

December 17 2004

Paris MOU survey finds high levels of ISPS compliance

THE Paris Memorandum of Understanding on Port State Control reported high levels of compliance at the end of a three-month concentrated inspection campaign focusing on new security requirements for ships.

Statistics released yesterday showed that out of 4,681 security checks on 4,306 vessels, only 72 led to ship detentions arising from deficiencies relating to the International Ship and Port Facility Security Code.

Despite the positive results, senior Paris MOU officials warned that there was no room for complacency and that security awareness should become a fundamental element of ship operations.

"I believe that the policy of issuing visiting ships with Letters Of Warning in the run-up to the [ISPS] Code deadline [last July 1] helped to ensure that most owners met their obligations to bring about a more secure shipping environment," said Alan Cubbin, chairman of the Paris MOU Committee.

"While the level of compliance is encouraging, the challenge for industry is to maintain its vigilance and for security to become engrained in the operation of ships."

Although the inspection campaign is over, ensuring compliance with the ISPS Code will remain a high priority for port state control inspectors in the Paris MOU region.

"The end of the programme is not the end of security checks and [inspectors] will continue to develop their knowledge and experience in this field and work closely with their security authorities," said Richard Schiferli, general secretary of the Paris MOU.

Most of the security-related detentions took place within the first month after the ISPS Code came into force, with compliance levels improving toward the end of the inspection campaign on September 30.

A total of 28 inspections resulted in detention solely on security grounds, while another 44 ships were detained with additional deficiencies.

According to the Paris MOU, that represented a 1.5% detention rate for security deficiencies, compared to an overall detention rate for the period of 5.7%.

In most cases, deficiencies were rectified on the spot, with non-compliant ships potentially facing expulsion from port.

The most common security-related problem was a failure to record previous ports of call, while issues relating to certification, access control and records of security drills were also prominent.

Ships registered with six flags accounted for 50% of all detentions on security grounds (see table).

The flags included the Korea Democratic People's Republic, with a detention rate of 22.7%; the Syrian Arab Republic, with a detention rate of 10%; Georgia, with a detention rate of 8.9%; the Russian Federation, with a detention rate of 5.4%; Panama, with a detention rate of 2.1%; and St Vincent and the Grenadines, with a detention rate of 1.6%.

Nearly 90% of the security detentions were on ships aged 15 years and over, with general cargo ships and reefer vessels showing the highest detention rates by vessel type.

During the campaign, port state control inspectors used a uniform questionnaire to test key aspects of ship security, ranging from certification to security records, access controls and crew awareness of essential procedures set out in the ISPS Code.

Brian Reyes
Lloyd's List Editorial

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

Vessel	Type	Flag	Class	GT	DWT	Bit	Casualty
CAPE SYROS	general	CYP	NV	8,953	14,948	1978	Reported being towed to Algeciras by tug Sertosa Diecisete, following a breakdown off Morocco. Arrived Gibraltar Bay Dec 7 and berthed same day.
CROWN JADE	reefer	PAN	NK	10,519	10,342	1997	Grounded in dangerous waters on an old shipwreck when departing Mamonal, Colombia, Dec 4. Considerable damage to crown bulb and small fissure to fuel tank No.2C. Wreck to be cut to avoid further damage. Refloated Dec 7.
GREGORY POOLE	fishing	USA	—	672	—	1945	Struck unknown object while entering Beaufort NC Dec 3. Some water ingress experienced and grounded. Flooding controlled. Refloated and under tow to Beaufort Dec 4 for survey and repair.
HYUNDAI ADVANCE	container	PAN	KR	21,611	24,777	1997	<i>In collision with c.c. MSC Ilona in lat 22 06.4N, long 114 27.2E, Dec 7. Sustained bow damage and dysfunctional anchor. Drifting awaiting instruction. Entered Hong Kong.</i>
LORE PRAHM	general	DEU	GL	1,156	1,300	1989	Reported Dec 9 stopped in lat 50 27.3N, long 00 10.76E, 069 deg Greenwich lightvessel, 7.6 nautical miles. Unable to move without tug assistance.
MARINA TSVYETAYEVA	ferry	RUS	RS	4,575	984	1989	Reported Dec 6 anchored off Hokkaido island with main engine problems. Taken in tow of ferry Igor Tsvyetayeva Dec 6. Arrived at outer anchorage, Kholmok, same day.
MILLIONAIRE'S CASINO	passenger	PAN	—	808	450	1977	Stalled in the Savannah River Dec 4, when at least one engine failed. Towed to shore.
MSC ILONA	container	DEU	(GL)	75,590	85,890	2001	<i>In collision with c.c. Hyundai Advance in lat 22 06.4N, long 114 27.2E, Dec 7. 450 tonnes of heavy oil leaked into sea. Anchored at sea awaiting order to enter Hong Kong.</i>
PELANDER	vehicle carrier	PAN	NK	24,891	11,080	1979	Reported under tow in lat 33 57.7N, long 131 32E, Dec 2.
SEEKER	fishing	USA	—	114	—	1979	<i>Had propeller shaft problem and subsequently sank 159 nautical miles south-southeast of Cape Cod Dec 2. All seven crew rescued.</i>
SELENDANG AYU	bulker	MYS	AB	39,775	72,937	1998	Reported Dec 7 disabled and drifting 27 miles north-west of Bogoslof Island, Bering Sea, while crew attempted engine repairs. Connected to tug Sidney Foss Dec 8. Towline broke, grounded and broke in two.
SNOW CRYSTAL	reefer	CYM	LR	14,512	15,710	1973	Reported Dec 5 broken down with engine problems in lat 28 44.7S, long 33 11.9E. Drifting at two knots. Smit Pentow contracted to tow to Durban. Arrived off Durban Dec 7. Awaiting port tug. Alongside.
THOR TRAVELLER	bulker	THA	LR	16,794	24,232	1985	Arrived at Mumbai Dec 1 in tow due to main engine damage. To be repaired at Mumbai.

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Lloyd's
Marine Intelligence Unit



The following reports are reprinted from Lloyd's List



AGIOS RAPHAEL (Cyprus)

London, Dec 6 — A press report, dated today, states: Bulk *Agios Raphael* (41010 gt, built 1982), loaded with iron ore, lost steering when a hydraulic line ruptured about noon yesterday and came to rest about 150 feet from the east bank levee of the Mississippi River just across the river from Port Sulphur, the Coast Guard said. The vessel was destined for the Magnolia anchorage, about eight miles farther upriver, the Coast Guard said. By yesterday afternoon, repairs had been completed for the vessel to move to its destination, where a professional trade organization will inspect it, the Coast Guard said. The mishap did not affect river traffic, the agency said.

London, Dec 6 — Following received from Coast Guard New Orleans, timed 1540, UTC: Bulk *Agios Raphael* grounded at approximately 1200, UTC, yesterday and was refloated just before 1800, UTC, same day with the assistance of two tugs. Vessel is now at Magnolia anchorage awaiting inspection by Marine Safety Office.

ALANDIA (Finland)

See *Casino Express*.

ALGOLAKE (Canada)

Troy, Michigan, Dec 6 — Bulk *Algolake* was upbound in the Welland Canal at Lock 4 at 0044, Oct 25. Vessel subsequently loaded coal at Ashtabula at 0400, Oct 26 and will proceed to Erie on completion of loading. — Great Lakes & Seaway Shipping.

ANNTORO (Norway)

Trondheim, Dec 9 — General cargo *Anntoro*: Kvernhusvik Yard inform there is still no change in the situation, with no decision taken yet as regards possible repairs. Vessel is laid up at Kvernhusvik Yard, waiting for owners' decision. — Lloyd's Agents.

ARSINOY (Greece)

London, Dec 6 — Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: At 1820, Dec 5, ro/ro *Arsinoy* (1319 gt, built 1978) sustained electrical damage which caused problems to the steering gear system, while sailing 3.5 nautical miles north of Kamariotissas, Samothraki. The vessel with 134 passengers on board had previously departed from Alexandroupolis bound for Samothraki. Efforts to repair the damage were made by the crew while a tug had been despatched from Alexandroupolis. Winds in the area were northeasterly, force four (moderate breeze). Following successful repairs by the crew, the vessel arrived at Kamariotissas at 2052 hrs.

ATHOS I (Cyprus)

London, Dec 2 — Following press release received from Tsakos Shipping:

Crude oil tanker *Athos I* has commenced cargo operations under a plan developed in conjunction with the US Coast Guard, the salvors Titan Maritime and the cargo receivers. The plan calls for the full discharge of the vessel to take place in several stages. The first stage of the operation involved using the vessel's own pumps to right the vessel from its previous condition of a seven degree list to port. This phase of the operation has been completed. The process, which began Nov 30 called for the internal shifting of cargo from the damaged No. 7 cargo and ballast tanks in preparation for eventual discharge. Cargo will next be offloaded to a barge alongside the ship, in a process known as lightering. Sufficient cargo will be discharged to allow the ship to meet the newly revised draft restrictions and then to allow safe berthing at the Citgo Terminal for discharge of all cargo. The entire process will take several days as the cargo in the damaged ballast tank must be heated before it can be pumped off the vessel. It is currently being heated using external heating coils arranged for by the salvors. Concurrent with the cargo operations salvors and the US Coast Guard will examine options for effecting temporary repairs to the punctured tanks enabling the vessel to sail to a dry-dock for permanent repairs. The temporary repairs will be carried out under water by specialists. Recently reviewed diver's video footage clearly indicates two clean punctures and shows no scoring on the hull either side of each. The master and his on board staff have worked co-operatively with the US Coast Guard investigators on determining the exact cause of the incident. Throughout its voyage up the Delaware the ships under keel echo sounder mapped the river bottom while the Global Positioning System (GPS) tracked its progress. The information is being used by authorities in their ongoing investigation into the cause. Harry Hajimichael, Tsakos Shipping and Trading S.A. General Manager again expressed his thanks to the US Coast Guard, the Unified Command, wildlife cleanup teams, response team and Delaware river community for their efforts during the regrettable incident. He also thanked the vessels officers and crew for their tireless efforts aboard the ship. "The efforts of so many people are a source of great strength for us during this troubling time. It is difficult to adequately express our thanks to the many women and men who have contributed to this effort. We appreciate the careful precautions taken yesterday by the US Coast Guard in establishing draft restrictions in the vicinity of the incident. We will continue to fully cooperate with the Coast Guard and other authorities". (See issue of Dec 2.)

London, Dec 3 — A press report, dated Dec 2, states: The search for what caused crude oil tanker *Athos I* to haemorrhage tens, and possibly hundreds of thousands of gallons of crude oil into the Delaware River will

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extend south to the Commodore Barry Bridge, Coast Guard officials said yesterday. "Since we have not found the cause, we are extending the search another six miles to the Commodore Barry and instituting draft restrictions," said Coast Guard Captain Jonathan D. Sarubbi, the officer in charge of the Port of Philadelphia. Until further notice, vessels which draw more than 34 feet of water will not be allowed to travel the river during low tide. By comparison, *Athos I* draws 36.5 feet of water. The restrictions will remain in place while the Coast Guard and Army Corps of Engineers continue their search for what gashed the tanker, which may have discharged as much as 473,000 gallons of Venezuelan crude into the river. Initial reports put the spill at 30,000 gallons. The actual amount will not be known until whatever oil remains in the vessel is pumped out. By midday yesterday, remnants of the spill covered a 55-mile stretch of the river, from the Tacony-Palmyra Bridge to six miles south of the Delaware Memorial Bridge. Approximately 600 contractors assisted 250 federal and state workers with the clean-up and investigation. On the river, multi-beam sonar, magnetometers and divers have been utilized to locate the object which struck the hull of *Athos I*, which docked in Paulsboro, N.J. "There are old anchors, anchor chains, even cars, in the river," Sarubbi said. Port officials could not rule out the possibility that a 22,000-pound propeller, which fell off a Fort Mifflin-based dredge ship in April, could have slashed *Athos I*. We do not know where the propeller is," said Merv Brokke, spokesman for the Philadelphia district of the Army Corps of Engineers. "Could it have caused the accident? We don't know." The propeller, which has a diameter of 13 feet, disappeared Apr 23 in the vicinity where *Athos I* is believed to have been struck. An exhaustive search failed to turn up the propeller but the shipping channel was found to be clear to 40 feet and 2,400 vessels have since come and gone over the same stretch of river without incident. With the new draft restrictions, the number of arrivals and departures to the Port of Philadelphia has been cut in half. "We typically have about 12 transits a day," said Coast Guard Lt. Buddy Dye. "Now we're down to five or six." Dye said a few dozen vessels were waiting to enter and exit the port yesterday. "We had about 17 waiting to leave and eight or nine waiting to come in," he said. Work on the river was called off yesterday due to wind and rain that swamped 11 Coast Guard boats. Gusts of up to 45 knots pushed much of the oil toward the New Jersey coastline yesterday. "The weather helps and it hurts," said Brokke. "It hinders the people doing the clean-up work but it helps to break down the oil in a natural way." Since the clean-up began Saturday (Nov 27), more than 10,000 gallons of product has been recovered and 41,000 feet of containment boom deployed in the river. "It's too early to tell what the overall impact will be but the long-term

effect could go on for years as this stuff remains in the eco-system of the river," said Bill Buchanan of the Heinz Wildlife Refuge.

London, Dec 3 — A press report, dated today, states: PSE&G announced yesterday it was shutting down its Salem nuclear power plant out of concern that oil from last week's spill from crude oil tanker *Athos I* on the Delaware River could impair the plant's cooling system. The development amounts to a dramatic new economic impact from a spill that already shut down port commerce for several days, imperiled wildlife and prompted a clean-up involving more than 800 workers and at least a half-dozen state and federal agencies. "We anticipate seeing heavier oil in the next couple of days," A. Christopher Bakken, PSEG Nuclear's president, said in a statement. "Rather than wait, we are taking the right actions to have the plant in a safe, cooled condition. We will stay shut down as long as necessary." The plant's two units are more than 10 miles downstream from the Citgo Oil Co. terminal in Paulsboro where the tanker ruptured last Friday (Nov 26). PSEG Nuclear noted in its statement that it was tracking costs the company may incur, and expected to recover them. "Over 2,000 megawatts are coming off line," PSEG spokesman Skip Sindoni said last night. "Some other power plant is going to have to come on line and generate that power. And the cost difference there is what will have to be borne." About 2 million homes can be powered by 2,000 megawatts, Sindoni said. There is little danger of a power shortage due to the shutdown, Sindoni said. "The sources are out there, that's not an issue," he said. Norm Cohen, head of Unplug Salem, which opposes nuclear power, applauded PSE&G for shutting down the plant, which relies on river water in its cooling system. Cohen said he was concerned that oil could coat heat exchangers, and thus lessen the system's cooling effects. Oil also could clog tubes that measure water flow, Cohen said.

London, Dec 3 — A press report, dated Dec 2, states: Owners of small boats, marinas and docks have filed about 300 damage claims resulting from the oil spill from crude oil tanker *Athos I*. Most of those claims have been from owners of small recreational boats that became oiled by the spill of heavy crude. Of these, a majority have been on the Pennsylvania side of the river, said Ann Hagen, spokeswoman for Pennsauken-based Hudson Marine Management Services. The firm is collecting the claims on behalf of Tsakos Shipping and Trading, the vessel's owner. "The claims are coming from all up and down the river, wherever the oil washed ashore or on piers and bulkheads," she said. A large number of claims came from the marina at Penn's Landing in Philadelphia. The company says property owners should not take any clean-up into their own hands. Rather they should file claims so responders can take care of it. "The Coast Guard

doesn't want boats to move around until they're cleaned because they'll contaminate the river," she said. For the most part, though, boats had already been taken out of the water for the winter or were at marinas on tributaries where the effects of the spill are less severe, Hagen said. Other claims have been coming in from companies and private property owners that have had docks or piers fouled by the oil. Shippers whose vessels were held up leaving and entering the port also are filing claims. Property owners are encouraged to file a complaint within 90 days of the Nov 26 accident. Insurance carriers for Tsakos then have 90 days to resolve claims. "This all has to be cleaned up and the owner will take care of it," Hagen said.

London, Dec 6 — A US Coast Guard press report, dated Philadelphia Dec 5, states: Ten days since the crude oil tanker *Athos I* spilled an undetermined amount of oil in the Delaware River, the unified command continues to lead the environmental cleanup with over 1,200 federal, state, local officials and contractors. The Environmental Protection Agency is continuing to sample the water to insure that it is safe for drinking. "Water quality sampling on the Delaware River is ongoing and continuous with the municipalities conducting their own sampling and analysis, there are no reports of problems with contamination in the water column. If there are any reports of elevated levels, we will be notified immediately," said Mr. Ed Levine, NOAA Scientific Support Coordinator. Two reactors at the Salem, N.J. nuclear power plant have temporarily been shutdown and placed in a safe position. "We appreciate the support we have been getting from the Coast Guard and incident response team," said Chris Bakken, PSEG Nuclear President and CNO. "We will continue to work with them to monitor the conditions of the river. We will keep our units offline as long as is necessary, and remain confident we can keep the plants in a safe, cooled condition regardless of any impact from the oil." Commercial vessels are allowed into the port of Philadelphia, but must undergo a decontamination process prior to leaving the affected area. Five vessels have been decontaminated and released out of the port since yesterday. Inbound ships with a draught greater than 34 feet must transit on the high tide. The cause of the incident is still under investigation.

London, Dec 7 — A US Coast Guard press report, dated Philadelphia Dec 6, states: The unified command is continuing its clean up efforts today in response to the undetermined amount of oil that was spilled into the Delaware River by crude oil tanker *Athos I* on Nov 27. Barges are being used to offload the ships oil cargo in order to lighten the ship for salvage operations. The barges have offloaded 2.52 million gallons of product so far. Transfer operations are expected to be completed early this week. The cause of the incident is still under investigation. Latest oil spill information: More than

1,400 responders are working in the command centre and out in the field. Sixteen vessels are employed in the clean-up efforts and an additional 124 vessels are assisting in the response. Some 10,918 gallons of oil/water mixture has been recovered and 6,720 pounds of oily solids (cleanup materials and oil) have been collected. Experts report 103 birds have been captured, 84 of which have been cleaned thus far. A separate count of 87 have been reported deceased. Oil has impacted approximately 81 miles of shoreline. More than 109,050 feet of spill-control and absorbent boom is in place.

London, Dec 7 — A US Coast Guard press report, dated Philadelphia Dec 7, states: Crude oil tanker *Athos I*: The Delaware River port complex remains open to shipping in the wake of the Nov 26 oil spill. By Sunday Nov 28, we were moving commercial cargo vessels in and out of the port on a limited basis. Since that time we've been able to continue effective oil recovery operations while at the same time easing navigation restrictions and increasing the level of commercial vessel activity and port operations. A great deal of progress has been made over the last 72 hours, and following is a summary of the current status: The Coast Guard has authorized the Pilots' Association to sail on a 24/7 basis. This will be reevaluated daily; Both the clean up contractors and the Coast Guard have been able to deploy additional resources in the region and we are more effectively coordinating spill recovery operations and the cleaning of outbound ships prior to sailing; The Coast Guard is now allowing vessel owners and operators to use their own contractors for vessel cleaning; Vessels may request on a voluntary basis an inspection and decontamination by a vessel clean-up assessment/decontamination team; The Coast Guard has lifted several navigation restrictions implemented immediately after the incident: commercial and merchant vessels are no longer required to request permission for entering, shifting or departing the safety zone; All vessel movements should coordinate through the Pilots' Association as per normal business operations; All inbound vessels in excess of thirty-four feet fresh water shall transit the Delaware River on flood tide only; All outbound vessels in excess of thirty-four feet shall depart two hours prior to high water tide; A no wake zone will be enforced within the safety zone; Recreational boating is prohibited within the safety zone. All of the foregoing are subject to change as conditions dictate. However, maritime commerce continues to move throughout the region, and we anticipate only additional improvements through the remainder of the clean up operation.

London, Dec 8 — A US Coast Guard press report, dated Dec 7, states: Crude oil tanker *Athos I*: A survey team comprised of members of the U.S. Coast Guard, Army Corps of Engineers, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and a private contractor

representative for the vessel owner has located a metal object in the vicinity where the oil spill is suspected to have originated. Using multiple sonar technologies, the object was found approximately 700 feet away from the CITGO dock in the anchorage area. Divers pinpointed the location of the object and identified it as a 15-foot curved piece of pipe. Preliminary forensic tests of the paint on the pipe and paint on the vessel are a positive match. Further testing will also be conducted. GPS tracking of *Athos I* indicates it passed over the object as it was being moved into place at the pier. A salvage plan to recover the pipe is in progress. Final results of the investigation could take several months.

London, Dec 8 — A US Coast Guard press report, from Philadelphia, dated today, states: Crude oil tanker *Athos I*: The unified command continues oil clean-up and recovery efforts. Barges are being used to offload the ship's oil cargo in order to lighten the ship for salvage operations. The barges have offloaded more than five million gallons of product so far. Transfer operations are expected to be completed this week. Yesterday the unified command announced the location of a 15-foot curved piece of pipe 700-feet away from the CITGO dock that is believed to have caused the damage to the vessel's hull. A salvage plan to recover the pipe is in progress. The incident is still under investigation. Final results of the investigation could take several months. Latest oil spill information: Approximately 1,600 responders are working in the command centre and out in the field. Also 128 vessels are employed in the response effort. Some 10,918 gallons of oil/water mixture has been recovered, also 657,640 pounds of oily solids (cleanup materials and oil) have been collected. Experts report 120 birds have been captured, 107 of which have been cleaned thus far. A separate count of 90 have been reported deceased. Oil has impacted approximately 85 miles of shoreline. More than 115,900 feet of containment boom is in place and absorbent boom is being used as well.

ATLANTIC QUEEN (Panama)

Yokohama, Dec 6 — Bulk *Atlantic Queen* arrived Kobe Nov 23 and sailed Nov 26, subsequently arriving Dec 4. — Lloyd's Agents.

ATLANTIK FRIGO (Croatia)

Ashdod, Dec 2 — Ref *Atlantik Frigo* arrived Ashdod Dec 1. — Lloyd's Agents.

AVONHURST (Singapore)

Bangkok, Dec 9 — Supply *Avonhurst* (210 gt, built 1999) was in collision with a local fishing boat in the vicinity of the Erawan gas field in the Gulf of Thailand at about 2100, local time, Dec 7. One crew member of the fishing boat was reported to be missing and *Avonhurst* was stated to have sustained minor damage. — Lloyd's Agents.

BATUR V (Turkey)

London, Dec 2 — While berthing bulk *Batur V* (11176 gt, built 1995) struck

the Morterm Terminal dock, Windsor, Ontario, at 0849, Nov 28 causing damage to dock and vessel.

BORDER HEATHER (Isle of Man)

London, Dec 7 — Understood product tanker *Border Heather* arrived Grangemouth 2200, Dec 5 from Rotterdam.

BRAE ALPHA

London, Dec 9 — UK oil independent Venture Production has seen its prime oil producing asset Trees shut in due to a gas leak on Marathon Oil's *Brae Alpha* platform. The firm has shut in around 12,800 barrels per day of oil output after finding a gas leak on a multi-service line that links the subsea project to *Brae Alpha*. Marathon closed down *Brae Alpha* in late November because of a gas leak, which it traced to the multi-service line linking Trees. The disruption meant the US oil firm had stopped throughput of around 90,000 barrels of oil per day, including oil from Norwegian fields Heimdal and other satellites to *Brae Alpha*. All Marathon's *Brae Alpha* interests came back on stream this week. "Both companies are seeking to repair the leak and restore production," said a Venture spokesman. "At the time of shut-in, Trees was averaging 12,800 bpd. If the wells were to remain shut-in until end-December the impact upon 2004 average production would be around 1,200 bpd."

BREAKAWAY OF BARGES, RED RIVER, LOUISIANA, UNITED STATES

London, Dec 9 — A press report, dated today, states: Some local businesses may face a shortage of materials if nine barges stuck behind a dam south-east of Alexandria can't make their way to the Port of Shreveport-Bossier in the next few days. The four loads of oil and five of fertilizer are trapped at John H. Overton Lock and Dam 2 near Ruby because five other barges broke loose upriver and slammed into the dam early Tuesday (Dec 7). Three sank and two more were stranded atop them, said Rich Brontoli, executive director of the Red River Valley Association. A salvage barge from Vicksburg, Miss., was expected to arrive about midnight yesterday. "The removal (of the barges) could take four to six weeks, depending on river conditions," says the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. That is based on a similar accident at another lock several years ago that took 35 days to clear, Corps spokesman Frank Worley said. If it's longer than two or three days, some local refineries and power plants will have to import oil by more expensive means, said Harold Thomas, manager of Red River Terminals. The facility at the Port of Shreveport-Bossier has a reserve that will last a couple of days, he said. Davison Transport has no concerns about two barges containing 32,000 gallons of fuel oil being sidelined downriver, spokesman Gary Acklin said. Based on photographs he's seen, Acklin thinks river traffic could resume before salvage operations are complete

because the wreckage is "off to the side." Two barges that partially are submerged could be removed in two to three days if there are no special problems such as adverse river conditions. The five barges carrying fertilizer are due at Oakley Louisiana Inc., said Henry Richardson, a salesman at the bulk terminal at the Port of Shreveport-Bossier. Two are laden with pot ash, of which the terminal has no reserve, he said. If the cleanup takes up to two weeks, it also could affect six barges of aggregate en route on the Arkansas River, said Hugh McConnell, director of operations at the Port of Shreveport-Bossier.

BREVIK (Sweden)

Gothenburg, Dec 3 — Chem.tank *Brevik* arrived Gothenburg and docked in the shipyard Nov 29. It has damage to the bottom/hull and bow thruster. Vessel's ETD Dec 7. — Westax Marine Services AB.

Gothenburg, Dec 8 — As at noon today chem.tank *Brevik* was still in dock.— Westax Marine Services AB.

CAPE SYROS (Cyprus)

London, Dec 7 — Following received from Madrid MRCC, timed 1120, UTC: General cargo *Cape Syros* (8953 gt, built 1978) is being towed to Algeciras by tug *Sertosa Diecisiete* following a breakdown off Morocco. ETA Algeciras 1800, UTC, today.

London, Dec 7 — Following received from Madrid MRCC, timed 2104, UTC: General cargo *Cape Syros* berthed alongside at Algeciras at 1913, UTC.

CASINO EXPRESS (Sweden)

London, Dec 2 — Understood passenger ro/ro *Casino Express* is still aground. Lightering of the vessel is continuing.

Gothenburg, Dec 2 — Two tugs pulled passenger ro/ro *Casino Express* off the ground at 1800 today. The vessel was brought into berth at ordinary terminal at Holmsund for investigation of damage. We also understand that the substitute vessel for *Casino Express*, passenger ro/ro *Alandia* (6850 gt, built 1972) will be taken into repair for "alleged damage to one of the propeller shafts" This vessel is expected to commence the service Monday next week, at earliest. — Westax Marine Services AB.

Gothenburg, Dec 8 — Passenger ro/ro *Casino Express* departed Holmsund under tow of one tug and is presently outside Gefle, intending to cross the Baltic and enter repair yard at Tallinn. Vessel's speed is six knots and ETA Tallinn Friday (Dec 10) or Saturday, where vessel will dock for repairs. — Westax Marine Services AB.

Gothenburg, Dec 8 — Passenger ro/ro *Alandia* is to go in on the same route as passenger ro/ro *Casino Express* during the repair period. Initially it is taking only goods and trailers but its first trip as a substitute with passengers will be next weekend, Dec 11-12. — Westax Marine Services AB.

CASON J.CALLAWAY (U.S.A.)

Troy, Michigan, Dec 7 — Bulk *Cason J.Callaway* downbound Ile Parisienne,

Ontario Light at 1135, Nov 29. Vessel due at Gary Harbour 0100, Dec 1 to unload then proceed to Stoneport, Mich. ETA 1200, Dec 2 to load. — Great Lakes & Seaway Shipping.

CENTAURUS (Panama)

Stanley, Dec 6 — Product tanker *Centaurus* sailed from Berkeley Sound on Nov 30. No repairs were effected while in port. — Lloyd's Agents.

CEPHEUS J. (U.K.)

Bremen, Dec 2 — C.c. *Cepheus J.* arrived Bremerhaven Dec 1 and sailed the same day. — Lloyd's Agents.

CHIOS PRIDE (Greece)

London, Dec 4 — A press report, dated Dec 2, states: Bulk *Chios Pride* with a cargo of pig iron that ran aground in Lake Michigan's Green Bay this week has been refloated thanks to a change in wind direction, Coast Guard officials said today. Cmdr. Mark Hamilton said a change in wind direction yesterday brought additional water to where the vessel had gone aground Monday (Nov 29) in the navigable channel heading into port. The ship was then anchored nearby and inspected, and no significant damage to the hull was found, Hamilton said. The ship will have to lighten its load before it can resume its journey to the Marinette Fuel and Dock, he said. The pig iron, which is partially refined steel, was loaded onto the vessel in Itaquí, Brazil, between Nov 8 and 10 and reached Green Bay via the St. Lawrence Seaway, Hamilton said.

London, Dec 7 — A press report, dated today, states: The vessel (bulk *Chios Pride*) that ran aground near the mouth of the Menominee River last week is making another run at it. The vessel got stuck in 21-foot shallows near the shore of Marinette. After being freed, the vessel discharged some of its load of pig iron in Indiana. It's now on the way back to Marinette where it was supposed to deliver its load of pig iron last week.

CITY OF MYCONOS (Greece)

Piraeus, Nov 30 — Passenger *City of Myconos* remains laid-up at Eleusis in a sunken condition. (Note — *City of Myconos* arrived Eleusis Sep 28, 1990, and sank at its moorings in 1996.)

CLIPPER EAGLE (Bahamas)

London, Dec 7 — Bulk *Clipper Eagle* (11807 gt, built 1994) struck the wall of the Eisenhower Lock, St. Lawrence Seaway, in lat 45 04N, long 74 45W, at 1725, EST, Nov 30. The vessel sustained minor damage to the port bow.

CMA CGM TAGE (Panama)

Montreal, Dec 5 — Understand c.c.ref *CMA CGM Tage* (30401 gt, built 1980) sustained damage to its forepeak on loaded voyage to Montreal from Europe. Vessel is due to arrive in Montreal Dec 8. Vessel's shell plating is fractured over "several metres" above the waterline in way of the forepeak. This was due to the heavy weather it

encountered. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *CMA CGM Tage* sailed Hamburg Nov 28 for Montreal.)

CROWN JADE (Panama)

Bogota, Dec 6 — Ref *Crown Jade* (10519 gt, built 1997) sailed from the Contecar dock in the inner bay of Cartagena (Mamonal), at 2000, Dec 4, bound for Guayaquil, with pilot on board. One exit buoy was turned off and pilot steered vessel into dangerous waters over an old shipwreck, where it became grounded at 2030 hrs. Damage reported to be considerable to the crown bulb. Also, there is a small fissure in fuel tank No 2C. Fuel to be removed, starting midday today and also cutting of parts of the wreck in order to avoid further damage. Seen from the air, the two vessels form a cross. — Lloyd's Agents.

Bogota, Dec 7 — Ref *Crown Jade*. The grounding took place at 1845, Dec 4. A total of 534 tonnes of fuel oil has now been removed and they will try to free the vessel this afternoon. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Dec 8 — Managers of ref *Crown Jade*, which grounded on an unlit wreck while departing Cartagena Dec 4, with pilot on board, report that the vessel was refloated at 0522, local time, Dec 7. Complete soundings of the ballast and bunker tanks had confirmed that only the forepeak ballast tank had been breached and that there was no pollution or damage to the environment. Following refloating, at 0606, Dec 7, vessel entered the "D" anchorage in Cartagena under its own power and anchored for inspection. At 1218 hrs a diving inspection supervised by Class NK confirmed that the only damage to the vessel was in way of the forepeak ballast tank. Wallem Shipmanagement wishes to thank the Capt.of The Port, Port Authority personnel and pilots for their excellent support and cooperation and providing advice on local conditions and tugs to assist in the operation.

DWEEP SETU (India)

Kochi, Dec 6 — Passenger ro/ro *Dweep Setu* has undergone sea trials but they were unsuccessful. The defects are being rectified and the vessel is expected to sail by Dec 9/10. — Lloyd's Agents. (See issue of Nov 25.)

Kochi, Dec 9 — Passenger ro/ro *Dweep Setu* sailed from Kochi on Dec 8 bound for the Lakshadweep Islands. — Lloyd's Agents. (See issue of Dec 7.)

EILTANK 11 (Germany)

See *Wilson Maas*.

ELKE (Antigua & Barbuda)

Zeebrugge, Dec 6 — General cargo *Elke* (1473 gt, built 1985), Flixborough for Antwerp, passed buoy 35, River Scheldt, at 0044, local time, with no pilot on board, ETA Antwerp 0250 hrs. Vessel grounded at 0125, local time, near buoy 47, River Scheldt.

Maassluis, Dec 6 — General cargo *Elke* grounded off buoy 47 at around 0125, today. No injuries. Vessel refloated at about 0545 hrs and

proceeded for inspection and anchored close to Oosterweel. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

London, Dec 8 — General cargo *Elke* arrived Antwerp 0850, Dec 6, from Flixborough and sailed 2241 same day for Newport.

ESTONIA (Estonia)

Stockholm, Dec 2 — The Swedish government today ordered a new investigation into the 1994 sinking of passenger ro/ro *Estonia*, which took the lives of 852 passengers, national news agency TT said. The decision to re-investigate follows new reports that in the week before the disaster the vessel carried military material to Sweden. The investigation will be conducted by Johan Hirschfeldt, the president of the Svea district high court. "It is possible he will find something that will shed new light on the situation," TT reported. Prime Minister Goran Persson is saying. The vessel capsized in rough seas off the Finnish coast en route from Tallinn to Stockholm in September, 1994. Accident investigators concluded that a design flaw allowed heavy waves to knock the bow door ajar and flood the car deck. A recent Swedish television programme said that in the week before the disaster the vessel had carried Russian electronic equipment that had been obtained by Swedish security services. Security services confirmed that the vessel had transported military material, but said there was no such cargo on board the night of the sinking, TT said. — Reuters.

EUROPA I (Bolivia)

Piraeus, Dec 2 — Passenger ro/ro *Europa I* sailed Piraeus Nov 30 for Italy. — Lloyd's Agents.

Brindisi, Dec 6 — Passenger ro/ro *Europa I* arrived Brindisi Dec 2 from Piraeus. — Lloyd's Agents.

EVIA STAR (Greece)

See *Penelope A.*

FEDON (Barbados)

Rio de Janeiro, Dec 3 — Bulk *Fedon* caught fire on Nov 21, while discharging fertiliser at the port of Tubarao. The fire started in the Chief Engineers cabin and spread to the control-room which was totally destroyed. *Fedon* sailed on Dec 2 to Rio de Janeiro for repairs. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Dec 7 — Bulk *Fedon* arrived Rio de Janeiro for repairs, Dec 4 in tow of tug *Jupiter*.

FERRIS FLOTEL (South Korea)

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

FIFTIETH VICTORY ANNIVERSARY (Russia)

St Petersburg, Dec 3 — Icebreaker *Fiftieth Victory Anniversary* had only a very minor fire in some garbage on its deck. This was quickly extinguished with no damage. — Lloyd's Agents.

FUYO MARU NO.3 (Japan)

See "Japan" under "Weather & Navigation."

GANG TAI (China)

See "Japan" under "Weather & Navigation."

GARDNO (Panama)

Maassluis, Dec 8 — Bulk *Gardno* arrived Evergreen 1945, Dec 6, and sailed 0225, Dec 7. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.)

GENMAR PROGRESS (Liberia)

Genoa, Nov 29 — Crude oil tanker *GenMar Progress* arrived Savona Nov 28 and sailed the same day. — Lloyd's Agents.

GLOBAL FREIGHTER (Finland)

Turku, Dec 7 — The repairs to ro/ro *Global Freighter* have been completed and the vessel is in traffic since Nov 26. — Lloyd's Agents.

GOOD HOPE (Malta)

Alexandria, Dec 8 — Crude oil tanker *Good Hope* sailed from Sidi Kerir on Nov 30. — Lloyd's Agents.

GREGORY POOLE (U.S.A.)

London, Dec 3 — Following received from Coast Guard Portsmouth, Va, timed 1615, UTC: Fishing *Gregory Poole* (672 gt, built 1945) struck jetty while entering Beaufort, NC, early this morning. Vessel experienced some water ingress and grounded but flooding was controlled. There was no pollution. A tug is on scene and will attempt to refloat the vessel.

London, Dec 4 — Following received from Coast Guard Portsmouth, Va, timed 1758, UTC: Fishing *Gregory Poole* has been refloated and is now being taken back to its home port of Beaufort NC.

Wilmington, Dec 8 — According to US Coast Guard Marine Safety Office, Morehead City, fishing *Gregory Poole* struck an unknown object near Radio Island Jetty. Keel cooler port side damaged and shoved up against the hull; reported that the hull was holed. Owner/operator, Beaufort Fisheries, contracted with Tow Boat US Morehead/Beaufort and vessel carried to Beaufort fisheries dock. Pumps on board. Surveyor reported in attendance. No information as to repairs other than a new keel cooler will be needed and some repairs to steel hull once the vessel is out of water. — Lloyd's Agents.

HANYANG GAS (South Korea)

London, Dec 5 — A press report, dated today, states: A fire broke out on lpg *Hanyang Gas* (1513 gt, built 1973) in seas off Jeju island today, trapping three crewmen. Their fate could not yet be confirmed, police said. The fire began in the engine-room about seven miles off the island around 1500 hrs and spread to its steering house before maritime police put it under control about two hours later.

London, Dec 5 — A press report, dated today, states: A vessel (lpg *Hanyang Gas*) has caught fire in the waters near South Korea's southernmost island of Jeju today, police said. The safety of its 10-member crew was not immediately known. The ship was heading from Jeju

port to Ulsan, when the fire broke out, maritime police officials in Jeju said in a statement. It was not carrying any cargo at the time. Police have dispatched patrol ships and helicopters to the scene, it said. The statement didn't provide further details, and it wasn't immediately clear whether the 10-member crew had escaped.

Busan, Dec 6 — At about 1505, Dec 5, lpg *Hanyang Gas* on a ballast voyage from Jeju to Ulsan, caught fire at sea, some seven miles north of the port of Jeju and is still on fire at this time. It was reported that after the fire, the vessel became not under control and eight, out of a total 11 crew members, were rescued by the marine police helicopter and vessels, but the remaining three, including the chief engineer, are still trapped on board the vessel. The vessel's main engine was reportedly stopped by the marine police special team, attended on board the vessel by a helicopter. According to the marine police, the marine police vessels could not approach the vessel, due to heavy weather and heavy smoke and noxious fumes from the vessel. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

Busan, Dec 8 — In the afternoon of Dec 6, the fire on lpg *Hanyang Gas* was completely controlled by the marine police vessels and two out of three crew members trapped on board the vessel were found dead in the vessel's accommodation. The remaining one missing crew member remains missing. On Dec 7, *Hanyang Gas*, in tow of tug, shifted to Cheju Pier, Cheju, for inspection. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

HYUNDAI ADVANCE (Panama)

London, Dec 7 — Following received from Hong Kong MRCC, timed 1606, UTC: C.c. *Hyundai Advance* (21611 gt, built 1997) and c.c. *MSC Ilona* (75590 gt, built 2001) were in collision in lat 22 06.4N, long 114 27.2E, at 1335, UTC, today. There were no injuries sustained but 450 tonnes of heavy oil leaked into the sea. (Note — *Hyundai Advance* sailed Hong Kong 0502, Dec 7 for Yantian. *MSC Ilona* sailed Singapore 0715, Dec 4 for Chiwan.)

London, Dec 8 — Following received from Hong Kong MRCC, timed 0010, UTC: C.c. *Hyundai Advance* has bow damage and cannot anchor. It is presently drifting, awaiting owners instructions. C.c. *MSC Ilona* is presently anchored at sea, awaiting owners instructions to enter Hong Kong harbour.

London, Dec 8 — Following received from Hong Kong MRCC, timed 1240, UTC: C.c. *Hyundai Advance* is still drifting and its anchors remain dysfunctional. China MSA is in attendance. C.c. *MSC Ilona* is at anchor. Vessel has lost 450 tonnes of fuel oil.

London, Dec 8 — A press report, dated today, states: C.c. *Hyundai Advance*, Shenzhen for Singapore, and c.c. *MSC Ilona*, Shenzhen for Shanghai, collided at 2135 yesterday close to the mouth of the Pearl (Zhu Jiang) River, causing heavy oil to leak from the oil tank of one of the ships. There is no danger of sinking, and no injuries reported,

according to sources from the Ministry of Communication in Beijing today. After the collision, a fuel tank of *MSC Ilona* was broken and leaked heavy oil. At present, the heavy oil has polluted a sea area 17 kilometres long and 20 to 200 metres wide. Eight decontaminating ships from Guangdong Province have arrived at the spot to deal with the leaking oil. Divers have been sent to plug the leak. The ministry held an emergency meeting last night and set up a leading group, headed by Vice Minister of Communication Xu Zuyuan. More decontaminating ships from Guangzhou and Shanghai are on their way to the spot and will arrive tomorrow or the day after. A rescue plane from the first rescue fleet of South China Sea awaited orders.

London, Dec 9 — Following received from Hong Kong MRCC, timed 0045, UTC: C.c. *Hyundai Advance* is already in Hong Kong. C.c. *MSC Ilona* remains at anchor.

London, Dec 9 — A press report, dated today, states: C.c. *Hyundai Advance* and c.c. *MSC Ilona* collided in the South China Sea near the mouth of the Pearl River on Tuesday (Dec 7). *MSC Ilona* sustained damage to an oil storage area and began leaking heavily. The Guangzhou Daily reported that by this morning, some 450 tons of oil had spilled into the water, creating a slick 17 kilometres long and ranging in width from 20 to 200 metres. It was situated about 15 kilometres from shore. The leakage had been stopped by today, while cleanup ships had contained the spread and were using absorbent material to blot the oil from the sea. No reports were issued on the condition of wildlife in the area. Officials say that there is little likelihood that the oil will significantly damage the shoreline, as a brisk northeasterly wind is expected to blow it out to sea.

London, Dec 9 — A press report, dated today, states: C.c. *Hyundai Advance* and c.c. *MSC Ilona* collided and spilled some 450 tons of fuel oil off China's southern coast, the country's worst oil spill in five years, a maritime official said today. The heavy oil spilled from *MSC Ilona* after it collided with *Hyundai Advance* near the mouth of the Pear River on Tuesday (Dec 7) night. The spill has spread to an area of 65 to 656 feet wide and nine nautical miles long, the official said. "The oil leakage has been controlled but it will take some time to clear the oil on the sea," said the official from the Ministry of Communications, adding that strong winds in the area had slowed clearing work. Helicopters were monitoring the spill from above and hundreds of tons of cleaning materials have been sent to the area, the official said.

INGRID (Germany)

London, Dec 6 — C.c. *Ingrid* arrived Bremerhaven 0205, Dec 4, and sailed 0505 same day for Hamburg.

ISLE (Honduras)

See "Belize" under "Labour Disputes."

JIN MAN HE (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

Moji, Dec 3 — General cargo *Jin Man He* (2900 gt, built 1996), Moji for Hakata, laden with containers, grounded off Hakata at about 0350, Dec 3, while approaching the port. The vessel is leaking oil from No 5 fuel oil tank, and Japan Coast Guard vessels, along with others, are engaged in oil-removal operations. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Jin Man He* sailed Moji Dec 2 for Hakata.)

London, Dec 3 — A press report, dated today, states: A vessel (general cargo *Jin Man He*) ran aground this morning in the Sea of Genkai off the city of Fukuoka, southwestern Japan, and some fuel oil was leaking, the Japan Coast Guard said. The vessel, registered in St Vincent and the Grenadines and with a crew of 14, ran aground at around 0400. None of the crew were injured. Fuel oil was spilled from the ship's tanks

London, Dec 3 — A press report, dated today, states: General cargo *Jin Man He* ran aground off an island near Fukuoka in the predawn hours today, but none of the crew members were injured, the local Japan Coast Guard office said. The vessel ran aground about 800 metres off Shika Island in Higashi-ku, Fukuoka, JCG officers said. None of the 14 Chinese crew members were injured in the accident. However, a massive amount of fuel oil leaked from a fuel tank that cracked upon impact. The JCG has dispatched 10 patrol vessels to the area in a desperate bid to clean up the oil spill. JCG officers suspect that the vessel was sailing off course and went into shallows.

London, Dec 4 — Following received from the operators of general cargo *Jin Man He*, dated Tokyo/Hong Kong Dec 4: Chongqing Marine Shipping Company, operators of *Jin Man He*, regret to report that at approximately 0350, Dec 3 the vessel, Moji for Fukuoka, loaded with 175 containers, grounded in the shallows adjacent to Shika-Shima Island off the port of Fukuoka. As a result of the grounding *Jin Man He* sustained a fracture of some 7 metres in length and 0.7 metres wide, which ruptured the bunker tanks and allowed spillage of fuel oil and some diesel oil. Early estimates put the total oil in the water at between six and seven tons. No injuries have been reported. At 1400, Hong Kong time, the vessel managers signed a Lloyd's Open Form salvage contract with Nippon Salvage. The salvage plan is to lighten the vessel by removing containers on deck and thereafter pulling it out of the shallows at high water, noon today, Dec 4. As of noon on Dec 3, the spillage from the vessel appeared to have stopped. Following notification of the spill local contractors were mobilised by the authorities to clean up any pollution. From the morning of Dec 3, clean up operations have been carried out by 21 boats, including 12 units from the Japan Coast Guard, six from local contractor Hakata Kouwan and other units from the local harbour authority and City. A similar operation will

continue today. The International Tanker Owners Pollution Fund (ITOPF) representative will be on site from today, together with a naval architect and a local surveyor organised by the vessel's representatives ISS P&I Japan who are coordinating the response on behalf of owners and managers. Owners and managers are cooperating fully with all the local authorities and Japan Coast Guard Services and would like to warmly thank all parties involved for their efficient and timely response to this unfortunate spill. Owners and managers wish to assure all local people that they are supporting all efforts to achieve a successful clean up.

London, Dec 5 — Following received from the operators of general cargo *Jin Man He*, dated today: Chongqing Marine Shipping Company, operators of *Jin Man He*, are pleased to report that at approximately 1315 hrs, Dec 4, the vessel was successfully refloated. It has been towed to Hakata Bay where salvors, Nippon Salvage Co., will effect the temporary repairs required by Class, as soon as weather conditions permit. The owners and managers continue to co-operate fully with the local authorities and Japan Coast Guard Services.

Moji, Dec 6 — General cargo *Jin Man He* was refloated at about 1318, Dec 4, by Nippon Salvage Co Ltd, under salvage contract of LOF 2000 and SCOPIC and it is now anchoring at Hakata for underwater examination.

Moji, Dec 9 — Divers' examination revealed that almost all the bottom plating of general cargo *Jin Man He* has been set up, to varying degrees, with many fractures in way. The fractures are being sealed with steel plates and wood wedges/underwater cement, which will be completed Dec 9. Subject to classification and Port State Control approval, the vessel will berth at Hakata for discharge of containers. — Lloyd's Agents.

JUTLAND (Antigua & Barbuda)

Copenhagen, Dec 2 — General cargo *Jutland* arrived at the yard, on the island of Aeroe, Nov 27, for repairs. Vessel is still in the yard, ETD unknown. — Lloyd's Agents.)

KAIUN MARU NO.58

See *Rikuryu Maru*.

KEN EXPLORER (Liberia)

London, Dec 6 — Following received from the managers of bulk *Ken Explorer*, dated today: *Ken Explorer* is still at Jebel Ali, with cargo discharge now complete. It is hoped vessel will proceed tomorrow for Dubai for drydocking.

KISSHO MARU (Japan)

See "Japan" under "Weather & Navigation."

KONAVLE (Croatia)

See "Drugs Found on Croatian Vessel at Belledune, Canada" under "Miscellaneous."

LORE PRAHM (Germany)

London, Dec 9 — Following received from Coastguard Dover MRCC, timed 0402, UTC: General cargo *Lore Prahm* (1156 gt, built 1989), in ballast, reported at 0326, UTC, stopped in lat 50 27.3N, long 00 10.76E, 069 degrees Greenwich lightvessel, 7.6 nautical miles. Unable to move without tug assistance. Weather in area, wind east-north-east 12 knots.

London, Dec 9 — Following received from Coastguard Dover MRCC, timed 1345, UTC: General cargo *Lore Prahm* is in tow of tug *Anglian Monarch*, ETA Dover 1630, UTC.

MARINA TSVYETAYEVA (Russia)

London, Dec 6 — A press report, dated today, states: Ferry *Marina Tsvyetayeva* (4575 gt, built 1989) that dropped anchor off Hokkaido Island because of problems with the main engine has been rescued by ferry *Igor Farkhutdinov* which is now towing the vessel to Kholmsk. The vessels are expected to reach the port by this evening. *Marina Tsvyetayeva* was on its way from Kholmsk to Otaru when something went wrong with its main engine. The malfunction forced the ship to stop. The ship has 44 crewmen and 91 passengers onboard, a duty captain of the Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk maritime rescue centre said.

Vladivostok, Dec 7 — On Dec 5, ferry *Marina Tsvyetayeva*, with a crew of 44 persons and 91 passengers, had main engine disabled when five miles from north coast of Hokkaido Island, Japan. At approximately 1000, Dec 6, the vessel was safely towed to the outer road of Kholmsk by ferry *Igor Farkhutdinov*. Today, stormy weather, strong wind and rough waves, prevent the vessel from berthing. — Lloyd's Agents.

MILLIONAIRE'S CASINO (Panama)

London, Dec 5 — A press report, dated today, states: Passenger *Millionaire's Casino* (97 gt) full of passengers, had to be hauled back to port yesterday when at least one of its engines failed. The vessel stalled in the Savannah River at about 1630 hrs as it was returning from a gambling cruise. No one was injured. The vessel's crew hired a tug to get them back to shore. The incident was the most recent of several misfortunes for the Savannah-based cruise line, which opened last year. Longer than expected safety inspections and the deportation of some Filipino crew members delayed the opening for months. Then smoldering insulation caused the crew to shut down its electrical system and cut short its maiden voyage in August.

MONTREAL (U.S.A.)

London, Dec 3 — Following received from Coast Guard Boston, timed 1625, UTC: Fishing *Montreal* ex *Seeker* (114 gt, built 1979) seven persons on board, sank 159 nautical miles south south-east of Cape Cod at 1700, local time, yesterday. Understood the vessel sank as a result of a propeller shaft problem. All crew were safely rescued.

MSC ILONA (Germany)

See *Hyundai Advance*.

NADINE BAKER (U.S.A.)

London, Dec 3 — A press report, dated Dec 2, states: Contact with a railroad bridge may be the reason tug *Nadine Baker* sank last week. *Nadine Baker*, which sank in the Green River near Curdsville, Ky, Nov 16, reportedly struck the CSX bridge at mile 9 on the river in Spottsville three days earlier. According to a press release, the boat currently has a roughly three-foot-long crack on the starboard side of the hull near the vessel's rear, the U.S. Coast Guard reported yesterday. The bridge it struck on Nov 13 was inspected that day, and it was determined not to be a jeopardy to railroad or additional river traffic. The tug was being pushed to the James Marine-Paducah River Service shipyard in Paducah by the vessel *Eleanor*. It was expected to arrive yesterday. The investigation on why *Nadine Baker* sank is continuing, but an assessment will not be complete until the vessel is out of the water. Among other concerns, the Coast Guard will determine how much of the 10,000 gallons of diesel fuel the vessel had in its tank escaped at the time of the sinking. Containment booms were set up around the sunken tug to prevent fuel from going downriver. *Nadine Baker* was underwater from Nov 16 until Nov 25, when it was raised from the waters of the Green River. "The possibility of legal action and/or assessment of penalties for the discharge of oil contaminants into the water or any improper navigation practices will be determined upon the completion of the investigation by the Coast Guard officer in charge of marine inspections," the press release said. Tennessee Valley Towing, the operator of *Nadine Baker*, is responsible for such infractions. Crouse Corporation owns both *Nadine Baker* and *Eleanor*. Both companies are based in Paducah.

NAPHT AL YEMEN 17 (South Korea)

Hodeidah, Dec 6 — The Port Authorities inspected product tanker *Napht Al Yemen 17* Dec 4, carried out safety inspection on board successfully and granted permission to enter the port. Accordingly, the vessel berthed at 1650, Dec 4, commenced discharge at 1945 hrs. Vessel completed at 0920, today. The vessel is awaiting tugs to arrive and expected to sail for next port, Aden. — Lloyd's Agents.

Hodeidah, Dec 8 — Understand from the port authority that product tanker *Napht Al Yemen 17* passed its safety inspection and was acceptable as a "normal tanker," hence allowed into port. Entered port under own power and sailed to Aden; no tow required. — Lloyd's Agents.

NICOLE II (U.S.A.)

London, Dec 3 — A press report, dated today, states: The Halifax master of fishing *Nicole II* that sank Wednesday morning (Dec 1) off Stellwagen Bank credits his training and experience for his and his two-man crews' survival

after the three were rescued from a drifting liferaft and a 20-minute dip in the Atlantic Ocean. Speaking yesterday from his Franklin Street home, Francis St. Croix said the sinking of the 60-foot dragger on Wednesday morning happened so fast, "We were running around the hull trying to get off it." St. Croix captains a 150-foot fish processing boat in Alaska part of the year and said he and his crew up north are constantly training. St. Croix said he bought the boat three weeks ago. "It was the first trip out," he said. "I bought it so I would have something to do when I am home from Alaska and earn a bit of money." St. Croix said he and his two-man crew had headed to the fishing grounds that had been closed by the federal government and were waiting at midnight for the opening day of fishing on Dec 1, just north of lat 42. St. Croix said he had hoped to get in some fishing during the night and early morning before the weather worsened. St. Croix described the events that took place when he heard the bilge alarm. St. Croix said he knew the forecast called for high winds, meaning rough seas, and he was headed toward Plymouth Harbour when the boat began taking on water. "It was about 0700 hrs, we were coming in because of the weather. It kept coming up," he said. "I heard the bilge alarm. When it went off I went and checked the engine. It was full of water. I woke the other two guys, and we got into survival suits." He said he has no idea what went wrong or why the vessel was rapidly taking on water. St. Croix said the boat was insured.

NISHA II

See *Numo*.

NORDIC CAPE (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

St. Petersburg, Dec 6 — Ref *Nordic Cape* (7142 gt, built 1979) was reported to be on fire yesterday while undergoing repairs at Kanonersky Ship Repairing Plant. According to available information only sheathing in one of the cargo compartments of the reefer vessel was damaged. — Lloyd's Agents.

NUMO (Nigeria)

Cape Town, Dec 7 — We were contracted to assist salvage tug *Numo* (ex *Scandic Mammut*, 363 gt, built 1967) and product tanker *Nisha II* (ex *Mater Salvatoris*, 4212 gt, built 1972) utilising salvage tug *Smit Amandla*. *Numo* was towing the scrap tanker *Nisha II* to India when it lost the tow off East London. *Smit Amandla* took both in tow, *Numo* had in the interim also run out of fuel, on Dec 2 and safely delivered both to Durban today. — SMIT Transport Africa.

Durban, Dec 8 — Smit Marine in Cape Town advised that the salvage tug *Numo* and product tanker *Nisha II* were delivered to the port of Durban yesterday. According to Smit, assistance was required due to a lack of fuel on board *Numo* after the tow wires parted. Tug *Smit Amandla* towed both

vessels into the port of Durban. We are advised that *Nisha II* is destined for scrapping with destination unknown to Smit. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Dec 9 — A press report, dated today, states: Product tanker *Nisha II*, which is en route to the Indian sub-continent scrap yards and has been under tow behind salvage tug *Numo* was assisted into Durban on Dec 7. *Numo's* battle to keep up to the appointed task is indicated by the length of time spent along the South African coast, where eventually things came to a head at 0430, Dec 1 some 70 nautical miles ENE of East London when during a strong gale the vessel lost the tow, which it was unable to pick up again due to rough seas. With *Numo* running low on fuel a call went out for assistance from the salvage tug *Smit Amandla*, on station along the South African coast, which hastened to the scene and was able to collect what then became a double tow of both *Nisha II* and *Numo*. The ensemble arrived off Durban on the morning of Dec 7 where *Numo* was disengaged allowing *Smit Amandla* to bring the derelict tanker into port with the assistance of two harbour tugs.

PARTNER (Russia)

London, Dec 7 — General cargo *Partner* arrived Barcelona Dec 1 from Cartagena.

PELANDER (Panama)

London, Dec 2 — Following received from the Japan Navigational Warning, dated today: Vehicle *Pelander* (24891 gt, built 1979) in tow of tug, departing lat 33 57.7N, long 131 32.0E, to Hiroshima at 1100, UTC, today. ETA 2100, UTC, today. (Note — *Pelander* sailed Matarani Nov 6 for Japan.)

PENELOPE A. (Greece)

London, Dec 6 — Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: Passenger ro/ro *Penelope A.* (5590 gt, built 1972), while departing Rafina for Andros, Tinos and Mykonos, had light contact yesterday morning with passenger ro/ro *Evia Star* (1923 gt, built 1980), which was entering the port. There were no injuries and no pollution was caused. The 56 passengers on *Evia Star*, together with 15 cars and four trucks, were disembarked safely. The 637 passengers, 92 cars, six trucks and six motorbikes on *Penelope A.* remained on board. Later the same day both vessels were permitted by the port authority to continue their normal schedules.

POLO M. (Bahamas)

Visby, Dec 6 — Bulk *Polo M.* is still anchored off Slite and damage etc presently being examined and as far as possible being temporarily sealed awaiting decision of what to be done with vessel and cargo. — Lloyd's Agents.

Gothenburg, Dec 8 — Bulk *Polo M.* is still at the same place, at anchor after refloating. Tug and salvage vessel plus divers team still there. Vessel needs to

discharge cement in bulk 23,000 tons, loaded at Slite but cannot discharge there. — Westax Marine Services AB.

RAW FAITH (U.S.A.)

London, Dec 3 — A press report, dated today, states: Vessel *Raw Faith* has been ordered to stay in Rockland until it is repaired and can pass another Coast Guard inspection. The 210-foot Coast Guard Cutter *Dependable* responded to the stricken *Raw Faith* about 80 miles north-east of Portland, Nov 25. The vessel's rudder broke and its mast snapped in 25-knot winds and heavy seas while the vessel was bound for New Jersey. The vessel was towed back to Rockland, arriving the next day, less than a week after the handmade vessel had set sail for New Jersey. Capt. George McKay of Addison, owner and builder of *Raw Faith*, said the vessel wasn't rescued. *Raw Faith* never asked for help, said McKay, but took the Coast Guard's assistance rather than remain in severe weather for several days. With repairs now to be made to the vessel, the Rockland harbour-master has said there's little chance for the captain or crew to remain living aboard the vessel, as they have since arriving in Rockland in September.

RED DIAMOND (U.S.A.)

Honolulu, Dec 6 — Fishing *Red Diamond* (109 gt, built 1987), official No. 910803, reported sank yesterday, Dec 5, approximately 230 miles south-west of the Island of Kauai. The five man crew was rescued. — Lloyd's Agents.

RED FERN (U.K.)

London, Dec 8 — Bulk *Red Fern* arrived Busan Nov 29 and sailed same day for Haimen.

RIKURYU MARU (Japan)

Yokohama, Dec 9 — Cement *Rikuryu Maru*, 6544 gt, (built 1997), Ishikariwan for Hakodate, and fishing *Kaiun Maru No.58*, 7 gt, returning to port, were in collision 3.3 miles, 312 degrees, from north breakwater lighthouse, Ishikariwan port, at 0810, Nov 30. *Rikuryu Maru* sustained scratching damage while *IKaiun Maru No.58* sustained denting on its port bow. No injuries on either vessel. — Lloyd's Agents.

ROCKNES (Antigua & Barbuda)

Gdynia, Nov 30 — Bulk *Rocknes* is still under repair at Gdansk. — Lloyd's Agents.

RYNDAM (Netherlands)

See "Juneau Bay, Alaska, United States" under "Pollution."

SAN DOMENICO (New Zealand)

Wellington, Dec 5 — Hulk of fishing *San Domenico* cleared Wellington Harbour at 0800, Dec 4 in tow of a smaller fishing vessel. The owner had removed anything of value from the hulk, including engines, propeller, shaft, rudder, etc. Vessel is intended for scuttling in the southern part of the Cook Strait "Explosives Dumping

Ground", some 21 miles south south-east from Baring Head in lat 41 45S, long 175 00E, in 1,700 metres of water. Vessel arrived at the position by 1200 hrs but by 1400 it became apparent that it would not sink. Position at 1420 hrs, lat 41 42.4S, long 174 59.9E. Maritime Safety Authority issued directions for the owner to keep another fishing vessel standing by the semi-submerged hull overnight, and a navigation warning was issued. Position of vessel about 0400, today was lat 41 48.6S, long 175 11.5E. At 0800, today, the hulk was reported to have partially broken-up, with wreckage, including a section of the starboard side hull, floating in the southern part of Cook Strait in a 2-mile square area centred about 12 miles south-west of Cape Palliser about lat 41 48S, long 175 1E. Local experts predict that floating debris will likely wash ashore on the South Wairarapa Coast in White Rock Bay, Te Kaukau Point or near Te Awaita station, about 15 miles north-east from Cape Palliser. Maritime Safety Authority issued the permit for owners *Pescatore Fishing Ltd.*, Wellington, to sink the vessel. — Lloyd's Agents.

SCM ATHINA (Antigua & Barbuda)

Houston, Nov 29 — General cargo *SCM Athina* sailed Houston Nov 27. — Lloyd's Agents.

SEALAND TRADER (U.K.)

London, Dec 8 — Following received from Harwich Haven Port Authority, timed 1315, UTC: General cargo *Sealand Trader* remains at Mistley Quay. (Note — *Sealand Trader* arrived Harwich in tow Oct 2, 2003 following fuel contamination and loss of power. Vessel was subsequently towed to Mistley Oct 16.)

SELENDANG AYU (Malaysia)

London, Dec 8 — Following received from Coast Guard Juneau, dated Dec 7: Coast Guard cutter *Alex Haley* diverted to assist bulk *Selendang Ayu* (39775 gt, built 1998), disabled and adrift 27 miles northwest of Bogoslof Island in the Bering Sea for more than 13 hours while the crew attempted to repair the ship's engine. The ship's master is concerned that the bulk carrier may drift in to Bogoslof Island if his crew is unable to restart the engine within the next 15 to 16 hours. *Alex Haley* is expected to arrive on scene with *Selendang Ayu* at 1730, AST, and will stand by to assist its crew until the vessel's engine is repaired. Also en route to assist are tugs *Shirley Foss* and *Redeemer*. (Note — *Selendang Ayu* sailed Seattle 1445, Nov 28 for Xiamen.)

London, Dec 8 — Following received from Coast Guard Juneau, timed 0810, UTC: Tug *Sidney Foss* now has a towline on bulk *Selendang Ayu*, Seattle for China, cargo soy grain, in lat 53.82N, long 167.75W. Tug *Redeemer* is also on scene. Vessel still has no main engine. The situation will be assessed at daylight and a decision made as to where the vessel is to be towed.

London, Dec 8 — Following received from Coast Guard Juneau, timed 1724, UTC: Bulk *Selendang Ayu*: The towline connected to tug *Sidney Foss* broke and *Selendang Ayu* is presently drifting in lat 53 45.24N, long 167 20.10W.

London, Dec 9 — Following received from Coast Guard Kodiak, dated Dec 8: A Coast Guard cutter and three tugs have been unable to halt bulk *Selendang Ayu's* approach to the northern shore of Unalaska Island in the Aleutian Island chain tonight. *Selendang Ayu* began drifting toward Unalaska Island more than 38 hours ago after the ship's main engine ceased operating. The ship is now less than two miles from Unalaska Island. The crew of *Selendang Ayu* was able to drop one of the ship's anchors in an attempt to slow the vessel but the anchor broke. The crew is currently attempting to drop the ship's second anchor. Two Coast Guard Jayhawk helicopters and their crews are in the air standing by for a possible airlift of *Selendang Ayu's* crew. Late tonight tug *Sidney Foss* successfully established a tow on *Selendang Ayu*. The tug slowed the progress of *Selendang Ayu's* drifting to one nautical mile an hour, however the 8-inch thick towline broke at 0130 hrs. An earlier attempt to take *Selendang Ayu* in tow was also unsuccessful. The Coast Guard and the ship's owners are exploring every possible way to halt the ship before it grounds on Unalaska. These scenarios include having *Selendang Ayu* run its damaged engine to try and halt its progress and dropping the ship's anchor as it nears the shore. The Coast Guard is transporting oil containment boom to Dutch Harbour in the event that *Selendang Ayu* grounds and creates a fuel spill. *Selendang Ayu* has 26 crew and about 500,000 gallons of No. 6 fuel oil, bunker C. Current on scene weather: Winds at 35 knots, seas at five feet with swells to 20 feet, visibility at three miles.

London, Dec 9 — Following received from Coast Guard Juneau, timed 0450, UTC: Bulk *Selendang Ayu* has grounded and broken in two. Some crew presently in water. Two people, the master and one Coast Guard personnel, on bow section, which is presently still floating.

London, Dec 9 — The United States Coastguard is responding to an incident involving IMC vessel, bulk *Selendang Ayu*, Seattle to China, cargo 60,199 metric tonnes of Soya beans. A Jayhawk rescue helicopter out of Kodiak, Alaska has crashed while rescuing seafarers from the vessel in the Aleutians. A search and rescue mission was immediately initiated for the four-man helicopter crew and the six IMC seafarers onboard. The Master of the vessel and a coastguard rescue swimmer remain on board. Earlier, nineteen crew from *Selendang Ayu* had been airlifted to safety. The *Selendang Ayu* began drifting toward Unalaska Island more than 48 hours ago after the vessel's main engine ceased operating. The vessel has now grounded and is breaking up on Unalaska Island, position lat 53.47.7N,

long 167.22.9W. The Master of the vessel and the Coast Guard rescue swimmer who had remained on board have now been safely taken off the vessel by helicopter. Weather on site is reported to be thirty-five knot winds, sea swell five to twenty feet and visibility, three miles. IMC's emergency pollution organisation, Gallagher, in Anchorage, are mobilised and are urgently preparing counter pollution measures.

London, Dec 9 — Following received from Coast Guard Anchorage, dated Dec 8: The Coast Guard is conducting a rescue effort right now near Unalaska Island for 10 people who were on board a Coast Guard helicopter. The helicopter and crew based out of Kodiak were evacuating crewmembers off the grounded *Selendang Ayu* when it crashed in the ocean during the rescue attempt. Another helicopter from Coast Guard cutter *Alex Haley*, which is on scene, picked up four people and have taken them to Dutch Harbour for medical treatment, their condition is unknown. Six people are still unaccounted for. *Selendang Ayu* has subsequently broken in two and a Coast Guard rescue swimmer along with the master of the vessel remain on board.

London, Dec 9 — Following statement received from managers of bulk *Selendang Ayu*, IMC Shipping: The United States Coastguard is responding to an incident involving an IMC ship, *Selendang Ayu*. A Jayhawk rescue helicopter out of Kodiak, Alaska has crashed while rescuing seafarers from the vessel in the Aleutians. A search and rescue mission was immediately initiated for the four-man helicopter crew and the six IMC seafarers on board. The US Coast Guard are reporting that four people were subsequently rescued and that six are still unaccounted for.

SHIZHNYA (Russia)

Tallinn, Dec 6 — General cargo *Shizhnya* completed repairs and sailed Tallinn for Rotterdam Dec 5. — Lloyd's Agents.

SHUN FENG YU (Taiwan)

London, Dec 6 — Following received from Hong Kong MRCC, timed 0015, UTC: Fishing *Shun Feng Yu* (76 gt), with four crew on board, sank in lat 20 15.6N, long 118 08.5E, at about 1416, UTC, Dec 5. Four crew rescued by Taiwan fishing *Tong Sheng Yi*. Weather in area, wind force 7 (near gale), three-metre swell, visibility four nautical miles.

SILVA (Cambodia)

Esbjerg, Dec 9 — General cargo *Silva* is still in port at Esbjerg. — Lloyd's Agents.)

SKIPPER K. (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

See under "Miscellaneous."

SNOW CRYSTAL (Cayman Islands)

London, Dec 5 — Following received from Cape Town MRCC, timed 1305,

UTC: Ref *Snow Crystal* (14512 gt, built 1973), currently broken down, due engine problems, in lat 28 44.7S, long 33 11.9E. Vessel is currently drifting at two knots per hour. Understood vessel's managers have contracted salvors to tow the vessel to Durban. (Note — *Snow Crystal* sailed Paranagua Nov 25 for Jeddah.)

London, Dec 5 — Following received from Cape Town MRCC, timed 2040, UTC: Ref *Snow Crystal*: Salvage services have been rendered to the vessel by Smit Pentow. Vessel is in tow of a tug, bound Durban.

London, Dec 6 — Following received from Cape Town MRCC, timed 1235, UTC: Ref *Snow Crystal*, under tow, reported about 30 minutes ago that it was proceeding at four to five knots with ETA Durban around midnight.

Rotterdam, Dec 6 — Salvage services are being rendered to ref *Snow Crystal* under Lloyd's Open Form 2000 by SMIT Salvage BV. — SMIT Salvage BV.

London, Dec 7 — Following received from Cape Town MRCC, timed 0920, UTC: Ref *Snow Crystal* arrived approximately two miles off Durban at 0600, UTC, today to await a port tug to take it to berth.

London, Dec 8 — Following received from Cape Town MRCC, timed 1005, UTC: Ref *Snow Crystal* is now alongside berth.

London, Dec 9 — A press report, dated today, states: Ref *Snow Crystal* reported an engine-room fire about 150 nautical miles north east of Durban off St Lucia on Dec 5 while on voyage from Paranagua to the Persian Gulf with a cargo of frozen chickens. The Durban-based offshore tug/supply *Pentow Service* immediately sailed to its assistance. The fire was subsequently brought under control but with engine-room power lost *Pentow Service* was required to take *Snow Crystal* in tow back to Durban, where the vessel will undergo repair at the Dormac repair yard.

STAVTANK (NIS)

London, Dec 3 — Following received from Coastguard Dover MRCC, timed 1131, UTC: Chemical/oil carrier *Stavtank* is still anchored off Folkestone awaiting a spare part, which is expected to arrive today. Estimated completion time for repairs is not presently known.

London, Dec 4 — Following received from Coastguard Dover MRCC, timed 1200, UTC: Chemical/oil carrier *Stavtank* remains anchored off Folkestone. Divers are currently inspecting the vessel. Spares have arrived for the vessel but completion of repairs is not known.

London, Dec 6 — Following received from Coastguard Dover MRCC, timed 1005, UTC: Chemical/oil carrier *Stavtank* completed repairs and resumed passage at 1934, UTC, Dec 4.

STELLAMARE (Netherlands Antilles)

London, Dec 2 — A press report, dated today, states: Semi-sub HL vessel *Stellamare* that tipped over at the Port of Albany nearly a year ago is returning to sea duty. The ship left the

port this morning. The renamed *Nadalina* is being towed down the Hudson River and will head for the Bahamas where it will be refitted.

STOLT TERN (Cayman Islands)

London, Dec 6 — Chem.tank *Stolt Tern* arrived Barry 1935, Dec 3, from Holyhead.

London, Dec 7 — Chem.tank *Stolt Tern* sailed Barry Dec 4. Vessel arrived Antwerp Dec 6 and sailed Dec 7 for Rotterdam.

SUPERFLYTE (New Zealand)

Auckland, Dec 9 — Catamaran *Superflyte* has completed repairs and sea trials, and has returned to service. — Lloyd's Agents.

SVEAFJELL (Norway)

Trondheim, Dec 9 — Kvernhusvik Shipyard, Hitra, estimate repairs on general cargo *Sveafjell* will be complete near Christmas. — Lloyd's Agents.

SVEN OLTMANN (Antigua & Barbuda)

Hamburg, Nov 30 — C.c. *Sven Oltmann* is currently repairing at Hamburg. — Lloyd's Agents.

TERRA NOVA PLATFORM

London, Dec 2 — A press report, dated today, states: The Canada-Newfoundland Offshore Petroleum Board has lifted an official suspension of operations at the *Terra Nova* offshore platform following an oil spill last month. However, concerns over the maintenance of safety systems on the rig means production can't resume just yet. Petro-Canada has an unacceptable backlog of maintenance work, the board said yesterday. "They can't start production until all of the safety and environmental items that we've identified in that backlog have been addressed," said Fred Way, acting director of the board that oversees the province's offshore industry. Way said the maintenance backlog is not related to release of up to 170,000 litres of oil over a week ago. The two pieces of equipment that failed, allowing the oil to spill, were not among the systems that had fallen behind on maintenance, he said. "We can't go into the causes of the spill because our investigation is ongoing but these causes were not related to the matters . . . that were on that backlog list," he said. The board suspended operations at *Terra Nova*, located 350 kilometres off the coast of Newfoundland, on Nov. 21.

THOR HAWK (DIS)

Abu Dhabi, Dec 8 — C.c. *Thor Hawk* completed repairs to the damaged crane and sailed at 0255, local time, Dec 6. — Lloyd's Agents.

THOR R. (Denmark)

Esbjerg, Dec 6 — Trailing suction hopper dredge *Thor R.* towed by tug *Storesund* to Frederikshavn for repairs Dec 1. — Lloyd's Agents.

THOR TRAVELLER (Thailand)

Mumbai, Dec 4 — Bulk *Thor Traveller* (16794 gt, built 1985) arrived Mumbai

Dec 1 in tow, due to main engine damage. The entire repairs are to be carried out at Mumbai. — Lloyd's Agents.

TRINKET (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Dec 5 — General cargo *Trinket* (1574 gt, built 1991), Germany for Iceland, with 1710 tonnes of soya beans, was escorted alongside at Lerwick Harbour, at 0503, UTC, by anchor handling tug *Anglian Sovereign*, for minor repairs to its engine. *Trinket* was unable to repair at safe anchorage due to gale to storm force winds in area.

London, Dec 8 — General cargo *Trinket* sailed Lerwick 1640, Dec 5, for Reykjavik.

UNION JUPITER (Barbados)

Zeebrugge, Dec 7 — General cargo *Union Jupiter* (2230 gt, built 1990), Ghent to Sunderland, was towed to Flushing due to engine trouble arriving 2400, Dec 5. Vessel is still under repair. Agent cannot predict sailing date at this stage. — Lloyd's Sub-agents. (Note — *Union Jupiter* sailed Ghent at 1331, Dec 5.)

URVAAG

Trondheim, Dec 3 — Fishing *Urvaag*. Owners inform vessel will be scrapped by a Chinese firm. — Lloyd's Agents.

VICKI LYNNE (U.S.A.)

London, Dec 6 — Following received from Coast Guard New Orleans, timed 1540, UTC: Tug *Vicki Lynne* (119 gt, built 1969), official No.522048, sank at Mile 66, Tennessee River, last night following ingress of water in engine-room due to a broken pipe. The four persons on board were rescued safely. Vessel is to be surveyed today after which the salvage operation will begin.

London, Dec 7 — A press report, dated Dec 6, states: Tug *Vicki Lynne* sank in the Tennessee River, causing authorities to close the waterway until the vessel is located. All four crewmen on board *Vicki Lynne* were rescued unhurt after climbing onto the barges when the boat began taking on water, said Lt. Patrick Mounsey of the Coast Guard office in Paducah, Ky. The towboat went down in about 70 feet of water just south of the Gov. Ned McWherter Bridge near Paris Landing about 2130 yesterday, Mounsey said. The cutter *Cimarron* rescued the crew members. The Coast Guard closed the river to traffic until the towboat was located. There will an investigation to find the cause of the accident, but Mounsey said initial reports indicated a pipe broke, flooding the vessel, which is owned by New Johnsonville Marine. The towboat was pushing barges loaded with scrap metal to Paducah, Mounsey said.

London, Dec 8 — Following received from Coast Guard New Orleans, timed 1445, UTC: The salvage operation to raise tug *Vicki Lynne* has been scheduled to start Dec 13.

VICTORIAN RELIANCE (Australia)

London, Dec 7 — A press report, dated Dec 6, states: The Royal Australian

Navy says it was a rock which ro/ro *Victorian Reliance* hit off Tasmania's north-west coast last month. *Victorian Reliance* hit the rock a short distance off the town of Penguin. Captain Bruce Kafer says an incident like this is unusual. "Discovery of a rock like this by accident is not common these days," he said. Another Navy spokesman says the area of the rock was charted some years ago, but the rock had not been included on charts. He says the passage off Penguin is not frequently used by commercial shipping. The rock has now been charted and a notice to mariners has been issued to indicate the change.

VICUNA (Chile)

Santos, Dec 8 — Following received from Paranagua Sub-agents: Chemical/oil carrier *Vicuna* is still discharging fuel oil to Petrobras Terminal by means of vacuum truck. The Federal and State Environment Institutes are still evaluating the damage to the environment. Fishing activities have been prohibited in the affected areas and the cleaning up of the pollution is on going. Today is the last date for the three salvage company teams to present the project to the owners P&I club, the Britannia, to remove the shipwreck from the accident spot. — Lloyd's Agents.

VOYAGER (Panama)

See "Japan" under "Weather & Navigation."

WILSON MAAS (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Dec 6 — Non specific tanker *Eiltank 11* (1563 dwt, built 1969), loaded with biomethanol, was in collision with general cargo *Wilson Maas* (1169 gt, built 1997), Ghent for sea, in ballast, in the Ghent-Terneuzen Canal, between Sas van Ghent and Zandstraat, during the afternoon of Dec 6. *Eiltank 11* sustained damage as a result of the collision and experienced an ingress of water in its hull, but no cargo leakage. The vessel moored in the canal, and the fire brigade were able to pump the water out of the vessel and stop the ingress. *Wilson Maas* did not sustain any damage and was able to resume its voyage. The authorities carried out an investigation into the accident, after which *Eiltank 11* was also able to resume its voyage.



MALACCA STRAITS

London, Dec 6 — Six tug crew members have been taken hostage in two incidents in the Malacca Strait, as violent pirate attacks continue unabated in the busy waterway. Recent months have seen a spate of attacks by groups of heavily armed pirates on slow moving tugs in the north-east of the strait, with crew members kidnapped for ransom. With pirates showing little

fear, the attacks are taking place in broad daylight, rather than in the dead of night, as in the past. The latest attack took place on Nov 30, at around 1425 hrs, as a Malaysia-flagged tug was towing a cement-laden barge in the northern part of the strait, The Straits Times reported. In a large scale attack, around 50 pirates, in fishing vessels, surrounded and fired at the tug. The pirates kidnapped the tug's captain and chief engineer and also stole the tug's documents and other valuables. In a similar pattern to an attack on tug belonging to Kasel Salvage in October (anchor handling tug *Erna*), when crew were also taken hostage, the tug was attacked again at 1925 hrs. The crew were forced to abandon the barge they were towing and further crew members were kidnapped. On Nov 27, four crew members were kidnapped from two tugs, one of which was towing the other. The Indian-registered tugs were attacked at 1600 hrs and the captain and chief engineer of the leading tug kidnapped, along with the captain and cook of the tug under tow. While assistance was awaited from an Indonesian warship, the pirates attacked again, this time damaging the communications equipment of the lead tug. In similar cases this year the pirates have asked for ransom for the kidnapped, usually in the range of \$100,000, a figure they know the shipowner can afford to pay. The Federation of Asean Shipowners Associations said last week that it was deeply concerned that piracy and armed robbery attacks in the Malacca and Singapore Straits continued to remain high. Recent incidents of kidnapping of ships officers and holding them to ransom, by pirates, are also a cause for worry, FASA said. Describing the kidnappings as despicable acts, it urged governments to take swift and effective action.



Seizures & Arrests

ABDUL RAHMAN (Lebanon)

London, Dec 4 — A press report, dated today, states: Lawyers for Lebanese-flag general cargo *Abdul Rahman* detained off the coast of Honduras after failing to inform authorities of a cargo of explosives called the detention “arbitrary and unjust” as well as discriminatory to Arab crew members. “The ship should be allowed to leave immediately; if not, we will sue Honduras,” said Adolfo Pena, spokesman for a team defending the crew of the vessel owned by the Arab B&C Club of Lebanon. The ship, which is transporting 900 metric tons of mine blasting material and fuses, was detained upon arrival in Puerto Cortes on Nov 23. Honduran authorities said that the crew failed to give port officials the 72 hours advance notice required under law that it was transporting the explosives. The ship

has been anchored 13 kilometres off shore and guarded by police and soldiers. U.S. experts who inspected the ship on Tuesday (Nov 30) and Wednesday determined that the explosives had not been adequately secured and posed a danger. The ship's Canadian owner, Egyptian captain and a first officer from the Sudan have been charged by Honduran prosecutors with illegally transporting explosives and threatening the environmental security of Puerto Cortes. They were fined \$10,000 by the merchant marines. Pena said the charges were unjustified. “This is an arbitrary and unjust detention,” he told a news conference. “This is definitely not a case of terrorism. It seems more like discrimination, simply because some crew members have Arab names.” The explosives were to be delivered to a mining company in Suriname. Pena insisted that other ships carrying explosives for Honduran mines frequently arrive here yet, “they are not decommissioned or detained.” The crew of the Lebanese-flag ship “has the legal paperwork and the boat is certified to carry dangerous cargo,” he said. Honduran prosecutor Mario Dubon said, however, that authorities have “sufficient information to send the three crew members to jail.” The ship was stopping in Puerto Cortes to unload salt before heading to Suriname, Venezuela and the Dominican Republic. The owner of the ship has been identified as Hassan Bachacha, of Canada; the captain as Fathy Mohamed Youssef, of Egypt, and the first officer as Gabir Fikrin Shams, of Sudan. The ship apparently took on the explosives in the Mexican Gulf Coast port of Tampico. Port authorities had reserved one of Puerto Cortes' five international piers for the ship, preventing other cargo loads from arriving there and causing Honduras losses totaling more than \$230,000, Villela said. He said the government will try to recuperate the money from the ship's owners.

ENDEAVOR II (Greece)

Karachi, Dec 7 — The honorable Sindh High Court (SHC) could not rehear the case of crude oil tanker *Endeavor II*, which was scheduled for today. The court was adjourned and the date for the rehearing will be announced later. However, vessel is still under arrest at Karachi port, according to Karachi Port Authority and Partner Surrige & Beecheno, the counsel for Andros Maritime of Greece, which owns it. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

MERCAN A. (Turkey)

Bahrain, Dec 8 — Bulk *Mercan A.* is still in Bahrain. — Lloyd's Agents.

OCEAN BOOMER (Panama)

London, Dec 8 — Oceanographic research *Ocean Boomer* sailed Gibraltar 2255, Dec 6.

PONGSU (North Korea)

Sydney, Dec 8 — General cargo *Pongsu* is still under arrest in Sydney and there are no details, as yet, when it will be released. — Lloyd's Agents.

RAJ SEVAK

Mumbai, Dec 2 — Tank *Raj Sevak*, presently in the P&V Channel, Mumbai anchorage, remains under arrest. — Lloyd's Agents.

SEA LION (Belize)

London, Dec 6 — Following received from the Admiralty Marshall, dated today: General cargo *Sea Lion* (2947 gt, built 1984) was arrested at Garston Nov 30. Vessel was arrested for damage to its cargo on behalf of Ilva Spa, Frank Armitt & Son Ltd, C Brown & Sons (Steel) Ltd and Ace Insurance SA. Vessel was released Dec 3.

SHAMROCK (French Southern Territories)

London, Dec 8 — A press report, dated Dec 7, states: George Armojan, President and CEO of Clarke Inc, announced that Clarke has acquired ro/ro *Shamrock* for US\$11.05 million. Clarke is currently in discussions concerning possible trade routes and expects that the ship will begin sailing early in 2005.

STEPHANITURM (Bahamas)

London, Dec 6 — Following received from the Admiralty Marshal, dated today: Diving support *Stephaniturm* (1954 gt, built 1978) was arrested for breach of vessel manning agreement at Birkenhead Nov 15. Vessel arrested on behalf of C-Mar Services (UK) Ltd.



Pipeline Accidents

MAKHACHKALA, RUSSIA

London, Dec 9 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: A natural gas pipeline just outside the southern Russian city of Makhachkala exploded today, sending flames soaring into the air and lighting up the night sky. An official said the explosion, which occurred about a half-mile west of the city, appeared to be an accident. Two firefighters were injured while responding to the blaze, which occurred in a section of the region's main gas pipeline about 1000 hrs, said Murtazali Gadzhiev, Dagestan's regional emergency situations minister. The city, which is capital of the Caspian Sea region of Dagestan, is about 1,000 miles south of Moscow. City residents reported hearing a loud explosion before the fire erupted. Preliminary information showed the explosion was accidental, Gadzhiev said.

London, Dec 9 — A press report, dated today, states: A fire that flared up on the gas pipeline as a result of an explosion, was put out, Tass learnt from a duty officer of the Dagestan Ministry for Emergencies. Firefighters managed to “smash” away flames on the gas pipeline and to extinguish them. According to preliminary data of the Dagestan Interior Ministry, the fire on the Mozdok-Kazimagomed gas pipeline near the Dagestan capital

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

Makhachkala erupted as a result of a saboteur act. However, the final conclusions will be made by a special commission, consisting of officers of law enforcement bodies, the Ministry for Emergencies and specialists of the Kaspygazprom company. The scale of the incident is unknown as yet.

London, Dec 9 — A press report, dated today, states: Based on the facts of an explosion on the Mozdok-Kazimagomed natural gas pipeline, a criminal case has been launched under the Criminal Code's articles on terrorism and the illegal storage of weapons and explosives, the Daghestani Interior Ministry's press service told RIA Novosti. According to the latest data, 21 people were injured in the explosion, which occurred near Semender. The Emergencies Ministry has confirmed that two ministry employees were injured. About two million cubic metres of gas burned during the explosion. Two emergency brigades began working at the location of the explosion and fire at 0200 today. The Russian Emergencies Ministry said 108 people were using 31 pieces of equipment to clean up after the explosion. Experts will have to lay 50 metres of a new pipe with a diameter of 1,200 mm. The management of Kaspiiskgazprom told RIA Novosti, said the clean up and repairs would be completed by tomorrow morning.

QUJIN AREA, CHINA

London, Dec 5 — A press report, dated today, states: A natural gas blowout forced 4,600 villagers to flee their homes in Qujing, in southwestern China's Yunnan Province. No one was injured in Thursday's (Dec 2) mishap. Employees of an oil exploration company were drilling a well about 0250 hrs when natural gas, mixed with silt, gushed up more than 40 metres. Local authorities evacuated two villages. Rescuers stopped the blowout more than four hours later.

SAMARRA AREA, IRAQ

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

SUKKUR AREA, SINDH PROVINCE, PAKISTAN

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



Pollution

DELAWARE RIVER, UNITED STATES

See *Athos I* under "Marine."

ESTONIA

London, Dec 3 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Hundreds of oil-stained birds, mostly sea gulls and long-tailed ducks, have been found on the west coast of Estonia, the Helsingin Sanomat reported. The origin of the oil has not been determined because heavy

winds in the region have prevented an investigation, the report said. However, one environment official suspects a leak from a tanker. "The leak probably took place at the open sea near the Estonian coast. Swans and other shoreline birds do not seem to have been affected," the official said. Inspectors counted about 200 stained birds that were still able to fly, and about 50 others that were unable to fly.

FUKUOKA, JAPAN

See *Jin Man He* under "Marine."

JUNEAU BAY, ALASKA, UNITED STATES

London, Dec 8 — A press report, dated Dec 7, states: Holland America Line Cruise Ships will plead guilty to discharging 20,000 gallons of untreated sewage from one of its vessels while docked in Juneau harbour, the US attorney's Office said today. In addition to paying \$200,000 in fines and \$500,000 in restitution, Holland America Line Cruise Ships will spend \$1.3 million on a plan to prevent a similar accident. The Seattle-based company also will be placed on three years probation after the plea agreement is signed Monday (Dec 6) in federal court. "It was a mistake and shouldn't have happened," company spokeswoman Rose Abello said. "We apologize and we admit it and we are sorry, and we have taken significant measures to make sure it doesn't happen again." Passenger *Kyndam* is equipped with an advanced wastewater treatment system. The problem arose aboard the vessel on Aug. 17, 2002, and was compounded when the crew ignored audible and visual alarms activated when a sewage tank approached maximum capacity. A Juneau citizen noticed a brown-colored discharge flowing from the vessel into the harbour and alerted the ship's staff. However, they didn't respond immediately, allowing the sewage to continue to flow unabated, said Assistant US Attorney Kevin Feldis. Abello acknowledged the mishap resulted from "a series of human errors." Holland America had one environmental engineer on the vessel to operate the wastewater system, in which ballast tanks were converted into wastewater tanks used to store sewage that was not yet fully treated, according to the plea agreement. The ballast tanks retained vent lines that flowed from the tanks to the outside of the vessel. "The purpose of these vent lines was to allow the tank contents to discharge overboard in the event that the tank overflowed," the court document said. Engineer Harold Vrensen began transferring the waste into one of the tanks at about 1700 by opening a valve. He intended to keep the valve open for less than 15 minutes but got distracted and later left the vessel to go ashore in Juneau. About an hour into the transfer, the alarms sounded in the engine control room where crew silenced them without investigating. Nearly an hour later, the sewage began flowing into the harbour. The citizen, as well as an off-duty crew

member, reported the problem to the crew. However, no action was taken to close the valve for another two hours, or about four hours after the transfer began. *Kyndam's* chief engineer originally estimated that as little as 500 gallons of sewage went into the harbour. Subsequent investigations determined the amount was about 20,000 gallons. The Juneau harbourmaster contacted the Coast Guard, which took samples and identified the discharge as wastewater coming from sinks, showers and the vessel's sewage system. Feldis said the plea agreement was a fair resolution. "It is a significant penalty and it is a significant case in that the company acknowledged in the plea agreement there were failures in the training of crew members, failures in the operation of the system and failures in how the crew members reacted to the discharge as it was taking place," he said. The \$500,000 in restitution will go to the National Forest Foundation, a nonprofit group trying to reduce the amount of untreated sewage and other pollutants entering Alaska's coastlines. In addition, Holland America will spend \$1.3 million on a compliance plan to implement new environmental safeguards and provide better training aboard all Holland America vessels. Independent auditors also will be hired to evaluate and monitor operations on the ships and report problems to the government. Holland America operates six vessels in Alaska. The company has invested an estimated \$12.5 million on advanced systems to clean sewage and wastewater before releasing them into the sea.



AUSTRALIA

London, Dec 6 — A press report, dated today, states: Emergency workers have been busy after storms caused flash flooding and damaged buildings at Melton west of Melbourne tonight. The State Emergency Service (SES) said the storm front built over Seymour north of Melbourne just before 1800, AEDT, and moved south towards Sunbury before sweeping south-west over Ballan, Melton and Bacchus Marsh. Peter Cocks from the SES said most of the damage appeared to be confined to central Victoria and Melton, west of Melbourne. "Earlier in the night we had problems up at Shepparton and received about half a dozen calls up there. But we've had about 50 calls in the Melton area alone," Mr Cocks said. "Most of the calls related to flash flooding, trees down and roof damage from the hail, heavy rain and strong winds," he said. In Melton, a supermarket ceiling collapsed after heavy rain fell in the area. There were also unconfirmed reports of hail the size of golf balls. Lightning strikes have caused several

small grass fires across the state. A blaze sparked by lightning destroyed 400 hectares of a wheat crop at Thoonna, near Wangaratta in the state's north-east. The fire which is now under control also burnt 1000 bales of hay.

London, Dec 8 — A press report, dated today, states: Gold Coast residents and business operators have spent the day mopping up in the wake of last night's thunderstorms. Insurers have also been flooded with hundreds of claims. The storms lashed the coast last night, dumping more than 150 millimetres of rain across the city. The State Emergency Service (SES) has responded to more than 200 calls for help. District controller Peter Linnell says dozens of businesses and homes have suffered flood and water damage. Hundreds of vehicles, parked in flooded underground car parks, have also been damaged. The falls have also significantly boosted the city's main water supply, the Hinze Dam.

London, Dec 9 — A press report, dated today, states: Two people died and an elderly woman is missing after their vehicles were swamped by flash floods in creeks following widespread storms in NSW and Queensland. The swollen creeks resulted from severe storms in the region overnight, with SES crews responding to more than 25 jobs in Orange, most of them flooded homes. Storms have hammered Queensland's eastern coastline for two days and are expected to continue until the end of the week. A number of homes at Tugun on the Gold Coast have been evacuated due to flooding.

HURRICANE "IVAN"

New Orleans, Dec 7 — More than two months since Hurricane "Ivan" pummeled the Gulf of Mexico, a sizable portion of ChevronTexaco Corp.'s production in the region remains offline, hurt by pipeline repairs and severe damage to a key oil platform, an executive at the oil company said. ChevronTexaco's offshore oil and gas platform Petronius, battered by giant waves that flipped its helicopter deck and crews' quarters upside down, is not expected to resume production until early next year, Melody Meyer, vice president of the company's Gulf of Mexico business unit told reporters late yesterday. Despite gradual improvement in production levels since the hurricane's visit, about 50,000 barrels per day of the company's production still remains shut in, she said. About half of that is expected to be back online by the end of the year, she said. A big part of the delay in restoring production to pre-hurricane levels stems from the damage inflicted by the hurricane on pipelines operated by other companies that transported oil produced in the region, she said. Meyer declined to quantify the cost to repair damages stemming from the hurricane. ChevronTexaco isn't the only one to feel the hit from Hurricane "Ivan's" march. Oil and gas production has yet to return to normal levels in the rest of the region either, also because of damage to pipelines and platforms. U.S. oil output in the Gulf of Mexico is

only back up to a little over 90 percent of its normal rate of 1.7 million barrels per day, a federal agency overseeing oil and gas production in the region said earlier yesterday. — Reuters.

INDONESIA

London, Dec 5 — A press report, dated today, states: Floods have killed 11 people and forced thousands to flee their villages on the southern part of Indonesia's main Java island, local media reported today. Heavy rain which began yesterday caused flooding around Pacitan and the neighbouring town of Blitar. Indonesia's national news agency reported the dead came from villages around those towns. More than 3,000 villagers from around the Blitar-Pacitan area had to seek refuge at nearby schools, Antara reported.

JAPAN

Tokyo, Dec 5 — Record-breaking winds struck Tokyo today, beaching a tanker, toppling trees, halting trains and injuring at least 14 people in and near the capital, police and weather officials said. Winds gusting up to 144 km per hour hit Tokyo — the highest speed since records began in 1964, the Meteorological Agency said. Most of the injured were in Chiba prefecture, east of the capital, where wind speeds were as high as 170 km per hour. Chemical/oil carrier *Kissho Maru* (460 gt, built 1993), ran aground on the coast of Chiba prefecture during the storm, but no one was injured and there were no reports of leaks, Kyodo news agency said. The gales temporarily knocked out power to 32,000 homes in Chiba prefecture, but figures had not yet been collated for other parts of the region, a spokesman for Tokyo Electric Power Co. said. All but a few hundred households had power restored within a few hours, he added. One railway line was blocked after a tree fell on a train in central Tokyo without causing injuries. Services were restored on this and most other lines within a few hours. About 55 flights to and from Tokyo's Haneda and Narita airports were cancelled, public broadcaster NHK said. The aftermath of the storm brought record high temperatures for the normally chilly month of December to some areas of Japan, NHK said. — Reuters.

London, Dec 5 — Understood that Fukada Salvage & Marine, Tokyo, have been contracted to salvage chemical/oil carrier *Kissho Maru*.

London, Dec 6 — A press report, dated today, states: A rapidly growing low-pressure system brought typhoon-class winds to the Japanese archipelago from Saturday night (Dec 4) to Sunday morning, causing blackouts, stranding vessels and paralysing some air and land traffic. In Tokyo, winds of 144 kph, the strongest ever observed in the capital, were recorded early Sunday morning. Elsewhere in the metropolitan area, winds reached 172 kph in Chiba and 150 kph in Yokohama. Tokyo had the warmest December temperature ever, as warm south-westerly winds followed the gales. Hokkaido was hit by heavy snow,

with up to 59 cm accumulating in the town of Taiki in eastern Hokkaido and 29 cm in Sapporo as of 1700 hrs. The winds caused power outages in more than 30,000 homes in Chiba Prefecture, where 15 people were injured in wind-related accidents. One of the injuries was listed as serious. At sea, the winds forced chem/oil carrier *Kissho Maru* to run aground off Tateyama, Chiba Prefecture, at around 1810 hrs. None of its five crew members was injured, Japan Coast Guard officials said. In Aomori Prefecture, cement *Fuyo Maru No.3* (2922 gt, built 1980), which had been berthed, drifted for about two hours after coming unmoored. The crew was rescued by helicopter. The winds resulted in the cancellation of more than 300 flights, including many at Tokyo's Haneda airport, affecting about 45,000 people. New Chitose Airport in Hokkaido was temporarily shut due to the heavy snow, and all flights at four other airports in Hokkaido were cancelled. A Qantas Airways plane from Sydney and 16 other aircraft were prevented from landing at Narita airport and had to change to other airports. The wind velocity reached 113 kph near Narita. On land, more than 100 train runs in the metropolitan area were canceled, while some runs on the Tokaido Shinkansen Line were delayed up to 83 minutes, while objects, blown onto the tracks by the winds, were removed. The Meteorological Agency said the low-pressure system was expected to bring heavy snowfall to Hokkaido until Monday morning.

Yokohama, Dec 9 — General cargo *Gang Tai*, 3881 gt, (built 1982) mooring (? moored) at Kisarazu pier was carried away when a mooring rope broke due strong wind at 0500, Dec 5. It was remoored with the assistance of two tugs at 0750 same day. Bulk *Voyager*, 55936 gt, (built 1982) contacted a light beacon due strong wind while underway in Tokyo Bay at 0730, Dec 5. Vessel was able to proceed under own power. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Gang Tai* arrived Kisarazu Dec 3 and sailed Dec 6 for Naoshima. *Voyager* had sailed Nagoya Dec 4 and arrived Kisarazu Dec 5.)

RUSSIA

London, Dec 7 — A press report, dated Dec 6, states: Novorossiysk port was closed for navigation at midday today (Dec 6) due to heavy swell up to 2-2.5 metres. Berthing operations at oil terminals have been suspended and pilots are working for unberthing only. Further deterioration in the weather is expected tonight.

London, Dec 8 — A press report, dated today, states: A strong cyclone, accompanied by gale-force winds and snowfall, has hit southern Kamchatka, specialists from the local meteorological service told Itar-Tass today. A storm warning has been issued in the region. The cyclone has approached Kamchatka from the Khabarovsk region. The weather is expected to improve by tomorrow morning, when the cyclone will move

north. Snowdrifts and strong wind are expected in the north of the Kamchatka peninsula tomorrow.

SOUTH AFRICA

London, Dec 4 — A press report, dated today, states: A gusting storm, which hit Johannesburg International Airport yesterday afternoon, damaged several passenger jets so badly that they had to be grounded, disrupting flights. The storm was one of the worst in living memory at the airport and damage, which is still being determined, could run into millions. Aircrafts from South African Airways and British Airways-Comair, which operate on domestic routes, were worst hit. Boeing 737-800's owned by SAA had wing damage, while two Airbus A-319 aircraft and a larger Airbus A340-200 were damaged when ground equipment, including boarding chutes, collapsed. SAA spokesperson Rich Mkhondo said a thorough inspection of the damaged craft would have to be done and, depending on what was found, repairs would be carried out. Jacqui O'Sullivan, Airports Company of South Africa spokesperson, said no passengers were injured but three crew members and three ground handling staff were treated for cuts and bruises. There was a knock-on effect on departure and arrival flights with delays of between one to two hours. If the bill runs into millions, the department of civil aviation will become involved. If the damage is comparatively minor, the airlines will repair the aircraft and put them back into service.

TROPICAL CYCLONE "AGNI"

London, Dec 3 — Following received from the Meteorological Office: Tropical cyclone "Agni", near lat 9.0N, long 53.5E, at 0600, UTC, Dec 3. Movement past six hours 290 deg at six knots. Position accurate to within 60 nautical miles, based on centre located by satellite. Maximum sustained winds 40 knots with gusts to 50 knots. Radius of 34-knot winds 100 nautical miles north semicircle, 50 nautical miles elsewhere. Forecast for 0600, UTC, Dec 4: Position lat 7.4N, long 50.6E. Maximum sustained winds 35 knots with gusts to 45 knots.

TYPHOON "MAEMI"

Busan, Dec 9 — Further examinations of floating hotel *Ferris Flotel*, when it had been righted, showed heavier damage than expected at the initial stage and it was decided that it would be scrapped at the site. The floating hotel is now being scrapped at the site and expected to be completed in January, 2005. — Lloyd's Sub-agents. (See issue of Jul 28.)

TYPHOON "NANMADOL"

London, Dec 3 — A press report, dated today, states: The Philippines is rushing to bury hundreds of people killed in storms this week, as typhoon "Nanmadol" barreled out to sea after cutting a swathe of destruction across the north of the country overnight. Officials estimate that up to 1,000

people may have been killed in the last few days by ferocious weather, the vast majority of them by a tropical storm earlier in the week that triggered heavy flooding and landslides. Body bags and lime were flown into towns devastated by the savage storms that turned streams into raging torrents of muddy water carrying boulders and logs that destroyed everything in their path. Around the town of Real, one of the worst hit areas, many of the dead were being buried in makeshift graves and marked with wooden crosses until proper burials could be arranged, amid fears of possible outbreaks of disease. Local television footage showed crudely-made plywood coffins being thrown into water-filled holes and quickly covered in mud. Schools in much of the country remained closed today along with government offices and financial markets. The civil defence office said at least eight people were killed by "Nanmadol" through drowning, hypothermia and falling trees and power lines mostly in the Bicol peninsula southeast of Manila. More than 70,000 people fled their homes in the main Philippine island of Luzon as "Nanmadol" brought heavy rains, knocking out power in some parts of the island, including areas in Metropolitan Manila. Packing winds of up to 180 km an hour, the typhoon pulled away from the main island of Luzon before dawn and at 0200 today, it was charted 90 km south-west of the northern city of Laoag, moving north-west at 22 km per hour heading toward Hong Kong. However the government weather station said the northern half of Luzon would still experience rough weather from the lingering effects of the typhoon. "Nanmadol's" path through the country yesterday brought rains and heavy winds that swelled floods and hampered rescue efforts for the victims of an earlier storm that hit the country from Sunday, leaving at least 922 dead or missing. Five towns north of Manila were still covered with floodwater with power not yet restored in the capital and some parts of northern Luzon and in the islands of Catanduanes and Samar. The cost of damage from "Nanmadol" still had to be tallied but initial estimates from the earlier storm were placed at 193.39 million pesos \$3.4m, the civil defence office said. As "Nanmadol" pulled away from the country, ferry services resumed and navy vessels set out to reach the storm-hit town of Real, which suffered 458 dead or missing and which had previously been cut off by landslides that blocked roads and knocked down bridges and rough waters that had prevented boats from reaching there. The government has placed seven regions in Luzon under a "state of calamity" to speed up the release of relief funds for these areas. Yesterday the military carried some 200 body bags into the Real area. Today the government said it was sending another 200 body bags to Real and Infanta, another disaster area nearby, along with 200 kilograms (442 pounds) of lime. Relief workers said they could not wait for body bags and chemicals to

arrive to bury the dead. Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit said yesterday that bodies should be buried "as soon as possible" to prevent the outbreak of disease. President Gloria Arroyo visited Real town yesterday to oversee relief efforts and blamed illegal logging for the deadly avalanches.

Taipei, Dec 3 — Taiwan issued an alert to ships off its southern coast and warned of torrential rain and possible landslides as a rare winter typhoon approached today after the storm left thousands homeless by landslides and floods and left 1,000 dead or missing in the Philippines. Taiwan has been battered by a series of typhoons and tropical storms this year, but Typhoon "Nanmadol" would be the first in 100 years to threaten the island in December, the Central Weather Bureau said. By 0800 the storm's centre was about 310 miles south-east of Oluampi, Taiwan's southernmost tip, and was moving north-west at 11 mph, the bureau said. With maximum sustained winds of 81 mph and gusts of up to 103 mph, "Nanmadol" could pose a threat to the island despite showing signs of weakening in the past few hours. The weather bureau is expected to issue a land warning later in the day. — Reuters.

London, Dec 3 — Following received from the Meteorological Office: Typhoon "Nanmadol" near lat 18.7N, long 118.6E, at 0600, UTC, Dec 3. Movement past six hours 335 deg at nine knots. Position accurate to within 60 nautical miles, based on centre located by satellite. Maximum sustained winds 70 knots with gusts to 85 knots. Radius of 64-knot winds 50 nautical miles north semicircle, 30 nautical miles elsewhere. Radius of 50-knot winds 50 nautical miles south-west quadrant, 55 nautical miles south-east quadrant, 80 nautical miles elsewhere. Radius of 34-knot winds 180 nautical miles north semicircle, 130 nautical miles elsewhere. Forecast for 0600, UTC, Dec 4: Position lat 23.2N, long 121.7E. Maximum sustained winds 45 knots with gusts to 55 knots. Becoming extratropical. Radius of 34-knot winds 80 nautical miles north-east and south-west quadrants, 55 nautical miles elsewhere.

London, Dec 4 — A press report, dated today, states: Tropical storm "Nanmadol" fizzled out today off southern Taiwan after killing one woman, leaving another three missing and disrupting road and air traffic. "We downgraded the typhoon to an extratropical cyclone at 1730, AEDT, as it is rapidly moving east-northeast away from Taiwan," said an official from the central weather bureau. The bureau urged residents in low-lying areas to remain vigilant against floods because the cyclone may continue bringing heavy rain to the island. "Nanmadol" roared towards Taiwan yesterday after battering the Philippines and killing about 35 people there. It made landfall at southern Pingtung early today, bringing strong winds and heavy rain. A woman was killed in the southern county of Tainan when a falling billboard hit her head

while three men were missing in the east of the country, the national rescue centre said. Most rail and air services that had been cancelled this morning resumed in the afternoon.

Manila, Dec 4 — The Philippine Coast Guard lifted yesterday its Order closing the ports of Tabaco, Matnog, Catanduanes, Pilar, Sorsogon, Masbate and Batangas. Likewise, lifted was a grounding order preventing all vessels of less than 1,000 gross tonnage capacity from sailing from all ports. The order was issued following the entry of typhoon "Nanmadol" into the Philippines. Thousands of passengers were stranded in various Philippine ports as a result of the grounding order. With the typhoon entering the South China Sea yesterday, the Coast Guard lifted its grounding orders. Local maritime regulations allow the Philippine Coast Guard to confine vessels to port during heavy seas. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

London, Dec 4 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, timed 1641, UTC, today: Tropical Storm "Nanmadol" has now become extratropical. No further bulletins.

London, Dec 4 — A press report, dated today, states: Philippines President Gloria Arroyo has suspended logging and vowed punishment for law-breakers as the country reels from four deadly storms in two weeks. Legal and illegal logging is blamed for worsening the impact of the storms, which have left 1,000 dead or missing. Permits to fell trees across the nation will no longer be issued, pending a review of the environmental effect and illegal loggers would be punished like "terrorists and kidnappers", Mrs Arroyo said, visiting badly hit areas. She also revoked existing licences in the worst-hit areas. The Red Cross says about 800,000 people need help in the wake of the past fortnight's storms and aid agencies have launched an appeal for more than \$2m for aid relief. President Arroyo today flew by helicopter to visit residents and relief workers in three devastated towns, General Nakar, Infanta and Real. Eight officials have already been sacked for failing to check illegal logging in their areas, the Manila Times newspaper reported on its website, but experts say the problem is more complex than just cracking down on loggers as poverty drives many people to fell trees with little regard for the law. Legal loggers are also responsible for much damage, campaigners say. "There's hardly a difference between so-called illegal loggers and legal loggers," said Orlando Mercado, a former senator who tried and failed to pass bills outlawing logging in the 1990s.

General Nakar, Philippines, Dec 7 — Soldiers manned bulldozers and residents pitched in with shovels and rakes as Philippine authorities cleared mud, logs and debris today from flood-hit towns where hundreds have died. Disaster officials said 657 people were killed and 718 were missing after two weeks of storms caused floods and landslides across a swathe of the

northern Philippines. Three towns on the east coast bore the brunt of the casualties. The military said relief operations had been slowed by local politics with survivors accusing some officials of distributing food, drinking water and clothes to their supporters first. Mud that buried houses started to harden as the sun shone for the first time in more than a week. The tops of street signs barely jutted out of the ground. For some people, cleaning out up to six feet of mud from their homes was too much. Some queued to escape the devastation on helicopters bringing in aid while others boarded boats to escape the devastation. As the weather improved, air force helicopters and navy ships resumed delivery of emergency supplies and heavy equipment to clear roads of mud, logs and other debris, but clean water is in short supply and fears of disease are running high. Damage to crops, fisheries and infrastructure was estimated at 3.25 billion pesos (\$58 million). Residents of Real, Infanta and General Nakar who chose to remain in the towns slopped mud from houses, took inventories of belongings and tried to pick up the pieces of their lives. Lieutenant-Colonel Restituto Padilla, an air force spokesman, said more than 20 helicopters, including two U.S. Navy Blackhawks, were shuttling relief goods into devastated areas and returning with survivors. Padilla said the U.S. Navy would send larger helicopters tomorrow that can carry up to 5,000 pounds of cargo or up to 25 passengers to speed relief efforts. Hundreds of soldiers delivered emergency rations on foot, climbing to mountain villages not accessible by helicopter. Logging has again been blamed for exacerbating damage from a natural disaster. President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo said at the weekend she was cancelling all permits to cut and haul trees. — Reuters.

Earthquakes



CHILE

London, Dec 8 — A report, dated today, states: A moderate earthquake occurred at 0603, UTC, Dec 8. The magnitude 5.8 event has been located near the coast of central Chile in lat 20.88S, long 71.14W. The hypocentral depth was poorly constrained. Depth 26 km.

INDIA-BANGLADESH BORDER REGION

London, Dec 9 — A report, dated today, states: A moderate earthquake occurred at 0849, UTC, today. The magnitude 5.5 event has been located on the India-Bangladesh border region in lat 24.71N, long 92.52E, depth 39 km.

INDONESIA

London, Dec 3 — A report, dated Dec 2, states: A moderate earthquake

occurred at 0332, UTC, today. The magnitude 5.6 event has been located in Papua, Indonesia, in lat 03.35S, long 135.38E, depth 10 km.

London, Dec 3 — A report, dated Dec 2, states: A moderate earthquake occurred at 0345, UTC, today. The magnitude 5.8 event has been located in Papua, Indonesia, lat 03.32S, long 135.48E, depth 10 km.

London, Dec 9 — A press report, dated today, states: An earthquake measuring 5.8 on the Richter scale rocked the western part Indonesia's densely populated Java island early today but there were no reports of casualties or damage, officials said. The quake jolted Ciamis district at 0114, local time, and was strongly felt in neighbouring Tasikmalaya in West Java province, said Suharjono of the national seismology centre. The epicentre was in the Indian Ocean, he said. A Red Cross worker in Ciamis said there were no immediate reports of casualties or damage.

JAPAN

London, Dec 7 — A press report, dated today, states: A strong earthquake shook northern Japan late yesterday, slightly injuring two people, but causing no serious damage. Japan's Meteorological Agency said the magnitude-7.0 quake, which struck off the coast of Japan's northernmost main island of Hokkaido at 2315 hrs, was centred about 31 miles beneath the ocean floor. The agency quickly issued a tsunami warning for the eastern shores of Hokkaido's Pacific coastal area, but later lifted it after determining that any waves were unlikely to cause damage. In Akkeshi, where the temblor hit hardest, broken glass cut a 9-year-old boy and some residents reported items fell off shelves, said town official Yasuhiko Sado. In Nakashibetsu, north of Akkeshi, a 77-year-old woman was treated for a gash on her chin, Kyodo News agency said. Neither injury was serious. Public broadcaster NHK showed video of an office in Nemuro city, about 556 miles northwest of Tokyo, shaking for about 30 seconds. Train service in eastern Hokkaido was suspended for safety inspections, and homes in some areas lost power, NHK said.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

London, Dec 3 — A press report, dated Dec 2, states: A strong earthquake shook Trinidad today, damaging several buildings south of the capital, officials and residents said. No injuries or damage to the country's important oil and gas industry were reported. The temblor had a preliminary magnitude of 5.4, according to the US National Earthquake Information Service in Golden, Colorado. The epicentre was near the town of Mayaro, some 12.5 miles south of Port-of-Spain. It was the first recorded earthquake of this magnitude to hit land in Trinidad, said Stacey Edwards, a spokeswoman for the Seismic Research Unit at the University of the West Indies in Trinidad. The tremors could be felt as

far away as Crown Point, Tobago, on the island's south-west corner, Edwards said.

Political & Civil Unrest



AFGHANISTAN

London, Dec 8 — A press report, dated today, states: Two suspected Taliban and four Afghan soldiers were killed in skirmishes preceding Afghan presidential inauguration, a US military spokesman said today. "There were four engagements between the coalition, Afghan forces and Anti-Coalition Militia (ACM) over the past 24 hours preceding presidential inauguration in which four Afghan soldiers were killed and two others wounded in Khost province," Mark McCann told journalists. Despite Taliban's threat to sabotage the presidential inauguration, Afghan leader Hamid Karzai was sworn in as the first popularly elected president of Afghanistan yesterday amid tight security. Going into details, the US military spokesman added that in an attack against an outpost four Afghan soldiers were killed in the southeast Khost province. "In another engagement between coalition and enemy the coalition killed two enemy soldiers," he noted. The spokesman also confirmed that the ACM fired rockets on the US base in Khost province but left no casualties.

BURUNDI

London, Dec 4 — A press report, dated Dec 2, states: The Burundi government and the United Nations have begun disarming thousands of soldiers and former rebels as well as forming a new national army. The process of ending more than 11 years of civil conflict between ethnic Hutu armed rebel groups and the Tutsi-dominated army began with a symbolic ceremony. President Domitien Ndayizeye and the head of the UN operation in Burundi, Carolyn McAskie, set on fire 100 guns that were handed in by former fighters. However, the programme is due to take four years, and there remain difficult issues to resolve - not least that the FNL rebel group remains active around the capital, Bujumbura. More than 200 representatives from the government army and four armed rebel groups will now spend 10 days together, following sessions on how to integrate into ordinary civil life. The first batch to leave has done so on a voluntary basis and all belong to the lowest ranks in the army and among the former rebels. Some 55,000 combatants are due to be disarmed within the next four years, but the process will be gradual because it does not just consist of disarming and demobilising, it also includes plans to integrate them back into society. The starting point is an 18-month salary package given to the demobilised. Back

in their home villages, they will also receive small business training. The beginning of the disarmament and demobilisation process is a further signal that the 11-year civil war is gradually coming to its end, but people remain sceptical.

COLOMBIA

London, Dec 7 — A press report, dated Dec 6, states: The Colombian authorities have arrested 56 members of the right-wing paramilitaries allegedly involved in the drugs trade. Among those captured were three serving members of the security forces. The arrests come as the peace process with the paramilitary AUC, or United Self-Defence Forces of Colombia, enters a sensitive phase. Authorities attribute more than 100 murders to the group of paramilitaries over the last 18 months. The men came from a unit known as The Liberators of the South, well known for its involvement in the drugs trade, running cocaine shipments from the Pacific coast. Two officers and a sergeant in the security services were among those arrested. There has long been evidence of links between the security forces and the right-wing paramilitaries, who share a common enemy in the Marxist rebels, although the military have made great advances in severing links. The arrests come as the peace process between the AUC and the government hits a major hurdle. The senior paramilitary negotiator, Salvatore Mancuso - just one of the AUC leaders with a US extradition warrant for drugs trafficking - has said that, should the government not give him immunity from extradition, he will take up arms again. Since Colombia receives more than \$600m (£308m) a year from the US in aid, the government is unlikely to refuse to deliver those wanted for extradition, putting the whole peace process in jeopardy.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

London, Dec 2 — A press report, dated today, states: Thousands of civilians are fleeing clashes between Rwandan Hutu rebels and unidentified opponents near the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) town of Goma, a senior UN official says. Bernard Le Flaive, of the UN's Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, says that thousands of DRC civilians are "fleeing to Kanya, Kanyabayunga and Kirumba," which are settlements about 150 kilometres north of Goma. Mr Le Flaive did not identify whom the rebels are fighting.

London, Dec 3 — A press report, dated today, states: Members of the UN Security Council in New York have met to discuss the reported incursion of Rwandan troops into eastern DR Congo. The head of UN peacekeeping, Jean-Marie Guehenno, said there had been indications of Rwandan presence inside DR Congo but no conclusive evidence. Rwanda's president has denied reports that any of his country's troops have crossed the border. The UN says its peacekeepers should be used to disarm any Hutu rebels. President Paul

Kagame has said that his forces are ready to take action against Hutu fighters based in DR Congo, some of whom took part in the 1994 Rwandan genocide. UN peacekeepers say they have seen about 100 soldiers in DR Congo whom they believe are Rwandan. "The general sense is that there were Rwandan troops, although nobody can really confirm it in the clearest way," Algeria's UN ambassador Abdallah Baali said after the meeting. The Congolese government said 6,000 Rwandan troops had crossed the border and attacked villages. It has asked the Security Council to condemn Rwanda's action and impose sanctions against President Kagame. But an adviser to the president told a news conference that no Rwandan troops had crossed the border. "All reported sightings of Rwandan troops in the DRC are false. Rwanda does not have any troops in the Democratic Republic of Congo," said Richard Sezibera.

London, Dec 6 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Militia fighters wounded two U.N. soldiers today when they fired on peacekeeping troops sent to investigate a reported mass grave of militia victims, including child combatants, in north-east Ituri province, a U.N. spokesman said. The clash occurred near the town of Mahagi near the camp of a militia calling itself "the Army of the Congolese People," a group that includes members of the local Hema tribe, U.N. spokesman Christophe Boulierarch said. U.N. authorities had received reports of a mass grave that included child fighters killed after trying to disarm under a U.N.-led disarmament campaign, Boulierarch said by telephone from Mahagi. Today, U.N. forces were fired upon when they reached the militia camp, Boulierarch said. The U.N. troops fired warning shots, and urged militia fighters to send out their women and children. Instead, the fighters used the noncombatants as human shields, Boulierarch said.

GEORGIA

London, Dec 6 — A press report, dated today, states: Four explosions shook the capital of Georgia's breakaway region of Abkhazia early today but caused no casualties or damage, the Interfax news agency reported, a day after the two candidates vying for the region's presidency agreed to conduct new elections and run on a joint ticket. Russian news agencies, citing opposition leader Sergei Bagapsh, reported that the election date could be set for Dec 26. The surprise agreement between Bagapsh and former Prime Minister Raul Khadzhimba yesterday followed a promise by Bagapsh to hold his own inauguration - a move that had threatened to stoke already high tensions in the mostly Muslim Black Sea province. The region has been paralysed since the Oct 3 presidential election, in which Bagapsh claimed victory over Khadzhimba in the first contested presidential election in 10 years of self-declared independence for the separatist region in the former Soviet republic of Georgia. Russian

President Vladimir Putin openly backed the establishment candidate and all indications were that Bagapsh won in spite of alleged fraud by the rival camp. "We agreed to act as one team," Bagapsh said yesterday after hours-long negotiations that included Russian mediators. "Khadzhimba is a courageous person and we've been able to prevent the situation from being aggravated further." The ITAR-Tass news agency reported that Bagapsh would be the presidential candidate and Khadzhimba would be the vice presidential candidate, under the agreement. "We agreed that tomorrow we will conduct all activities aimed at defusing the situation that has arisen, so that we will be able to conduct new elections and that we will be on one team," Khadzhimba said in comments broadcast on Russian television.

INDIA

London, Dec 3 — A press report, dated today, states: At least four Indian police officers have been killed in an attack by suspected militants in Indian-administered Kashmir. A gunbattle between the two sides is continuing after the attack on a paramilitary camp in the border town of Sopore, police say. The police said two militants attacked the camp of India's Central Reserve Police Forces (CRPF) at Sopore, 50km from the state's summer capital, Srinagar, early today. A local police officer said that militants had hurled grenades and fired on the camp. The police and soldiers have cordoned off the camp. Reinforcements have been rushed in. "No militant group has claimed responsibility for any attack and the fate of the militants is still unclear. The violence happened even as India and Pakistan begun a second days of talks in Islamabad to discuss restarting a second rail link between their two countries. The talks mark the start of the second phase of "composite dialogue" between the nuclear-armed neighbours. The aim is to resolve numerous disputes including the Kashmir question. Violence has decreased in Kashmir since a ceasefire between India and Pakistan last November.

Srinagar, Dec 5 — Separatist militants detonated a powerful land mine in Indian Kashmir killing eleven people, including nine soldiers in one of the biggest attacks in recent weeks, police said today. The jeep in which the men were travelling was blown apart when it ran over the land mine late yesterday in Pulwama, south of summer capital Srinagar. A spokesman for Kashmir's front-line rebel group Hizbul Mujahideen called up newspaper offices in Srinagar and claimed responsibility for the blast. The victims included the driver and another civilian accompanying the soldiers who were headed for an operation against militants, said to be hiding in nearby mountains. Five policemen and two rebels died in a gunbattle yesterday after the guerrillas entered a police camp in Sopore in northern Kashmir. — Reuters.

IRAQ

Baghdad, Dec 3 — Guerrillas stormed a police station in southern Baghdad today and detonated a car bomb outside a Shi'ite Muslim mosque in a tense northern area of the capital in attacks that killed at least 25 people, police said. In a well-planned assault shortly after dawn today gunmen fired mortars at the police station in the Seydiya district before bursting into the compound and hunting down policemen inside, survivors of the attack said. They said six police were wounded. The insurgents also freed around 50 prisoners from the jail in the police station and set two police pick-up trucks ablaze. In the Aadhamiya neighbourhood, a stronghold of Saddam Hussein supporters where insurgents have launched frequent attacks on US troops and Iraqi security forces, a car bomb blast outside a mosque killed at least 14 people, police said. Aadhamiya is a mainly Sunni district. An attack on a Shi'ite mosque in the area is likely to heighten religious tensions. US forces say insurgents are trying to incite civil conflict. Guerrillas trying to drive out US-led troops and overthrow the American-backed government of Prime Minister Iyad Allawi have mounted repeated attacks on Iraqi security forces, targeting police stations and checkpoints with suicide bombs and kidnapping and killing scores of police and National Guard. The violence threatens to derail Iraq's first democratic elections in decades, scheduled for Jan 30. The US military has acknowledged that insurgent violence will intensify as the poll approaches and has announced it will increase its troop strength in Iraq to 150,000 — the highest ever figure. Many among Iraq's 20% Sunni Arab minority — from which the insurgency draws the core of its support — have called for a delay in the elections, saying that violence in Sunni areas will prevent the polls being free and fair. Sunni Arabs, who dominated Iraq during the rule of Saddam, fear they will be marginalised in the new Iraq, as the 60% Shi'ite majority exercises its newfound political clout. Shi'ites, however, insist that the elections should go ahead on time, arguing that any delay would be a surrender to terrorism. Iraq's Kurds in the north say they are ready for elections, but would accept a delay if others wanted it. — Reuters.

Baghdad, Dec 4 — Twin suicide car bombs blew up outside a police station near Baghdad's Green Zone on Saturday, killing seven people and wounding 57 in the latest deadly strike against Iraq's shaky security forces. Police sources said the simultaneous explosions, which shook the city center shortly after 0930 hrs, also destroyed 35 vehicles, including 17 police cars. It was not clear how many of those killed were police. A thick column of black smoke rose from the site of the blasts, near a main entrance to the Green Zone, home to the interim Iraqi government and several foreign embassies. The heavy thud of machinegun fire could be heard

immediately after the explosions as Iraqi police returned fire. Also today, one U.S. soldier was killed and one wounded when a roadside bomb hit their convoy near Baquba, northeast of Baghdad, the army said. — Reuters.

Baghdad, Dec 5 — Guerrillas attacked a U.S. patrol in Mosul yesterday, killing two American soldiers and wounding four, the U.S. military said today. Since the U.S.-led invasion to oust Saddam Hussein last year, a total of 993 U.S. military personnel have been killed in action in Iraq. — Reuters.

Tikrit, Dec 5 — Guerrillas killed 17 Iraqis and wounded 13 today in an attack on buses taking them to work at a weapons dump near the town of Tikrit north of Baghdad, the U.S. army said. A spokesman for the 1st Infantry Division said gunmen in two cars opened fire on two civilian buses as the workers were being dropped off at the site. He said the Iraqis were employed through a civilian contracting company called Bushmaster Inc., which is involved in disposal of unexploded ordnance. Insurgents have killed more than 60 Iraqis in a series of attacks over the past three days. — Reuters.

London, Dec 6 — A press report, dated today, states: Insurgents blew up part of a domestic oil pipeline in northern Iraq early today, sending flames and black smoke billowing into the sky, police said. Col. Mahmoud Ahmed said a bomb struck a section of a pipeline some 10 miles south of Samarra, which is 60 miles north of Baghdad. The pipeline transports oil from the Beiji refinery to the Dora refinery in Baghdad for domestic use. Oil supply to the pipeline has been stopped to enable the fire to be extinguished. The extent of the damage was not immediately clear.

Mosul, Dec 7 — Gunmen bombed two churches in the tense Iraqi city of Mosul today, fueling fears of ethnic and sectarian unrest ahead of an election next month. The insurgent war of attrition against U.S. forces and their Iraqi proteges claimed another American life in Baghdad, taking the U.S. combat death toll to 1,000 since last year's invasion. At least four Iraqi National Guard troopers were also killed in two incidents, one in the capital and another further south. A new CIA assessment, reported by the New York Times, gave a gloomy picture of Iraq's future, seeing further insecurity if the government fails to assert itself and promote prosperity. Iraq's U.S.-backed prime minister, Iyad Allawi, reaffirmed the election date of Jan 30 but raised the prospect of troubled regions taking two or three weeks longer to vote — a proposal that could not immediately be checked with election officials and would break a U.N. deadline of Jan 31 for the ballot. No one was killed nor, it appeared, injured, in the bombings in Mosul; smoke billowed from one of the northern city's Armenian churches and one of its oldest Chaldean churches was ablaze and a wall shattered. The attackers were not identified. The unidentified soldier killed today was on

patrol in Baghdad when guerrillas opened fire with rifles. Earlier in the day, the Pentagon had issued a revised combat casualty toll of 999 and the death toll thus took the toll since the invasion on March 20 last year to 1,000. A further 275 U.S. troops have died in accidents or other incidents not classified as being killed in action. The American death toll had risen sharply last month during the U.S. assault on Sunni insurgents in the city of Falluja. At least 71 Americans were killed there. A total of 9,765 U.S. troops have been wounded. — Reuters.

Samarra, Dec 8 — Three Iraqis were killed today when a suicide car bomber attacked a U.S. convoy in the northern city of Samarra, a local police official said. In a separate incident, an Iraqi policeman was killed when insurgents opened fire on American soldiers in the town that the Iraqi interim government has said it has seized from guerrillas. There were no immediate reports of U.S. casualties. — Reuters.

ISRAEL

London, Dec 9 — A press report, dated today, states: Israeli soldiers have killed five Palestinians who were trying to cross from the Gaza Strip into Egypt. Military sources say the unidentified men were killed when troops opened fire at them, after they were seen crawling towards the Egyptian border. The Israeli Army says it is unclear if the men were arms smugglers or militants on their way to carry out a terrorist attack. The area in which the five were killed is the scene of frequent clashes between Israeli soldiers and Palestinian militants. (See issue of Nov 29.)

NEPAL

London, Dec 6 — A press report, dated today, states: Maoist rebels called a dawn-to-dusk strike aimed at blocking all road traffic in the far southeast of Nepal to protest the alleged deaths of two rebel commanders in army custody, Maoist sources said. The rebels aimed to block road traffic from the industrial town of Mechi, about 380 kilometres from the capital Kathmandu. They also hoped to shut down schools, factories and shops in response to the deaths of commanders Devendra Paudel and Bishnu Pradhan who were allegedly arrested by the army in eastern Nepal last week and killed, the source said today. There was no immediate comment from army officials. Commuter buses halted service because of the strike, said Hira Tuladhar, a National Transport Service Organization official. In weekend clashes between Nepalese security forces and rebels, a dozen soldiers and police and 40 Maoist rebels were killed, according to an army source. The Maoists said 16 rebels and 18 security force members died in clashes. Rebels continue to hold a judge and a former aide to the late King Birendra who were kidnapped in southwest Nepal over the weekend, police said. Armed Maoists kidnapped district court chief judge Tanka Bahadur Moktan on Friday (Dec 3). In a separate incident

Saturday (Dec 4) they abducted Chet Bahdur Kunwar, a former personal secretary to the late king, officials said.

Kathmandu, Dec 9 — Suspected Maoists rebels set off a powerful bomb in the heart of the Nepali capital today, causing no casualties but badly damaging the offices of a state-run agricultural company, police said. The blast came exactly a week after two explosions in Kathmandu also blamed on Maoist rebels fighting to topple impoverished Nepal's constitutional monarchy. Police said two young men entered the building compound this morning before office hours, overpowered the guard and planted the bomb. The men told the guard they were Maoists before ordering him to flee. "There was a massive explosion three minutes after they left," a police officer told Reuters. — Reuters.

NIGERIA

London, Dec 6 — A press report, dated Dec 5, states: Representatives of a remote community in southern Nigeria's Delta region have taken over three oil installations. The plants are run by the Nigerian wing of the Anglo-Dutch multi-national, Shell, and the American company, Chevron-Texaco. A Shell representative said staff had been prevented from leaving, no formal demands had been made, but a community spokesman said his people were protesting because they felt they had been overlooked for jobs. Early this morning, men and women from the Kula community in River state stormed at least three oil installations. They closed down the Shell-operated Ekulama One flow station and then occupied the nearby Ekulama Two. The Chevron-run Robertkiri flow station was also affected. A Shell spokesman said that at Ekulama Two, 75 Shell staff and their contractors had been told by the demonstrators that they could not leave the premises. He added that oil production had been affected. The paramount ruler of Kula, chief Dan Opusingi, said that his people had decided to stage the peaceful protest because they have been overlooked for jobs and development by the oil companies.

Port Harcourt, Dec 7 — Protests at three Nigerian oil platforms kept output from the world's eighth largest exporter restricted for a third day today as government negotiators worked to defuse the crisis. Almost 1,000 villagers including women and children stormed the platforms located deep in the swamps of the Niger Delta on Sunday (Dec 5), cutting output by 90,000 barrels per day (bpd) and trapping more than 100 oil workers stationed there. About 500 villagers left two Royal Dutch Shell platforms voluntarily yesterday and today on assurances that the company would not resume output of 70,000 bpd until a deal was agreed on jobs and other benefits. Hundreds of residents of Kula, a fishing village on the Atlantic seaboard, continued to occupy Chevron Texaco's Robertkiri platform, trapping 32 workers and keeping 20,000 bpd shut there, but the company said it

expected them to leave today ahead of direct talks tomorrow. "We have agreed a time, place and agenda for talks, so we expect progress in the next few hours in terms of vacating the facility," a spokesman for the California-based company said. The government is due to go to Kula to discuss the residents' grievances against the oil companies today ahead of tomorrow's talks mediated by the state government in Port Harcourt, the capital of Rivers state. Both companies said the disruption would not affect export commitments in the short term. The lost output is worth about \$3.5 million a day. — Reuters.

London, Dec 7 — A press report, dated today, states: Nigerian villagers have ended their three-day occupation of three oil installations in the Niger Delta. Anglo-Dutch energy giant Shell said the protestors on its two plants had departed to nearby village Freetown, today. Earlier, US company ChevronTexaco said Ijaw villagers had also halted their protest at its oil flow facility. Both firms will discuss with protesters their demands for greater regional investment tomorrow. The protest was over claims that villagers had been overlooked for jobs. The lost production is estimated at about 90,000 barrels a day. Nigeria's normal daily output is about 2.5 million barrels.

PAKISTAN

Karachi, Dec 6 — Pakistan state owned gas utility company-Sui Southern Gas Company (SSGC) said today that one of its gas pipelines of Indus Bank Pipeline (IBP) ruptured apparently due to blast at 2230, yesterday, near Sukkur in Sindh province. A spokesman of company said as a result, supply of gas is being suspended to Sukkur city, Kundanyar, Thari and some remote areas in northern part of province. A team of district head quarter has reached at site and started rescue operations of overhead crossing section of pipeline and hopefully supply would be restored later today. The team will also investigate cause of the explosion and loss. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

PHILIPPINES

London, Dec 5 — A press report, dated today, states: Troops killed a member of the Abu Sayyaf Muslim kidnap gang and captured four others in a raid in southern Philippines, officials said today. Soldiers and police raided the suspected hideout of the band in a suburb of Zamboanga City late yesterday, engaging members of the group in a brief gunbattle, local military chief Lieutenant General Alberto Braganza said. "One of the suspects was killed while four others were captured," Braganza said. A soldier was also wounded in the incident.

RUSSIA

London, Dec 7 — A press report, dated today, states: Eleven Russian soldiers were killed in the past 24 hours in various attacks and mine explosions in another wave of violence in the war-

torn rebel republic of Chechnya, military sources said today. The biggest single loss came when six interior ministry soldiers were killed and one injured when their truck was blown up yesterday by a remote controlled mine in the rebel capital Grozny, a Russian military source in Chechnya who asked not to be further identified said. Two soldiers were killed and three injured when another army truck was blown up this afternoon. Meanwhile, gun battles killed two Russian soldiers and a sapper died while trying to defuse a bomb outside the capital, military sources said.

SAUDI ARABIA

London, Dec 6 — A press report, dated today, states: Eighteen people have been taken hostage and four killed in an attack on the US consulate in Saudi Arabia. A shootout between gunmen and Saudi security staff is continuing and witnesses say the guards have stormed the building. The Associated Press reports say four gunmen are in the building. Reports say those killed were Saudi guards and the hostages are also Saudis. Two plumes of black smoke can be seen pouring from the building in Jeddah and officials say it is an “emergency case”. Eyewitnesses told Reuters news agency that several men breached security and threw hand grenades at the building. Saudi police are attempting to secure the consulate and one witness said that around 300 armed security staff were sealing off the area. Security surrounding the consulate is heavy with several checkpoints at the entrance and is unknown how the gunmen got through three checkpoints to get to the consulate.

Jeddah, Dec 7 — Militants stormed the heavily fortified U.S. consulate in Jeddah in a brazen raid yesterday and at least nine people died in gunbattles before security forces regained control. A statement on an Internet web site said the Saudi wing of al Qaeda had carried out the attack, the first major militant assault in Saudi Arabia since May and the first against a Western diplomatic mission. The Interior Ministry said security forces killed three attackers and captured another two wounded members of the “deviant” group — what the government calls al Qaeda. It said in a later statement one of those arrested died in hospital. The U.S. embassy said five local consulate employees died. Saudi security officials said four of their men were killed in the assault. However, Adel al-Jubeir, foreign affairs adviser to Saudi Arabia’s Crown Prince Abdullah, said “no Saudi special forces people were killed” but that two were wounded. The ministry said eight civilians from Arab and Asian nationalities had been slightly wounded as well as five security forces. It did not mention any fatalities among security forces. Jubeir told reporters by telephone that the five attackers approached the gate in two vehicles and when the first vehicle was stopped at an outside checkpoint, they got out and fought their way into the compound firing guns and lobbing

grenades. He said the attackers called a general emergency line to say they had taken 17 hostages and that security forces should not attack the compound to rescue them. After coordinating with U.S. Marines providing security to the consulate, Saudi forces stormed the compound and rescued some hostages, he added. Some of the eight consulate staff wounded in the attack told Reuters that militants had tried to use them as human shields. They held us hostage for an hour, an hour and a half. We were in two groups of about four and eight,” said Muaffa Jilan Ibrahim, a Yemeni maintenance worker who had superficial bullet wounds. “They told the security forces in front of us: ‘We have hostages. If you approach, we will shoot’. They put us in front of them as human shields. The security forces stormed in and there was an exchange of fire,” he said. — Reuters.

Riyadh, Dec 7 — Saudi Arabia today named three of the five militants who stormed the U.S. consulate in Jeddah, and said they were all Saudi nationals. An Interior Ministry statement named three of the attackers who were killed after yesterday’s raid, but none was on a list of 26 top wanted al Qaeda militants in the kingdom. It said the authorities were still trying to identify a fourth militant killed and would not reveal the name of the wounded fifth militant who is in custody. — Reuters.

SOMALIA

London, Dec 3 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Militiamen firing anti-tank weapons and heavy machine guns fought for a second day in central Somalia today in clashes that killed at least 30 people and sent thousands fleeing for safety, residents reported. At least 70 people including children were wounded in the fighting at Gelinsor town in Mudug region near the Ethiopian border, residents reached by radio from Mogadishu said. The residents said many buildings in Gelinsor, normally a settlement of 10 000 residents, were destroyed by fighters using recoilless rifles, anti-tank missiles, anti-aircraft guns fired horizontally and heavy machineguns mounted on pickup trucks. There was no immediate word what triggered the violence.

London, Dec 7 — A press report, dated today, states: Powerful Somali warlord Hussein Mohammed Aideed has been named and sworn in as a deputy prime minister. His rival for the post, Mohammed Qanyare Afrah, has also been sworn in as national security minister. The appointments complete the cabinet in the most serious attempt to impose order on a country carved up by rival militias during the past 13 years. “Let us go back home and face the realities on the ground... and rebuild Somalia,” the new prime minister said. Mr Aideed, who is home affairs minister as well as third deputy prime minister, is the son of the late General Mohamed Farah Aideed, who US forces vainly tried to capture in 1993. The swearing-in ceremony was held in neighbouring Kenya, because it remains too dangerous for them to be

based in the capital, Mogadishu “You cannot justify our presence in Kenya anymore. It cannot be accepted by the host country and international community as well,” said Prime Minister Ali Mohammed Ghedi. Hopes for success for this 13th attempt to form a government are higher because of the backing of neighbouring countries and the involvement of the main warlords. However, the challenges are enormous. At least 50 people have been killed in the past five days in fighting in central Somalia, according to reports and yesterday, a top United Nations official described the scale of suffering in Somalia, which is being largely ignored by the donor community, as a “moral outrage”. Jan Egeland, speaking after a visit to parts of Somalia, said that death rates were similar to Sudan’s Darfur region, which is getting lots of international aid. “The death rate among children in some parts of Somalia is five out of 10,000 people (per day),” said Mr Egeland, who heads the UN’s emergency relief agency. “We have to triple what we have today to attend to needs here like we are in Darfur. Life is worth as much in Somalia as it is in Darfur, or in Iraq.” Last year, funding for Somalia was \$60m - half of what the UN requested, he said.

SPAIN

Madrid, Dec 4 — The armed Basque separatist group ETA showed it was not a spent force with yesterday’s coordinated attacks at five Madrid petrol stations, but it also further isolated the guerrillas’ closest political allies, Batasuna. The attacks ended months of relative inactivity by ETA and were the first to hit Madrid in two years, signalling the group could still kill despite a fierce police crackdown. The bombs also dashed hopes for a Christmas truce or a distancing between ETA and Batasuna, the party accused of being ETA’s political wing and banned for not condemning ETA violence. Batasuna also declined to condemn the latest bombs and said today it was sticking by its proposal for peace talks unveiled last month. Mainstream parties said that refusal was a lost opportunity. “These attacks have once again shown up Batasuna,” the Basque regional government, led by the moderate Basque Nationalist Party, said after the bombs. “(Batasuna) should react politically ... if they don’t want their public pronouncement (on peace talks) to have been a waste of paper,” the Basque government said. ETA has been weakened by a police crackdown in Spain and France that has rounded up more than 100 suspects this year, including its top leadership. Yesterday’s attacks slightly wounded two police officers and snarled traffic for hours as Madrid people left the capital for a long holiday weekend. ETA forewarned of the blasts with a telephone call, allowing police to evacuate the five bomb sites. — Reuters.

Madrid, Dec 6 — The Basque separatist group ETA set off a series of bombs across Spain today, but no one was seriously injured in the resurgence

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of violence by the outlawed guerrillas, Spanish officials and media said. The small bombs — the second major ETA attack since Friday (Dec 3) — exploded simultaneously in cities up and down the country after ETA had called in warnings to a Basque newspaper. Ten people suffered hearing problems from a blast in Santillana del Mar, on Spain's northern coast, and one person experienced similar problems from the bomb in Ciudad Real south of Madrid, government officials said. Reuters confirmed other explosions in Valladolid, Leon, Avila. Spanish media also reported blasts in Malaga and Alicante on the southern coast. Today is a public holiday in Spain to celebrate the 1978 constitution, bitterly opposed by ETA for enshrining the Basque region as part of Spain. Police had warned of a possible ETA attack. None of today's blasts were within Spain's Basque Country. — Reuters.

SRI LANKA

London, Dec 3 — A press report, dated Dec 2, states: A strike called by the Tamil Tigers in Sri Lanka has shut down at least two checkpoints on the main road to the north and brought business to a halt. The rebels say the shutdown was in protest at violence against Tamils. Defence ministry officials say that thousands of people have been left stranded, and some need medical care. Yesterday, Sri Lanka's government rejected demands from the Tigers unconditionally to resume peace talks or face renewed military action. The BBC's Dumeetha Luthra in Colombo says that the strike, in the northern districts of Vavuniya and Mannar, comes amid growing concern that Sri Lanka may slip back into war. Both areas are traditional Tamil Tiger strongholds and both obeyed the call, bringing business to a halt. Defence ministry spokesman Daya Ratnayake said that the north was effectively cut off from the rest of the country. He said that the government was keeping a close watch on the situation which was mostly peaceful. There have been a large number of shootings over the last week in Sri Lanka, with accusations that many of the victims are Tamil civilians. Much of the violence took place between the Tamil and Sinhalese communities in the eastern town of Trincomalee, adding pressure to an already strained ceasefire. The rebels threatened at the weekend to return to military action unless discussions based on their blueprint for self-rule began again. But the government says any talks must take place alongside negotiations for a final political solution to the conflict.

THAILAND

Bangkok, Dec 6 — Fresh violence flared in mainly Muslim southern Thailand today, hours after the Air Force dropped an estimated 100 million origami "peace birds" to try and quell a wave of unrest which has claimed nearly 500 lives. Police said a bomb exploded at a road intersection near a market in the southern province of Narathiwat this morning, injuring at

least one soldier. Late yesterday evening, shortly after around 50 Thai Air Force planes "bombed" the largely Muslim region with paper birds as a symbol of peace, a roadside bomb exploded 100 km away in the same province, injuring a senior government official and damaging the car in which he was travelling, police said. The home of a teacher in Narathiwat, one of three provinces near the Malaysian border hit by violence, was burnt to the ground. In neighbouring Yala, a school building was slightly damaged by fire, although nobody was injured, officials said. In another incident, two gunmen shot dead a former prosecutor in Pattani province yesterday, police said. The bird campaign, launched by Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra weeks ahead of a general election, caught the imagination of the predominantly Buddhist country, even in Bangkok where sympathy for the Malay-speaking south is limited. — Reuters.

Bangkok, Dec 8 — Six Thai soldiers were wounded by an improvised bomb hidden under a road checkpoint in southern Thailand by suspected Muslim militants, police said today. The explosives, remotely triggered by a cellular phone late yesterday, had been planted in soft clay ground at the temporary checkpoint in predominantly Muslim Narathiwat province before the soldiers arrived, police told Reuters. Most of the soldiers sustained nail and glass shrapnel wounds. Narathiwat is in Thailand's deep south where an 11 month wave of violence blamed on criminal gangs and Muslim separatists has claimed nearly 500 lives. Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, who is likely to be re-elected in a general election due by February, faces his biggest security challenge in the restive region near the border with Malaysia. — Reuters.

UKRAINE

Kiev, Dec 4 — Ukrainian Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich said defiantly today he would take on opposition leader Viktor Yushchenko in a new election battle, a day after a court stripped him of his title of president-elect. Analysts however gave Moscow-backed Yanukovich little chance of stopping the liberal leader sweeping to an easy victory in the Dec 26 re-run. The prime minister's intentions were announced even as Yushchenko's supporters kept up their pressure on the streets of the capital Kiev following yesterday's landmark ruling by the Supreme Court that handed them a stunning victory by annulling results of a Nov 21 rigged poll that showed Yanukovich had won. Yushchenko's supporters, thousands of whom partied through the night on the streets of the capital, demonstrated noisily outside parliament as it met to discuss new laws that would pave the way for the election. Central election authorities confirmed the date of Dec. 26 for the repeat ballot. Yanukovich was dismissed by parliament on Wednesday, but outgoing President Leonid Kuchma has not yet signed a decree making the decision official. He

has been out of the public eye, apparently because of illness, for the past few days. Even Yanukovich's supporters acknowledged that Yushchenko's support had dramatically swelled in the past 13 days, and that he would go into the Dec 26 contest stronger than ever. The United States welcomed the court's decision, saying it was important the new vote be free and fair. Canada said it would send a large number of observers to monitor the rerun. In contrast to the festivities in Kiev and the Ukrainian-speaking west of the country, the court judgment has been met with dismay in several parts of the Russian-speaking eastern regions of the country that support Yanukovich. Deputies from several of these regions gathered in Kharkiv today, condemning the Supreme Court ruling and voicing support to Yanukovich. — Reuters.



NEPAL

London, Dec 5 — A press report, dated today, states: Suspected Maoist rebels in Nepal have kidnapped a judge and a former adviser to the late king, police say. They said Jhapa district court judge Tanka Bahadur Moktan was abducted in a village in the eastern area of Ilam. An adviser to King Birendra Chet Bahdur Kunwa was apparently seized in another incident in south-western Nepal. Mr Moktan was in his house when he was abducted on Friday afternoon (Dec 3), Nepal Samacharpatra newspaper reported. Suspected Maoist rebels said they had some business with him, the newspaper quoted family sources as saying. King Birendra's secretary was returning after attending the second World Buddhist Summit in Lumbini when he was kidnapped at Madaulia of Rupandehi district on Friday, reports said.



ARGENTINA

London, Dec 3 — A press report, dated today, states: Argentine telephone services began to fail as a strike by 20,000 phone workers demanding higher wages spread across Argentina. Calls from Buenos Aires to the Caribbean were severed and required operator assistance. Telefonica de Argentina SA, a unit of Spain's biggest phone company, said the strike caused the disruptions after workers stormed two buildings owned by Telefonica and Telecom Argentina SA, the nation's two biggest phone companies, and camped out outside. The service failures are

complicating business for travel agencies such as Eurovip Travel in Buenos Aires. Calls to Caribbean countries including Jamaica and Cuba require operator assistance and aren't being answered. Telefonica's Mirabelli, and Pablo Talamoni, spokesman for Telecom Argentina, said phone services to some countries have been cut off. Claudio Marin, head of the telephone workers union, said in an interview in Buenos Aires workers are demanding a 25 percent increase in wages and say the companies have refused to boost salaries as Argentina's economy expands.

BELIZE

Belize, Dec 6 — Ro/ro *Isle* (775 gt, built 1977) which arrived Belize City Dec 3, was initially unable to discharge cargo of regular/reefer goods due to an industrial dispute between the stevedores and the Port of Belize Ltd. Due to the intervention of the Belize Government, the regular stevedores offloaded the vessel in the afternoon Dec 3. The dispute between the stevedores/their Union and the Belize Ports Ltd is not yet resolved and the situation could be problematic in the future. — Lloyd's Agents.

INDIA

Karachi, Dec 7 — Import-export trade between Bangladesh and India through Benapole land-port came to a halt on Sunday (Dec 5) for an indefinite period as Indian truckers went on strike to press for the release of their two colleagues. According to local media reports, the transport workers staged demonstrations and held a protest rally in the morning at the main gate of Petrapole on the Indian side of the frontier amid unrest. Chase-and-counter-chase between Indian police and workers ensued as the law-enforcers tried to start the export-import operations. Miscreants looted two truckloads of denim fabrics bound for Bangladesh from India Nov 19. As a result, Police arrested two truck drivers in this connection. The arrest of the two truck drivers sparked off agitation and the protestors gave the administration a 15-day ultimatum for their release. "Perishable commodities worth million of Taka are rotting for the haulage halt due to the strike, causing financial losses to the importers," one of the traders said. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

IRISH REPUBLIC

London, Dec 3 — A press report, dated Dec 2, states: Irish Ferries' sailings to Holyhead and Pembroke were cancelled today after 1,000 ferry workers held a 24-hour strike. Hundreds marched on Ireland's parliament in Dublin. Union officials warned of a indefinite strike from Monday (Dec 6) over plans to lay off 150 staff on the French route. The company, which said the action was "illegal," said passengers were diverted onto rival carriers and services would resume tomorrow. Irish Ferries said the Dublin to Holyhead cruise ferry, the Holyhead to Dublin Swift fast ferry and the Rosslare to Pembroke services were affected. The company said it "deeply

regrets and apologies for the disruption and inconvenience which this action will cause to customers". It expected that services would be fully operating from 0600, UTC, tomorrow. Meanwhile, Ireland's Services, Industrial, Professional and Technical Union has called for Irish Ferries to reverse its plan to lay off about 150 workers on its French route and outsource the jobs to foreign workers. "We will mount an all-out strike until this issue is resolved," said SIPTU branch secretary Paul Smyth. Irish Ferries suspended its French services on Tuesday for the winter and plans to relaunch them in the spring using workers contracted from a foreign employment agency. The union claimed it had failed to negotiate and was seeking to exploit foreign workers on short-term contracts. The Irish Continental Group PLC, the parent company of Irish Ferries, said today's strike was illegal because it was called before any mediation by the government-appointed Labour Relations Commission or Labour Court.

London, Dec. 6 — The BBC reports today: Irish Ferries services to Holyhead and Pembroke have been cancelled, due to unofficial strike action, the company has said. The vessels' officers union, Siptu, is in dispute with the firm over plans to crew its services to France with staff from outside the Republic. The strike began at 1430, UTC, Dec 5, 16 hours before the union had said workers would take action. There are no sailings between Dublin and Holyhead or Rosslare and Pembroke Dock. On Sunday, Dec 5, the Irish Ferries ro/ro *Jonathan Swift*, spent around two hours stationed at the breakwater outside Holyhead Port, as the action began. It finally sailed into port around 1630, UTC, so passengers could disembark. In a statement issued on Sunday the company said it "deeply regrets" the action. "By engaging in such action, especially in the lead-up to Christmas, SIPTU vessels' officers are putting at risk the livelihood of their fellow seafarers and their 1,200 colleagues who work for Irish Ferries," said the company. It said the strike would undermine customer confidence and force passengers and freight to rival services. Sunday's action follows a one-day strike on Thursday (Dec 2), which also affected the Dublin to Holyhead cruise ferry, the Holyhead to Dublin Swift fast ferry and the Rosslare to Pembroke Dock services. The Services, Industrial, Professional and Technical Union (Siptu) has called for Irish Ferries to reverse its plan to lay off about 150 workers on its French route and outsource the jobs to foreign workers. Hundreds of staff marched on Ireland's parliament in Dublin on Thursday in protest at the plans. "We will mount an all-out strike until this issue is resolved," said Siptu branch secretary Paul Smyth. Irish Ferries suspended its French services on Tuesday for the winter and plans to relaunch them in the spring using workers contracted from a foreign employment agency. The union claimed it had failed to negotiate and was

seeking to exploit foreign workers on short-term contracts. Irish Ferries said outsourcing was "in the interests of safeguarding the long-term operation of the service in the face of competition from low-cost air carriers". Speaking on Thursday, Ireland's Marine Minister said any further disruption would have "serious effects for trade in and out of Ireland". "Such a scenario would have a hugely damaging impact, particularly in the run up to Christmas," he said.

London, Dec 7 — A press report, dated today, states: Irish Ferries services between Ireland and Wales have again been cancelled due to unofficial strike action. The ships' officers union, Siptu, is in dispute with the firm over plans to crew its services to France with staff from outside the Republic. The strike began on Sunday (Dec 5) and continued yesterday and today with all Irish ferries sailings cancelled. There are no sailings between Dublin and Holyhead or Rosslare and Pembroke Dock. Today, Irish Ferries appealed for the ships' officers to call off the action. The company reissued a statement, in which it said it "deeply regrets" the action. "By engaging in such action, especially in the lead-up to Christmas, SIPTU ships' officers are putting at risk the livelihood of their fellow seafarers and their 1,200 colleagues who work for Irish Ferries," said the company. It said the strike would undermine customer confidence and force passengers and freight to rival services. But Siptu branch secretary Paul Smyth denied his members were to blame and claimed they had been victims of a "lock out" by the company. "The company took the decision to close all the ramps and give passengers £150 compensation before the ships had arrived at Holyhead and Pembroke Dock," he told BBC Wales. Mr Smyth said Irish Ferries had pressed ahead with their policy and not looked to resolve the dispute.

London, Dec 8 — A press report, dated today, states: Exporters have warned that Irish trade will be severely affected if the Irish Ferries strike continues. Irish Ferries has cancelled sailings in addition to slashing hundreds of jobs in the stalemate over plans to outsource cheaper foreign labour. Up to 500 seafaring and ground staff will have been made redundant by this evening. The Irish Exporters Association has said they are struggling to cope with a 25% per cent shortage in export capacity and has warned that any further disruption, even from adverse weather conditions, will damage the Irish economy.



MEDICAL MALPRACTICE, UNITED STATES

London, Dec 3 — A press report, dated Dec 2, states: A Berkeley man who was

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left nearly blind following heart bypass surgery he did not need has been awarded \$3.3 million in one of the largest malpractice decisions against Kaiser Permanente in recent years. An arbitration panel made the award on Tuesday (Nov 30) to Kamal Azari, 51, a real estate developer, and his wife, Pari Azari. The couple received \$500,000 in damages for pain and suffering, the maximum under state law, and he received \$2.8 million in special damages for medical costs and loss of future earnings. Azari's attorney, Marvin Lewis Jr. of San Francisco, said his client had been devastated by his medical ordeal. "They got his records mixed up. They gave heart surgery to someone with a normal heart," he said. "His life has been terribly messed up as a result." Azari's vision was damaged after doctors failed to recognize internal bleeding following bypass surgery in October, 2002, Lewis said. The bleeding, along with a drug doctors gave to boost his blood pressure, compromised the supply of oxygen to his optical nerve. Kaiser admitted some liability in the case, saying that its doctors, instead of operating on Azari's heart, should have taken a more conservative approach, said spokeswoman Maureen McInaney. However, she said the HMO's doctors did not agree that the damage to Azari's vision was as severe as he claimed. Azari's attorney and medical consultants, however, alleged that Kaiser doctors had made grave mistakes at many stages of his treatment. Azari, who also owns a ranch in Petaluma, went to Kaiser San Rafael in September, 2002, complaining of pain in his left arm when he exercised. After a stress test and a procedure to look for arterial blockages, Kaiser doctors concluded that Azari needed bypass surgery to improve blood flow to his heart. But Azari's attorney and consulting experts said that Kaiser doctors had misread the results and that both tests had, in fact, shown Azari had good blood flow. In the case of the stress test, Azari's consulting doctor said that Kaiser physicians must simply have read another patient's test result. Then, as Azari was recuperating from bypass surgery at Kaiser's San Francisco hospital, doctors for many hours failed to recognise he was bleeding internally, his attorney said — and that when they did, they failed to correct it properly. His blindness occurred from the loss of oxygen-carrying blood to his eyes. Azari is nearly blind in his left eye and has only 30% of the vision in his right eye, his attorney said. The three-person arbitration panel concluded that his ability to continue working had been severely impaired and that he would have to hire others to do the work in his real estate business.

RAILWAY ACCIDENT, UNITED STATES

London, Dec 9 — A press report, dated Dec 8, states: A jury today ordered Burlington Northern & Santa Fe Railway to pay \$8.9 million to a woman who was injured in a deadly Orange

County train crash in 2002 that killed three people. Pamela Macek, 53, of Riverside, had sued the railway company for injuries she sustained after one of Burlington's trains struck a Metrolink commuter train in which she was riding, her attorney Jerome Ringler said. Her lawsuit was one of 100 consolidated cases and the first to go to trial, the attorney said. "We're still reviewing the decision and we're disappointed with the verdict," said Lena Kent, spokeswoman for Burlington Northern & Santa Fe. Three people were killed and 162 were injured when a 167-car Burlington Northern & Santa Fe freight train slammed head-on into a crowded Metrolink commuter train from Riverside County on April 23, 2002. The trains collided in Placentia, located about 30 miles south-east of Los Angeles. The injured passengers and relatives of the three people killed were allowed to sue Burlington Northern & Santa Fe after a Superior Court judge in July ruled they can seek punitive damages. Metrolink, a government agency, is exempt from punitive damages in lawsuits. Officials with the National Transportation Safety Board said the crash was caused when the freight train's crew failed to obey a signal warning them to slow down. Macek suffered from facial fractures, a herniated disc and post-traumatic stress disorder, Ringler said, adding that she was satisfied and grateful for the verdict.

ROAD TRAFFIC ACCIDENT, UNITED STATES

London, Dec 6 — A press report, dated today, states: A UC Santa Cruz police captain struck by a Nissan Pathfinder while riding his bike on Highway 1 has settled a lawsuit for \$2.4 million, after claiming negligence by the Nissan driver and a Bonny Doon couple she worked for as a nanny. Additionally, the attorney for Robert Jones filed a claim against the Santa Clara Valley Medical Center on Nov 17, alleging a respiratory therapist failed to properly connect Jones to a ventilator when he arrived at the trauma center. The loss of oxygen, for an estimated 20 minutes, caused Jones to go into cardiac arrest, Santa Cruz attorney Jim Almeida alleges. Jones already was suffering brain trauma. The claim estimates monetary losses, including care costs not covered by insurance and lost wages for he and his wife, at a minimum \$37.5 million. Jones, 48, of Aptos, an avid cyclist and surfer who has a black belt in martial arts, spent more than three months at the medical centre after the Jan 2 crash about two miles south of Davenport. He is in a wheelchair and requires 24-hour care at home, most of which is provided by his wife. Almeida said the settlement will allow her to hire more in-home help. On Nov 24, Jones and Almeida received \$100,000 from the driver, Vanessa Baker, 20, of Santa Cruz, and \$2.3 million from the Bonny Doon couple she was working for as a nanny, Will and Jane Henry. The plaintiffs claim Baker was on her way to pick up

mail for the couple when she hit Jones, making her conduct "technically within the course and scope of her employment," said their attorney, Dennis Howell of Watsonville. The Henrys had a "personal umbrella policy" and a business policy covering Will Henry's photography studio, he said, which covered the settlement. On Jul 26, Baker was convicted of failing to drive on the correct part of the road, court officials said. She was fined \$173 and ordered to perform 25 hours of volunteer service. CHP officers determined Jones was struck in the bike lane about 1630 hrs. The personal injury suit was filed on Mar 12. Almeida said he did not know what happened at the hospital when he filed it, but will add the hospital if Santa Clara County officials deny the claim. They declined to comment on the suit. Almeida admits the claim is technically late, as claims to municipal entities are due within six months, but says the hospital did not tell anyone what happened in the emergency room. He said he recently discovered a medical record wherein a neurosurgeon wrote that the majority of Jones's injuries were caused by the "anoxic arrest" event in the emergency room. Almeida anticipates the hospital's defense will be that Jones suffered the injuries in the accident.



Railway Accidents

CASTELLANETA DI TARANTO, ITALY

London, Dec 3 — A press report, dated today, states: Seventy-eight people were injured, one seriously, when a goods train ignored a stop sign and smashed into the rear of an inter-city passenger train in southeastern Italy, rescue workers and police said today. The crash occurred late yesterday in open countryside near the town of Castellaneta di Taranto in Puglia province, officials said. The seriously injured person was a 16-year-old boy, who lost an arm. Railway police said the freight train pushed the last two carriages of the passenger train off the rails and into a small ravine a few kilometres from the small town of Palagianello. The passenger train was an intercity express travelling from Reggio di Calabria to Bari on the southeastern tip of Italy. Initial reports had said that two people died in the crash, but rescue workers later denied that. Officials said the casualty toll of 78 was believed to be definitive. Early today six people were still in hospital.

FALLBROOK, TEXAS, UNITED STATES

London, Dec 8 — A press report, dated Dec 7, states: Authorities are checking out possible environmental damage today from the overnight derailment of a train carrying oil.

Four cars of a Santa Fe Railway train left the track about 2230, Monday (Dec 6) at the train yard in the 7900 block of Fallbrook, near the Sam Houston Tollway and Tomball Parkway. One tank car holding about 500 gallons of lubricant oil ruptured. It is unknown how much of the oil leaked out of the damaged tank. No injuries resulted from the derailment, and no evacuations were necessary. Officials said last night that the oil posed no airborne hazard to surrounding areas. Investigators from the Federal Railroad Administration are investigating how the derailment occurred, while workers from Harris County Health and Environmental Services look for any environmental damage that might have occurred.

NEWDALE AREA, MANITOBA, CANADA

London, Dec 7 — A press report, dated today, states: A Canadian Pacific Railway freight train heading west from Winnipeg derailed in western Manitoba yesterday morning. CPR spokesman Ed Greenberg said 20 empty potash cars left the tracks about 0900 hrs in a farmer's field near Newdale, about 250 kilometres west of Winnipeg. "There were no injuries and no environmental impacts as a result of the derailment," Greenberg said. "It was in an area of a farmer's field. There was never any danger to residents of the community." Crews were clearing the tracks by noon. It's not known what caused the rail cars to derail. The train had a total of 117 cars. The Transportation Safety Board of Canada and CPR are investigating.

YUEN LONG, HONG KONG

London, Dec 7 — A press report, dated today, states: Twenty-four passengers were injured when two Light Rail trains collided in Yuen Long, during yesterday's morning rush hour. One driver was suspended after investigations ruled out mechanical or system failures. Light Rail operator KCRC said it suspected the accident could have been the result of human error. "We suspect the train behind failed to slow down in time and caused the collision," West Rail operations general manager Tsui Wai-keung said. All 24 injured passengers had been discharged from hospital by last night. The Environment, Transport and Works Bureau demanded a report on the accident. The collision happened at Ping Shan station around 0930 hrs. A train on Route 611, coming from the Tuen Mun ferry piers, entered the station and hit the back of the Route 761 train, from Tin Shui Wai. Both trains were heading towards central Yuen Long. Some of the injured passengers received treatment at the scene before being taken to hospital, while others complained about feeling unwell after they were transferred to another train. The injured were taken to Tuen Mun and North District hospitals.

Miscellaneous



BLOCKADE OF PORTS BY FRENCH FISHERMEN

London, Dec 3 — A press report, dated today, states: Hundreds of ferry passengers struggled to get home from France yesterday as fishermen blockaded Calais and Dunkirk. Two ferries were stuck in Calais and two others were forced to turn back to Dover as protesters stopped vessels getting in or out of the ports. P&O Ferries, SeaFrance and Norfolkline crossings were hit. French trawlermen were demonstrating over action against a colleague caught fishing in a prohibited area. Queues built on the M20 in Kent as police initiated Operation Stack where lorries wait on a controlled stretch of motorway. Eurotunnel, whose Folkestone to Calais shuttle trains were not affected, carried some of stranded ferry passengers but there were long waits. The wildcat action started around noon and the blockade was lifted at 1815 hrs. Geoff Dossetter, of the Freight Transport Association, said closing Calais for a day costs the industry around £1million.

DRUGS FOUND ON CROATIAN VESSEL AT BELLEDUNE, CANADA

London, Dec 5 — A press report, dated Dec 4, states: Police divers hauled up to C\$15-million (£6.5 million) worth of cocaine from the underbelly of Croatia-registered bulk *Konavle* (40260 gt, built 1982), at the Port of Belledune yesterday morning in one of the biggest drug seizures in the Canadian province's history. The seizure weighed more than 52 kilograms, a seizure so big police officials figure it was probably not destined for New Brunswick. "We do not have a (criminal) organization based primarily in New Brunswick capable of moving this quantity of drug," said Staff Sgt. Gary LeGresley, of the RCMP's Bathurst-Edmundston Regional Drug Unit. Estimates of the street value of Friday's seizure ranged from C\$6.5 million to C\$15 million - or even more. "It could go even higher depending on how it's cut," said Staff Sgt. LeGresley. The vessel left on its current voyage from Colombia, stopped in Maricao, Venezuela, and then arrived at the international Port of Belledune this week, said Georges Marcoux, the port's president and chief executive officer. From Belledune, it was scheduled to go to Sept Isles, Quebec, said Staff Sgt. LeGresley. A team at the Canada Border Services Agency in Saint John tagged the ship Wednesday (Dec 1) as needing to be inspected ... but Michel Saucier, chief of operations for the agency in northern New Brunswick, would not say yesterday exactly what it was about the ship that set off red flags. When *Konavle* arrived at the

Port of Belledune, officials with Canada Border Services Agency searched its hull with the help of a small, yellow submarine operated by remote control. It sent back images of what was underneath of the vessel (Thursday) with the remote operated vehicle and we got some indication there was something there," said Mr. Saucier. "Then, we contacted the RCMP diving team and they found the drugs (yesterday) morning." As of yesterday afternoon, no charges had been laid. Mr. Saucier said there was no evidence that connected the owners of the ship or its crew to the drugs. With the cocaine seized from this ship's underbelly, the RCMP now takes over the investigation. Yesterday, Mr. Marcoux said *Konavle* would be free to continue on its way after the police investigation and the Port of Belledune is still open.

LANDSLIDE, ZUOJIAYING, GUIZHOU PROVINCE, CHINA

London, Dec 3 — A press report, dated today, states: A landslide has engulfed a village in southern China, leaving 65 people missing, state media reported. The landslide struck Zuojiaying, in mountainous Guizhou province, at about 0300, local time (1900, UTC, Dec 2), Xinhua said. About 25 homes were hit as residents slept. More than 30 people escaped and the search for missing villagers is under way, the news agency said. One official said that experts and armed police had arrived at the scene to oversee the rescue effort. He ruled out the weather as a cause of the accident, saying it had been fine at the time when the collapse happened. The cause is to be investigated. One official said that the cause seemed to be natural. "There are a lot of steep hillsides," he said.

SKIPPER K. (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

London, Dec 9 — General cargo *Skipper K.* sailed from Cadiz on Dec 3.

Fires & Explosions



CHEMICAL PLANT, HOUSTON, TEXAS, UNITED STATES

London, Dec 4 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Numerous explosions erupted from a south-west Houston wax plant this evening, sparking a three-alarm fire and shooting flames into the sky that could be seen for miles. Firefighters were sent to Marcus Oil and Chemical, 14549 Minetta, in southwest Houston, near Fondren and South Main, at 1750 hrs. Fire officials said the company specializes in melting chemicals to make wax. Polyethylene was believed to be the burning material. Explosions were still erupting from the fire 90 minutes after the blaze began. Approximately 120 firefighters battled the blaze for hours. Five people

were working in the warehouse at the time of the explosion and were not injured, officials said. The church and nearby homes were damaged in the blasts, mainly from broken windows.

CITY HALL, HONG KONG

London, Dec 7 — A press report, dated today, states: A fire broke out at City Hall in Central Hong Kong yesterday, forcing a wedding banquet at Maxim's Restaurant to be cancelled and a graduation ceremony to be called off. The fire started at 0100 hrs and raged for seven hours, spreading dense smoke through corridors, a restaurant and other function rooms in the lower block. Eighteen fire engines and two ambulances were sent to the scene. It took 70 firefighters two hours to get the blaze under control and five hours to extinguish the flames. The air-conditioning plant room on the second floor of the lower block was badly damaged, with walls and ceilings blackened. No one was hurt. Fire officers are understood to be investigating if any illegal renovation work was being carried out in the room. Acting assistant east divisional fire officer Ng Wai-nung said the plant room was in a large area. After breaking into the room, firemen had to spend some time before they could reach the origin of the fire. Apart from machines, there were items including chairs, lockers and some used electrical appliances, which were also alight inside the room. It was understood the chairs were left there by the restaurant and the lockers were for its staff.

COAL MINE, KARAGANDA AREA, KAZAKHSTAN

Almaty, Dec 5 — A powerful blast ripped through a coal mine in Kazakhstan today, killing 23 people, a spokesman for the Central Asian state's Emergencies ministry said. "Twenty-three dead have been recovered. Three injured miners have been taken to hospitals," the spokesman said by telephone from the Kazakh capital Astana. He said there were 87 people working underground when the blast struck the Shakhtinskaya mine near the northern city of Karaganda at 0315 hrs. "There are no more people left in the mine at the moment. We have evacuated all the survivors," he said. The coal mine belongs to Kazakhstan's steel giant Ispat-Karmet, which is part of LNM Holdings NV, owned by Indian-born, London-based magnate Lakshmi Mittal. There was no immediate information on the cause of the blast, the spokesman said, adding that an investigation was under way. — Reuters.

COAL MINE, UGLEJAR, DONETSK REGION, UKRAINE

London, Dec 9 — A press report, dated today, states: An explosion ripped through a coal mine in Ukraine's eastern Donetsk region yesterday, killing one miner and leaving two others missing, according to the Ministry for Emergency Situations. The

methane gas explosion at Yuzhnodonbasskaya mine in the town of Ugedar occurred when 30 miners were working underground, the ministry said. Rescue crews recovered one body and were searching for two other missing miners. The other miners were brought to the surface or escaped on their own, a spokesman said.

FACTORY, MOSCOW REGION, RUSSIA

London, Dec 4 — A press report, dated today, states: Fifteen people were killed when a fire broke out in a furniture factory warehouse in the Moscow region, the Interfax news agency reported today. The fire yesterday in the village of Perkhushkovo burned for five hours, completely destroying the building, Interfax said. It was extinguished after dark, and investigators began combing through the site only after dawn today, when they found 15 bodies.

FACTORY, RAYONG, THAILAND

London, Dec 4 — A press report, dated today, states: A fire broke out at a rigid PVC film-making factory owned by CPPC Company in Rayong, a subsidiary of the Charoen Pokphand (CP) Group, causing damage of about 100 million baht. No casualties were reported. The blaze erupted about 1100. Dec 3, at the factory in Rayong's Nikhom Patthana sub-district. It started at the factory's raw material storage room, on the fourth floor of the five-storey building. It took 15 fire engines about two hours to bring the blaze under control. Theerawut Wongsawetkul, head of the CP Group's human resources section, said the fire heavily damaged the raw material storage room but the production lines were not affected. The cause of the blaze was still unclear, but it was suspected the fire was ignited by hot oil leaking from an engine onto raw material.

NATURAL GAS PRODUCTION PAD, KENAI AREA, ALASKA, UNITED STATES

London, Dec 3 — A press report, dated Dec 2, states: A fire engulfed two 12,600-gallon tanks and destroyed other equipment at a Marathon Oil natural gas production pad north-east of Kenai last night. With help from company workers, 20 firefighters from Nikiski, Kenai and Soldotna extinguished the blaze in several hours at Pad 1-A with thousands of gallons of water hauled to the site in tankers, Nikiski fire chief Daniel Gregory said. "It was pretty straightforward," Gregory said. "Nobody was hurt, and it looked like Marathon captured the runoff." But company crews were still working tonight to stop gas from leaking, said Gary Folley, with the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation. The fire had apparently damaged the well housing, he said. The company doesn't know what caused the fire and has no damage estimate yet, Marathon spokeswoman Susan Richardson said from company

offices in Houston. Production from the Beaver Creek field has been halted, but the company expects it can supply gas needs from other Kenai areas.

PREMISES, CHICAGO, UNITED STATES

London, Dec 7 — A press report, dated today, states: Fire broke out high in a historic downtown skyscraper yesterday evening, belching smoke and flames from windows as firefighters helped workers to safety through darkened stairways. Twenty-five people were injured, including a dozen firefighters. Eight injured firefighters and five others were hospitalized in serious condition, said Chicago Fire Department spokesman Larry Langford. The rest of the injured were treated for smoke inhalation or minor injuries, Langford said. Langford said he had no reports of anyone trapped in the 43-storey LaSalle Bank building in Chicago's Loop, but searches of the stairwells and floors were still underway. Firefighters shot water into the windows of the burning structure, and metal window frames were twisted from the heat of the flames. A spokesman for the Cook County medical examiner's office said it had not been notified of any deaths. The fire on the 29th floor was reported about 1830 hrs, said police Officer JoAnn Taylor. The Art Deco-style skyscraper serves as the corporate headquarters of LaSalle Bank, one of the largest banks in the Midwest. More than one-third of the city's fire equipment was at the scene, and thick black smoke continued to pour out windows three hours after the fire was reported. LaSalle Bank spokesman Shawn Platt said about 3,000 people work in the building. Most people there work normal business hours, but some departments are open 24 hours, he said. The 29th floor holds the bank's trust division, he said.

PREMISES, TAMWORTH, NEW HAMPSHIRE, UNITED STATES

London, Dec 5 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Firefighters from at least 11 area towns fought a huge blaze that destroyed three buildings and 75,000 bundles of kiln-dried wood at a lumber company on Route 25 last night. A fire broke out yesterday shortly after 1900 hrs at the Ossipee Mountain Land Yard. Police received a report of an explosion from the business, and arriving firefighters found flames reaching high into the night sky. According to state police, three buildings on the lumber yard collapsed and were completely destroyed as a result of the fire. There were no injuries reported, although authorities said fire crews would likely be fighting the stubborn blaze for most of the night. Fire departments from Conway, Madison, Tamworth, West Ossipee, Center Ossipee, Effingham, Freedom Tuftonboro, Moultonboro, Sandwich and Wolfeboro all responded to the scene. Police said the cause of the fire was unknown.

PROPERTY UNDER CONSTRUCTION, MARYLAND, WASHINGTON DC, UNITED STATES

London, Dec 7 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: An FBI agent said arson fires at an affluent Maryland development in suburban Washington, D.C., may have been set by ecoterrorists. FBI investigators said they are checking into all possible motives for the early morning arson fires, which caused an estimated \$10 million in damage to the homes, which were under construction. Officials say the four-alarm fire in Indian Head destroyed 12 homes and damaged 29 others, despite the fact that the buildings were relatively spread out and had been soaked by rain recently. Investigators say the houses were on lots of about 2 acre each — and overall, the fire spread across 10 acres. Environmental groups have criticised the development for years because it sits next to a nature preserve. All the homes that burned were under construction and ranged in price from \$400,000 to \$500,000, said W. Faron Taylor, a deputy state fire marshal.

REFINERY, COMMERCE CITY, DENVER, UNITED STATES

London, Dec 3 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: No one was injured today when a fire broke out at the Suncor refinery in Commerce City, generating a towering plume of smoke that could be seen for miles. Suncor officials said an unidentified liquid caught fire at the base of the main venting tube at 1010 hrs. On-site Suncor fire crews were able to extinguish the fire within 15 minutes. The company said excess liquids and gases used in the refining process are diverted to a venting tube. In this case the liquids caught fire. Suncor officials are not sure why this happened. No injuries were reported and all employees have been accounted for. About 200 employees of Canada-based Suncor and 400 subcontractors work at the refinery.

SHOPPING CENTRE, GANDER, NEWFOUNDLAND, CANADA

London, Dec 3 — Following received from LaSalle, dated today: A press report, dated today, states: An early morning fire today destroyed a major portion of a shopping centre in Gander, Nfld. RCMP said flames ripped through four businesses including a bank, pool hall, optical store and a drugstore. Damages at the Town Square Shopping Centre are estimated in the millions of dollars. The blaze, which started around 0130 hrs, was noticed by a cab driver who called police. Crews with Gander Fire and Rescue battled the fire, with the help of a fire truck from the Gander International Airport. No injuries were reported.

STEELWORKS, SHOTTON, WALES, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Dec 3 — A press report, dated today, states: An investigation is being carried out into a blaze at the Corus steelworks in Shotton, north Wales.

The last of the firefighters left the scene at around 0452, GMT, today. No one was reported hurt. The blaze was first reported at lunchtime yesterday. Some residents near the plant were advised to keep windows and doors shut. The fire was said to be at the centre of the building, and the fire service said there was a blast at 1545, GMT. Police told residents living east of the plant, in Garden City, Sealand and the Queensferry area, that the smoke from the fire was not toxic. More than 50 firefighters were at the scene nine hours after the blaze broke out. The fire service has deployed nine fire tenders, from Deeside, Holywell, Buckley, and Chester as well as an aerial platform from Wrexham and a foam carrier from Deeside. Relief crews were brought in to help with the incident. A thermal imaging camera has been used and a lighting generator was at the scene to help the firefighters. In a statement, Corus said the fire, which began at approximately 1200, GMT was in a disused area. It said it had not affected production. He said 20 employees in a different part of the building had been evacuated.

WAREHOUSE, AL KHUBAIS, DUBAI

London, Dec 9 — A press report, dated today, states: A big fire broke out in an electronic goods warehouse on Salahuddin Road in Al Khubaisi area of Dubai last night. The fire which started at 2140 hrs spread to an adjacent warehouse. It was doused at around 2330 hrs by three firefighting units of Civil Defence Department from Al Qusais, Hamriya and Al Ras.

WILDFIRES, AUSTRALIA

London, Dec 3 — A press report, dated today, states: The Rural Fire Service (RFS) says mopping up operations are continuing after a major bushfire burnt out more than 8,000 hectares near Parkes in central western New South Wales. The bushfire caused the evacuation of 15 homes at Alectown. The RFS says the cool weather front helped bring the fire under control. Greg Goody from the RFS says crews are now working to extinguish the last embers to ensure they do not flare up again. The RFS says four planes and two helicopters will resume aerial water bombing later today.

London, Dec 5 — A press report, dated today, states: Firefighters have made significant headway in bringing a massive bushfire north of Perth under control. Crews are still working to contain some parts of the Bullsbrook blaze, but believe that the worst is over. At the height of the emergency, 25 people were forced to leave their properties in Bullsbrook and a number of homes were threatened. The blaze has damaged fences, power poles and some other property. Fire and Emergency Services Authority (FESA) spokesman Mal Cronstedt says weather conditions have improved. "Firefighters have contained the fire to an area of 180 hectares," he said. "We've still got a significant

commitment in resources here... we've got over 70 people on the fire ground and some 33 fire trucks. "We hope to have the fire fully contained as the evening progresses."

WILDFIRES, HONG KONG

London, Dec 5 — A press report, dated today, states: More than 30 firefighters backed by water-dropping helicopters were battling a huge hill blaze in a Hong Kong country park today, a government official said. Grass and woodland covering an area of more than 200 hectares was still blazing in the Pat Sin Leng park in the northern rural New Territories 18 hours after first being reported yesterday afternoon, he said. According to a report by China's official Xinhua news agency, the fire at its peak last night had engulfed an area of 400 hectares. Two helicopters were dropping huge bucket-fulls of sea water on the fire and 16 firemen along with 27 agriculture department fire wardens were trying to quell its advance.

London, Dec 7 — A press report, dated today, states: About 11,000 trees on 105 hectares were destroyed in the Pat Sin Leng fire, which started on Saturday (Dec 4) and was not put out until early yesterday. Firefighters believe it was caused by a discarded cigarette. Conservation officers have warned New Territories villagers to refrain from releasing giant lanterns, which are suspected of causing a hill fire at Tai Lam Country Park last week. The Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department said its officers found lantern debris after that fire was extinguished on Nov 27. A total of 170 firefighters, 80 departmental employees and 70 members of the Civil Aid Service battled the Pat Sin Leng Country Park fire for 40 hours after it broke out at 1830 hrs, Dec 4. Two helicopters were also deployed to drop water bombs on the blaze. A government spokeswoman said the fire was put out at 1030hrs yesterday. No one was hurt. New Territories North divisional fire services officer Yu Kam-keung said it took so long to extinguish the flames because of strong winds and dry conditions.



ACCIDENT, HARTSFIELD-JACKSON ATLANTA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, UNITED STATES

London, Dec 9 — A press report, dated today, states: Part of a DHL Worldwide cargo aircraft's landing gear malfunctioned during landing at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport today, causing one of the airport's runways to be closed but causing no injuries, an airport spokeswoman said. The right main landing gear collapsed as the

three-engine Boeing 727 landed on one of the airports four runways about 0600 hrs. The three people aboard were not hurt, airport spokeswoman Lanii Thomas said. The aircraft appeared to be leaning on its left wing as it sat on the tarmac, WXIA-TV reported. Although the aircraft was blocking one runway, the other three remained in use, Thomas said. The incident was not causing delays for arriving or departing flights from Hartsfield-Jackson. It was not immediately known why the landing gear failed. The aircraft was arriving from Miami.

AIRCRAFT DAMAGED, JOHANNESBURG AIRPORT, SOUTH AFRICA

See "South Africa" under "Weather & Navigation."

AIRCRAFT STRUCK BY BIRDS AFTER TAKE-OFF FROM MALTA

London, Dec 2 — A press report, dated today, states: A flight out of Malta International Airport today had to return as a precaution after being hit by birds. An Air Malta Airbus, the KM100 flight to London Heathrow, landed safely, the company said. The passengers on flight KM100 had a three-hour wait before leaving in a replacement aircraft. The pilot decided to return to base after take-off. A statement by the airline company said: "An Air Malta Airbus was involved in a minor incident when the aircraft was hit by birds on take-off. As a precaution the aircraft returned to base and landed safely. No passengers or crew were injured. The flight departed at 1100, CET, this morning". Engineers were working on the original aircraft in case of any damage.

C-FMHD

London, Dec 3 — Beechcraft 300, C-FMHD, owned by Aviation CMP Inc, two pilots and one passenger on board, crashed into a ditch at St Georges, Quebec at 1215, Dec 1. The aircraft sustained damage to the propellers and nose. The occupants of the aircraft were not injured.

C-FYKS

London, Dec 6 — A press report, dated Dec 5, states: A young man is dead after a small plane crashed near St. John's yesterday. The Cherokee aircraft went down about nine kilometres southwest of the capital city. There were two men onboard the plane — an 18-year-old who died and a 27-year-old who was airlifted to hospital. Police Insp. Sean Ryan said the accident happened shortly after take-off. The plane was in two pieces by the time firefighters arrived. The plane was owned and operated by Atlantic Aviation Academy, a St. John's flying club.

London, Dec 6 — On Dec 5, Atlantic Aviation Academy Piper Cherokee PA 28-140, C-FYKS, had departed St. John's Airport, Newfoundland, with a student and instructor on board for a local training flight. The aircraft was airborne at 1338 hrs and reported

leaving the control zone at 1344 hrs. A short time later the tower controller noticed the aircraft had disappeared from radar. A radio search was initiated at 1357 hrs without response from the aircraft. Six minutes later the tower controller received a call from the St. John's Civic Rescue Services with information that the aircraft had crashed. One occupant had been critically injured and was airlifted to hospital by a helicopter that was operating in the local area. The other occupant had been fatally injured.

COLLAPSE OF POLISH AIRLINE

London, Dec 6 — Following received from Reuters, dated Dec 5: Poland's first budget airline Air Polonia has been grounded due to financial problems, stranding 53,000 passengers, its chairman said today. But Jan Litwinski, who pioneered Air Polonia after leaving national Polish carrier LOT, said he had ironed out a deal with another low-cost airline, Bratislava-based SkyEurope, to help most passengers reach their destinations. "SkyEurope will provide flights for the roughly 53,000 passengers who have purchased Air Polonia tickets," he told a news conference in Warsaw, announcing a suspension of all flights. Privately owned Air Polonia signed a partnership agreement with Italy's budget Volare Group in March, and in June Litwinski insisted the Polish carrier was in good financial shape. But Volare was forced to ground its planes in November due to cash problems. Litwinski said his aircraft leases may lapse if Air Polonia fails to gain new financing. SkyEurope, a pioneer no-frills airline which revolutionised air travel in the post-communist region that joined the European Union this year, said it had no plans to take over Polonia. Air Polonia's grounding brought chaos at Warsaw Airport with hundreds of passengers unable to fly to destinations like London, Rome and Stockholm. Not all managed to re-book with SkyEurope.

CRASH, ALEUTIAN ISLANDS, ALASKA, UNITED STATES

See *Selendang Ayu* under "Marine."

CRASH, BELLEVUE AREA, IDAHO, UNITED STATES

See N25SA.

CRASH, COLLEGEDALE, TENNESSEE, UNITED STATES

London, Dec 3 — A press report, dated Dec 2, states: A small aircraft carrying Seventh-day Adventist Church officials crashed today soon after taking off from an airport in a rural, mountainous area, killing all but one of the six people on board. The only survivor, the co-pilot, was taken to a Chattanooga hospital, Hamilton County Sheriff John Cupp said. No information on the survivor's condition was immediately available. The twin-engine Cessna 421 crashed in a thicket of trees about 1 1/2 miles north of the Collegedale Municipal Airport. Airport manager Frank Zarski said the Knoxville-bound plane crashed because of engine

failure. The pilot and four passengers were killed, Cupp said. National Transportation Safety Board officials were headed to the scene this afternoon. The aircraft was registered to the Georgia-Cumberland Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, based in Calhoun, Ga., Cupp said. A tape-recorded message from the conference headquarters said those on board were the conference president, the conference secretary, an assistant to the president and the communications director. Collegedale is about 15 miles northeast of downtown Chattanooga.

CRASH, DINWIDDIE AIRPORT, VIRGINIA, UNITED STATES

London, Dec 6 — A press report, dated today, states: Four people are lucky to be alive after a plane crash at the Petersburg-Dinwiddie Airport Thursday (Dec 2). The crash happened when a small Cessna carrying four people collided with two other aircrafts while it was attempting to land. Authorities say the aircraft passed over the runway and hit two parked aircrafts. They then stopped a few feet from the main fueling area. Airport manager David Ploeger said no one on the aircraft was injured. The passengers and pilots all work for Central Virginia Aviation. The FAA is investigating the crash.

CRASH, MAULE LAKE, FLORIDA, UNITED STATES

See N41626.

CRASH, MOUNT TARANAKI, NEW ZEALAND

See ZK-JAN.

EMERGENCY LANDING, ATHENS, GREECE

London, Dec 7 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: An Air France Airbus 320 bound for Tel Aviv made an emergency landing in Athens after a technical problem with one of its engines, the Greek airport authority said today. The aircraft landed without incident in Athens at 1251, GMT, and the 141 passengers and six crew members were fine, an airport spokesman said. "There was a problem with the oil intake in one of the engines and the pilot decided to cut off the engine and to land at the first available airport, which was Athens," Claude Maire, an Air France representative in Greece, said.

EMERGENCY LANDING, CHENNAI AIRPORT, INDIA

London, Dec 4 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: A Kuala Lumpur-bound Austrian Airlines flight with 300 passengers on board made an emergency landing at the Chennai airport in the early hours today, after one of its engines developed a snag while overflying the city. The aircraft landed safely at 0400 hrs. The Airbus-300, on a flight from Vienna to Kuala Lumpur, landed with the airport authorities declaring a full emergency. The Chennai Air Traffic Control granted permission to the flight

commander to make the emergency landing after he contacted it on noticing the snag, airport sources said.

EMERGENCY LANDING, GALLATIN FIELD, MONTANA, UNITED STATES

London, Dec 3 — A press report, dated today, states: A Southwest Airlines flight made an emergency landing at the Gallatin Field airport yesterday afternoon. The Boeing 737 was on its way from Seattle to Kansas City, Mo., when a light came on indicating engine trouble. Southwest spokeswoman Edna Ruano said in a telephone interview from Dallas. The pilot pulled back power to the engine, but the light did not go off, so he sought out the nearest airport, which happened to be Gallatin Field, Ruano said. The pilot brought the aircraft, flight number 1374, in for a safe landing on one engine around 1515 hrs. The 71 passengers and five crew members were unharmed. The aircraft has been taken out of service, and will remain at Gallatin Field until it can be evaluated, Ruano said.

EMERGENCY LANDING, GUANGZHOU, CHINA

London, Dec 6 — A press report, dated today, states: A Boeing 757 belonging to China Southern Airlines was forced to make an emergency landing in Guangzhou after smoke entered the cabin, state media reported today. Passengers said they noticed smoke in the cabin of flight CZ 3410 about 20 minutes before it was due to land yesterday at Guangzhou in Guangdong province on a flight from Kunming in southwestern Yunnan province. China Southern was not immediately available for comment but a local newspaper said investigations had identified an engine oil leak as the cause.

EMERGENCY LANDING, SHANNON AIRPORT, REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

London, Dec 8 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: A Virgin Atlantic aircraft has made an emergency landing at Shannon airport after smoke was detected in the cabin. The aircraft was en route from Heathrow to Miami and had 213 passengers on board. A thorough examination of the aircraft is underway.

EMERGENCY LANDING, XIAMEN, CHINA

London, Dec 3 — A press report, dated today, states: A Chinese jetliner made an emergency landing after oil was found leaking from an engine during a domestic flight, the official Xinhua News Agency reported today. The incident occurred yesterday when the Southern Airlines Boeing 757 was en route from the southeastern city of Guangzhou to Shanghai, Xinhua said. The aircraft circled for a time to lighten its fuel load before landing at the airport in the eastern coastal port of Xiamen, it said.

EMERGENCY LANDING, YEKATERINBURG, RUSSIA

London, Dec 8 — A press report, dated today, states: According to preliminary information, a Tu-154 aircraft of the Uralskie Avialinii air carrier made an emergency landing in Yekaterinburg due to one of its engines' failure, spokesperson for Koltsovo international airport said. The Uralskiye Avialinii company has provided no comment on the incident so far. According to specified data, the aircraft with over 70 passengers on board took off for St. Petersburg at 0700, Moscow time, today, made circles in the air over Yekaterinburg for more than an hour before landing. At 0822, Moscow time, the aircraft made an emergency landing. No one was injured, the spokesperson said.

EMERGENCY LANDING, YEKATERINBURG, RUSSIA

London, Dec 9 — A press report, dated Dec 8, states: According to early reports, chips in oil of the second engine were behind the emergency landing of a Tu-154 aircraft belonging to Uralskie Avialinii Airlines in Yekaterinburg early yesterday, the press service of the Russian Transport Ministry told Itar-Tass.

GROUNDING OF AIRCRAFT, HONG KONG

London, Dec 9 — A press report, dated today, states: Hong Kong airline Cathay Pacific has grounded four of its jets and checking them for defects after part of a aircraft's engine fell to the ground after take-off, an airline spokeswoman said today. The four 777-300s were undergoing checks by Cathay and Boeing technicians at Hong Kong airport, Carolyn Leung said. "We expect all the checks and certification to be ready by next week, all going well, but we will not put the planes back into service until we are absolutely satisfied the problems have been fully rectified," Ms Leung said. The aircraft were grounded after part of an engine's cowling fell off a Bombay-bound plane just after take-off from the Thai capital Bangkok on December 1. The two-metre diameter chunk of engine crashed into and wrote-off a car below, but caused no injuries. Cathay engineering director Derek Cridland said the panel had come loose due to heat damage. A check of the airline's nine other 777-300s found three other jets had similar problems and all were immediately taken out of service.

INCIDENT AT BALTIMORE-WASHINGTON INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, UNITED STATES

London, Dec 7 — A press report, dated yesterday states: Emergency crews responded to an aircraft that had technical problems at Baltimore-Washington International Airport tonight. The Southwest Airlines Baltimore-bound flight landed at BWI, and while on its way to the gate, an auxiliary power unit backfired, airport officials told WBAL-TV 11 News at 1940 hrs. Airport officials told WBAL-TV that the aircraft was already on the ground at the time of the incident. Fire

department crews were called to respond as a precaution, and after officials determined that there was no significant danger to the aircraft and the passengers on board, the aircraft continued to the gate. Emergency crews were on the ground surrounding the aircraft as of 1830 hrs, and all passengers onboard were reportedly safe at the time. Earlier, 11 News reported that the 737, had smoke coming into the cockpit after an emergency landing.

INCIDENT AT BANGALORE AIRPORT, INDIA

London, Dec 5 — A press report, dated today, states: A Delhi-bound Air Deccan A-320 aircraft was halted on the runway at Bangalore Airport before take-off due to "some technical difficulties" at the airport in the early hours of today, airport sources said. The aircraft with 115 passengers and five crew members on board was stranded in the runway for about one hour and later towed away to the apron, the sources said. The departure of two other outbound flights from Bangalore were delayed, they said.

N1159C

London, Dec 6 — Cirrus SR20, N1159C, crashed near Belgrade, Montana, at 2334, Dec 4, while on a flight from Bozeman, MT. The aircraft was destroyed. The three persons on board were killed.

London, Dec 9 — A press report, dated today, states: The survivor of a weekend aircraft crash north-east of Bozeman said yesterday the aircraft's engine stalled while they were flying alongside a glider. Don Olson, 23, said he and four friends were on a recreational flight in a single-engine Cirrus 22 (N1159C) Saturday afternoon (Dec 4) when they crossed paths with a glider. They circled the aircraft and waved at the pilot. "We were flying along the side of the glider, going as slow as possible," Olson said yesterday in a press conference at Bozeman Deaconess Hospital. Then, he said, the engine stalled and the flaps on the aircraft's wings jammed. "We pulled up as hard as we could," Olson said. The last thing Olson said he remembered before the crash was pilot Brandon Speth saying, "Hold on, we're going to hit some trees." The crash killed Speth, 30, along with Jim Bastiani, 63, and Clifford Lincoln, 62. Olson, bleeding and burned, was stranded in the snow on Sacajawea Peak at 1600. Olson said he trudged through hip-deep snow for as long as he could, hoping to find a road. He decided to find cover in a nearby wooded area and wait. When local pilots Doug Chapman and Steve Nicoll heard that an aircraft had gone down near Sacajawea Peak, they found a helicopter they could use and headed toward the mountain. Olson is still hospitalized with burns over 12 percent of his body and blamed the crash on an aircraft malfunction, not pilot error. The National Transportation Safety Board has yet to determine what caused the aircraft to

go down with four experienced pilots on board. Olson, a local mechanic, has been flying since he was 6. But he says Saturday's flight was his last.

N141SW

London, Dec 8 — A press report, dated Dec 7, states: A pilot and his passenger died in an aircraft crash not far from Lake Conroe, officials said today. Pilot Richard Gillenwaters and his Venezuelan passenger died when the Beech A-45 went down during a training flight, Texas Department of Public Safety spokeswoman Tela Mange said. Mange said it appeared one of the aircraft's wings had fallen off. A passer-by reported finding the wreckage early today about 10 miles north-east of Montgomery, Federal Aviation Administration spokesman Roland Herwig said. He said the National Transportation Safety Board is in charge of investigating the crash. Mange said the DPS was informed of the crash site at 1019 today. The pair took-off from David Wayne Hooks Airport north-west of Houston, she said.

London, Dec 8 — Beechcraft Mentor 45, N141SW, crashed near Conroe, Texas, at 1620, Dec 7, while on a local flight from Houston, TX. The aircraft was destroyed. The one person on board was killed.

N161FL

London, Dec 5 — A press report, dated today, states: A cargo aircraft crashed coming into McAllen Miller International Airport yesterday afternoon. The Convair 580 twin engine turboprop, owned by Contract Air Cargo, veered off the runway and crashed through the airport's perimeter fence. The aircraft's hydraulic system, which controls steering and braking, failed during landing, according to Matt Lewis, operation and maintenance manager at the airport. The pilot and two crew members were unharmed in the crash, which occurred on a practice flight. Six fire trucks responded to the scene, and while the aircraft did not catch fire, one of the engines was sprayed down with foam as a precautionary measure. The crash did not interrupt flight service at the airport, as the wreckage was off the runway. The biggest concern for cleanup crews was dealing with the 475-foot gap ripped out of the fence. A temporary fence would be installed yesterday, as security regulations require, before permanent repairs could be made tomorrow. Damage to the aircraft was extensive and included a collapsed nose wheel, a slash in the fuselage where the propeller cut through and two snapped wing tips. The crash is being investigated by the Federal Aviation Administration.

London, Dec 6 — Convair 580, N161FL, ran off the runway on landing at McAllen International Airport, Texas, at 2041, Dec 4. The aircraft sustained minor damage. The three persons on board were not injured.

N25SA

London, Dec 7 — A press report, dated

today, states: Two people were confirmed dead yesterday when a small aircraft travelling from Salt Lake City crashed near Sun Valley, Idaho. The Salmon Air Cessna 208 crashed around 1030 hrs in a field about seven miles south of Bellvue, Idaho. The single-engine aircraft was on course for the Sun Valley airport and crashed about 10 miles from the airport, said Chief Deputy Gene Ramsey of the Blaine County Sheriff's Office in Hailey, Idaho. Reports of a low-flying aircraft were soon followed by calls from residents who could see smoke and flames, Ramsey said. The flight originated from Salt Lake City and carried two Salmon Air employees. Today's flight may have been a freight charter. Several United Parcel Service packages were strewn about the wreckage, Ramsey said. Sheriff's deputies and officials from Salmon Air said the cause of the crash would not be known until members of the National Transportation Safety Board could investigate this morning.

London, Dec 7 — Cessna 208B (Grand Caravan), N25SA, crashed near Hailey, Idaho, at 1723, Dec 6, while on a flight from Salt Lake City, Utah, to Sun Valley, ID. The aircraft was destroyed. The three persons on board were killed.

N41626

London, Dec 4 — A press report, dated today, states: The crew of a decades-old cargo plane put the aircraft down in a lake in a Miami suburb today after it developed engine trouble, avoiding high-rise buildings in the densely populated area, then were rescued from the floating fuselage. The Miami Air Lease plane had trouble with one of its two engines shortly after take-off, said company office manager Alina Nodarse. The pilots tried to return the Convair CV-340 to the Opa-locka airport about seven miles away but couldn't make it and splashed down in Maule Lake, said Federal Aviation Administration spokesman Chris White. The lake is surrounded by condominium towers. "They landed there like that to avoid the buildings," Nodarse said after the rescued pilots checked in by phone. Pilot Alejandro Bristol and co-pilot Dennis Villavicencio climbed onto the fuselage, and one of them walked the length of the plane before being rescued by a Sunny Isles Beach police boat. The plane ended up several hundred yards from a marina and farther away from high-rises, floating with half the fuselage and the tips of the propellers rising above the water. "The pilot did an outstanding job in avoiding any of the structures surrounding the area," said Miami-Dade fire rescue Lt. Eric Baum. Nodarse said both pilots are experienced and have been with the 35-year-old, family-owned cargo carrier for many years. Crews surrounded the plane with an inflatable dike to contain any leaking oil. Trapped air kept the plane afloat and emergency crews planned to add air bags for additional buoyancy. Nodarse believed the plane was carrying a load of luggage to Nassau, Bahamas. Convair, which also

built bombers, produced the CV-340 in the 1950s.

London, Dec 6 — A press report, dated Dec 5, states: Environmental and salvage crews hustled today to soak up a fuel slick and devise a plan for pulling the 17-ton aircraft out of 14 feet of water. The Bahamas-bound Convair 340-70 splashed into the Intracoastal lake just south of the Aventura Mall yesterday morning when one of its engines failed shortly after takeoff from Opa-locka Airport. The National Safety and Transportation Board is investigating. Today divers from a salvage company, Air & Sea Crash Recovery Inc., examined the wreckage up close, shutting off valves to stop oil leaks, according to Scott Wienstein, a vice president of the Davie-based company. Crews used white absorbent booms today to soak up a 500-foot circular fuel slick. The aircraft has stopped leaking, Wienstein said. "There's been no impact to the environment," he sent. When the plane hit the water its wing broke, spilling many gallons of fuel. Most of it evaporated, Wienstein said, and the rest was soaked up with the absorbent booms. Air & Sea was hired by the plane's insurance company, who Wienstein declined to name. Tomorrow, the company plans to remove the plane's 10,500 pounds of cargo, including electronics, toys and furniture. On Tuesday (Dec 7) Air & Sea plans to pump 14 bags with 6,000 pounds of air inside the plane, floating the wreckage to the surface so boats can haul it to shore. The aircraft will be lifted from the water by a crane, cut into pieces and trucked back to Opa-locka Airport, Wienstein said. The plane, operated by Miami Air Lease, an air cargo company, was bound for Nassau, Bahamas. Pilots Alejandro Bristol, 28, of Boca Raton, and Dennis Villavicencio, 51, of Princeton in southern Miami-Dade County, made the run several times a week. London, Dec 6 — Convair 340 (Convair-Liner), N41626, crashed into Maule Lake, Miami, Florida, at 1353, Dec 4, while on a flight from Opa Locka Airport, FL, to Nassau, Bahamas. The aircraft sustained substantial damage. The two persons on board were not injured.

London, Dec 7 — A press report, dated Dec 6, states: A large cargo airplane will remain in the middle of Maule Lake near the Aventura Mall as salvage workers figure out a different way to remove the fallen behemoth. The Convair 340-70 aircraft, whose pilot made an emergency landing on Saturday (Dec 4), was moments from being removed late today when the owner of a nearby private dock protested, said Steve Smalley, president of salvage company Air & Sea Crash Recovery Inc. "We had it floating and were ready to drag that thing out of there," said Smalley. "Then we hit this snag that's going to make this complicated task even more complicated and even more expensive." Meanwhile, Coast Guard officials said they did not detect any new fuel leak after containing a 500-foot circular oil slick a day earlier. Smalley said his

workers spent much of today attaching floating devices to the 17-ton plane that remained partly submerged in the 14-foot deep lake near the 17800 block of Biscayne Boulevard. The plane was to be tugged onto a nearby dock, pulled out with a crane and dismantled. The owner of the dock, however, became concerned about liability issues and damage to the dock, said Coast Guard Petty Officer Ryan Doss. The dock owner could not be reached for comment. Smalley said he was now trying to find a barge to take the plane to a different dock. Today, with its tail up in the air and its nose in the murky ground, the plane continued to draw bemused onlookers.

N4750L

London, Dec 6 — Piper PA-28-180 (Cherokee), N4750L, crashed near Akers, Louisiana, Dec 6. The aircraft was destroyed. The one person on board was killed.

N532PC

London, Dec 6 — A press report, dated Dec 5, states: A 40-year-old Seattle pilot died in a fiery crash at the Renton Municipal Airport yesterday when his single-engine airplane made an unexplained turn shortly after take-off and slammed into a barrier on the ground. The pilot, who owned the plane, was doing a "touch-and-go" flight in which a plane lands momentarily and then takes off again, said Kurt Anderson, an air-safety investigator for the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) and the investigator in charge of the crash. Anderson said investigators aren't sure what caused the 1230 hrs accident. On the plane's sixth take-off of the day, it rose to approximately 100 feet off the ground. Then an air-traffic controller heard the pilot say something like, "I've got a problem here," according to Anderson. The controller cleared the pilot to land. Moments later, the plane banked to the left. Its left wing hit the ground, and the plane slid into a barrier that blocks jet blasts and caught fire, Anderson said. Anderson didn't know how experienced the pilot was, or whether the plane, a 1975 Cessna C-185, had a history of mechanical problems. The plane's charred remains lay against a section of the barrier last night, as officials with the NTSB and the Federal Aviation Administration continued to investigate.

London, Dec 6 — Cessna 185F (Skywagon), N532PC, crashed near Renton, Washington, at 2028, Dec 5, while on a local flight from Renton. The aircraft was destroyed. The one person on board was killed.

N54316

London, Dec 7 — A press report, dated today, states: The pilot of a small plane was killed after he clipped some trees and crashed at Dayton International Airport, ONN affiliate WHIO in Dayton reports. The accident happened early this morning on a runway at the airport. Authorities said the pilot was flying from Knoxville, Tennessee to Dayton and gave the communication

tower no indication that there may have been a problem aboard the twin-engine Piper Navaho. The Ohio State Patrol is on the scene investigating and are also waiting for the National Transportation Safety Board to arrive later today to help in the investigation. At this time, it is unclear if foggy weather played a factor in the accident, according to investigators. Airport officials said the plane apparently clipped some trees and burst into flames as it crashed on a runway at Dayton International. Authorities said the pilot was the only person aboard the plane.

London, Dec 7 — Piper PA-31-350 (Navajo Chieftain), N54316, crashed near Vandalia, Ohio, at 0640, Dec 7, while on a flight from Knoxville, Tennessee, to Dayton, OH. The aircraft sustained substantial damage. The one person on board was killed.

N592DM

London, Dec 8 — Cessna T310R, N592DM, crashed near Flagstaff, Arizona, at 0300, Dec 7, while on a flight from Flagstaff to Phoenix, AZ. The aircraft was destroyed. The one person on board was killed.

ZK-JAN

London, Dec 7 — Piper PA-34-200T (Seneca II), ZK-JAN, operated by Flight Corporation Limited, crashed on Mount Taranaki Nov 29 while on a flight from New Plymouth to Nelson. The two persons on board were killed.



CHEVROLET MOTOR VEHICLES, UNITED STATES

London, Dec 4 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: A faulty component inside the new Chevrolet Cobalt's head lamps has caused General Motors Corp. to recall 1,754 of the automobiles earmarked for sale in Canada and the United States, the company reported. Alan Adler, a spokesman for GM, said 1,378 of the Lordstown produced vehicles were manufactured for sale in the U.S., while the rest were destined for Canada. "As far as we know, only one car reached a customer," he said. The National Highway and Transportation Safety Administration ordered the recall of the 1,378 U.S. cars when it was discovered the auto's bulb shields inside the head lamps can loosen or break as a result of vibration.

FLUORESCENT LIGHT BULBS, UNITED STATES

Washington, DC, Dec 8 — The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in co-operation with Technical Consumer Products Inc., of Aurora, Ohio, today announced voluntary recall of about 158,000 3-way compact fluorescent light bulbs. Consumers should stop using recalled products

immediately unless otherwise instructed. The bulbs can overheat and spark, posing a burn hazard to consumers. Technical Consumer Products has received 16 reports of overheating bulbs. No injuries have been reported. The recalled 32-watt, 3-way (40-75-150 watt output) compact fluorescent bulbs were sold under the brand names Commercial Electric (Home Depot) and DuraBright (Orchard Supply Hardware). The bulbs are about seven inches high and have a white, spiral fluorescent tube attached to a white plastic base. The following item numbers, which can be found on the back of the packaging and the base of the bulb, are included in the recall: 283-924, 575-717, and 69032. Sold at Home Depot and Orchard Supply Hardware nation-wide from April 2004 through November 2004 for about \$10 (single pack) or \$19 (double pack). Manufactured in China. Consumers should stop using the bulbs immediately and contact Technical Consumer Products for a free replacement or gift card. — Consumer Product Safety Commission.

GARDEN CARTS, UNITED STATES

London, Dec 8 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission is recalling 196,788 GardenPlus Industrial garden carts. The CPSC said over-inflation of the tyres can break the metal tyre rim, causing users and bystanders to be struck with pieces of metal. LG Sourcing and Lowe's are aware of four incidents involving the metal rim assembly breaking during over-inflation of the tires. Three injuries occurred, including a fractured wrist, fractured fingers and bruised hands. The recalled GardenPlus Industrial Garden Carts, item number 128483, were made between November 2002 and April 2004. The garden cart is a four-wheeled pull wagon with a yellow mesh steel gauge bed and reinforced sides. The cart is about 20 inches wide by 30 inches long and 20 inches high. This recall affects all carts sold between March 2003 and October 2004 without metal washers on the outside tire rims. The carts were sold at Lowe's retail establishments nationwide from March 2003 through October 2004 for about \$70.

LEXUS MOTOR VEHICLES, SOUTH KOREA

London, Dec 6 — A press report, dated today, states: Toyota Motor Corp. has announced a recall of over 1,000 Lexus RX330 sports utility vehicles, the Ministry of Construction and Transportation said. The recall is based on faulty brake light switches, the ministry said. The recall involves cars manufactured between October 16, 2002 and July 1 this year. Owners of the recalled vehicles can have the faulty switch repaired free of charge until June 5, 2006 at Toyota service centres across the nation.

MAZDA MOTOR VEHICLES, JAPAN

London, Dec 3 — A press report, dated

today, states: Mazda Motor Corp. will recall some 20,000 defective Titan trucks in Japan for free repair after an accident in August in which a driver lost control of a Titan due to a defective steering system, the transport ministry said today. The trucks were produced between September 1985 and May 1995, according to a notice submitted to the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport. The steering system for front wheels contains a part that could crack, leading the driver to lose control of the vehicle, it said.

MITSUBISHI MOTOR VEHICLES, JAPAN

London, Dec 8 — A press report, dated today, states: Mitsubishi Motors Corp will recall some 60,000 vehicles of its RVR car and two other models in Japan for free repairs to defective brake pipes, the transport ministry said yesterday. The vehicles subject to the recall were produced between January 1991 and November 1992,

Mitsubishi Motors said in a report to the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport.

TABLE SAWS, UNITED STATES

Washington, DC, Dec 6 — The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in co-operation with Robert Bosch Tool Corporation, of Mount Prospect, Ill., today announced voluntary recall of 120,000 Skil Table Saw Model 3400 table saws. Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed. The blade drive mechanism may loosen or the motor can separate from the tool. Loosening of the blade drive mechanism can result in kickback of the item being sawed, resulting in possible laceration. Motor unit separation can cause the coasting saw blade to damage the saw wiring resulting in possible electric shock, or the separated motor could strike the user and cause injury. Robert Bosch Tool Corporation has received eleven

reports of loose or broken motors. No injury or property damage has been reported. Only table saws with model number 3400 printed on the front side of the table base with the date codes listed below are included in the recall. Date codes are printed on the upper right corner of the table base and include 2002 date codes 28501-28831, 2003 codes 38101-39231 and 2004 codes 48101-48811. The table saw holds a 10-inch blade and is made of metal tabletop with a red plastic base. Sold at Home Depot, Lowe's and Menards as well as independent hardware retailers nation-wide from July 2002 through October 2004 for between \$149 and \$199. Manufactured in Taiwan. Contact Robert Bosch Tool Corporation to receive a repair kit. The kit includes hardware and instructions for installation. — Consumer Product Safety Commission.

Port Delays

Country/Port	Date of report	No. of vessels waiting and/or days delay
Australia		
Abbot Point	8-Dec-2004	Coal: 1 vessel anchored; 10 vessels due by 5/1; up to 2 days berthing delay expected subject to cargo availability and berth congestion.
Albany	8-Dec-2004	Grain: 5 vessels due by 18/12, 3 to load barley, 1 wheat, 1 unknown cargo; up to 2 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability
Brisbane	8-Dec-2004	Grain: 2 vessels due by 15/12, 1 to sorghum, 1 wheat; no delays expected
Dalrymple Bay	8-Dec-2004	Coal: 3 vessels berthed, 22 anchored; 76 vessels due by 15/2; vessels berthing in order of cargo availability; up to 12 days berthing delay subject to cargo availability and berth congestion can be expected, although vessels with other stems are experiencing longer berthing delays
Dampier	8-Dec-2004	Iron ore: Parker Point: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 2 anchored; 11 vessels due by 25/12; up to 5 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; a 2 day maintenance shutdown is scheduled to start ca. 12/12; East Intercourse Island: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 4 anchored; 11 vessels due by 27/12; up to 5 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; shippers will always consider a shift to a lay-by berth for loaded vessels awaiting HW; cargo shortages are evident, delays are anticipated and vessels may berth out of turn.
Esperance	8-Dec-2004	Grain: 3 vessels due by 19/12, 1 to load wheat, 1 canola, 1 barley; up to 2 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Geraldton	8-Dec-2004	Grain: 7 vessels due by 29/12, 5 to load wheat, 1 barley, 1 unknown cargo; up to 7 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability
Hay Point	8-Dec-2004	Coal: 2 vessels berthed, 4 anchored; 14 vessels due by 18/12; up to 5 days berthing delay expected subject to cargo availability and berth congestion. Berth No. 2 will be out of action for maintenance from 07.00 hrs. 13/12 to 19.00 hrs. 14/12; Berth No. 1 will be out of action for maintenance for 3 days from 07.00 hrs. 15/12 to 17.00 hrs. 17/12
Kwinana	8-Dec-2004	Grain: 11 vessels due by 5/12, 7 to load wheat, 4 unknown cargo; up to 30 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Melbourne	8-Dec-2004	Five vessels due by 22/12, 1 to load scrap, 3 wheat, 1 SBM; up to 1 day's delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Newcastle	8-Dec-2004	Grain: Six vessels due by 23/12, all to load wheat; up to 1 day's delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability
Port Adelaide	8-Dec-2004	Grain: No. 27 berth: 4 vessels due by 3/12, 1 to load wheat, 3 barley; up to 3 days delay expected due to berth congestion.
Port Giles	8-Dec-2004	Grain: 3 vessels due by 18/12, 2 to load barley, 1 wheat; up to 1 day's delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability
Port Hedland	8-Dec-2004	Iron ore: BHP Iron Ore Pty. Ltd., Mt. Newman (Nelson Point), "A" berth: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 2 anchored; 5 vessels due by 16/12; up to 3 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; "B" berth: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 1 anchored; 6 vessels due by 16/12; up to 2 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability. 48 hour shiploader repairs will take place ca. 6/12. BHP Iron Ore Pty. Ltd., Goldsworthy (Finucane Island) "C" berth: 1 vessel due 6/12; up to 3 days delay expected;

Port Conditions

			Westyard "D" berth: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 3 anchored; 4 vessels due by 9/12; 1-6 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; Due to heavy demand for product, acute cargo shortages are still being experienced at wharf stockpiles. Vessels will continue to berth as product becomes available.
Port Latta	8-Dec-2004		Iron ore: 4 vessels due by 27/12; up to 2 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Port Walcott	8-Dec-2004		Iron ore: 2 vessels berthed and loading, 1 anchored; 19 vessels due by 18/12; 1-5 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability. Every effort will be made to ensure that vessels berth in order of arrival; however, due to product constraints, this may not be possible. Shippers advise that stores, air freight and crew baggage can no longer be delivered to vessels or taken off at berth. With immediate effect, all stores, airfreight and bags must be delivered/removed by launch.
Azerbaijan			
Baku	6-Dec-2004		Oil products: Bay of Baku: no vessels; Azerneftiyag terminal: no vessels; Azer Trans terminal - Nobel avenue: 1 vessel berthed discharging crude oil; 1 vessel in roads to discharge crude oil; Sangachal district: 1 vessel in roads due 7/12 to discharge crude oil; Transserve terminal: closed.
Brazil			
Paranagua	6-Dec-2004		Sixteen vessels berthed of which 1 fertiliser discharger, 1 container discharger, 3 reefer loaders, 2 pellets vessels, 9 other loaders/dischargers; 7 vessels waiting in roads, of which 4 to load (1 reefer, 3 others), 3 to discharge (2 fertiliser, 1 other); 24 vessels due over the next 7 days
Rio Grande	6-Dec-2004		Three vessels berthed of which 1 sawn timber loader, 1 fertiliser discharger, 1 urea discharger; 7 vessels waiting in roads; 35 vessels due over the next 10 days
Santos	6-Dec-2004		Sixteen vessels berthed of which 3 bulk fertiliser dischargers, 1 chemical products discharger, 1 bulk juice loader, 1 bulk pellets loader, 1 bulk wheat discharger, 1 full container loader/discharger, 6 sugar loaders, 1 bulk barley discharger, 1 other loader; 15 vessels waiting in roads; 103 vessels due over the next 7 days; Private terminals: Terminal 37: 1 full container loader/discharger; Tecondi: 1 full container loader/discharger; Termares: no vessels; Rodrimar: 1 full container loader/discharger; Cosipa: 1 steel products loader; Ultrafertil: 1 ammonia discharger; Cargill: 1 bulk pellets loader, 1 bulk sugar loader; Santos Brasil: 1 full container loader/discharger; Cutrale: 1 bulk soya loader; Dow: 1 chemical products discharger.
Sao Sebastiao	6-Dec-2004		Seven vessels berthed, 6 waiting in roads; 6 vessels due over the next 10 days
Vit6ira	6-Dec-2004		No vessels berthed; Terminal Vila Velha: 1 container loader/discharger, 1 pig-iron loader, 1 granite loader, 1 steel products loader; Tubarao: 3 iron ore loaders, 1 fertiliser discharger, 1 soya bean vessel; Praia Mole: 2 coal dischargers, 3 steel products loaders; Portocel: 2 cellulose loaders; Ubu: 1 iron ore loader; 26 vessels waiting in roads; 7 vessels due over the next 7 days
Bulgaria			
Bourgas	6-Dec-2004		Fourteen vessels in port operating, of which 9 loading (2 scrap, 4 coils, 1 copper cathodes, 1 containers, 1 steel sheets), 4 discharging (1 billets, 1 coals, 1 zinc ash, 1 containers), 1 under repairs; 9 vessels waiting in roads, of which 5 to load (1 cigarettes, 1 containers, 1 wheat, 2 empty), 4 to discharge (1 containers, 1 salt, 1 scrap, 1 iron ore); 10 vessels due, of which 3 to load (1 coils, 1 bagged ammonium nitrate, 1 steel sheets), 7 to discharge (1 coils, 1 zinc/lead concentrate, 2 coal, 1 salt, 2 bulk sugar).
Egypt			
Alexandria	6-Dec-2004		Thirty-two vessels berthed (loading/discharging) of which 23 general cargo, 4 bulkers, 3 tankers, 2 containers; 12 vessels dry-docked; 11 vessels at inner anchorage, 3 at outer anchorage.
Damietta	6-Dec-2004		Twenty-three vessels berthed (loading/discharging) of which 15 general cargo, 3 bulk carriers, 1 tanker, 4 containers; 7 vessels at outer anchorage, 1 at inner anchorage.
Suez Canal	6-Dec-2004		Eighteen vessels transiting Northbound, 22 Southbound.
Israel			
Ashdod	6-Dec-2004		No labour problems. Two general cargo vessels loading at berth, 12 vessels discharging at berth (9 general cargo, 3 bulker), 1 container vessel loading/discharging at berth; 12 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (4 general cargo, 8 bulkers); 2 vessels under repairs/dry-docked, 1 awaiting orders; 20 vessels due, with 2-3 days delay expected.
Haifa	6-Dec-2004		No labour problems. Five vessels discharging at berth (4 general cargo, 1 bulker), 8 vessels loading/discharging at berth (3 containers, 2 car carriers, 2 tankers, 1 passenger vessel); 3 vessels waiting at anchor to discharge (2 general cargo, 1 bulker); 3 vessels under repairs/dry-docked; 22 vessels due, with 2-3 days delay expected.
Kazakhstan			
Aktau	6-Dec-2004		Oil products: 2 vessels loading crude oil; 5 vessels in roads, all to load unknown cargoes; 2 vessels due by 30/11, both to load unknown cargo.

Port Conditions

Pakistan

Karachi	6-Dec-2004	Four vessels loading at berth (1 rice, 1 MOL, 1 cement, 1 steel pipes), 8 vessels discharging at berth (2 crude oil, 1 palm oil, 2 urea, 1 DNP/seeds, 1 DAP, 1 general cargo); 1 container vessel waiting at anchorage to load, 2 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (1 containers, 1 MEG); no vessels bunkering, none under repairs/dry-docked, none awaiting orders; 1 container vessel due, with no berthing delays expected.
Port Qasim	6-Dec-2004	Four vessels discharging at berth (1 palm oil, 1 coal, 1 wheat, 1 machinery); 1 container vessel waiting at anchorage to load, 10 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (1 containers, 3 wheat, 1 soya bean oil, 2 palm oil, 1 ore, 1 HSD, 1 MEG).

Russia

Novorossiysk	6-Dec-2004	Oil products: 5 vessels berthed, all loading, of which 4 crude oil, 1 gasoil; 8 vessels in roads, all to load, of which 6 crude oil, 2 fuel oil; 8 vessels due by 25/12, all crude oil
Tuapse	6-Dec-2004	Oil products: 4 vessels berthed, all loading, of which 1 naphtha, 3 gasoil; 4 vessels in roads of which 1 crude oil, 1 gasoil, 1 naphtha, 1 fuel oil; 5 vessels due by 13/12, of which 3 gasoil, 1 naphtha, 1 crude oil.

Slovenia

Koper	6-Dec-2004	Port working normally. Fifteen vessels berthed of which 1 discharging/loading containers, 3 bulk carriers discharging coal/minerals, 2 bulk carriers loading grain, 1 barge loading coal, 5 vessels loading steel products/sawn timber/general cargo, 1 Ro/Ro loading general cargo, 1 reefer discharging refrigerated goods, 1 vessel loading livestock; 1 bulk carrier anchored to discharge coal, waiting for 7 days; further berthing delays expected; 20 vessels due over the next 2 days of which 3 to discharge/load containers, 4 bulk carriers to discharge coal/steel scrap/ore, 3 bulk carriers to load coal, 5 vessels to load sawn timber/general cargo, 1 reefer to discharge refrigerated goods, 2 car carriers to discharge/load vehicles, 2 tankers to discharge mineral oils.
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Sri Lanka

Colombo	6-Dec-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. Occasional evening rains being experienced at present. Six container/feeder vessels loading at berth, 18 vessels discharging at berth (12 containers/feeders, 1 bagged fertiliser, 1 bulk fertiliser, 1 Ro/Ro, 1 bulk cement); 1 bulk palm oil vessel waiting at anchorage to discharge; 5 vessels dry-docked, 1 under arrest, 1 at new tanker berth; 7 vessels due (5 containers/feeders, 1 bagged fertiliser, 1 bulk cement), with 1 day's delay expected for bagged cargoes.
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Turkmenistan

Aladja	6-Dec-2004	Oil products: 1 vessel in roads to load crude oil.
Okarem	6-Dec-2004	Oil products: 2 vessels berthed, of which 1 completed loading crude oil, 1 loading crude oil; 4 vessels in roads, all to load crude oil.
Turkmenibashi	6-Dec-2004	Oil products: 2 vessels berthed, 1 loading fuel oil, 1 to load gasoil; 4 vessels in roads, of which 3 to load (1 light gasoil, 1 gasoline, 1 unknown cargo), 1 to discharge crude oil; 1 vessel due 6/12 to discharge unknown cargo

Ukraine

Mariupol	29-Nov-2004	Eleven vessels in port operating, all loading, of which 3 steel, 1 fire-clay, 2 coal, 1 coke, 1 wheat, 1 barley, 2 sulphur; 2 vessels undergoing survey (1 steel, 1 ammonium nitrate); 4 vessels in roads, of which 3 to load (1 steel, 1 ferrous metals, 1 barley), 1 to discharge equipment; 50 vessels due, of which 45 to load (26 steel, 2 pig-iron, 9 coal, 1 coke, 4 fire-clay, 2 sulphur, 1 sunflower beans), 3 to discharge (1 ferro alloy, 1 equipment, 1 other), 2 to discharge/load (1 containers, 1 containers/fire clay).
Odessa	29-Nov-2004	Oil products: 3 vessels berthed, all loading, of which 1 crude oil, 2 fuel oil; 2 vessels in roads, both to load, of which 1 gasoil, 1 fuel oil; 5 vessels due by 12/12, all to load, of which 1 crude oil, 2 fuel oil, 1 gasoil, 1 LPG

United States

Beaumont, TX	30-Nov-2004	Louis Dreyfus terminal: 2-3 days delay.
Galveston, TX	30-Nov-2004	ADM-Farmland terminal: 1 day's delays.
Houston, TX	30-Nov-2004	LDC Dreyfus terminal: 1-2 days delay
Kalama, WA	30-Nov-2004	Kalama export terminal: 5 days delay
Los Angeles/ Long Beach	30-Nov-2004	The ship congestion period seems definitively to be passed. Vessel counts have dropped back to the "normal" range and have been more or less staying there over the past few days. The labour situation has improved, with no shortage of gangs and no vessels idle at berth awaiting labour. However, although ship congestion has been relieved, landside congestion continues, with substantial delays being reported for delivery and picking up cargo from the docks
New Orleans	30-Nov-2004	Mississippi River terminal berthing delays: Cenex-Harstates/Myrtle Grove: 2-3 days delay expected; Cargill-Westwego: 1-2 days delay expected; ADM/Ama: 7-10 days delay expected; Bunge/Destrehan: 4 days delay expected; ADM/Destrehan: 7-10 days delay expected; ADM/Reserve: 7-10 days delay expected; Cargill/Reserve: 2 days delay expected; Peavey/Paulina: no delays; Zen-Noh/Convent: 3 days delay expected; Cargill/Baton Rouge:

Port Conditions

		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: 2-3 days delay expected; Mile 158.0 Cargill (K2) - Convent: no delays; Mile 180.0 Cooper (America) - Darrow: 3 days delay expected
Portland, OR	30-Nov-2004	Columbia Grain terminal: 1 day's delay; CLD Irving terminal: 2 days delay; Seattle, WA Louis Dreyfus (Pier 86) terminal: 4 days delay.
Tacoma, WA	30-Nov-2004	Temco terminal: 2 days delay.
Yemen		
Hodeidah	5-Dec-2004	All berths are occupied; 2 vessels berthed (1 bulk wheat, 1 steel); 1 container vessel anchored; expected waiting times: general cargo: up to 2 days delay; bagged cargoes: up to 3 days delay; bulk cargoes: 2-3 days delay; no delays for containers.

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