've heard about Baghdad in the media. Every time they catch a Westerner they cut off his head," Latortue told reporters. "What is happening here, is a climate of terror that resembles the climate of terror that we had in the four months preceding Jean-Bertrand Aristide's departure," he said. The pro-Aristide politicians, who insisted they were innocent, were led out in handcuffs from the offices of Radio

Caribes Saturday night after a judge entered to negotiate their surrender. Justice Minister Bernard Gousse said police found illegal weapons in one of their cars, an Uzi submachine gun and T65 assault rifle. "They're people who are barbaric and violent," he told reporters on Saturday. Pro-Aristide groups criticized the arrests, saying police didn't have a warrant and had planted the weapons. They also say police and gangsters have opened fire on Aristide supporters, killing several people. A 15-year-old boy was among two shot dead by police Friday during a pro-Aristide march, according to the independent group Institute for Justice and Democracy in Haiti.

Port-au-Prince, Oct 6 — Haitian police backed by U.N. peacekeepers raided a slum stronghold of supporters of ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide today and arrested 75 people accused of violent attacks in the Haitian capital, a police spokeswoman said. Some 150 police and 200 peacekeepers carried out the raid in the Bel-Air slum. "Our intelligence lead us to believe that gangs in Bel-Air had a plan to attack the presidential palace," said the police spokeswoman, commissioner Jessie Coicou. The raid was the first joint operation against armed gangs conducted by Haitian police and U.N. troops sent to stabilise the Caribbean nation after Aristide went into exile amid an armed revolt in February. Clashes between police and criminal gangs and violence between the gangs have killed 45 people in recent days, including seven policemen. The military commander of the U.N. troops, Brazilian Gen. Augusto Heleno Ribeiro Pereira, said Haitian authorities must act, but only on the basis of credible intelligence. Aristide was overthrown in a military coup during his first term in 1991, and disbanded the army after he was restored to power in 1994. Many former soldiers joined with rebel leaders to oust Aristide in February and hundreds have since joined Haiti's police force. Members of Aristide's Lavalas Family party have accused interim authorities of using squads of former soldiers to intimidate, persecute and slaughter slum residents. A leader for the former soldiers, Ravix Remissainthe, gave Haitian authorities an ultimatum to put gangs loyal to Aristide under control by tomorrow. "Otherwise, we'll launch our own operation to render them harmless," Ravix said. In the city of Mirebalais, former soldiers have launched an operation to control gangs loyal to Aristide, known as "chimere" after the ghost-like creatures of mythology. "We've held several Lavalas chimere. We learned they have held meetings in the region. They have to explain to us what is going on," said Philippe Emmanuel, a commander of the former military in Mirebalais. — Reuters.

INDIA

Baramulla, Sep 30 — At least two people were killed and as many wounded in an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) blast at Kralhar today. Official sources said the blast occurred

at Kralhar near the godown of the Food Corporation of India (FCI) around 1100. Two people died on the spot and two others sustained injuries. The injured were hospitalised, the sources said, adding that the entire area has been sealed. — Reuters.

Guwahati, India, Oct 3 — Separatist militants set off bombs and opened gunfire across India's north-east yesterday, killing at least 46 people and wounding nearly 100 in one of the bloodiest days in the troubled region. Two bombs exploded in a marketplace in Dimapur, commercial centre of the state of Nagaland, while a third ripped through a crowded railway station there almost simultaneously, an officer at the local police station said. Twenty-six people died in the Nagaland attacks, the deadliest since a cease-fire with the main Naga separatist group began seven years ago. Later yesterday, heavily armed Bodo tribal guerillas fighting for a separate homeland in the neighbouring state of Assam drove into a town square and gunned down 11 people in a weekly market. Almost simultaneously guerrillas of the United Liberation Front of Assam, the biggest of the insurgent groups in the north-east, set off grenades at four different places in Assam killing eight people. One man had died in a blast earlier yesterday. Police said the attacks in Nagaland and Assam appeared to be unrelated but both took place on a day India was marking the birth anniversary of independence leader Mahatma Gandhi. Twelve people died in the attack at Nagaland's main railway station in Dimapur and eight were killed at the market. Six later died in hospital. — Reuters.

Guwahati, Oct 4 — Suspected separatist rebels stormed a village in India's north-east today and shot dead six people, police said, taking the toll in the worst violence in years in the troubled region to 62. The latest attack came as police launched a hunt for two guerrillas who intelligence agencies said had entered Guwahati, the main city in the region, to plant bombs. A series of attacks in Assam state and neighbouring Nagaland killed 56 people at the weekend. "Heavily armed guerrillas of the NDFB raided Biswanath Chariali village early today, pulled out villagers from houses and opened indiscriminate fire," a police officer told Reuters. "Six people were killed on the spot and several wounded," the police officer said. The National Democratic Front of Bodoland (NDFB), fighting for a separate homeland for Bodo people, has been blamed for the violence in Assam since Saturday (Oct 2). The anniversary of the beginning of the group's insurgency in 1985 was yesterday. — Reuters.

London, Oct 5 — A press report, dated today, states: Rebels blamed for a fresh wave of violence in India's restive northeast offered to hold talks with New Delhi, as a general strike to protest the bloodletting brought the region to a shuddering halt. "We are ready to hold talks with New Delhi and shall soon convey our decision with respect to the Assam chief minister's

truce offer within a few days," the National Democratic Front of Bodoland (NDFB) said in a statement today. The outlawed NDFB, founded in October 1986 to fight for an independent homeland for the Bodo tribe in Assam, claimed responsibility for killing 14 shoppers in western Assam Saturday (Oct 2), when a string of bomb blasts and gunfire left 50 people dead in Assam and neighbouring Nagaland states. Another 19 people, mostly civilians but including three militants blown up by their own bomb, died in further attacks in the two states Sunday (Oct 3) and yesterday, prompting the Indian government to deploy extra troops in the insurgency-hit region. Assam chief minister Tarun Gogoi Thursday offered a ceasefire with the NDFB and another rebel army, the United Liberation Front of Asom (ULFA), asking the two outfits to respond to the truce offer by Oct 15. "We welcome the NDFB's offer for talks. If they are sincere we have no problems, but they should refrain from creating any violence," the chief minister said in his response today. The ULFA has rejected the ceasefire offer saying it had triggered at least five bomb explosions in Assam over the weekend. "The explosions are an answer to chief minister Tarun Gogoi's offer for a ceasefire," ULFA commander-in-chief Paresh Baruah told local newspapers yesterday. Meanwhile, police officials in the seven northeastern states — Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Mizoram, Tripura and Manipur — said shops, businesses and educational institutions were closed due to the strike, while there was no traffic on the roads. All air services and trains linking the region to the rest of India were either cancelled or rescheduled, officials said. The shutdown was called by the North East Students' Organisation (NESO), the apex body of various students groups in the region. "The strike is in protest at the barbaric incidents of violence in Assam and Nagaland, besides highlighting other burning issues like the illegal infiltration from Bangladesh into the region, and the problem of annual flooding among others," NESO leader Sammujjal Bhattacharyya told the AFP.

London, Oct 6 — A press report, dated today, states: At least 12 people have been killed and seven wounded in a fresh bout of violence in India's northeastern state of Assam. Police say six heavily-armed militants belonging to the outlawed National Democratic Front of Bodoland descended on a village and began firing indiscriminately on a group of people waiting in the village square. Ten people, all from the Muslim minority, died in the attack. Elsewhere, the rebels killed a villager belonging to a rival community while army soldiers shot dead a suspected militant. The latest violence takes the death toll in the northeast since Saturday (Oct 2) to 81, with 217 injured. The bloodshed began at the weekend as India commemorated the birth of the independence leader, Mahatma Gandhi.

It also coincided with the 18th anniversary of the founding of the National Democratic Front of Bodoland, one of about 30 rebel groups fighting for greater autonomy or independence in the region.

IRAQ

Baghdad, Sep 30 — Insurgents detonated three car bombs near a US military convoy in Baghdad today, killing 41 people, 34 of them children, and wounding scores. In two other attacks, a suicide bomber blew up his vehicle near a U.S. checkpoint outside the capital, killing two policemen and a U.S. soldier, and a car bomb killed four people in the restive northern Iraq town of Tal Afar. The Baghdad blasts coincided with crowds gathering to celebrate the opening of a new sewage plant. It was not clear if the event or a U.S. convoy passing nearby was the target. The first explosion was followed by two more that struck those who rushed to the aid of the initial victims. Ten U.S. soldiers were wounded in the attack, two of them seriously, the military said. Iraq's Health ministry confirmed 41 dead and 139 wounded, the vast majority children. Instability is steadily mounting just weeks before the U.S. presidential election in November and four months before Iraq is due to hold its own nationwide polls. Attacks on American troops have risen to around 80 a day from 40 a month ago. Hours earlier, a suicide bomber had killed two Iraqi police and a U.S. soldier by blowing up his car near a U.S. checkpoint at a crowded intersection in Abu Ghraib, just west of Baghdad. Around 60 people, including women and children, were wounded. Another soldier was killed when a rocket hit a U.S. logistics base near Baghdad. The confirmed deaths of the two soldiers raised to at least 802 the number of U.S. troops killed in action since the start of the war. In northern Iraq, another car bomb blew up near an Iraqi police convoy in the center of Tal Afar, close to the Syrian border. Hospital officials said four civilians had been killed and 16 wounded. Four policemen were also hurt. In rebel-held Falluja, 50 km west of Baghdad, U.S. forces destroyed a building they said was being used by fighters loyal to Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, whose group is threatening to behead British hostage Kenneth Bigley. The strike was the latest in a series of almost daily attacks in Falluja intended to crush Zarqawi's network. Yesterday, footage was released showing a haggard Bigley squatting chained in a cage, pleading for his life. In a barely audible voice, Bigley said British Prime Minister Tony Blair was not doing enough to free him. Blair has said Britain will not negotiate with the kidnappers, but told reporters yesterday: "They've made no attempt to have any contact with us at all. If they did make contact, it would be something we would immediately respond to." Separately, a militant group said it had seized 10 people, including two Indonesian women, working for an electronics firm in Iraq, Al Jazeera television reported. Lebanon

said three of its nationals had been seized. It was not clear if this was the same incident. — Reuters.

Washington, DC, Oct 1 — US and Iraqi troops took control of government and police buildings in Samarra early today after insurgents had undermined security in the Iraqi city, the US military said. "In response to repeated and unprovoked attacks by anti-Iraqi forces, Iraqi security forces and multinational forces secured the government and police buildings in Samarra early in the morning of Oct 1 in support of the Iraq Interim Government and the people of Samarra," a statement said. It gave no details of fighting but residents in the city, 60 miles north of Baghdad, said that big explosions were shaking the area. They reported heavy air strikes over more than two hours. Most residents were sheltering indoors, they said. The United States has said it wants to retake Samarra, Falluja, Ramadi and the Baghdad neighbourhoods of Sadr City and Haifa Street, which have been in the hands of insurgents, by the end of the year to create the right conditions for Iraqi elections in January. The military statement said the troops acted "in order to facilitate orderly government processes, kill or capture anti-Iraqi forces, and set the conditions to proceed with infrastructure and quality of life improvements for the people of Samarra." — Reuters.

Samarra, Oct 1 — U.S.-led forces stormed Samarra today and said nearly 100 guerrillas were killed in air strikes and street-to-street combat during a major new American offensive to wrest control of the Iraqi town. At least 23 civilians died in the clashes and 45 were wounded, said doctor Abdel Hamid Abed at Samarra's hospital. A U.S. military spokesman said 94 insurgents were killed. Troops backed by tanks and armoured vehicles pushed slowly through the streets as guerrillas unleashed mortar attacks and fired rocket-propelled grenades and rifles from the rooftops through the night. Fighting was still going on in late morning. The U.S. military says it will retake control of guerrilla strongholds like Samarra, the western cities of Falluja and Ramadi and the Baghdad districts of Sadr City and Haifa Street by the end of the year so elections can go ahead in January. The assault began shortly after midnight with air strikes and artillery barrages pounding the mainly Sunni Muslim town, which had been a no-go zone for U.S. forces for months. The U.S. military said two U.S. soldiers were wounded during the operation in Samarra, 100 km north of Baghdad. It said troops destroyed several mortar sites, rocket-propelled grenade teams and vehicles used to carry insurgents. Guerrillas were seen unloading weapons and ammunition from two speedboats on the Tigris River in the town, the military said. Troops opened fire and destroyed the boats. — Reuters.

Samarra, Iraq, Oct 2 — US and Iraqi forces tightened their grip on Samarra today, pressing on with one of the largest offensives since the fall of

Saddam Hussein to try to regain control of the rebel stronghold. A doctor at a hospital in Samarra, about 100 km north of Baghdad on the banks of the Tigris, said five more bodies had been brought in overnight and 20 people were treated for wounds. It was not clear if they were civilians or fighters. Dozens of bodies had been brought in yesterday. Residents said US aircraft bombarded parts of the city and tanks patrolled the streets 24 hours after the offensive was launched to retake the city. The town had been a virtual no-go zone for US troops for months. The US military said in a statement Saturday that Iraqi National Guards had "secured" Samarra's hospital and a team of 70 Iraqi volunteers had arrived from Tikrit, 75 km to the north, to help deal with the scores of wounded. In operations yesterday, US-led forces said they killed more than 100 guerrillas in air strikes and street-to-street combat, while around 35 insurgents were captured, 25 of them inside the Golden Mosque, a revered ancient Shi'ite shrine. Iraqi forces stormed the mosque to offset any local anger at the presence of US troops on holy ground. The seizure of the shrine was a tactical strike to try to prevent insurgents holing up there as they did in Najaf for weeks. During yesterday's clashes, Samarra's hospital said dozens of bodies were brought in. Staff could not cope with any more wounded and bodies lay in the streets. Thousands of people fled the town, while water and electricity supplies were cut off. Falluja was also attacked by US warplanes overnight, the latest in a weeks-long campaign of aerial bombardments targeting suspected hideouts used by followers of Jordanian militant Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, Washington's most-wanted man in Iraq. — Reuters.

London, Oct 3 — US forces have carried out another air strike on the rebellious Iraqi city of Falluja, the third in 24 hours. They bombed a building which they said was being used by insurgents as a weapons store. The attack is said to have happened as up to 15 suspected militants were moving ammunition and weapons, probably killing most of those present. Elsewhere, the city of Samarra is now largely under the control of US and Iraqi forces after days of fighting. The operation there is part of a broader move to wrest control of insurgent strongholds. The Americans and Iraq's interim government say they are determined to retake rebel-held areas ahead of January's scheduled elections. The US military said its attack on Falluja had severely damaged the targeted building, and triggered a wave of secondary explosions that indicated ammunition was being stored inside. In a statement, it said 10 to 15 rebels suspected of links with Jordanian militant Abu Musab al-Zarqawi were in the area at the time. "A large number of enemy fighters are presumed killed," it added. Two civilians were killed and 10 injured in the air strikes, the city's hospital said, while another two civilians were killed and two more wounded when a US tank fired on a

house in the city's southern suburbs. Followers of Zarqawi have claimed responsibility for a string of deadly bombings, kidnappings and other attacks in Iraq since the US-led occupation began. The US military says it has inflicted significant damage on the network during weeks of "precision strikes" against targets in Falluja, which lies 65 kilometres west of Baghdad. Earlier, American and Iraqi government forces said they had secured about 70% of Samarra, although they were still meeting some resistance. The Americans say more than 125 insurgents have been killed and 88 detained during the two-day assault on the city, but local doctors report that many civilians have been caught up in the fighting. "It is over in Samarra," Iraqi Defence Minister Hazem Shaalan said in an interview with Arab television network al-Arabiya. He said up to \$40m was being allocated for reconstruction and compensation to residents of the embattled city.

London, Oct 4 — A press report, dated today, states: Two powerful car bombs have killed at least 16 people and injured dozens more in the Iraqi capital, Baghdad. The first bomb went off outside an army recruitment centre near an entrance to the high-security Green Zone in the centre of the city, witnesses said. The second exploded as a US military convoy was passing along a main road on the east side of the river Tigris. People who witnessed the first Baghdad bomb attack said the car raced towards the entrance of the Green Zone, which houses Iraqi government buildings and the US and British embassies. It then detonated close to where recruits were lining up to join the Iraqi security forces. Hospital and military officials said at least 12 people had been killed and more than 70 injured. Less than an hour later, another explosion went off in the city's Saadoun Street, apparently targeting a US military convoy. The Iraqi interior ministry said four people were killed and 12 injured in the second attack, most of them Iraqi bystanders. In other developments today: US warplanes carried out pre-dawn raids on the rebel-held city of Falluja, killing at least nine people, hospital officials said. Another car bomb exploded near a primary school in the northern city of Mosul killing at least three people, according to Iraqi police. A director of Iraq's science ministry, Thamer Abdellatif, was shot dead on his way to work, along with a female colleague, the Iraqi interior ministry said. Yesterday, US and Iraqi government forces said they had secured about 70% of the city of Samarra, after a two-day assault in which more than 125 insurgents had been killed and 88 detained. Reports say residents of Samarra are too afraid to venture out. Witnesses in the centre of the city have spoken of American snipers shooting at anyone who appeared on the streets. Meanwhile, a member of the Iraqi police force in Falluja said that the insurgents there included between 3,000 and 5,000

foreign fighters, from countries including Syria, Iran, Saudi Arabia and Afghanistan.

Mosul, Oct 5 — Insurgents attacked a U.S. convoy with a car bomb in the northern city of Mosul today and three Iraqi civilians were killed in shooting after the blast, witnesses said. They said a parked car blew up in the Yarmouk neighbourhood as four U.S. armoured vehicles passed by. U.S. soldiers then opened fire, killing three civilians in a nearby vehicle. — Reuters.

Basra, Oct 6 — A roadside bomb exploded on a bridge in Basra today, killing a civilian and wounding four Iraqi policemen, police said. Lieutenant-Colonel Karim al-Zeidi said the bomb targeted an Iraqi police vehicle, wounding all its occupants and killing a civilian who was driving past. — Reuters.

Baghdad, Oct 6 — A suicide car bomb blew up near a National Guard centre in western Iraq today, killing at least 10 people, as U.S. and Iraqi forces struggled to quell insurgents bent on derailing elections due in January. An Interior Ministry official said the bomb targeted recruits for the paramilitary force in the town of Anah, 163 miles northwest of Baghdad, near the Syrian border. He said 20 people had been wounded and the death toll could rise. Witnesses said they saw the car hurtling toward the National Guard centre just before it exploded. Elsewhere, U.S. and Iraqi forces were pursuing a security sweep in a deadly triangle southwest of Baghdad as part of a strategy to prevent insurgents from torpedoing the elections. British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw told a news conference in Baghdad he was impressed by the interim government's election preparations and confident the polls would go ahead. He was speaking before U.S. inspectors were due to confirm they had found no stockpiles of the banned arms that London and Washington cited as their main reason for going to war. In other developments, there was no sign of the violence easing and no breakthrough in talks between a radical Shi'ite militia and the government to end nightly clashes in a sprawling Baghdad slum district. Abdel-Hadi al-Daraji, chief spokesman for rebel Iraqi cleric Moqtada al-Sadr, said negotiations were still going on to stop the Sadr City fighting. "There's no deal yet," he told Reuters. A source close to Sadr said the cleric was demanding that U.S. forces stop shelling Sadr City, stop arresting Sadr's followers, release all senior Sadr aides being held, and rebuild the district, home to some two million people. The cleric has also demanded reparations be paid for damage done to the area by sustained U.S. attacks in recent weeks. The source said talks this morning had ended inconclusively but would resume later in the day. In other violence, a roadside bomb killed a civilian and wounded four policemen in Basra. A Kurdish tribal leader and a companion were shot dead in the northern city of Mosul and the U.S. military mounted more overnight air strikes on suspected

militant hideouts in the rebel-held western town of Falluja. Residents said a child was wounded. The U.S. military and Iraq's U.S.-backed interim government have pledged to retake all insurgent-held areas by the end of the year to ensure that elections can proceed on time. Some 3,000 U.S. marines, soldiers and Iraqi troops thrust into a volatile triangle southwest of Baghdad yesterday, surging across the Euphrates river, seizing a bridge, overrunning a rebel camp and detaining 30 suspects. A U.S. spokesman said he expected the offensive to last several days, adding that there had been little fighting so far. The sweep in the area that includes the trouble spot towns of Mahmudiya, Yusufiya and Latifiya follows a weekend offensive that drove rebels from the streets of Samarra, north of Baghdad. — Reuters.

London, Oct 7 — A press report, dated today, states: A US soldier was killed overnight and an army interpreter wounded in an attack on a patrol in northern Iraq, the US military said. "A 1st Infantry Division soldier was killed and a civilian interpreter was wounded when anti-Iraqi forces attacked their patrol with an improvised explosive device and small arms fire near Baiji," a statement said. Another soldier was killed and two wounded in an overnight attack on their convoy near the Sunni rebel stronghold of Fallujah. The latest deaths bring to 1,063 the number of US troops killed in Iraq since last year's invasion. Meanwhile, an official report issued yesterday found Saddam Hussein had no weapons of mass destruction. The Iraq Survey Group found no evidence he had chemical, biological or nuclear weapons when Iraq was invaded, but it did state that Saddam hoped to revive a WMD programme once sanctions were lifted. The UN's former chief weapons inspector Hans Blix said sanctions had successfully "contained" Saddam. "They did destroy all the biological and chemical weapons and the nuclear weapons sector was also all cleared up. Had we had a few months more we would have been able to tell the CIA and others that there were no weapons of mass destruction."

ISRAEL

London, Sep 30 — A press report, dated today, states: Israeli troops struck deep inside the largest Palestinian refugee camp today, battling masked gunmen in an unprecedented campaign to stop deadly rocket fire on Israeli towns. Twenty-six Palestinians were killed and 131 wounded, the bloodiest single-day toll in fighting in 30 months. Three Israelis, two soldiers and an Israeli woman jogger, were killed in two Palestinian shooting attacks in northern Gaza. Prime Minister Ariel Sharon approved a large-scale military operation in the northern Gaza Strip after meeting with advisers late today, an Israeli official said. The plan, a response to the killing of two Israeli children, ages 2 and 4, by a Hamas rocket attack on an Israeli border town yesterday. However, he stopped short of ordering a call-up of reserves. The plan,

which has the backing of Defense Minister Shaul Mofaz, was expected to be given final approval by the security Cabinet later today. Troops would focus on the Jebaliya refugee camp and the nearby town of Beit Hanoun. The army's push today into the centre of Jebaliya, a first in four years of fighting, signaled a change in military tactics. The army has felt less constrained in the less densely populated West Bank. Armored vehicles rolled into squalid Jebaliya, a militant stronghold with 106,000 residents, this morning. Throughout the day, masked Palestinians taking cover in camp alleys fired assault rifles, and occasionally anti-tank missiles and grenades, at tanks, which responded with machine-guns. Militants were seen laying explosive charges and unraveling detonation wire. In the bloodiest incident, a tank fired a shell toward a group of gunmen, killing seven Palestinians and seriously wounding 23, including gunmen and civilians. Many of the wounded lost limbs, and at least four were under age 14, doctors said. Kamal Adwan Hospital was overwhelmed by the influx. Israeli troops moved into northern Gaza yesterday morning, several hours before the Sderot missile strike. By today, they controlled the towns of Beit Lahiya and Beit Hanoun, as well as large areas of the Jebaliya camp. Palestinian gunmen killed three Israelis, two soldiers and a woman settler, in two attacks in northern Gaza. In one incident, two gunmen fired on an army observation post near Jebaliya, killing a soldier before being shot dead. Near the Jewish settlement of Elei Sinai, two attackers killed a woman jogger and an army medic who came to her aid. The gunmen were eventually killed by troops. However, the heaviest fighting raged in Jebaliya. For the first time in four years of fighting, troops came close to the downtown market and set up two positions in the camp, one at a UN school and the second at a Palestinian police training center. Army bulldozers demolished 22 homes along a relatively narrow road leading into the camp, UN aid officials said, apparently to widen it and allow more tanks to get through. Armored vehicles avoided the booby-trapped main street. More than 20 of the dead were killed in or near Jebalyia. In one incident late today, troops fired a tank shell at a group of militants trying to launch a rocket-propelled grenade, the army said. One man was killed and two were wounded. Of the 131 Palestinians wounded, 12 were in critical condition, doctors said.

Gaza, Oct 1 — An Israeli air strike killed two Islamic militants today as they drove on a motorcycle through a Gaza Strip refugee camp that has seen two days of intense fighting, Palestinian witnesses and medics said. They identified the dead as Hamas members and said several other Palestinians were wounded in the missile strike outside a mosque in Jabalya camp. Israeli military sources said an aircraft struck a Palestinian rocket crew in Jabalya. — Reuters.

London, Oct 2 — A press report, dated today, states: Israeli forces have shot and killed four armed Palestinians near a security fence in northern Gaza, according to Israel Defence Forces, bringing the death toll in two days of clashes to 16. The Palestinians armed with AK-47s fired at Israeli border police and soldiers as they approached today, prompting the Israeli forces to return fire, killing all four, IDF reported. Israeli forces have launched a wide-scale operation in northern Gaza to create a 9-kilometer buffer zone to protect Israel from Palestinian rocket attacks. The latest violence brings the death toll to 16 Palestinians killed yesterday and early today in northern Gaza, according to the IDF report and Palestinian medical sources. The Israeli military has identified all of the dead Palestinians as militants and gunmen.

Gaza, Oct 3 — Israeli leader Ariel Sharon vowed today to expand a huge offensive into Gaza that has killed 50 Palestinians until militants stop firing rockets into Israel. Sharon needs to show he can stop rocket strikes like one that killed two Israeli toddlers last Wednesday (Sep 29) so as to counter critics who say his plan to pull out troops and settlers from the occupied strip will encourage more attacks. In one of the biggest and bloodiest Israeli raids in four years of conflict, nearly 200 tanks and armoured vehicles seized nine square kilometres of the north Gaza Strip and pushed deep into the Jabalya refugee camp, a militant hotbed. Sharon said the army would expand the "buffer zone" in northern Gaza to spare Israeli towns from rocket attacks and ensure there was no withdrawal under fire next year. "Evacuating the Gaza Strip is a plan that will be carried out and all orders have been given to ensure that there will be no fire at the time of the evacuation and I believe not after that either," he told Army Radio. Hamas Islamic militants, sworn to destroy Israel, have vowed to keep firing Qassam rockets despite the four-day offensive and to fire them deeper into the Jewish state. Israeli troops killed three militants from Hamas and the Islamic Jihad faction group early today, taking the death toll to 50 over four days. The army said it opened fire when it saw the men planting a bomb. At least 31 of the Palestinian dead were militants, but civilians also died. Three Israelis have been killed. — Reuters.

Gaza, Oct 4 — An Israeli air strike on a northern Gaza refugee camp killed at least four Palestinian militants today, the fifth day of one of Israel's bloodiest offensives in Gaza in four years of conflict. Witnesses and medics said the dead included a senior Hamas field commander. The early morning raid was launched shortly after Israel's army chief warned that the incursion into Gaza would last "as long as necessary" to halt rocket attacks against Israel. Fifty-nine Palestinians, at least 38 of them militants, have been killed in fighting since Israel launched the offensive five days ago after two Israeli toddlers were killed in a rocket strike on the Israeli border town of Sderot. At

the United Nations, U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan urged Israel to halt its raids in Gaza. He also called on Palestinian leaders to help curtail rocket fire. Nearly 200 tanks and armoured vehicles have seized nine square km of the northern strip and carried out raids deep into teeming Jabalya refugee camp. Other armour has encircled the town Beit Hanoun. In the strike before dawn today, an Israeli missile killed four Palestinian militants, including a Hamas field commander, in a strike in Jabalya refugee camp where they were planting bombs. — Reuters.

Gaza, Oct 6 — Israeli tanks shelled a town in the northern Gaza Strip early today, killing three Palestinians and wounding 10 children in their houses, witnesses and medics said. The barrage of tank fire came as Israel's massive Gaza offensive to quell rocket attacks on Israeli border towns entered a seventh day, with a total of 75 Palestinians killed, among them 45 militants. Three Israelis have also died. Medics said tank shells killed a 15-year-old Palestinian in one house and two men in another before dawn in the besieged town of Beit Lahiya. A shell also hit a house where a family was sleeping, wounding 10 children ranging from six months to 12 years old, several of them seriously, hospital officials said. Israeli military sources said forces fired at a group of gunmen who had launched an anti-tank rocket from a house. Israel's army also killed the military chief of the Palestinian militant group Islamic Jihad in a Gaza City air strike yesterday night that drew vows of revenge and could complicate efforts to end the offensive. Another helicopter missile hours later killed two militants of the Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, an armed wing of Palestinian President Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement, and wounded four, two critically, in the nearby refugee camp of Jabalya. — Reuters.

Gaza, Oct 7 — Israeli military forces killed two Palestinian teenagers in the northern Gaza Strip today as the Israeli army pressed ahead with its biggest and bloodiest offensive in Gaza for four years. Palestinian medics said the teenagers, both 15, were on their way to school when they were hit. Israeli military officials said the two were killed by an airforce missile while attempting to launch a Qassam rocket. The deaths brought the toll to 77 Palestinians killed since Israel launched the offensive eight days ago. Prime Minister Ariel Sharon ordered the army to press ahead with the operation yesterday, despite growing U.S. and international pressure, as he seeks to halt rocket attacks on Israel ahead of a planned pullout from Gaza next year. Israel sent 200 tanks and army vehicles into north Gaza to curb rocket attacks after last week's deadly strike on Sderot which fuelled right-wing criticism of his Gaza withdrawal plan. Political sources said Sharon, under U.S. and international pressure to halt the offensive, would review the operation again during Sunday's (Oct 10) cabinet meeting, but was unlikely to

call it off without guarantees that Hamas rocket attacks would cease. "If we pull out now, we cannot guarantee that the rocket attacks will stop. Hamas's activity has been weakened, but not entirely halted," Israel's Maariv newspaper quoted Sharon as telling security chiefs. Defiant Hamas militants fired two Qassam rockets at Sderot today, hitting a house but causing no casualties, medics said. The second rocket landed in an open field. Hamas vowed to continue firing rockets even after a Gaza pullout, calling them "resistance" to the army's actions against Palestinians, such as the killings of militants and house demolitions. "We will continue our resistance and bombardment of settlements until the Zionist enemy is removed from our blessed land," Hamas said in a statement faxed to Reuters. Despite the fresh rocket attacks, security officials said the Israeli army had severely impaired militants' rocket-launching capability but that they needed more time to smash the remaining rocket crews. — Reuters.

IVORY COAST

London, Oct 5 — A press report, dated today, states: French soldiers on peacekeeping duty in Ivory Coast have used tear gas against protesters throwing stones at their base in the main city, Abidjan. The Young Patriots - who back President Laurent Gbagbo - were demanding to know the names of 12 French troops suspected of robbing a bank last month. The soldiers are back in France facing trial for the alleged theft of 160,000 euros (\$61,500) from the bank. Some 4,000 French troops are among 10,000 UN peacekeepers in Ivory Coast. They are there to enforce a ceasefire between the government of President Gbagbo and rebels who have fought from the north of the country for two years. Paramilitary and militia groups have been ordered to start laying down their guns on Oct 15. Tension is mounting as the date approaches and the Young Patriots - which may also be required to disarm - are warning that the rebels do not intend to obey the deadline. "This is not a demonstration against the French citizens in Ivory Coast but against those French troops guilty of theft," the Patriots' leader, Charles Ble Goude, said. The group's members gathered around the French military base and attacked it with stones, stopping vehicles from passing through its gates. Order was only restored by the arrival of a large team of Ivorian troops. France has refused to release the names of the 12 servicemen facing trial. The troops had been assigned to protect a branch of the Central Bank of West African States (BCEAO) in the rebel-held western town of Man when the money went missing.

NIGERIA

London, Oct 2 — A press report, dated today, states: The Nigerian government has confirmed reports that rebel groups in the country's main oil producing region have agreed to a ceasefire. Militia leader Mujahid Dokubo Asari,

leader of the Niger Delta People's Volunteer Force, announced the truce on Wednesday (Sep 29). Mr Asari had threatened "all out war" if demands for self-determination for the Ijaw people and a greater share of the country's oil wealth were not met. Earlier, President Olusegun Obasanjo said he was confident recent violence in the delta could be contained. On Wednesday the rebel leader described the truce as "a temporary agreement not a ceasefire". A statement yesterday by the Nigerian presidency said Mr Asari had also agreed to disarm and disband his militia but this has not been confirmed by the rebels. "The groups affirm commitment to the peace offer by the president, promise to cease all hostilities against themselves and all economic and social interests of the Nigerian state," the statement, quoted by AFP news agency, said. Mr Asari had threatened foreign workers and said all foreign oil companies should cease all production by yesterday or face "all-out war".

PAKISTAN

London, Oct 1 — A press report, dated today, states: An bomb blast at a Shiite Muslim mosque in the eastern Pakistani city of Sialkot has killed at least 12 people and injured dozens of others, police said. The explosion occurred during Friday prayers in the mosque in Sialkot, 170 km southeast of Islamabad. There were between 700 and 800 people at the mosque when the bomb exploded. Nisar Ahmed, police chief in Sialkot, said that he expected the death toll to increase. An angry mob went on the rampage after the blast, and had started pelting police with bricks and stones and wrecking property.

London, Oct 5 — A press report, dated today, states: Pakistani security forces and Islamic militants in the tribal region of South Waziristan have agreed an unofficial 10-day ceasefire. The ceasefire, from last night, is to allow a group of mediators to work for a settlement to end fighting. However, the ceasefire suffered a blow today when a land mine exploded, killing at least one soldier. The army began major operations against al-Qaeda fighters and tribesmen supporting them in the region in March. The army says it has killed 150 militants since then. The Pakistani military has lost more than 100 troops. Islamabad wants the tribesmen to hand over hundreds of suspected al-Qaeda fighters living in the area, but local tribal leaders have refused, saying the few foreigners living there are former mujahideen not involved in any militant activity. The ceasefire seems to be holding apart from the incident this morning in which a military vehicle hit a landmine, killing at least one soldier and injuring seven. The artillery and mortars that have fired over the past few weeks have fallen silent and helicopter gun ships have stopped flying over the mountains where most of the armed militants are believed to be hiding. The ceasefire is the latest in a series of efforts by local politicians to find a negotiated

settlement. One of South Waziristan's two MPs is leading the group that is mediating between Pakistani authorities and tribal militants. However, even though the two sides have welcomed the move, they are standing firm on their respective positions. The Pakistani security forces say the military operation is aimed at flushing out foreign militants and will continue as long as there are al-Qaeda suspects in the area. The tribal militants insist the foreigners in the area are not linked to al-Qaeda and should not be evicted. Earlier efforts to achieve peace by persuading tribesmen to register foreigners with the authorities were not successful. Local politicians said tribesmen feared the authorities might use the registration to arrest or extradite some of the foreigners. (See issue of Oct 5.)

London, Oct 7 — A press report, dated today, states: At least 30 people have been killed and as many wounded in a powerful bomb explosion at a religious rally in the central Pakistani city of Multan, police and ambulance workers said. A rally in commemoration of assassinated extremist Sunni religious leader Azim Tariq was dispersing at 1640, local time, when the powerful explosion took place, police said. "A bomb exploded in a rally in which 30 people have been killed and almost the same number have been wounded," Abdul Rauf, an official for Edhi ambulance service, told Reuters.

SPAIN

London, Oct 4 — A press report, dated today, states: French law enforcement officials have arrested the leader of the Basque separatist group ETA in a raid in south-western France. A Spanish Interior Ministry spokeswoman said yesterday that fingerprints confirmed the identities of Mikel "Antza" Albisu Iriarte and his female companion, Soledad "Anboto" Iparraguire. They were being held along with 18 other terror suspects arrested in raids in seven towns and villages in France near the border with Spain, and one in Spain itself. Police also seized hundreds of kilos of dynamite, dozens of guns, including assault rifles, and grenades and thousands of rounds of ammunition, a Spanish Interior Ministry statement said. Spanish Interior Minister Jose Antonio Alonso said the arrest was of "extraordinarily high importance." The interior ministry spokeswoman described Albisu as "the top, he is number one" in ETA. Albisu has been ETA's top political leader for the past 11 years, Alonso said at a nationally televised news conference in Madrid. Iparraguire is wanted in connection with 14 killings. Officials say she ran ETA's extortion unit, which demanded protection money from businesses and individuals — money that was then used to finance ETA attacks.

Madrid, Oct 6 — Spanish police today arrested five suspected members of the Basque separatist ETA guerrilla group who appeared primed to stage attacks, Interior Minister Jose Antonio Alonso said. The operation was made possible

by the arrest in France on Sunday (Oct 3) of 20 ETA suspects including the group's alleged leader, and in northern Spain of a truck driver suspected of involvement in recent bombings of electricity pylons, Alonso said. "Police believe the people arrested had agreed to join the terrorist group's operative structure, and were awaiting instructions (to carry out attacks)," the minister told a news conference. "Documents and computers have been seized and the operation is ongoing as these arrests are linked to information extracted in last weekend's operations in France and northern Spain," he said. The arrests of four men and one woman took place in the early hours of the morning in the northern provinces of Guipuzcoa and Navarre. — Reuters.

SRI LANKA

London, Oct 4 — A press report, dated Oct 1, states: A curfew has been imposed on the northern Sri Lankan town of Mannar. It was imposed after a crowd set fire to offices belonging to the rebel Tamil Tigers following the killing of a Muslim man. Police say the 35-year-old man, Meera Ismail Saideen, was shot dead late yesterday evening. Local officials said the curfew was imposed to quell escalating tension in the area.



PAKISTAN

Karachi, Oct 3 — Sindh Police has safely recovered Santosh Kumar, President of the Hindu Panchayat and local rice miller, who was kidnapped on Jul 4 from village Pakha, near Larkana in Sindh Province of Pakistan, according to Abdul Rauf, Advisor Sindh Chief Minister for Home's Affairs. His recovery was made this afternoon through an operation in a nearby forest in interior Sindh. Reportedly kidnappers had demanded a ransom of Rs 20 million. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.



BANGLADESH

London, Oct 6 — A press report, dated today, states: Sramik Karmachari Oikya Parishad (Skop) with the support of mainstream opposition parties including the Awami League are enforcing a 24-hour strike at mills and factories across the country and in the transport sector from 0600 today to press home its demands for a national minimum wage for workers, democratic labour laws and reopening of all closed mills and factories. Skop will hold rallies and meetings at Motijheel,

Hazaribagh and Tejgaon in the capital and in all divisional and district towns during the hartal, its leaders said at a press conference at its office yesterday. They called upon all members of Skop, an umbrella organisation of workers' bodies, to restrain from their duties and make the strike a success. Bangladesh Mukta Sramik Federation General Secretary Mujibur Rahman Bhuiyan said workers and lower class employees have long been deprived of just wages and facilities but the government has taken no steps to resolve their problems. Continued price hike of essentials has made their lives all the more miserable, he mentioned. The government had declared a minimum wage for workers in 2000 through a gazette notification but it was not implemented due to some court proceedings. But the government is still inactive in this regard, said Mujibur. "Where will the workers and employees go if they are not rehabilitated after the factories are shut down," asked Shafiqur Rahman, a Skop leader. Skop leaders reiterated their demand to stop privatisation of government-owned commercial banks, mills and factories, and ensure job security, just wages and other facilities of the employees and workers. But sources in the Ministry of Labour and Employment said the government has already increased dearness allowance of workers by 10 percent and met some of the nine-point Skop demand and some more are under consideration. A committee comprising workers' leaders, government representatives and mill owners are working on setting up a labour court, they mentioned. State Minister for Labour Amanullah Aman at a meeting with Skop leaders on Sep 26 sought their cooperation in resolving their problems but they are now enforcing the strike, the sources said.

CANADA

London, Sep 30 — A press report, dated today, states: Federal civil servants are picketing at the docks and at corrections service offices today in B.C. Members of the Public Service Alliance of Canada set up picket lines at Vancouver Wharves in North Vancouver and Corrections Canada in Abbotsford. The waterfront strikers, who weigh grain at elevators, are hoping to pressure the government by tying up shipments of grain and other commodities. It's the second rotating strike in a week to affect grain shipments in the Vancouver area. Last Friday (Sep 24), Grain Commission employees walked off the job for one day, and the company brought in managers from as far away as Winnipeg to keep the product moving. Pickets are also planned later today outside the Pacific Agrifood Research Centre in Agassiz.

COLOMBIA

London, Oct 7 — A press report, dated Oct 6, states: Colombian truckers have ended a 21-day strike after legislators negotiated an agreement with the government on controlling rising gasoline prices. The understanding

reached in Bogota late yesterday calls for regular meetings between the government and the truckers over the next few months to draft a new fuel rate schedule. The strike involving truck drivers who transport imports and exports was called on Sep 14 to protest recent fuel price increases of more than 10 percent. Those increases were caused by a decrease in government subsidies. Although the strike was difficult for businesses shipping cargo across country, the strikers did not block Colombian highways as in previous protests.

FRANCE

See "Blockade of Ports by Fishermen, France" under "Miscellaneous."

INDIA

See under "Political & Civil Unrest."

PAKISTAN

Karachi, Oct 1 — A strike by employees of the state owned telecommunication firm: Pakistan Telecommunication Corporation (PTC), which began on Monday (Sep 27) has badly affected the operation of its system and caused hardship to people living in the western part of country. Leaders of the employees said the protest would continue till the PTCL management regularised the services of 511 daily wageworkers similar to a decision of the federal government that had made the services of 7,193 employees in other provinces permanent. They said that while the services of the corporation's daily wageworkers had been regularised in other provinces, those in Balochistan province were being denied their rights. Leaders appealed to the president, the prime minister, the telecommunication minister and the Pakistan Muslim League President to take notice of the discriminatory policy of the PTCL. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Karachi, Oct 5 — The workers union Pakistan Telecommunication Employees Union (PTEU) observed a token strike at offices of the Southern Telecommunication Region-I in different cities and towns of Sindh Province yesterday against non-acceptance of a charter of demands submitted by them to the Pakistan state owned largest telecommunication organization- Pakistan Telecommunication Corporation (PTCL). As a result, work remained suspended for two hours. They are demanding withdrawn of false cases against their co-workers as well increase in salary. A press release of the employees' union said the strike was observed in Mirwah, Digri, Tando Jan Muhammad, Jhuddo, Kot Ghulam Muhammad, Umerkot, Kunri, Pithoro, Mithi, Islamkot, Diplo, Chhachhro, Mirpurkhas, NawabShah, Sukkur and Larkana districts and other towns. A meeting of the PTEU, Mirpurkhas division, was also held, which was presided over by regional vice-president Mohammad Yousuf Chandio. Speaking on the occasion, Syed Jan Mohammad, union's divisional chairman Mohammad Saleh, Mohammad Hassan Baloch,

Manthar Ali Maher and Mohammad Riaz said they would continue their protest till acceptance of their demands. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Karachi, Oct 6 — The employees of state owned-Pakistan Telecommunication Company Ltd (PTCL), who are on a pen-down strike at present in western part of country, have threatened to go on complete strike from tomorrow if the daily wage-earners are not regularized by Oct 7. In a statement issued, Pak Telecom Employees Union claimed that pen-down strike from 0900 to 1300 entered the 2nd week on Tuesday, adding that the strike was also being observed in Khuzdar, Hub, Turbat, Nushki, Pishin, Loralai and Sibi in Balochistan Province. The protesters are also observing a token hunger-strike daily. The statement said that representatives of daily wages from Karachi also addressed the striking employees today and expressed solidarity with co-labourers in Balochistan and assured them that strike would be expanded to other cities if management of the PTCL did not meet the demands. Speakers claimed that daily wages employees were regularized in Punjab, Sindh and NWFP on the directives of federal government but Balochistan employees were still being denied the benefit. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Karachi, Oct 6 — Pakistan Telecommunication Company employees observed a strike from 1000 until noon in the district Mansehra in North West Frontier Province of Pakistan yesterday to press their demands. The employees wore black armbands as a mark of protest. A spokesman for the PTCL Employees Union groups told local media that the token strike would continue until Oct 14 and the employees would observe an indefinite strike from Oct 15 if their demands were not accepted. He said that the PTCL authorities had denied the employees their union rights and stopped the elected body of the employees from performing its functions by obtaining a stay order from the Supreme Court. He said that the PTCL chief had refused to implement directives of the prime minister regarding 15 per cent raise. He said it appeared that the PTCL chief was more powerful than the prime minister. He said higher officers appointed on contract in the PTCL were receiving millions of rupees and other perks and privileges but they had turned a deaf ear to the plight of the lower staff. He said more than 8,000 workers employed on daily wages were awaiting confirmation of their services but the authorities had started appointing more workers on a daily-wage basis. The spokesman said the charter of demands presented by the union included demands for improvement of healthcare facilities, implementation of the prime minister's directives for raise in salaries, confirmation of the services of the daily-wage workers and allocation of service quota for the children of employees. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

SOUTH AFRICA

London, Oct 1 — A press report, dated Sep 30, states: Workers at the world's second-largest platinum producer, South Africa's Impala, have gone on strike, stopping production at its largest mine. About 17,000 employees failed to turn up for work today at Impala Platinum's mining and processing centre eighty miles north of Johannesburg. The dispute centres on the terms of a two-year wage deal and talks should resume tomorrow. Impala said the walk-out would cost it 28m rand (£2.4m) a day. Stoppages began yesterday evening when workers failed to show up for the evening shift. Talks between Impala, which produces one third of the world's platinum, and representatives from the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) had earlier stalled over the terms of a two-year pay deal. Agreed last year, the deal offered workers a 9.5% pay increase in the first year and an inflation plus 1.5% rise in year two. The agreement included a clause allowing either party to renegotiate should the actual increase turn out to be less than 7.5% or more than 9%. Reuters reported that Impala wanted 7.5% to be the trigger point for renegotiation while unions wanted it to be 8.5%. "Production has come to a standstill," Impala's human resources director Humphrey Oliphant told Reuters. "This is likely to be the case until at least Friday when we are due to meet the union again." "I cannot say how long the strike will continue, it depends on management," said Archie Palane, a spokesman for the NUM said. "They must come up with a package that will satisfy our members." Analysts said it would be several weeks before the strike affected supplies as existing stockpiles were high. Anglo Platinum said talks were currently taking place on the basis of a revised offer it had made yesterday.

London, Oct 5 — A press report, dated today, states: Impala Platinum (Implats) has reported losses of R28 million (£2.39 million) a day in lost production due to the wage strike by its workers. This is while employees continue to lose R4 million daily in forfeited wages. The company's 17 000 employees went on strike last Tuesday (Sep 28) after the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) and employers could not agree on an increase. The striking mine workers at both Anglo and Impala Platinum, are demanding between 8.5% and 9% wage increases and better working conditions. At least 35,000 workers are on strike at both mines. Since the collapse in negotiations, neither party has budged from their respective positions. NUM yesterday urged the workers not to return to work until their demands are met, while Implats management said its 7.5% is final. It, nevertheless, said it is still open to negotiations.

SOUTH KOREA

London, Oct 5 — A press report, dated today, states: The labour union at Citibank's Seoul branch held a strike today, demanding the same wage deals as those reached with employees at

KorAm Bank, which was acquired by the US bank in May. Citigroup has bought KorAm for \$2.7bn to become the sixth-largest bank in Korea, with \$57.4bn in assets. The new bank - called Citibank Korea - is to begin operations in November with more than 4,100 employees and 238 branches nationwide. "Following the acquisition, union members are calling for the management to eliminate a wage gap with KorAm workers and to guarantee the same union activities," a Citibank spokesman said. "We have promised to reduce a wage gap and not to enforce any job losses." About 200 of 1,100 workers at Citibank walked out of their jobs for eight hours today while the union leaders held negotiations with the management. Citibank said that its operations were not disrupted by the strike and it would try to resolve the labour dispute through dialogue. The bank declined to comment on the impact. Workers at KorAm Bank held an 18-day strike in July, the longest ever in Korea's financial sector, to obtain job security and other concessions from Citigroup.

SPAIN

London, Oct 1 — A press report, dated today, states: Spanish shipyard workers blockaded traffic in the north-western port of Ferrol as thousands rallied to protest plans to part-privatise shipyards threatened by bankruptcy. Police said they had set up diversions after some four thousand workers brought traffic to a halt for around 20 minutes, some setting fire to barricades. The strike followed another work stoppage on Tuesday (Sep 26), when union sources said almost the whole workforce of about 10,700 had answered the call to down tools. That stoppage came two days after thousands of workers with state shipbuilder Izar joined a demonstration outside the Ferrol yard in the north-western region of Galicia. The future of 10 Izar yards owned by government industrial holding company SEPI hangs in the balance amid the looming threat of bankruptcy amid European Union demands that Izar repay 300 million euros (372.8 million dollars) in aid which Brussels says breached EU competition rules. The sector is also struggling in the face of fierce competition from Asia. Yesterday's protest at Ferrol saw emotions run all the higher after workers discovered that a yard in the southern region of Andalucia had won a major contract which they themselves had hoped to land. Local union representatives cried foul given that the Socialists control the Andalusian regional government whereas the conservative Popular Party runs Galicia. "It's an exclusively political decision," said Manel Grandal, spokesman for the Galician union confederation. In the northern city of Gijon in Asturias, there were further protests which some 200 students joined 410 workers in a march on the city centre, according to local media. The shipyards conflict is the first major test of industrial relations for Spain's Socialist Prime Minister Jose Luis

Rodriguez Zapatero, elected in March and who has promised to save the yards. But the workers are pessimistic the promise can be fulfilled in a sector which has already shed 30,000 jobs in three previous restructuring plans effected in the 1980s. The current plan involves separating naval dockyard activities, the most profitable, from civil shipyards which are due to be partly privatised.

UNITED KINGDOM

London, Oct 6 — A press report, dated Oct 5, states: Two more strike dates have been announced in the baggage handlers dispute at Gatwick Airport. After talks yesterday between The Transport and General Workers Union and Servisair broke down strikes tomorrow and Friday (Oct 8) were confirmed. But today the union said members will stage further 12-hour walkouts on Wednesday and Friday next week as well. The TGWU said three more members of staff had been suspended this morning in relation to the dispute. Two 24-hour strikes have already been held, but Servisair said they had no effect and aircraft had in fact left early because of the efficiency of managers called in to do the baggage handlers' work. This week's two strikes are both planned to start at 0800, BST, and the company said it would put the same contingency plans in place. Servisair said the company regretted that talks had failed to end the dispute and said passengers should turn up as normal for their flights. TGWU regional officer Madeleine Richards said the union was "determined to get a settlement."



APARTMENT EXPLOSION, UNITED STATES

London, Oct 1 — A press report, dated Sep 30, states: A settlement of \$40.5 million was reached this afternoon from lawsuits in the deaths of six people in a Hatboro apartment explosion. The Jun 16, 2001, explosion and fire at the Village Green Apartments started because of a gas leak. Floods from Tropical Storm "Allison" caused a gas dryer to move away from a wall, breaking a gas pipe. People weren't leaving the building because of the floods, so when the explosion happened, six people died. Six others were injured as they escaped. The landlord, the company that owned the laundry equipment, and the gas company are among the defendants that agreed to the settlement.

ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES BY US SOLDIERS, SOUTH KOREA

London, Oct 2 — A press report, dated today, states: The South Korean government has paid its nationals about 26 billion won (US\$22.62 million)

in compensation over damages caused by US troops over the past 10 years, a government report showed today. Under a legal pact governing the 34,000 US troops stationed in South Korea, the host nation is obliged to share the indemnity in the event that its nationals suffer damages arising from illegal activities by American soldiers.

MEDICAL MALPRACTICE, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Oct 5 — A press report, dated Oct 4, states: A woman who suffered severe brain damage just before her birth has been awarded £5m compensation. Zoe Blair, of Bexhill, East Sussex, suffered oxygen starvation at South Shields Maternity Hospital in February 1974. The court heard she has severe mobility difficulties and needs a high level of care. Northumberland, Tyne and Wear Health Authority apologised to the family after the hearing at the High Court. The court was told that Zoe's mother, Rosemary Blair, had been given a delivery date for the birth of Feb 20, 1974, but was admitted two weeks earlier when a scan showed abnormalities in her baby's heart rate. Zoe was born eight days prematurely and the oxygen starvation to her brain immediately before delivery led to severe brain damage and cerebral palsy. Her barrister, Simeon Maskrey QC, said she would need a high level of care for the rest of her life. Sydney Chawatama, representing the health authority, said a careful review of the circumstances surrounding the birth had been undertaken before legal proceedings began. "As a result of those investigations, a full admission of liability was made in April 2003," he said.



CHEYLESMORE, WEST MIDLANDS, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Sep 30 — A press report, dated today, states: A fire on a goods train carrying "hazardous material" has caused delays for passengers travelling to Coventry. Firefighters took three hours to get the blaze under control, in sidings off Bar Road, Cheylesmore, Coventry, today. West Midlands Fire Service says it started in the electrical unit. Crews managed to keep the flames away from hazardous substances on board. The fire started in the early hours of the morning and nobody was injured. Network Rail is taking the train away from the scene of the fire.

DOUGHERTY AREA, OKLAHOMA, UNITED STATES

London, Sep 30 — A press report, dated today, states: Nobody was hurt when 20 cars of a Burlington Northern Santa Fe train derailed in Murray County, Oklahoma. The clean-up continues today. Fort Worth-based BNSF says the accident happened last

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night near Dougherty, about 15 miles north of Ardmore. Spokesman Joe Faust says the train was hauling grain from Waverly, Illinois, to Eagle Pass, Texas. Nineteen of the derailed cars were carrying grain and one was empty. The cause of the derailment is sought.

HEMPSTEAD, NEW YORK, UNITED STATES

London, Oct 1 — A press report, dated today, states: Full service was restored on the Hempstead branch of the Long Island Railroad about five hours after a passenger train in a yard at the Hempstead station derailed and crimped service westward. When the train's wheels came off the tracks at about 0700, service was suspended for about an hour and then trains began to run on limited service. The train had no passengers and only workers were on it, said Mike Charles, LIRR spokesman. Charles also said no injuries were reported in the derailment. There was damage to the trains but there was no immediate information on the extent. At about noon, full service was restored, the railroad said. Officials were still investigating the cause of the derailment and they said any possible damage on the yard's tracks would not disrupt the tracks used for daily travel. Passengers during the limited service were advised to take alternate lines, such as the West Hempstead and Babylon branches, into Manhattan. The railroad also operated a shuttle bus between Hempstead Station and either Garden City or Country Life Press to move passengers.

ISTANBUL, TURKEY

London, Oct 6 — A press report, dated Oct 5, states: A passenger train collided with another train in Pendik district of Istanbul today. Turkish State Railways (TCDD) officials said that there were not any immediate reports of casualties in the accident, but three cars of the train which was hit by the passenger train, derailed. Officials added that the accident occurred after the passenger train did not stop at red light.

PADIDAN, SINDH PROVINCE, PAKISTAN

Karachi, Oct 5 — Pakistan Railway said three bogies of its cargo train bound for Karachi from Rohri station in Sindh province was derailed at Padidan railway station in interior of Sindh yesterday afternoon. As a result traffic was suspended. Railway officials from Sukkur and Nawab Shah divisions immediately reached the mishap site and supervised rescue operation. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

ROSENDAAL, NETHERLANDS

London, Sep 30 — A press report, dated today, states: Between 30 and 35 people were injured when an intercity train collided with a freight train at the Roosendaal station shortly before 1800 today. Some of the injured victims suffered broken bones and head wounds, but most people were only slightly hurt, police and rail network authority ProRail said. The driver of the freight train was among the

injured, but the driver of the intercity was unhurt. The station was transformed into a scene of chaos after the accident and police sealed the area off, RTL Nieuws reported. An estimated 400 people were travelling on the Amsterdam-Vlissingen intercity when it collided front-on with a shunting Belgian freight train. The intercity was just leaving the station when the accident occurred and a ProRail spokesman said it was not travelling very fast. Train traffic to and from Roosendaal was shut down after the accident. Consequently, no international trains are running between the Netherlands and Belgium. Staff of the Transport and Public Works Inspectorate was dispatched to the scene of the accident tonight. The Transport Safety Council will also conduct an investigation.

London, Oct 1 — A press report, dated today, states: Train travel to and from the southern Dutch city of Roosendaal resumed early today after 40 people were injured when an intercity train collided with a freight train near the city's central station yesterday. The accident occurred shortly before 1800 on and about 30 to 40 passengers were injured. Some suffered broken bones and head wounds, but most people were only slightly hurt. The driver of the freight train was also among the injured. Twenty victims were treated in hospital and an estimated three people were forced to spend the night. The remaining 20 victims suffered minor injuries such as grazes and were treated at a fire brigade barracks. About 400 people were travelling on the Amsterdam-Vlissingen intercity when it collided front-on with a shunting Belgian freight train. The intercity was just leaving the station and the freight train approached from the other side of the station on the same tracks. Both trains were travelling at 25 to 30kmh per hour and they were not derailed by the accident. Train traffic to and from Roosendaal was shut down after the accident. Consequently no international trains operated between the Netherlands and Belgium until the lines were cleared this morning. Train travel between Roosendaal and Breda and between Roosendaal and Dordrecht had been resumed at 2130 yesterday. The intercity was driven away from the scene of the accident at about 0200 today. Full service to and from the Roosendaal area started running again from 0500. A locomotive towed the freight train away about 30 minutes later and repair works on the damaged track change took a couple hours more. Staff of the Transport and Public Works Inspectorate was dispatched to the scene of the accident yesterday night. The Transport Safety Council will also conduct an investigation.

SHELBY AREA, MONTANA, UNITED STATES

London, Sep 29 — A press report, dated Sep 28, states: Salvage efforts continued today in a remote area south of Shelby where a grain train derailed a day earlier, spilling tons of grain. The route, which runs from Laurel to Shelby

and on to Sweet Grass, was reopened at about 0300 hrs., as crews continued to vacuum up wheat and salvage wrecked cars alongside the tracks. "There have been some backups," said Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway spokesman Gus Melonas. "However, because this line does not accommodate high volumes, we have been fortunate to continue with the majority of our customer service." The line handles roughly six freight trains a day. Crews equipped with giant vacuum machines had cleaned up roughly a quarter of the spilled grain by Tuesday afternoon, Melonas said. However BNSF does not yet have estimates of the tonnage spilled. The railroad initially reported that 42 cars were derailed but since has revised the count to 36. Each car held 120 tons of wheat. Workers were able to put three of the cars back on the rails and move them to Shelby for mechanical inspection, Melonas said. Most of the remaining cars will be scrapped on site during the next three to four weeks. BNSF will hire a private contractor for the work, Melonas said. The 60-member salvage team that initially responded to the accident was reduced to 25 by this afternoon. Over the next few days the crew will be whittled to roughly 10 workers who will stay on site for three to four weeks.

SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS, UNITED STATES

London, Oct 7 — A press report, dated today, states: A rail worker died this morning after a freight train derailment in Springfield. Seven rail cars from a Union Pacific Railroad train went off the tracks just after 0100 hrs, near an overpass on Sangamon Ave., Springfield police said. One of the train crew was killed. His name was not released. The derailment spilled grain from the rail cars and left two cars hanging over the edge of the overpass, forcing authorities to close the lanes below to traffic. Springfield Police were trying to determine a cause for the derailment.

STONINGTON AREA, ILLINOIS, UNITED STATES

London, Oct 5 — A press report, dated Oct 4, states: Twenty cars of a Norfolk Southern freight train derailed today in Illinois. Four were tanker cars carrying hydrochloric acid. Officials on the scene say no leaks have been found. The accident happened near Stonington in central Illinois. It is not known yet when the tracks will be re-opened to rail traffic.

VICTORIA AREA, TEXAS, UNITED STATES

London, Sep 30 — A press report, dated Sep 29, states: Two crew members of a Union Pacific coal train were injured today when the train slammed into a parked freight train. The accident happened about 0330 hrs, near the Thomaston community, about 15 miles northwest of Victoria, on a track that parallels U.S. 87, UP spokesman Mark Davis said. The 126-car, three-locomotive UP train from Wyoming was carrying coal to a power plant near Port Lavaca, Davis said. He

said the train hit the locomotive of a Texas-Mexican Railway freight train parked on a siding. That suggested a switch on the main track was open to the siding, he said. Two UP engines and seven coal cars derailed, along with one Tex-Mex engine. Davis said the coal spilled, but there were no reports of fuel or chemical spills.

Miscellaneous



BLOCKADE OF PORTS BY FISHERMEN, FRANCE

London, Oct 1 — A press report, dated today, states: French fishermen angry at rising fuel costs have blocked ports in northern France, disrupting cross-Channel passenger ferry services. Blockades at the ports of Calais, Boulogne-sur-Mer and Dunkirk started early today. The fishermen say the price of diesel has become untenable and the French government has done nothing to help. P&O Ferries, which normally run 35 Dover-Calais sailings on Fridays, say they had no notice of the action. P&O Ferries spokesman Brian Rees said: "This appears to be wildcat action and we had no notice of this. Nothing is getting in or out of Calais at the moment." Dover-Calais services of P&O, SeaFrance and Hoverspeed are all affected.

London, Oct 1 — A press report, dated today, states: The blockade of French ferry ports by fishermen angry at fuel price rises has ended, but more protests are likely. Calais, Dunkirk and Le Havre were blocked for four hours today by cordons of fishing vessels. Cherbourg is set to face action tomorrow. The fishermen say the price of diesel has gone up by 34% since the start of the year and they want subsidies from the French Government. Dover-Calais services of P&O, SeaFrance and Hoverspeed were all affected. Two P&O ferries that had set out for Calais had to return to Dover after the fishermen strung their boats across the entrance to the French port's harbour.

Marseilles, Oct 4 — About 150 fishing boats blocked the Mediterranean port of Marseilles today to demand state compensation for fuel costs and taxes that have surged because of the recent jump in world oil prices. Truckers also set up a slow-moving convoy on a major road in the same region and a leading farmers' association called on the government to reinstate a tax discount that was introduced in 2000 to defuse a crippling nationwide protest by truckers. French media said further protests by truckers were planned for tomorrow. The fishermen blocked oil tankers and other shipments in and out of the Fos-sur-Mer and Lavera terminals in the Marseilles port area, according to shipping agents and the Marseilles port authority. Their action followed a similar protest by fishermen in the north of France on Friday (Oct 1).

Some ferries were allowed through to keep traffic open between Marseilles and the island of Corsica. "We are very determined and are ready to stay for as long as it takes to be heard," said a spokesman for the fishermen. Union representatives are due to hold talks with Agriculture Minister Herve Gaymard in Paris on Tuesday. The FNSEA farmers' union issued a statement of solidarity with the fishermen, demanding a meeting with Gaymard and the revival of a tax discount that the former left-wing government introduced to the dismay of other European governments in 2000. The current conservative government abandoned the compensation mechanism after it took power in mid-2002 but may come under increasing pressure with world oil prices surging again. Oil recently hit \$50 per barrel. At the Lavera terminal near Marseilles, one shipping agent said two tankers, one of which had finished loading today, were unable to move because of the blockade and the problem was similar at the Fos-sur-mer terminal. "No one knows how long this will continue. It is very difficult to plan for anything at the moment," she said. — Reuters.

Marseilles, Oct 5 — French fishermen barred oil tankers, freight vessels, passenger ships and cruise liners from entering and leaving the Mediterranean ports of Marseilles and Toulon today in protest over soaring fuel costs. Truckers blocked the access roads to the small Rodez airport in another part of southern France as the blockade by around 150 fishing boats paralysed traffic in the two ports and the key oil terminals of Fos-sur-Mer and Lavera for a second day running. Also angered by the fallout from surging world oil prices, farmers protested ahead of a meeting in Paris later today between representatives of the fishermen and farm and fisheries minister Herve Gaymard. The leading farmers' association called on the government to reinstate a tax discount that was introduced in 2000 to defuse a crippling nationwide protest by truckers. A spokesman for the fishermen blockading the southern ports said the protest would last at least until the 1600 hrs (1400, UTC) talks with Gaymard but that they were ready to continue if their demands were not met. The fishermen had allowed ferries from North Africa and the island of Corsica to enter Marseilles and Toulon yesterday, but the spokesman said those vessels were now jammed in the ports. Port authorities in Marseilles said 12 vessels were stuck inside the port and two cruise ship dockings had been cancelled. Another 20 oil and gas tankers were stuck at the Fos terminal and 10 more were waiting on the other side of the blockade. Truckers also staged a local protest yesterday near Toulon by setting up a slow-moving convoy to jam traffic and fishing boats protested in northern France last Friday (Oct 1). — Reuters.

Marseilles, Oct 5 — French fishermen agreed to lift their blockades at the Mediterranean ports of Marseilles and Toulon today, allowing oil tankers,

freight vessels, passenger vessels and cruise liners to resume sailing. "We are calling for a lifting of the blockade," announced a spokesman at the Marseilles docks after two days of protests over soaring fuel costs. The move came after the Agriculture Ministry announced an emergency aid package of 1 million euros (\$1.23 million) to help defray some of the fishermen's costs. The fishermen's blockade with around 150 boats paralyzed traffic in the two ports and the oil terminals of Fos-sur-Mer and Lavera for a second day running. Port authorities in Marseilles said 12 vessels were stuck inside the port and two cruise ship dockings had been cancelled. Another 20 oil and gas tankers were stuck at the Fos terminal and 10 more were waiting on the other side of the blockade. — Reuters.

Marseilles, Oct 6 — The blockade of the port entrance in Port de Bouc and of the access channel to the oil and container terminals in Fos by the fisherman ended at about 2000, Oct 5. — Lloyd's Agents.

BLOCKADE OF PORTS BY FRENCH FISHERMEN

Marseilles, Oct 5 — All inward movements have been performed before the blockade of the port entrance in Port de Bouc and the access channel to the oil and container terminals in Fos by the fisherman at 0600, Oct 4. Blockade still in force today. No improvement expected before the meeting to be held this afternoon between striking fishermen and the ministry. — Lloyd's Agents.

COLLAPSE OF BAUXITE LOADING EQUIPMENT, DISCOVERY BAY, JAMAICA

London, Oct 7 — A press report, dated today, states: The St Ann Jamaica Bauxite Company, formerly Kaiser Jamaica, has asked a team of US-based experts to find out what triggered the collapse of a shuttle at the Discovery Bay pier early Tuesday morning (Oct 5). The damage forced the company to postpone a bauxite shipment which was to have left the island on Tuesday. The pier gave out at about 0200 hrs, while bulk *Ocean Galaxy* (27011 gt, built 1997) was being loaded with the ore. "It's the shuttle that collapsed; the section that bauxite goes through," general manager Michael Muirhead said yesterday. "It's resting on the ship and as we speak we are trying to dismantle it from the ship, because we have a loaded ship of bauxite, and we expect that this will be completed (today)." The company, he added, was still assessing the impact that the damage would have on future bauxite shipments from the port. "At this point we are investigating what happened, what caused it and we're investigating how long it will take to get the port operational," he said. "We anticipate that by the end of the day we will be in a better position to speak to you more intelligently in terms of down time and the impact, if any, it will have." Muirhead said the company's workmen were trying to detach the collapsed

shuttle from the ship, which he estimated would be completed today, and allow the ship to sail to the United States with its shipment of bauxite. The accident comes just four days after St Ann Jamaica Bauxite Company took over the operations of the plant from Kaiser Jamaica.

INFESTATION OF ANTS, TAIWAN

London, Oct 4 — A press report, dated today, states: The red fire ant, which can inflict a painful sting which causes blisters, and in rare cases prove fatal, has infested the Taiwanese capital Taipei. Experts have warned it could take up to three years to eradicate the pest. Taiwan is only the fourth place in the world the ant has spread to - it has already spread through New Zealand, Australia and the United States. Now it has been confirmed that it has infested at least four large areas of Taiwan. In recent days red fire anthills have been found in the centre of Taipei. Taiwan's premier has urged people not to panic and advised them how to protect their children. Agricultural experts suspect the red fire ants were brought into Taipei in the soil of potted plants or landscaping material. They warn it could take years to eradicate the pests. The ants are blamed for losses of US\$5bn in the United States each year and more than US\$6.5bn in Australia. Extra stocks of pesticide have been ordered by Taiwan's government. It hopes to contain the spread of the insects by the end of the year.

INFESTATION OF LOCUSTS ACROSS NORTH AND WEST AFRICA

London, Oct 4 — A press report, dated Oct 2, states: A giant swarm of locusts has invaded the capital of Mauritania, Nouakchott, in north-western Africa. The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation has warned that the locust plague is still in its early stages and is set to worsen in the coming weeks. Locusts have already ravaged much of Mauritania's crops and pasture land. Swarms of locusts have descended on the Mauritanian capital three times in recent months, filling the sky, shredding leaves and bombarding inhabitants, who when forced to go outside have taken to wearing upturned buckets on their heads to protect themselves from the clawed insects which like to settle in hair and on shoulders. In the south, many Mauritians have seen their entire harvest wiped out in a number of hours. The UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation has said a new generation of locusts is maturing and taking to the skies, bringing the risk of famine ever closer.

London, Oct 6 — A press report, dated Oct 5, states: Swarms of crop-devouring desert locusts are on the move across Africa and are likely to reach north-western Africa soon, the UN says. Dense swarms of the insects are already flying into west, north and north-eastern Niger, says the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO). It warns they have invaded Libya and may reach Morocco and Tunisia. Up to

four million hectares of land are estimated to be infested by locusts in West Africa. So far, Mauritania, Mali, Niger and Senegal have been the worst-affected countries, but the FAO warns that the new swarms will begin to gather in the coming weeks. As vegetation dries up at the end of the rainy season, experts predict the locusts will leave the semi-desert of the Sahel area and head for Libya, Morocco, Tunisia and Algeria. The FAO's Keith Cressman said the arrival of swarms in Libya was a warning to the rest of the region. "It probably is the first sign of this shift in population." Several swarms of immature locusts had already invaded southwest Libya near Ghat and the Algerian border over the past week the FAO said in a statement.

OUTBREAK OF "BIRD FLU"

London, Oct 1 — Shipowners catering for routes to and from Thailand can expect to see a continuation of the downward slide in chicken exports and imports of soyabean and corn. With the death of a 26 year old woman from the first probable case of human-to-human transmission of avian influenza (or bird flu as it is commonly known), it seems unlikely that Thai exports of chicken will resume in the near future. Chicken exports from Thailand were suspended earlier this year by most countries, when the first outbreak of bird flu swept across Asia, infecting countries such as Vietnam, Malaysia, China, Thailand, South Korea and Indonesia. Although some countries such as Malaysia have managed to contain outbreaks and have resumed chicken exports — Singapore will have partially lifted the ban on Malaysian chicken as of today — the situation does not look as good for Thailand. More than 60m chickens have been culled so far in the attempt to curb the outbreak but it has been unsuccessful and looks to worsen over the next few months. "We are talking at least three to five years — as long as the disease persists in China, Vietnam and Malaysia, Thailand won't be able to get rid of the flu and vice versa," Deputy Prime Minister Chaturon Chaisang said after an emergency meeting called to deal with the problem. "There are no fences along borders in Asia to block migrating birds. For safety's sake, people need to take extra precautions to protect themselves" A London-based shipping analyst said: "No country is going to be willing to take a risk of importing contaminated birds, especially if there is the potential for human to human contamination. It is just too risky. I would expect the ban on Thai chicken to last till at least the end of the year." He added: "This time lag is particularly bad for the Thai chicken market because countries that would ordinarily import from them are now looking to meet their needs from other sources. This could mean long-term arrangements with other countries that are eating into the Thai export market." The worsening of the bird flu outbreaks is also bad news for countries that rely on Thailand as a market for their corn exports. With the wide-scale culling, the

demand for corn used as bird feed has already decreased, and with no lifting of bans on chicken in sight, it seems unlikely that poultry farmers would want to spend money on feeding birds that may not sell. A London shipbroker said: "When we had the first outbreak of bird flu earlier this year, we did see a waning of demand from south Asian countries. I suppose it is logical to assume that we are at risk of subdued demand for corn and soyabean again now that the situation has worsened." The World Health Organisation is eager to assure the public that the situation is under control. Dr Kumara Rai, a WHO representative in Thailand said: "A probable human-to-human transmission has occurred," but added that since the case was contained and family members of the deceased are under quarantine, "it doesn't pose a significant public health threat. There is no reason to be panicked." At present, Taiwan has managed to keep it's chicken free from contamination and analysts believe that it will be a likely substitute for importers looking to source chicken from other countries.

London, Oct 1 — A press report, dated today, states: Millions of volunteers led by emergency teams fanned out across Thailand yesterday in a new drive to fight bird flu after Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra gave officials 30 days to eradicate the epidemic. Agriculture Minister Somsak Thepsutin said Thailand's offensive against the disease "begins from this minute," while international health experts warned that hopes to stamp out the disease in one month were unrealistic. Thailand went on high alert on Tuesday (Sep 28) when it reported that its latest bird flu victim died after likely contracting the virus from her daughter in the first probable case of human-to-human transmission. Malaysia is also stepping up vigilance in its northern regions and China has ordered officials to be on "high alert" after the latest Thai death. Ten people have died in Thailand and 20 in Vietnam since a severe strain of the avian influenza virus spread across Asia earlier this year. More than 100 million chickens and poultry have died or been culled. Mr Somsak said that livestock officials are directing "millions of volunteers and officials ... to X-ray every spot nationwide, to cull sick chickens and bury them properly." He said Thailand had faced setbacks in the fight, blaming villagers for ignoring government rules that require them to tell officials when they have found dead chickens and provide complete health records when they enter hospitals. The anti-bird flu drive began after Mr Thaksin declared a national war against the disease at an emergency meeting on Wednesday. He gave provincial ministers until Oct 31, before the cool season sets in, to wipe out the disease or face dismissal. People are more vulnerable to viruses during the cooler months and migratory birds believed to spread the illness also arrive then. However, Dr Kumara Rai, the acting Thailand representative of the World Health Organisation (WHO), said "eradicating the virus in one month, I

am sorry to say, is almost impossible.” Malaysian health officials have intensified checks in Kelantan, isolating villagers with flu-like symptoms. In the northernmost state of Perlis, poultry farmers and traders have been told to apply for permits to transport their products and live birds in and out the state. China’s Agriculture Ministry told officials to stockpile vaccines and sterilisation materials, warning that “the epidemic, still haunting some Asian countries, poses a risk to China,” the official China Daily newspaper reported yesterday.

Bangkok, Oct 3 — An eight-year-old Thai girl and a dog were confirmed to have been infected with Asia’s deadly bird flu today as the country battled a second major outbreak of the virus this year, authorities said. Dutch researchers reported last month that cats can get the avian influenza virus, which means pets are at risk of getting and spreading the disease. The girl, from the northern province of Phetchabun, takes to four the number of people in Thailand infected with the H5N1 virus, which has killed 20 Vietnamese and 10 Thais. “Lab tests confirmed twice she was definitely infected by H5N1,” Deputy Public Health Minister Anutin Charnvirakul said in a statement. The girl was in poor condition since being sent to hospital last Monday (Sep 27), Anutin said. Among the other cases, a 32-year-old woman is being treated in hospital in the northern province of Khamphaeng Phet. She is the sister of a woman who died of bird flu last month and is believed to be Thailand’s first probable case of human transmission of the virus. Health authorities say there is no evidence to suggest the case could set off a human pandemic. A man who raised fighting cocks in Prachinburi province died of bird flu in early September. — Reuters.

POWER OUTAGE AT REFINERY, TEXAS CITY, TEXAS, UNITED STATES

London, Oct 6 — A press report, dated Oct 5, states: Valero Energy Corp. is in the process of restarting the company’s Texas City refinery after suffering a power outage yesterday. Crews from the refinery and Texas New Mexico Power Co. accidentally tripped an electrical line. Valero initiated emergency procedures and the Houston-area refinery was shut down safely and without incident. Valero spokeswoman Mary Rose Brown says other than flaring, there was no other impact to the Texas City community. Even though power was restored yesterday, refinery workers have spent the better part of today restoring the facility to normal operations. Valero officials expect the 243,000-barrel-per-day refinery to return to normal levels by tomorrow. The accident will cost the company a day-and-a-half worth of lost production.

POWER PROBLEMS, CUBA

London, Oct 1 — A press report, dated Sep 30, states: Cuba plans to close more than 100 factories for all of October as

part of a plan to deal with power shortages. Other measures to save energy include a shorter working week, reduced street lighting and scheduled power cuts. The power shortages have caused a range of problems - affecting the flow of drinking water in homes and causing fridges and freezers to stop working. President Castro said the trouble was caused by problems at Cuba’s main power station, not the high price of oil. “An electrical system that has all these problems is a weak system,” Mr Castro said. The president promised to invest in new generating capacity, but warned the problems could continue for five months or more. Western diplomats say Cuba is finding it difficult to make the investment its power system needs, because of a US trade embargo. To help cope with the crisis, 118 factories, including steel plants, sugar mills and paper processors will be shut for the whole of October, said Vice-President Carlos Lage. The average eight-hour government work day will be cut by 30 minutes and school classes will start half-an-hour later.



Fires & Explosions

BUSH, AUSTRALIA

London, Oct 7 — A press report, dated today, states: Fire crews are continuing to monitor a bushfire in Brisbane’s west with hot and dry conditions expected again today. The Queensland Fire and Rescue Service says the fires started yesterday at The Gap and burned on Mount Coot-tha. At one stage, the Channel Ten television studios on the mountain were threatened. The service says extra fire units will be sent out this morning to ensure the fire stays under control and at this stage no property is at risk.

COKE PROCESSING PLANT, LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA, UNITED STATES

London, Oct 1 — A press report, dated Sep 30, states: Hundreds of thousands of dollars in damage was caused by a pre-dawn fire at the Port of Long Beach today. A total of 50 firefighters were called in to battle the blaze that started on a conveyor belt in the coke processing plant at about 0240 hrs, said Firefighter Paul Rodriguez, a Long Beach Fire Department spokesman. As the coke product is refined, it is passed through a kiln and then cooled down before it is readied for shipment. The dust, however, did not cool fast enough and ignited when it mixed with oil used to keep ultra-fine dust weighted down on the rubber conveyor belt. By 0500 hrs, the fire appeared to be under control and an engine crew was kept behind to make sure it would not be reignited. Within an hour it had sparked a second time. So the engine company smothered the blaze again, Rodriguez said.

ELECTRICITY SUB-STATION, WITHAM, ESSEX, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Oct 6 — A press report, dated Oct 5, states: Thousands of homes in the Witham area of Essex blacked out by an explosion at an electricity sub-station have finally been reconnected. The electricity supplier, EDF Energy, confirmed all homes were switched back on at 1830, BST, today. Efforts to reconnect residents were hampered because the sub-station was made structurally unsound by the blast. EDF has offered businesses £100 compensation for loss of trade following the blast, yesterday. Witham and dozens of surrounding villages were affected with parts of Braintree and Coggeshall also hit. At one point 10,000 homes were without power. EDF Energy engineers worked through the night to restore supplies. Three transformers were damaged in the blast.

FACTORY, PYONGTAEK, SOUTH KOREA

London, Oct 1 — A press report, dated today, states: Three tanks filled with surfactant exploded at an oil factory belonging to Neo Energy Korea in Pyongtaek, Kyonggi Province, yesterday, killing two workers and wounded three others. The explosion occurred around 1710 hrs while the workers were transferring “bio-diesel,” an alternative fuel, to a plastic tank from a five-ton oil tanker, an officer at Pyongtaek Police Station said. Police are investigating the exact cause of explosion, although it is likely to have been caused by a chemical reaction between two different chemical agents. The two South Korean workers died on the spot, he said. The injured, one South Korean and two Pakistanis, sustained burns from the explosion and were sent to a nearby hospital. The Pakistanis are in critical condition. Bio-diesel, which is made from vegetable oil, produces less air pollution than regular engine fuels.

FURNITURE STORE, CANTERBURY, KENT, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Oct 7 — A press report, dated today, states: Fire crews are still at the scene of a blaze which tore through a furniture store in Canterbury yesterday. The fire destroyed the Courts Furnishings store in New Dover Road. Ten fire engines from more than a dozen fire stations were tackling the flames when the fire was at its height yesterday lunchtime. Kent Fire and Rescue Service said crews were still at the scene this morning damping down the area to make it safe. All staff at the shop were accounted for and there were no reports of anyone being injured.

INDUSTRIAL UNIT, DUDLEY, WEST MIDLANDS, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Oct 1 — A press report, dated today, states: More than 100 firefighters have spent the night dealing with a blaze at an industrial unit. It started at Banding and Strapping Supplies Limited, Shaw Road, Dudley, West

Midlands, at 2100 yesterday. The fire was on the Central Trading Estate and is thought to have started in a building which housed plastic moulding equipment. No one was hurt. A fire service spokesman said: "The crews were faced with a serious and developing fire."

PREMISES, ABBOTSFORD, VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA

London, Oct 7 — A press report, dated today, states: Staff working for TV star Rove McManus' Melbourne production company have vowed the show must go on despite an overnight fire that caused up to Aus\$2 million (US\$1.44) damage. The Metropolitan Fire Brigade estimated the fire caused about Aus\$1 million damage to the building housing the Roving Enterprises production office at the corner of Nicholson and Mollison streets in Abbotsford. As well, up to Aus\$1 million of equipment was lost inside the office, McManus' manager Kevin Whyte said, adding "We've lost editing suites, props and our wardrobe department. Nothing at all was spared on the entire first floor." Fire Brigade spokeswoman Heather Stockton said fire investigators would spend today examining the office to determine the cause of the blaze, which broke out about 1800 hrs, yesterday. Fire crews were using thermal fire detection equipment to seek "hot spots" in the top floor of the building that might still be smouldering, she said, while surveyors would assess structural damage today. Part of the front wall of the building collapsed onto the footpath during the fire, damaging parked cars. The fire, which was not deemed suspicious, was contained to the first floor.

RECYCLING FACILITY, WATERFORD, COUNTY WATERFORD, REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

London, Oct 1 — A press report, dated today, states: Gardai are investigating the cause of a fire at a recycling facility just outside Waterford city last night. A number of fire brigades attended the blaze just after 2000 hrs at the Six Cross Roads, about a mile from the city. The building, which was unoccupied at the time, was completely gutted in the blaze. Gardai are preserving the scene for a technical examination. No one was injured in the incident.

RIDING STABLES, COTTINGLEY, WEST YORKSHIRE, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Oct 5 — A press report, dated Oct 4, states: A fire at a West Yorkshire riding stables in which three horses died is being treated as suspicious. The blaze destroyed an entire stable block at Becksides Stables in Lee Lane, Cottingley, last night. Five women owners were treated for shock after witnessing what fire crews described as "distressing scenes." "Three horses were trapped and died in the fire," a West Yorkshire Police spokesman said. "We are investigating it as being suspicious." An electrical fault has been ruled out as the cause of the fire as there was no power supply to the stables.

SCHOOL, BIDDULPH, STAFFORDSHIRE, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Oct 7 — A press report, dated today, states: A fire has destroyed more than half of a school building in Staffordshire. Fire crews were called to the Meadows Special School in Tunstall Road, Biddulph, yesterday afternoon after a fire started in the boys' toilets. Sixty firefighters spent three hours tackling the blaze which has damaged more than 60% of the building. The school, which caters for children aged between three and 18 with learning difficulties, will be closed until alternative accommodation is found. An investigation is under way into the possible cause of the fire.

SHOPPING COMPLEX, NEWTON ABBOT AREA, DEVON, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Oct 6 — A press report, dated today, states: Thirty fire engines are tackling a fire at a Devon branch of one of the South West's major retailers, Trago Mills. Six specialist vehicles are also at the shopping centre near Newton Abbot off the A382. More than 200 firefighters are trying to control the fire, with 50 working inside the building. Devon Fire and Rescue Service described the fire as "large and serious" and one of the biggest it has ever had to deal with. There are a number of other properties on the 100-acre site, including a petrol station and a car showroom, but police said the fire, which broke out just after 0600 BST, today, appeared to be restricted to the main building. Police said the fire was not thought to be suspicious, but that more inquiries were to be made and tests would be carried out on the smoke.

London, Oct 7 — A press report, dated Oct 6, states: Fire crews are damping down at the site of a huge blaze at the Trago Mills retail store near Newton Abbot, Devon. At its height, 200 firefighters were at the scene, tackling one of the biggest fires Devon has seen in recent years. The fire, which is thought to have started in the paint section of the store, has caused about £5m of damage. No-one was hurt in the blaze which broke out just after 0600 today and was restricted to the main building on the 100-acre site. Thirty fire appliances were called to shopping centre off the A382, near the A38. Police said the fire, which started in the paint section of the store, was not thought to be suspicious, but the police and fire brigade's arson task force will investigate the site.



ABORTED TAKE-OFF, IRKUTSK AIRPORT, RUSSIA

London, Oct 6 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: A YAK-40 aircraft, flight number 4218, aborted take-off

from Irkutsk airport at 2305, Oct 3. The aircraft was bound for Tyan Zin, China. On takeoff the cockpit control panel lit indicating "third engine faulty". The aircraft was immediately taxied to its parking area. Experts are trying to specify a cause of the fault.

AIRCRAFT DITCHED INTO SEA SOUTH OF OAHU, HAWAII, UNITED STATES

Honolulu, Oct 5 — On Oct 4, a Cessna 182 along with another aircraft departed Hilo, Hawaii, for Pago Pago, American Samoa. Reported that the Cessna ditched approximately 750 miles south of Oahu. The pilot reported engine trouble before the aircraft went down. A US Coast Guard C-130 dropped a liferaft and it was confirmed he was able to climb aboard. A vessel arrived at his position about 0300 hrs and picked him up. They are bound for Christmas Island. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Oct 6 — A press report, dated today, states: An Australian man who was rescued this morning after ditching an aircraft into the Pacific Ocean for the second time in five years is considering retiring from his trans-Pacific flights. Sydneysider Ray Clamback treaded water for hours after ditching his Cessna 182, before being picked up by a container ship early this morning. Mr Clamback said his aircraft flipped as it hit the water about 1200km south of the Hawaiian island of Oahu. He said he was lucky he was in US waters because the US Coast Guard was very active around the Hawaiian Islands. After a seven-hour search Mr Clamback was spotted yesterday evening by the crew of a C-130 aircraft from Honolulu that had been searching for him for about seven hours. He climbed into a liferaft dropped from the C-130, and about nine-and-a-half hours later he was picked up by the crew of the container vessel P&O Nedlloyd Los Angeles, which was on its way from Los Angeles to Melbourne. A spokeswoman for the P&O Nedlloyd shipping company said the vessel was expected to reach Melbourne by Oct 12, and that Mr Clamback would go from there to his home in Sydney. Mr Clamback was the only person aboard the Cessna 182, which was flying with a second Cessna from Hilo on the island of Hawaii en route to Pago Pago, American Samoa. US Coast Guard Chief Petty Officer Marsha Delaney said the pilot of the second Cessna circled the debris field until the C-130 arrived, then continued on his way.

AIRCRAFT GROUNDED, KUALA LUMPUR INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, MALAYSIA

London, Oct 7 — A press report, dated today, states: Malaysia Airlines grounded an aircraft after maintenance staff found during pre-flight checks that some wires in the cockpit had been severed, the third such case in the past year, police said today. The Airbus A330 aircraft arrived at the Kuala Lumpur International Airport early on Tuesday (Oct 5) from Dhaka, Bangladesh, and was scheduled to leave for Bangkok later that day, when the apparent

vandalism was discovered two hours before take-off, said Mr Abdul Rahman Hussin, deputy chief of the Criminal Investigation Department. The aircraft was grounded and sealed off for investigation, he said. Airline engineers were checking flight instruments which indicated a serious malfunction and later discovered the severed wires under the pilot's seat. It was not clear what the consequences would have been had the jetliner taken off with the severed wires.

AIRCRAFT MISSING ON FLIGHT TO WARM SPRINGS BAY, BARANOF ISLAND, ALASKA, UNITED STATES

London, Sep 30 — A press report, dated today, states: The Coast Guard has suspended its search for an aircraft missing since Sep 20 from Sitka. The Harris Air floatplane, a DeHavilland Beaver, carried pilot Eric Johnson of Sitka and four tourists on their way to Warm Springs Bay on Baranof Island. The Coast Guard, Civil Air Patrol and Harris Air participated in the search. The Coast Guard said yesterday that crews had completed searches from Sitka to Baranof Warm Spring Bay and through the most likely routes the pilot may have flown the aircraft to reach its destination. Other searches examined the shoreline, nearby forests, Kruzof Island, Salisbury Sound, Chatham Strait, Peril Strait, Takatz Bay, Point Elizabeth, Rodman Bay and Ushk Bay to Hoonah Sound. As of yesterday morning, rescue crews had searched for more than 191 hours, officials said. The Coast Guard said it used all its available crews and aircraft, including night-vision equipment and forward-looking infrared, in the search. The Coast Guard cutter *Maple* and its crew, home-ported in Sitka, were called out to search above and below the water's surface in Peril Strait, officials said. No one found any signs of the aircraft or its passengers. The search was called off around 1600 yesterday. "Suspending the active search in this case has been an extremely difficult decision," said Capt. Michael Kendall, the 17th Coast Guard District Chief of Search and Rescue. "However, after hundreds of hours of searching by the air, sea and on foot for the last 10 days, we are confident we have exhausted every reasonable effort to locate and assist any possible survivors."

CRASH, BEATRICE, NEBRASKA, UNITED STATES

London, Oct 4 — A press report, dated today, states: A small twin-engined aircraft skidded across US 77 two miles north of Beatrice yesterday in a fiery crash that critically injured the aircraft's pilot, according to the Gage County Sheriff's Office. Sheriff's Sgt. Jeff Hatzenbuehler said Benjamin L. Rogers, 55, of Albany, Mo., had just taken off around 1530 from Beatrice Municipal Airport when one of the engines made a popping sound, according to witnesses. The aircraft, an older model Piper Geronimo, lost its right engine, took a shallow-banked turn to the east and crashed into a field

on the west end of the four-lane highway, said Chuck Hubka, a spokesman for the Beatrice airport. The aircraft, which had deployed its landing gear, bounced over the southbound lanes, hit the northbound ones and burst into flames in the east-side ditch, Hubka said. Rogers was taken to Lincoln's BryanLGH Medical Center West in critical condition. He later was transported to St. Elizabeth Regional Medical Center. The aircraft had stopped in Beatrice to refuel and was headed to Missouri, Hubka said. It crashed less than a minute after take-off. The crash closed northbound lanes of US 77 for three hours.

CRASH, GADSDEN AREA, ALASKA, UNITED STATES

London, Oct 1 — A press report, dated Sep 30, states: An airplane was reported missing in the Gadsden area late yesterday afternoon. The plane apparently crashed into the Coosa River in Etowah County. Witnesses said they saw a small plane fly into some power lines before hearing it splash into the river. The accident occurred at approximately 1430 hrs, near Wagon Ferry Road. Authorities have confirmed one death at the crash site so far. Divers are on the way to the scene.

CRASH, KALALEH AREA, IRAN

Tehran, Oct 5 — A one-man private plane has crashed in the northeast of Iran killing the pilot, the Interior Ministry said today. An interior ministry spokesman said the plane had crashed near the town of Kalaleh, in the forested Caspian Sea province of Golestan. The Red Crescent said they had sent a team of rescue workers to the area. — Reuters.

CRASH, MARION AIRPORT, IOWA, UNITED STATES

London, Oct 4 — A press report, dated today, states: A Walcott man was treated and released at St. Luke's Hospital in Cedar Rapids, where a Davenport man's condition still was being evaluated late yesterday after an aircraft crash at the Marion Airport yesterday morning. Russell J. Thomas, of Davenport, was the pilot of a Piper Warrior 180, which clipped the roof of a hangar building and crashed into the door of another set of hangars, according to the Linn County Sheriff's Department. Thomas and his passenger, Keith Wayne Foster, of Walcott, were outside the aircraft when officers arrived about 1000 yesterday, the sheriff's department said. The sheriff's department, Linn County Rescue, Marion Fire, an area ambulance and Linn County Hazmat teams responded to the scene after a phone call erroneously reporting that the hangar was on fire. Linn County Hazmat assisted Marion Airport employees with the removal of the remaining gas and Marion firefighters washed down the area. The sheriff's department said that the Federal Aviation Administration was notified and would investigate the accident.

CRASH, SOUTH KORDOFAN STATE, SUDAN

Khartoum, Oct 6 — A Sudanese Antonov 12 cargo plane crashed, killing four crew members, a Sudanese news agency said late yesterday night. The Russian-built Saria-operated plane had taken off from El Obeid airport in South Kordofan state yesterday when it lost radio contact and three planes were sent to search for it, the Sudanese Media Centre (SMC) said. The plane was on its way to the southern town of Juba. Sudanese state radio said all four of those killed on board were Russian. — Reuters.

EMERGENCY LANDING INTO NERANG RIVER, QUEENSLAND, AUSTRALIA

London, Oct 3 — A press report, dated today, states: A pilot and four passengers escaped unharmed tonight after their seaplane was forced to make a crash landing into a Gold Coast river. Police and ambulance services were called to the scene after the Cessna 172 crashed into the Nerang River, at Carrara late this afternoon. An ambulance spokeswoman says paramedics were called to the scene, but the male pilot, two female and two male passengers needed no transportation to hospital. A police spokeswoman says the pilot was forced to land after experiencing fuel problems. The aircraft was not damaged in the landing, and will be lifted out of the river by crane tomorrow.

EMERGENCY LANDING, AMSTERDAM, NETHERLANDS

London, Sep 30 — A press report, dated today, states: British Airways flight A983 has made an emergency landing at Schiphol airport in Amsterdam as a result of a "specific threat", the airline has said. The crew on the aircraft carrying 118 passengers, which was travelling from Berlin to London, asked ground staff in the Netherlands for a military escort. Two Royal Dutch air force jets were immediately scrambled. "There was a specific threat to the airline but we are not releasing details," a BA spokesman has said. All the passengers have been taken off the aircraft while the police carry out checks. BA said the passengers would undergo security screening and the baggage would be taken off the aircraft and checked.

London, Oct 1 — A press report, dated today, states: The British Airways plane which was escorted by F-16 fighter jets to Amsterdam's Schiphol Airport due to a bomb scare yesterday has returned to Britain after no explosives were found. British Airways decided to fly home the empty Airbus A319 late yesterday. The 118 passengers were flown to London earlier on a relief plane six hours after the unscheduled landing at Schiphol. Flight 983 from Berlin was on route from Berlin to London's Heathrow Airport. It was above the Netherlands when a Dutch television station received a call warning there was a bomb onboard. Two F-16 fighter jets were scrambled to escort it to the

runway at Schiphol and it landed safely at 1356 hrs. Military police officers gave the all clear after searching the plane and questioning the crew.

EMERGENCY LANDING, CORFU, GREECE

London, Oct 5 — A press report, dated today, states: A Greek airliner bound for London was diverted to the island of Corfu because of a bomb threat. Olympic Airlines aborted flight 265 from Athens yesterday, after the firm received an anonymous phone call. The Airbus 300 - carrying about 220 passengers and crew - resumed the flight to Heathrow Airport early today, after a police search. The incident is the third security alert involving Olympic Airlines in little more than a week.

EMERGENCY LANDING, LARNACA, CYPRUS

London, Oct 5 — A press report, dated today, states: A Lufthansa passenger plane en route to Tel Aviv was diverted to Cyprus today, escorted by Israeli war planes, after the airline received a bomb threat, officials said. The threat was received in a phone call to the airline's Frankfurt, Germany office. The Israeli spokesman for Lufthansa, Yitzhak Zaroni, said the caller spoke with an Arabic accent. "When the plane was in the air, there was a telephone call in Germany that said there was an explosive device on the plane," Zaroni said. After consulting with Israeli authorities, the airline decided to divert the plane in Larnaca, Cyprus, instead of letting it continue to Tel Aviv. The plane, a Boeing 747, had 331 passengers on board, Zaroni said. The plane was being searched in Larnaca.

London, Oct 6 — A press report, dated today, states: Cypriot security officials yesterday found no explosives in the cargo hold or passenger cabin of a Lufthansa plane that was yesterday diverted to Cyprus on its way to Israel due to a bomb threat. Israeli jet fighters escorted the plane to Cyprus to keep it from entering Israeli air space. The Boeing 747, carrying 331 passengers and 18 crew members, was inspected in Larnaca and allowed to take off again for Ben-Gurion International Airport. Lufthansa's Israel director, Ofer Kish, told Haaretz: "All the flight security measures in Frankfurt were checked after the threat was made and found in order. Our station notified the captain and Israel. About half an hour before the plane was due to land in Israel, Israeli security decided not to let it in. Lufthansa decided to land it in Larnaca, where it was searched by the Cypriot security forces."

EMERGENCY LANDING, NARITA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, TOKYO, JAPAN

London, Oct 4 — A press report, dated today, states: A Northwest Airlines Flight 28 with more than 200 people on board, bound San Francisco, had just taken off from Tokyo when the pilots noticed engine trouble. They turned the jet back and landed at Narita International Airport. Smoke appeared

near the wheels as the pilots applied the brakes on landing. No injuries are reported.

London, Oct 4 — A press report, dated today, states: The landing gear on a Northwest Airlines passenger plane caught fire after an emergency landing in Tokyo today, forcing the runway to be temporarily shut down, officials said. There were no injuries. Flight 28, an Airbus A330 bound for San Francisco, California, had 210 people aboard, Transport Ministry spokesman Itsuo Komori said. After noticing engine problems, the pilot of the flight dumped fuel into the sea off the Boso peninsula, east of Tokyo, before turning back to Narita international airport, Komori said. As the brakes were applied during landing, smoke appeared and the plane's left landing gear appeared to catch fire, officials said. Firefighters were able to put out the fire, and no injuries were reported, Hiramitsu said. The runway was shut down for 18 minutes, Komori said. Northwest spokesman Toyohiko Terasaki said the passengers were scheduled to depart for San Francisco on another flight later today.

HB-CJB

London, Oct 1 — Cessna 182R, HB-CJB, was destroyed when it crashed in mountainous terrain near Montreaux, Switzerland, at approximately 1600, UTC, Sep 19. The pilot and three passengers were killed. The flight departed Perpignan, France, and the intended destination was Grenchen, Switzerland.

HC-AIF

London, Oct 4 — Agricultural aircraft Piper PA-25-235, HC-AIF, owned and operated by Aviasa SA, Guayaquil, was destroyed after it crashed following a loss of control while manoeuvring during an aerial application flight near Santa Rosa, Province of El Oro, Ecuador, at approximately 1730, EDT, Sep 9. The pilot, sole occupant, was killed.

HK-3105

London, Oct 6 — A press report, dated Oct 4, states: Cessna, HK-3105, crashed today, near the city of Medellin, northwest Colombia, resulting in the death of its six occupants. The light aircraft had taken off from Jose Maria Cordoba Airport, Rionegro, bound for Murindo municipality, in Antioquia. The authorities said the aircraft crashed on a hill in the La Cruz neighbourhood, after the pilot had apparently had to change the course due to bad weather. The Director of the Metropolitan Security Fund of Medellin, Ivaro Gonzalez, said that all of the occupants, five men and one woman, died. Police patrols and rescue teams arrived at the location of the accident, where they retrieved the bodies of those who were on board the plane.

I-IAAZ

Genoa, Oct 1 — Partenavia P66C I-IAAZ, during flight Viterbo for Genoa, crashed on Penna mount, inland Sestri

Levante, Eastern Riviera, Genoa, Sep 30. Pilot killed. — Lloyd's Agents.

INCIDENT AT MELBOURNE AIRPORT, AUSTRALIA

London, Oct 5 — A press report, dated today, states: A New Zealand-bound aircraft is bogged at Melbourne Airport after sinking into asphalt which had been laid only to keep dust down. The Freedom Air flight to Hamilton, on the North Island, became stuck when its wheels sank into the asphalt about 1930, AEST, yesterday, Melbourne Airport spokesman Brooke Lord said. The tar edging to the main taxiway was not intended to support the weight of an aircraft. It was not immediately clear why the Boeing 737 was near the asphalt section. The Australian Transport Safety Bureau and the airline will both investigate the incident. Emergency crews have yet to decide how to move the aircraft. Ms Lord said passengers on flight 324 returned to the terminal by bus and were given accommodation in Melbourne overnight. Other flights were not disrupted. "Last night, after 2000 hrs, the decision was taken because the location of the aircraft meant both runways were still operating, and aircraft could come from the terminal on alternate taxiways ... to have a look at it in the light (of day) and work it through then".

N16849

London, Oct 5 — A press report, dated Oct 2, states: A week after a helicopter crashed on a steep mountain slope, rescue workers removed the last of five bodies from the wreckage. Bodies of four people who died in the Sep 24 crash were retrieved earlier this week, but it took until yesterday for rescue workers to remove the fifth body, which had been pinned beneath the wreckage. Most of the wreckage of the helicopter operated by Bali Hai Helicopter Tours also was removed from the precarious site in central Kauai. Nicole Channon, an air safety investigator with the National Transportation Safety Board, said the board will determine the cause of the crash after a full investigation.

N1703Y

London, Oct 1 — A press report, dated Sep 30, states: A twin-engine plane crashed into a swampy area in southeastern Wisconsin today, killing all three people on board. Lt. Connie Mallwitz with the Racine County Sheriff's Department said all three people on the 1962 Beech B95A died when it crashed south of the Burlington Municipal Airport in the Town of Burlington. She said she had no further details immediately available. Names of the dead had not been released. Gary Meisner, airport manager, said witnesses saw the plane go by before it crashed. "They just saw it put its landing gear up, then it went into a shallow right turn and it just went off to the trees," he said. It was unclear if the plane had just taken off from the airport or was trying to land, he said. The plane crashed about a quarter mile from the end of the runway and about a

couple hundred yards from some houses near a stream, he said. The plane was registered in Lake Geneva, Meisner said. The sheriff's department received the report of the crash at 1628 hrs. The Federal Aviation Administration was investigating the crash this evening.

London, Oct 1 — Beech B95A, N1703Y, operated by GNS LLC, crashed under unknown circumstances two miles from the Burlington Airport, Wisconsin, at 2128, Sep 30. The three persons on board were killed.

N34CA

London, Sep 30 — Bell 206L, N34CA, operated by Panther Helicopters Inc., crashed into the Gulf of Mexico, approximately 60 nautical miles south of Gulfport, at 1300, Sep 29. No injuries to the four persons on board. Aircraft was submerged.

N54397

London, Sep 30 — A press report, dated Sep 29, states: An elderly female pilot was killed today when her single-engine plane apparently stalled just after take-off and plummeted nose first. The plane crashed into trees at the bottom of a hill a few hundred feet below the end of the runway at the end of the lane off Third and Thompson streets in Avondale Borough at about 1400 hrs. Gertrude Dunn of Chadds Ford was the pilot. Jim Peters, Federal Aviation Association spokesman for the Eastern Region, confirmed that the plane was a Piper Archer PA-28 single-engine prop plane that seats four. He also confirmed that the pilot was killed. The FAA believes the plane left from New Garden Airport and said an aviation safety inspector had been dispatched to the scene. He did not speculate on why the plane crashed. "Circumstances of the crash will be investigated by the National Transportation Safety Board," he said. Peters said the plane was registered to Vijay Nilekani of Hockessin, Del. New Garden Airport Manager Everitt du Pont confirmed that the plane was based out of the New Garden Airport, where Dunn is part owner of the plane with Nilekani. While du Pont did not know the number of hours Dunn had flown, he said he believed she was an experienced pilot. "The problem started with engine troubles. It started sputtering and went down nose first," he said. Witness Vernetta Crampton said the plane smashed headfirst into the ground and bent in two. "It was so smashed I couldn't even see the front of the plane," she said. New Garden Police Department, Avondale Fire Company and Southern Chester County EMS responded to the scene.

London, Sep 30 — Piper PA-28-180, N54397, privately operated, crashed into a residential area under unknown circumstances at Avondale, Pennsylvania, at 1803, Sep 29. The one person on board was killed. The aircraft was substantially damaged.

N7977H

London, Sep 30 — Piper PA 12 (Super Cruiser), N7977H, privately operated, lost control and crashed on take-off at

Perham, Minnesota, at 1530, Sep 29. The aircraft was destroyed. Minor injuries to the three persons on board.

N902GD

London, Oct 1 — Britten Norman BN-2A-27, N902GD, operated by Air Charter Inc., on a flight from Mayaguez (PR) to San Juan (PR), crashed under unknown circumstances near Tortuguero Lagoon, Puerto Rico, at 2245, Sep 29. The aircraft was destroyed.



AIR CONDITIONERS/HEAT PUMPS, UNITED STATES

Washington, DC, Sep 30 — The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission announces the recall of 875,000 Package Terminal Air Conditioner/Heat Pump (PTAC) in voluntary co-operation with Goodman Company, L.P., of Houston, Texas. Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed. Hazard: Fire hazard resulting from this chain of events: Filter becomes clogged due to lack of maintenance, severely restricting airflow and resulting in elevated internal temperature; this may cause two safety switches to stop working during the product's expected life; if the blower wheel then stops when the product is operated in the heating mode, a fire hazard can develop. Goodman received 29 confirmed reports of units overheating, including eight instances where the PTAC ignited and, in some cases, caused minor property damage. No injuries have been reported. These PTACs are owned mainly by commercial and institutional organizations and are used in the lodging industry, apartments, hospitals, nursing homes and assisted living facilities, schools, and government buildings. A small number of the recalled units are owned by individual homeowners. The PTACs are beige in color and are intended for through-the-wall installation. Goodman manufactured all of the recalled units, which were sold under the Amana, Trane, and American Standard brand names. Goodman and Trane/American Standard are separate, unrelated entities. The recalled PTACs consist of Amana brand units manufactured from January 1996 through March 2003, and Trane and American Standard brand units manufactured from January 1996 through August 2002, that use electric heaters rated at 3.5 kilowatts (kW) or greater. Brand Name Serial and Model Numbers Amana Serial numbers begin with 96, 97, 98, 99, 00, 01, 02, 0301, 0302, or 0303. Model numbers begin with: PTH073A35; PTH074A35; PTH093A35; PTH093A50; PTH094A35; PTH094A50; PTH123A35; PTH123A50; PTH124A35; PTH124A50; PTH153A35; PTH153A50; PTH154A35; PTH154A50; PTC073A35; PTC074A35; PTC093A35;

PTC093A50; PTC094A35; PTC094A50; PTC123A35; PTC123A50; PTC124A35; PTC124A50; PTC153A35; PTC153A50; PTC154A35; PTC154A50. Trane and American Standard Serial numbers begin with A96, A97, A98, A99, A00, A01, A02. Model numbers begin with: PTHC0701G; PTHC0702G; PTHC0901G; PTHC0901J; PTHC0902G; PTHC0902J; PTHC1201G; PTHC1201J; PTHC1202G; PTHC1202J; PTHC1501G; PTHC1501J; PTHC1502G; PTHC1502J; PTEC0701G; PTEC0702G; PTEC0901G; PTEC0901J; PTEC0902G; PTEC0902J; PTEC1201G; PTEC1201J; PTEC1202G; PTEC1202J; PTEC1501G; PTEC1501J; PTEC1502G; PTEC1502J.

The serial and model numbers are below the operating controls under the front cover assembly. To check the serial and model numbers, remove the front cover by pulling it from the bottom straight out until the clips release, then lifting it up. For some units, it is first necessary to remove two "9" screws (in the filter compartment) that secure the front cover. Sold to: Amana, Trane, and American Standard representatives sold the PTACs to hotels/motels, hospitals, assisted living facilities, schools, and apartment complexes. Heating, ventilation and air conditioning distributors and resellers sold the units to commercial customers and, in some cases, homeowners. The recalled units were sold throughout the U.S. and parts of Canada between January 1996 and March 2003. Manufactured in U.S.A. Remedy: Free thermal safety limit switch. Commercial and institutional owners will install the replacement switch themselves. Individual homeowners can get a free repair. Contact the Goodman Hotline to receive the free replacement thermal safety switch. Inspect and clean the air conditioner/heat pump filters immediately to remove any imminent hazard. — Consumer Product Safety Commission.

ANTI-INFLAMMATORY DRUG, WORLDWIDE

London, Oct 2 — A press report, dated today, states: One of Australia's most common prescribed drugs, used by about 300,000 people a year, has been recalled amid concerns about an increased risk of heart attack and stroke. Drug company Merck, Sharp & Dohme yesterday began a worldwide voluntary recall of anti-inflammatory drug Vioxx, used for arthritis and musculo-skeletal conditions, and advised all patients to stop taking it immediately. A three-year US trial found patients who took Vioxx 25mg for 18 months or more had an increased risk of cardiovascular complaints such as heart attack and stroke. The study found one extra of this type of incident for every 65 patients who took Vioxx. The fatality rate did not rise in those taking Vioxx. Australian managing director Will Delaat said the cost of the withdrawal had not been estimated but patient safety had priority. "We're not talking high levels of risk . . . (but) there is an increased risk and we can't

put our hands on our hearts and say we're prepared for our patients to take that risk," he said yesterday. Therapeutic Goods Administration principal medical officer Dr John McEwan said about 3.2 million prescriptions for Vioxx were filled last year, with about 250,000 to 300,000 people taking it. It was listed in 1999 for the treatment of osteoarthritis and rheumatoid arthritis at a dose of 25mg a day. Dr McEwan said the TGA last October alerted doctors to evidence of increased risk of heart conditions related to doses higher than 25mg. Mr Logan said patients should take their unused Vioxx back to their pharmacy for a full refund. Australian Medical Association Queensland Council of General Practice chairman Dr Steve Hambleton said the recall was very significant, given Vioxx's popularity with doctors and patients. Vioxx was launched in the US in 1999 and has been marketed in more than 80 countries.

GLASS-DOOR WALL CABINETS, UNITED STATES

Washington, DC, Sep 24 — The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission announces the recall of about 25,000 BERTBY Glass-Door Wall Cabinets in voluntary co-operation with IKEA Home Furnishings, of Plymouth Meeting, Pa. Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed. Some of these glass-door wall cabinets have the wrong sized screws for the safety bracket, which can result in the cabinet not being properly secured to the wall. The cabinets can fall and injure nearby consumers. IKEA has received two reports of cabinets falling. No injuries have been reported. The glass-door wall cabinets have "BERTBY," the product article number (380.472.10) and supplier number (14709) written on a label on the underside of the bottom panel or on the top side of the top panel. The cabinets are about 67-inches high. Sold at IKEA stores nation-wide from January 2002 through September 9, 2004 for about \$100. Manufactured in Italy. IKEA is offering a free repair kit. Consumers should contact IKEA to determine if their wall cabinet needs this repair. — Consumer Product Safety Commission.

MAZDA MOTOR VEHICLES, UNITED STATES

London, Sep 30 — A press report, dated Sep 29, states: Mazda Motor Corp. is recalling 42,000 Mazda3 sedans because their air bags might not deploy, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration said today. The recall involves vehicles from the 2004 model year, the first year the Mazda3 was available. Mazda spokesman Jeremy Barnes said the company had no reports of injuries due to the defect. Mazda found that on some vehicles, the housing for the air bag sensor can crack and allow water to seep in. Should that happen, a short circuit would cause the air bag warning light to go on and the air bag might not fire. Barnes said Mazda plans to notify customers of the

defect soon. Owners can get their vehicles repaired for free starting next month, NHTSA said.

NISSAN MOTOR VEHICLES, JAPAN AND UNITED STATES

London, Oct 5 — A press report, dated today, states: Nissan Motor Co. said today it would recall a total of 26,077 cars including about 100 in the United States to fix defective brake lights and faulty bolts used in the vehicles' propellor shaft. There were no reports of injuries due to the defects. The models subject to the recall were the Cima, President, Skyline sedans and Stagea wagons made in Japan between December 2000 and June 2004, Transport Ministry spokesman Toshihiko Kude said. The company said 25,977 of the cars were sold in Japan. Kude said a loosened bolt could cause the propellor shaft linked to the front wheel to come off. That defect affects most of Nissan's cars in the recall. The remaining 259 cars, including 100 Cima models exported to the United States and sold under the model names M45 and 945, had a brake light that malfunctioned because a different lubricant oil was used in production.

TV/VCR CARTS, UNITED STATES

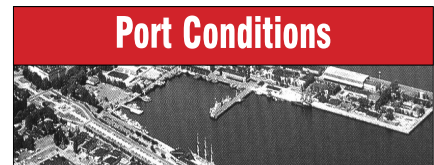
Washington, DC, Sep 28 — The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission announces the recall of 300,000 TV/VCR carts in voluntary co-operation with Sauder Woodworking Co., of Archbold, Ohio. Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed. The carts can tip over and the television can fall off, posing a risk of serious injury or death if the TV and cart fall on a child. Sauder Woodworking received one report of a cart tipping over, though no injuries have been reported. The recalled TV/VCR carts are white, light brown and light reddish brown; have decorative hardware and trim; and are about 29 inches wide, 17 inches deep, and 25 inches high. The carts are equipped with a top shelf for a television 20 inches or smaller and a middle shelf for a VCR and a lower storage area. The recalled carts include models 3355, 6355, 7755, 9855 and 9755, which can be found on the instruction book that came with the cart. Sold at department, discount and home electronic stores nation-wide sold the 3355, 6355 and 7755 model from October 1991 through May 1999 for between \$80 and \$100. The 9855 and 9755 models were sold exclusively at Target stores. Manufactured in United States. Consumers should stop using the TV/VCR carts immediately and do the following: Remove the television and all contents. Turn the cart over and remove the four casters from the bottom of the cart. This will bring the tip-stability of the cart into compliance with the latest industry standards. Contact Sauder Woodworking Co. to receive a free retrofit kit and safe use information. When updated, this cart will be suitable for use with TVs weighing 50 pounds or less. This includes most TVs that are 20 inches or smaller. — Consumer Product Safety Commission.

TYRES, UNITED STATES

Chicago, Sep 30 — BFGoodrich Tyres, owned by French-based Michelin, today said it is recalling 46,000 passenger and light-truck tyres in the United States for a condition that could possibly result in steel belt separation. BFGoodrich, based in Greenville, South Carolina, said there have been no accidents or injuries reported to date and no property damage claims filed. The company said its decision was based on six tyres returned by consumers for tyre vibration, noise and ride-comfort issues. It found the problems, if not addressed, could lead to steel belt separation. BFGoodrich said it concluded that up to 3,500 tyres sold under six tyre brand names may have similar performance issues. The company said in a news release that the recall includes all potentially affected tyres produced during the same period. The tyres were made from Apr 11 to Apr 24 at its Ft. Wayne, Indiana, plant and include BFGoodrich, Uniroyal, Liberator, Medalist, Phantom and Prospector brands. BFGoodrich said the recalled tyres have identification numbers located on the tyre just above the rim which begin with "DOT BF" and end with the last four digits 1504 or 1604.

VOLKSWAGEN MOTOR VEHICLES, JAPAN

London, Oct 6 — A press report, dated today, states: Volkswagen are recalling some 17,500 units of the Golf GLI and three other models for possible fuel leaks due to fuel pump pipe problems.



CANADA

See under "Labour Disputes."

FRANCE

See "Blockade of Ports by Fishermen, France" under "Miscellaneous."

INDIA

Kochi, Oct 1 — The movement of containers within the port commenced from today. Normalcy of the container operations will be restored by Monday. — Lloyd's Agents.

PANAMA CANAL

Balboa, Sep 30 — Panama Canal lock lane outages: Gatun Locks: Wednesday (Oct 6), from 0001 hours through Friday (Oct 15), at 2359 hours (10 days), the East lane of Gatun Locks will be out of service. Relay operations will be conducted on the West lane. The East lane will be closed in order to perform rehabilitation work on 450 feet of tow track on the sidewall and centrewall inclines between the upper and middle levels, including tow track over Miter Gates 21, 22, 25 and 26, maintenance work on Miter Gates 33 and 34, inspection and cleaning of 4000 feet of conductor slot, and other miscellaneous

Port Conditions

work. Due to this lane outage and in accordance with the rules governing the Transit Reservation System (MR's Notice to Shipping No. N-7-2004), Condition 2 will be in effect at 0001 hours of Oct 6. Applications for reserved transits under that condition will be received commencing 0900 hours Oct 3. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Oct 6 — Panama Canal lock works/repairs scheduled to start at 0001 hrs, today, have been slightly reduced, and are now due to be completed at about 2359, Oct 13. Based on projected ship arrivals to Cristobal, vessels with beams of more than 91 feet and those with transit restrictions due to cargo and/or drafts could face delays

of 2-3 days. These delays could increase to 4-5 days by the end of the week. Vessels arriving at Balboa may face delays of 1-2 days which could increase to 2-3 days by the beginning of next week. Non-restricted vessels could face delays of approximately 1-2 days at the start of the repairs increasing to 2-3 days by the beginning of next week.

Port Delays

Country/Port	Date of report	No.of vessels waiting and/or days delay
Australia		
Abbot Point	5-6-Oct-2004	Coal: 9 vessels due by 29/10; no delays expected. There will be a maintenance shutdown from 07.00 hrs. 5/10 to 07.00 hrs. 11/10
Brisbane	5-6-Oct-2004	Coal: Fisherman Island coal berth: 3 vessels due by 1/11; no delays expected.
Dalrymple Bay	5-6-Oct-2004	Coal: 3 vessels berthed, 16 anchored; 45 vessels due by 20/11; vessels berthing in order of cargo availability; up to 15 days berthing delay subject to cargo availability and berth congestion can be expected, although vessels with other stems are experiencing longer berthing delays.
Dampier	5-6-Oct-2004	Iron ore: Parker Point: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 7 anchored; 9 vessels due by 26/10; up to 11 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; East Intercourse Island: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 5 anchored; 7 vessels due by 12/10; 1-7 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; a maintenance shutdown will start ca. 11/10; 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	5-6-Oct-2004	Coal: R.G. Tanna coal terminal: 2 vessels berthed, 3 anchored; 39 vessels due by 29/10; 1-10 days berthing delay expected subject to port congestion and cargo availability; Barney Point: 1 vessel berthed; 4 vessels due by 4/11; up to 1 day's delay expected subject to cargo availability and berth congestion. There will be a maintenance shutdown from 15-31/10. Grain: no vessels.
Hay Point	5-6-Oct-2004	Coal: 2 vessels berthed, 9 anchored; 17 vessels due by 18/10; up to 8 days berthing delay expected subject to cargo availability and berth congestion.
Newcastle	5-6-Oct-2004	Coal: Kooragang 4, 5 and 6: 36 vessels due by 20/10; Dykes 4+5: 22 vessels due by 22/10; 1-8 days delay expected prior to berthing due to planned maintenance at Kooragang terminal and cargo receipt. Grain: 2 vessels due by 19/10, both to load wheat; no delays expected.
Port Adelaide	5-6-Oct-2004	Grain: No. 27 berth: 8 vessels due by 21/10, 6 to load wheat, 2 barley; up to 4 days delay expected due to berth congestion.
Port Hedland	5-6-Oct-2004	Iron ore: BHP Iron Ore Pty. Ltd., Mt. Newman (Nelson Point), "A" berth: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 5 anchored; 3 vessels due by 10/10; 1-8 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; "B" berth: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 3 vessels anchored; 2 vessels due by 9/10; 1-5 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; a 48 hour maintenance shutdown will start ca. 11/10; BHP Iron Ore Pty. Ltd., Goldsworthy (Finucane Island) "C" berth: 2 vessels due by 6/10; 2-4 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; Westyard "D" berth: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 1 anchored; 5 vessels due by 10/10; up to 3 days delay expected due to berth congestion, maintenance shutdown 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	5-6-Oct-2004	Coal: 13 vessels due by 28/10; CB1: no nominations; up to 2 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability. Grain: 3 vessels due by 28/10, all to load wheat; up to 3 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Port Walcott	5-6-Oct-2004	Iron ore: 2 vessels berthed and loading, 2 anchored; 17 vessels due by 22/10; up to 4 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. Grain: 1 vessel waiting to load barley; 4 vessels due by 22/10, 2 to load wheat, 1 barley, 1 wood-chips; up to 6 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.

Port Conditions

Brazil

Paranagua	5-Oct-2004	Thirteen vessels berthed of which 2 fertiliser dischargers, 3 reefer loaders, 1 pellets loader, 2 sugar loaders, 2 container dischargers, 3 other loaders; 13 vessels waiting in roads of which 5 to load (2 pellets, 2 sugar, 1 others), 8 to discharge (7 fertiliser, 1 other); 36 vessels due over the next 7 days.
Rio Grande	5-Oct-2004	Six vessels berthed of which 1 wheat discharger, 1 sulphuric acid discharger, 1 urea discharger, 1 soya meal loader, 1 ammonia phosphate discharger, 1 potassium discharger; 12 vessels waiting in roads; 28 vessels due over the next 10 days.
Santos	5-Oct-2004	Twenty-nine vessels berthed of which 3 bulk fertiliser dischargers, 1 vegetable oil loader, 1 bulk fuel oil loader, 1 bulk sulphur discharger, 2 bulk soya loaders, 1 full container loader, 13 sugar loaders, 3 chemical products loaders/dischargers, 4 other loaders; 30 vessels waiting in roads; 93 vessels due over the next 7 days.
Sao Sebastiao	5-Oct-2004	Three vessels berthed, none waiting in roads; 5 vessels due over the next 10 days.
Vitoria	5-Oct-2004	One malt discharger berthed; Terminal Vila Velha: 1 fertiliser discharger, 1 pig-iron loader; Tubarao: 4 iron ore loaders, 1 soya bean vessel; Praia Mole: 2 coal dischargers, 3 steel products loaders; Portocel: 1 cellulose loader; Ubu: 1 iron ore loader; 20 vessels waiting in roads; 12 vessels due over the next 7 days.

Bulgaria

Bourgas	4-Oct-2004	Six vessels in port operating, of which 3 loading (1 profiles, 1 billets, 1 coils), 2 discharging (1 iron ore, 1 lead concentrate), 1 vessel under arrest; 1 vessel waiting in roads to load coils; 5 vessels due of which 2 to load (1 steel sheets, 1 coils), 3 to discharge (1 LAB, 1 billets 1 equipment).
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Chile

Valparaiso	4-Oct-2004	Three vessels berthed, 5 berths vacant; 3 vessels anchored; 14 vessels due this week.
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Egypt

Alexandria	4-Oct-2004	Thirty-five vessels berthed (loading/discharging) of which 29 general cargo, 2 containers, 2 tankers, 2 bulkers; 3 vessels at inner anchorage, 6 at outer anchorage.
Damietta	4-Oct-2004	Twenty-five vessels berthed (loading/discharging) of which 15 general cargo, 2 bulk carriers, 2 tankers, 6 containers; 6 vessels at outer anchorage, 1 at inner anchorage.
Dekheila	4-Oct-2004	Eleven vessels berthed (loading/discharging) of which 4 general cargo, 1 tanker, 6 bulk carriers.
Suez Canal	4-Oct-2004	Sixteen vessels transiting Northbound, 20 Southbound.

Israel

Ashdod	5-Oct-2004	No labour problems. Three general cargo vessels discharging at berth, 6 container vessels loading/discharging at berth; 17 vessels waiting at anchor to discharge (11 general cargo, 6 bulkers), 9 container vessels waiting at anchor to load/discharge; 2 vessels awaiting orders; 9 vessels due, with 2-3 days delay expected.
Haifa	5-Oct-2004	No labour problems. Three vessels discharging at berth (1 general cargo, 2 bulkers), 9 vessels loading/discharging at berth (4 containers, 4 tankers, 1 passenger vessel); 1 bulker waiting at anchor to discharge, 11 vessels waiting at anchor to load/discharge (7 containers, 4 tankers); 2 vessels under repairs/dry-docked, 1 awaiting orders; 14 vessels due, with 2-3 days delay expected.

Pakistan

Karachi	6-Oct-2004	Six vessels loading at berth (1 MOL, 2 cement, 2 rice, 1 steel pipes), 6 discharging at berth (1 crude oil, 1 HSD, 1 coal, 2 general cargo, 1 phosphate), 1 container vessel loading/discharging at berth; 2 vessels waiting at anchorage to load (1 containers, 1 cement), 1 container vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge; no vessels bunkering, none under repairs/dry-docked, none awaiting orders; 2 container vessels due, with no berthing delays expected.
Port Qasim	6-Oct-2004	Three vessels discharging at berth (1 rape seeds, 1 iron ore, 1 rape seed), 1 container vessel loading/discharging at QICT berth; 1 container vessel waiting at anchorage to load, 6 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (1 containers, 3 palm oil, 1 HSD, 1 phosphoric acid).

Poland

Gdansk	5-Oct-2004	Three vessels loading at berth (2 coal, 1 general cargo), 2 discharging at berth (1 tanker, 1 general cargo); 9 vessels under repairs/dry-docked; no vessels waiting at anchorage, 2 waiting in roads (1 coal, 1 bulker); 21 vessels due.
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Port Conditions

Gdynia	5-Oct-2004	Two vessels loading at berth (1 general cargo, 1 grain), 3 discharging at berth (2 bulkers, 1 grain); 20 vessels under repairs/dry-docked; no vessels waiting at anchorage, none waiting in roads; 30 vessels due.
Russia		
Novorossiysk	1-Oct-2004	Seven vessels in port operating, all loading, of which 1 bulk cement, 1 scrap, 1 beetroot, 1 bulk ammonium nitrate, 1 ammonium sulphate, 1 diesel oil, 1 other; no vessels waiting in roads; 61 vessels due, of which 58 to load (4 pig-iron, 5 coils, 5 bulk ammonium nitrate, 1 pipes/steel sheet, 7 aluminium, 1 zinc, 1 coils/steel sheet, 1 lead/aluminium, 5 copper, 1 bulk cement, 3 bulk NPK, 1 ammonium sulphate, 2 UAN solution, 2 HBI, 1 WRIC/pipes, 3 wheat, 1 coils/lumber, 1 bulk urea, 1 beetroot, 1 WRIC, 3 diesel oil, 4 slabs, 1 scrap, 1 pipes, 1 steel billets, 1 lumber), 1 to discharge construction materials, 2 to discharge/load containers. Oil terminal: 2 tankers berthed, both loading crude oil; 1 tanker in roads to load crude oil; 9 tankers due, all to load crude oil.
Tuapse	1-Oct-2004	Oil products: 3 vessels berthed, all loading, of which 1 naphtha, 1 gasoil, 1 crude oil; 1 crude oil vessel in roads; 5 vessels due by 16/10, of which 2 naphtha, 1 gasoil, 1 fuel oil, 1 slops.
Slovenia		
Koper	4-Oct-2004	Port working normally; no berthing delays. Four vessels berthed of which 1 scharging/loading containers, 1 bulk carrier discharging minerals, 2 vessels loading general cargo; 14 vessels due over the next 2 days of which 3 to discharge/load containers, 1 bulk carrier to discharge coal, 3 bulk carriers to load coal, 1 vessel to discharge aluminium products, 4 vessels to load sawn timber/timber products/general cargo, 2 car carriers to discharge/load vehicles.
Spain		
Bilbao	5-Oct-2004	Twenty-eight vessels operating (2 tankers, 26 others), of which 2 loading, 13 discharging, 13 loading/discharging.
Cadiz	5-Oct-2004	Seventeen vessels in port of which 6 operating (3 Ro/Ros, 1 containers, 1 coke, 1 passenger vessel), 11 vessels under repair; no delays.
Sri Lanka		
Colombo	5-Oct-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. Heavy rains being experienced at present. Five vessels loading at berth (4 containers/feeders, 1 general cargo), 11 vessels discharging at berth (7 containers/feeders, 1 bagged fertiliser, 2 bulk cement, 1 general cargo); no vessels waiting at anchorage to load, 3 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (2 containers/feeders, 1 bagged sugar); 3 vessels under repairs, 4 dry-docked, 1 under arrest, 2 awaiting orders from principals, 1 at new tanker berth; 5 container/feeder vessels due, with no delays expected.
Ukraine		
Ilichevsk	4-Oct-2004	Eleven vessels in port operating, of which 8 loading (6 steel products, 1 wheat, 1 equipment), 1 discharging slabs, 2 discharging/loading containers; 2 vessels in roads of which 1 to load oil, 1 to discharge/load containers; 24 vessels due, of which 13 to load (1 oil, 4 granite, 1 equipment, 1 ferro alloy, 6 steel products), 3 to discharge (1 ore, 2 slabs), 8 to load/discharge containers.
Mariupol	4-Oct-2004	Fifteen vessels in port operating, of which 14 to load (6 steel, 1 pig-iron, 2 fire-clay, 3 coal, 1 ammonium saltpetre, 1 sulphur), 1 to discharge containers/fire clay; 1 rails discharger undergoing survey; 5 vessels in roads, all to load, of which 2 steel, 2 coal, 1 barley; 49 vessels due, of which 44 to load (23 steel, 3 pig-iron, 9 coal, 1 containers, 4 fire-clay, 1 equipment, 1 sulphur, 1 ammonium saltpetre, 1 sunflower beans), 4 to discharge (2 equipment, 1 food stuffs, 1 heavy lifts), 1 to discharge/load containers.
Odessa	4-Oct-2004	Thirteen vessels in port operating, of which 11 loading (8 metal, 1wheat, 1 ferro alloy, 1 scrap), 1 discharging wheat, 1 loading/discharging containers; 11 vessels in roads, of which 6 to load (3 metal, 1 pig-iron, 1 wood, 1 wheat), 2 to discharge (1 sugar, 1 bananas), 3 to load/discharge containers; 67 vessels due, of which 37 to load (28 metal, 1 pig-iron, 3 barley, 1 wheat, 2 ferro alloy, 2 general cargo), 1 to discharge wheat, 29 to discharge/load containers.

Port Conditions

United States

Houston	5-Oct-2004	Channel open under normal traffic. Pilots report normal 40 ft. 0 ins. max. draft in Houston ship channel; Cargill terminal: 1-2 days delay at berth No. 1, no delays at Berth No. 2; LDC Dreyfus terminal: 1-2 days delay.
Kalama	5-Oct-2004	Kalama export terminal: 6 days delay; United Harvest terminal: no delays..
New Orleans	5-Oct-2004	Mississippi River terminal berthing delays: Cenex-Harstates/Myrtle Grove: 2-3 days delay expected; Cargill-Westwego: 1-2 days delay expected; ADM/Ama: 2-3 days delay expected; Bunge/Destrehan: 5 days delay expected; ADM/Destrehan: 2-3 days delay expected; ADM/Reserve: 2-3 days delay expected; Cargill/Reserve: 1 day's delay expected; Peavey/Paulina: 2 days delay expected; Zen-Noh/Convent: 6-7 days delay expected; Cargill/Baton Rouge: no delays; Mississippi River mid-stream buoys - estimated berthing delays based on new vessel presented as load-ready and weather permitting: Mile 121.5 ADM (Gemini) - Destrehan: 1-2 days delay expected; Mile 158.0 Cargill (K2) - Convent: 4 days delay expected; Mile 180.0 Cooper (America) - Darrow: no delays. Nine-day forecast for Carrolton Gauge/New Orleans: expected to decrease to 3.8 ft. by 14/10. Mississippi River recommended draft restrictions: SW Pass to New Orleans (Mile 090.0) - 47 ft. for all vessels; New Orleans (Mile 090) to Baton Rouge (Mile 233.5) - 45 ft. for all vessels; Mississippi River Gulf outlet: 36 ft. bw.; vessels with drafts up to 47 ft. have been handled up to Mile 180 in the past, but are approved by pilots on a case by case basis, based on current river conditions.
Portland	5-Oct-2004	Columbia Grain terminal: 1 day's delay; CLD Irving terminal: 4 days delay; CLD, O Dock terminals: no delays.
Tacoma	5-Oct-2004	Temco terminal: no delays.

Yemen

Hodeidah	3-Oct-2004	Berths 1, 2, 3, 6, 7 and 8 are occupied; all other berths are vacant; 5 vessels berthed (1 timber, 1 bagged rice, 3 containers); 1 bulk wheat vessel anchored; expected waiting times: general cargo/bagged cargoes/bulk cargoes: up to 1 day's delay; no delays for containers.
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