

Canada calls for major review of shipboard fire precautions

Board says Statendam cruiseship fire investigation reveals crucial flaws in procedure, writes Hugh O'Mahony — Wednesday May 18 2005

THE Transportation Safety Board of Canada has called for an industry-wide review of shipboard fire protection standards, after publishing its final report into a fire on board the cruiseship Statendam.

The TSB investigation centred on events aboard the Holland America Line ship on August 4, 2002, then operating in the Strait of Georgia, British Columbia.

Circuit breaker

Three-and-a-half hours after departing from Vancouver, a main circuit breaker for one of the ship's diesel generators failed, starting a fire in the main switchboard room and the adjacent engine control room.

Although there were no injuries and the crew extinguished the blaze so that the ship could return to port under tow, TSB said it had uncovered serious deficiencies in the fire-retardant insulation on the deck between the engine control room and the main switchboard room.

Lack of insulation allowed cables above the control room deck to ignite and start secondary fires.

TSB recommended that Canada's Department of Transport submitted a paper to the International Maritime Organization "requesting a review of requirements for structural fire protection and fire-extinguishing systems to ensure that the fire risks associated with compartments containing high levels of electrical energy are adequately assessed, and that the provisions of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea dealing with structural fire protection and fixed fire-extinguishing systems are addressed".

Reflect

Current Solas requirements for structural fire protection around main switchboard rooms did not reflect the fire risk inherent in electrical systems that transmit high levels of power, TSB said.

Furthermore, the ship's carbon dioxide smothering system did not have an independent connection to the main switchboard room, thereby depriving the vessel of an effective means to fight fires in this compartment.

The Board said it was also concerned that neither the IMO nor the international

shipping community had specified minimum standards of competency or knowledge for ships' electrical officers.

The failure to isolate electrical power during firefighting also exposed the crew to undue risk, it said.

"The weaknesses identified in the training and audit programmes, and the shortcomings identified in the emergency preparedness plan, indicate that there were certain inadequacies in the performance of the Statendam's safety management system."

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

Vessel	Type	Flag	Class	GT	DWT	Bit	Casualty
<i>API IV</i>	trawler	ARG	BV	1,570	1,900	1976	Reported May 5 adrift in lat 42 10S, long 58 22W. Reported May 6 under tow of Trawler <i>API II</i> , bound "Bahia Cracker".
<i>AZURE</i>	bulker	BEL	BV	35,243	64,230	1982	Reported May 5 that tug <i>Smit Amandla</i> was proceeding to tow vessel to Cape Town due reported rudder problems. Under tow May 9, ETA May 20.
<i>FEIXA</i>	fishing	ARG	—	355	431	1981	Reported 10 May 2005 under tow of fishing Cabo San Juan in lat 47 41S, long 63 19W, bound Caleta Paula.
<i>KABALEGA</i>	ro-ro	UGA	—	1,697	3,200	1984	Sank in Lake Victoria May 8 following collision with ro/ro <i>Kaawa</i> . Crew rescued. Salvage considered "impossible".
<i>LINDSAY</i>	trawler	ZAF	—	174	—	—	In collision with fruit juice tanker <i>Ouro do Brasil</i> in lat 34 06.43S, long 25 16.48E, May 7. Capsized and sank in 150 metres of water. 2 crew rescued, 14 dead.
<i>MATTHEW B.</i>	tug	USA	—	61	—	1970	Took on water and sank at Galveston anchorage May 8. Quantity of fuel spilled. Divers working to seal vessel May 10, prior to refloating.
<i>MURMAN 2</i>	fishing	RUS	NV	2,008	2,331	1998	Reported drifting in lat 59 17N, long 01 45W, May 9 with main engine problem. Coastguard on scene and awaiting arrival of commercial tug. Tug <i>Moegster Fjord</i> arrived May 9 and took vessel in tow for Bergen.
<i>OURO DO BRASIL</i>	fruit juice tanker	LBR	GL	15,218	19,519	1993	In collision with trawler <i>Lindsay</i> in lat 34 06.43S long 25 16.48E, May 7. Sustained bow damage and taking water. Anchored in Algoa Bay as of May 8, awaiting survey. Reported May 9 docked at Port Elizabeth. Detained.
<i>PACIFIC GAYLE</i>	fishing	USA	—	59	—	1981	Grounded on Usal Beach, California, Nov 27. Part of fuel removed but operation halted by bad weather. operation resumed around May 1. Vessel to be demolished using explosives.
<i>QUOS EGO</i>	general	NLD	—	—	816	1963	Developed leak in hold and took on water in River Scheldt, near Hansweert, May 9. Grounded on a sandbank to prevent sinking. Water pumped out by tugs and vessel assisted to pier at Hansweert.
<i>SEA BEE</i>	general	MNG	—	3,978	5,289	1981	Sank 100 miles off Shanghai May 2. On May 4, a body was found wearing a lifejacket from the vessel. 22 crew missing. Search operations suspended May 9. Reported May 9 vessel located in lat 32 53.5N, long 122 57.05E.

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The following reports are reprinted from Lloyd's List



AEGEAN SUN (Greece)
See under "Miscellaneous."

ALEXIS (Malta)
London, May 9 -- A press report, dated today, states: The naval administrations and harbour of Santa Marta has initiated an investigation to establish the cause of bulk Alexis (16598 gt, built 1981) being in contact with ref Comoros Stream (11382 gt, built 2000), which spilt a thousand litres of lubricating oil, on Saturday (May 7). According to the harbour-master of Santa Marta Alexis was coming from New Orleans loaded with 14,000 tons of maize, whereas Comoros Stream was berthed at wharf No.3.

London, May 10 -- A press report, dated today, states: Bulk Alexis was in contact with ref Comoros Stream at the Marine Terminal of Santa Marta causing an emergency which spilt a thousand litres of lubricating oil. An environmental contingency plan was put into action which prevented the oil entering the bay. An investigation by the naval administrations and Santa Marta harbour authorities has begun. According to the Santa Marta harbour-master, Orlando Solorzano, the situation is totally controlled and swimmers can visit the bay, because the spilled fuel did not arrive nor will arrive at beaches. According to the harbour-master the accident happened at 0208 yesterday, when Alexis was berthing at wharf No 4. Immediately, the authorities activated the contingency plan that consisted firstly of informing the people in charge of the handling and operation of both vessels. Later, barriers were placed until wharf No 5 so that it did not extend to the bay of the city and absorbent fabrics were utilised. The sun and the heat will help to evaporate the fuel and what is in the water will extract with the help of a specialised vessel. The director of the Regional Independent Corporation of the Magdalena (Corpamag), Orlando Cabrera Molinara, assured that in relation to this accident until now there has been no environmental damage. Hector Laserna, director of operations of the harbour of Santa Marta, said that the accident happened around 0200 yesterday. He reiterated that in a berthing manoeuvre at berth No 4 Alexis contacted Comoros Stream berthed at berth No 3, causing a fissure of about five metres in length in the helm of Comoros Stream. Later Alexis struck with its prow berth No 4 where it was arranged to berth, causing not very significant damage to the quay. Alexis is operating in the port and Comoros Stream is still berthed. The environmental

authorities are monitoring the cleanup of the oil, but the port is working normally.

ALKMINI A. (Greece)
Piraeus, May 12 -- Passenger ro/ro Alkmini A. is still at Perama Shipyard undergoing repair. A likely sailing date is unknown. -- Lloyd's Agents.

ALMA (St. Vincent & Grenadines)
London, May 9 -- An offshore chartering company has launched High Court action in London claiming that a vessel it chartered was not seaworthy. Cayman Islands company Star Chartering is suing the owners of ref Alma (10325 gt, built 1983). It claims, in a writ issued at the High Court in London, that the vessel failed to comply with its description in the contract. The vessel's owners failed to provide a vessel which was seaworthy and cargoworthy and failed to maintain it in a thoroughly efficient state in hull and machinery during service, according to the High Court claim, just made publicly available in London. The claim alleges that auxiliary engines failed, fuel leaked into the cargo hold and alarm systems for both auxiliary and main engines were deficient. Star Chartering is also suing over the vessel's late arrival at the local port in central South America, its alleged failure to steam at the required speed on the voyage and delay due to the engine and equipment breakdowns as well as its late arrival at discharge ports. The charterers additionally complain about compliance with voyage instructions, the loading of cargo in central South America and its discharge in the Mediterranean between December 2003 and February 2004, redelivery of the vessel and failure to reimburse the cost of bunkers. The claim is issued by Ince and Co.

ALMAZ (Russia)
Seoul, May 9 -- Fish factory Almaz was reportedly sold to a Chinese buyer as scrap and towed to Shanghai, on Mar 16, from Jinhae, Korea, without repair at Yosu. -- Lloyd's Agents.

ANNTORO (Norway)
Trondheim, May 9 -- General cargo Anntoro: Kvernhusvik Shipyard, at Hitra, inform there is still no decision regarding possible repairs. -- Lloyd's Agents.

API IV (Argentina)
London, May 6 -- Following navigation warning issued May 5: Trawler API IV (1570 gt, built 1976) adrift in lat 42 10S, long 58 22W.
London, May 7 -- Following navigation warning issued May 6: Trawler API II towing trawler API IV in lat 42 03S, long 58 08W, speed eight knots, course 254, bound Bahia Cracker.

ARATERE (New Zealand)
London, May 9 -- A press report, dated today, states: The beleaguered ro/ro Aratere (12596 gt, built 1998)

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was pulled out of service again yesterday, following a "minor" mechanical fault. Two sailings were cancelled after the vessel arrived in Wellington 10 minutes late after problems, understood to be caused by a short-circuit. The ferry's owners Toll Shipping said removing it from service was an "extra-cautionary move." Passengers on the 1400 hrs sailing from Wellington and the return sailing from Picton were transferred on to ferry Arahura, spokeswoman Sue Foley said. "Because of the light loading and the high safety regime we're operating in, we thought we'd take the opportunity to give it a full check because we want everyone to have full confidence." Despite delays of more than four hours, passengers were understanding, she said. Maritime Safety Authority spokeswoman Heidi Brook said Toll Shipping had contacted them about the removal of Aratere. "They are doing the right thing (removing it)." She said there were no plans to investigate further unless the problem turned out to be more serious. The vessel has been the subject of 45 investigations by the authority since arriving new in Wellington six years ago. It is due to resume sailing tomorrow at 0600 hrs.

Wellington, May 11 -- Ro/ro Aratere was back in service at 2335, local time, May 10. -- Lloyd's Agents.

ARCA (Canada)

Montreal, May 5 -- Tank barge Arca is still in Montreal. -- Lloyd's Agents.

AVON (Liberia)

See "Chile" under "Weather & Navigation."

AZURE (Panama)

London, May 5 -- Understood tug Smit Amandla is proceeding to assist the fully loaded bulk Azure (35243 gt, built 1982) and will tow it to Cape Town. The tug is expected to arrive on scene tomorrow. (Note -- Azure sailed San Lorenzo, Arg, Apr 16 for Bahia Blanca.)

London, May 8 -- Following received from Cape Town MRCC, timed 0940, UTC: Bulk Azure is now under tow bound Cape Town, ETA not known, Believed vessel has rudder problems.

London, May 9 -- Following received from Cape Town MRCC, timed 1443, UTC: Bulk Azure remains under tow for Cape Town, but its ETA is still not known.

Cape Town, May 12 -- Understand from towage contractors, Smit, bulk Azure will be arriving at Cape Town approximately May 20. A rudder problem is reported. -- Lloyd's Agents.

B.NO.35 (U.S.A.)

London, May 10 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: Tank barge B.No.35 that was being towed up the Hudson River last week when he hit a reef off New Hamburg, was moved to a facility off Staten Island today, the US Coast Guard said. A spokesman said that the barge was moved to the Clean Waters facility today. The vessel held

3.1 million gallons of gasoline; however, the Coast Guard spokesman said he did not have a report yet as to how much fuel was leaked into the Hudson. The delay in moving the barge down the Hudson was two-fold: crews had difficulty repairing the leak, and then later, the Coast Guard required the filing of new forms before it would allow the barge to be towed from the site it had been moored at the Roseton electric generating facility in the Town of Newburgh.

BASTO III (Norway)

London, May 7 -- Information received from Sandnes, dated today, states: Passenger Basto III is now at Remontowa shipyard in Gdynia undergoing repairs, ETC unknown.

BLACKHAWK (U.S.A.)

London, May 8 -- A press report, dated May 7, states: Tug Blackhawk (194 gt, built 1968) caught fire on the Lake Washington Ship Canal today. The fire broke out while two men were on board. The men were doing some cutting and welding work at the time, it was unclear this afternoon if that may have sparked the fire. The men got off the boat safely, and firefighters were able to put the fire out quickly. The Chief Seattle fireboat responded quickly because it was in the area due to the festivities for the opening day of boating season.

London, May 8 -- A press report, dated today, states: The Harbour Patrol closed the Lake Washington Ship Canal for 20 minutes yesterday afternoon while the Fire Department responded to a fire on tug Blackhawk. Seattle fire officials were called at 1545 hrs after the tug caught fire near Northwest Leary Way and Northwest 40th Street, a fire department spokeswoman said. The owner and an employee evacuated the tug without incident. The cause of the fire is unknown.

BROWN WATER V (U.S.A.)

London, May 6 -- A press report, dated today, states: Nearly four years after a bridge collapse that killed eight people, the Coast Guard said a tug master who failed to prepare for a turn was to blame. However, strong currents before dawn on Sep 15, 2001, were also a factor in the accident, and a shortage of horsepower may have made it more difficult for Capt David Fowler to keep control of his load, which was a quarter-mile long, the Apr 28 report said. The Coast Guard will not pursue criminal charges against Fowler. The tug (tug Brown Water V) and four barges rammed the Queen Isabella Causeway, the state's longest bridge. Eight people died when their vehicles plummeted 85 feet into the channel, which separates South Padre Island from the Texas mainland. Fowler surrendered his Coast Guard licence after the accident. The report was the conclusion of Coast Guard hearings that began about a month after the accident. "The apparent cause of this casualty was Captain David D. Fowler's failure to exercise reasonable care according to

the standards of the ordinary practice of good seamanship," wrote James Wilson, the retired Coast Guard officer who presided over the hearings. While Wilson did not find current, horsepower, or the way the vessels were loaded to be contributing factors, Coast Guard higher-ups disagreed. "Although Captain Fowler's negligence was the apparent cause, the strong currents and their influence on the tow's misalignment cannot be ignored," the report said. Fowler invoked his Fifth Amendment right against self-incrimination and declined to testify at the hearings, but his attorney, Sheldon Weisfeld, said the weather, the tides and the currents were responsible for the accident. "I think it was a tragic accident and I don't believe that he has any culpability," he said. Several lawsuits are pending from the collapse, including one that alleges American Commercial Barge Lines, based in Jeffersonville, Indiana, hired a tow company that it knew had problems. Plaintiff attorney Ray Marchan said he would show that lack of horsepower is to blame. "By their own statement they realize that there's more work to be done in determining the horsepower issue," he said. Doug Rabe, chief of the investigation division at Coast Guard headquarters, said the report took a long time because of officials' differing opinions. "Not to say we have great reasons for taking three and a half years to do this, but it was difficult to come to a consensus on all those issues," he said.

CALIFORNIA (Panama)

London, May 12 -- Bulk California (40182 gt, built 1979) was detained by Gibraltar Port Authority for allowing fuel oil to escape into the sea at 1330 yesterday. The master was arrested by police and will appear in court this morning. The vessel is presently anchored on the East side of Gibraltar. Apparently this has been an accident caused by a crack in a ballast tank from fuel oil tank. (Note -- California arrived Gibraltar May 10.)

CANADIAN PROSPECTOR (Canada)

See Stellanova.

CANUM (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, May 11 -- Following received from Coastguard Thames MRSC, timed 0100, UTC: General cargo Canum (2075 gt, built 1994) has fire in cargo of 750 tonnes of shredded tyres at Brightlingsea harbour. Fire was reported to Coastguard about an hour ago. Crew reported safe. Essex Fire Brigade have three appliances on scene fighting fire.

London, May 11 -- Following received from Coastguard Thames MRSC, timed 0645, UTC: General cargo Canum: The burning tyres have been unloaded onto the quayside and fire services are now finishing dousing down operations. There was no damage to the vessel and no injuries to the crew.

London, May 11 -- Following received from Coastguard Thames MRSC, timed 1310, UTC: General cargo Canum: Following investigation, the Duty Officer on scene, has reported that there was no actual fire in the cargo. The situation arose from a heat build-up within the cargo, which resulted in steam being given off. A fire examiner has been requested to attend.

CAPE ATHOS (Cyprus)

London, May 10 -- The Cyprus owners of bulk Cape Athos are suing for damages after a collision two years ago. Cape Athos, which was securely anchored at Everingen, in the River Scheldt, was damaged when in contact with bulk Unique Brilliance Apr 18, 2003, according to a High Court claim issued in London.

CARAVOS HORIZON (Malta)

London, May 6 -- Understood bulk Caravos Horizon, Tampa for India, had engine failure May 1.

Piraeus, May 10 -- Bulk Caravos Horizon has been taken in tow by salvage tug Fotiy Krylov. No destination port has yet been fixed. -- Tsaviris Salvage (International) Ltd.

CEC ASIA (Bahamas)

Freeport, Bahamas, May 4 -- General cargo CEC Asia, in tow of tug Elsbeth III, arrived Freeport Apr 28. -- Lloyd's Agents.

CEMCON (Bahamas)

St Thomas, May 11 -- Cement Cemcon, in collision with barge La Princesa, which in tow of tug Monitor, at St. Thomas Apr 29: Cemcon sailed St. Thomas May 9 for Brooklyn, New York, where repairs are to be carried out. -- Lloyd's Agents.

CJK LINHAI (Panama)

London, May 11 -- Following received from Hong Kong MRCC, timed 2350, UTC, May 10: General cargo CJK Linhai (2647 gt, built 2003) and chemical/oil carrier Sun Investor (3866 gt, built 1997) were in collision in lat 21 54.5N, long 113 47E, at 0050, local time, today. CJK Linhai has some bow damage, while Sun Investor sustained damage to port side lifeboat.

COLSAC III

London, May 10 -- A press report, dated today, states: The Merrimac Ferry went down for repairs today but a DOT representative said it would resume trips across the Wisconsin River by this morning. Yesterday afternoon the Wisconsin Department of Transportation announced the ferry would not be in operation during the Monday afternoon rush hour. Repair crews from the Columbia County Highway Department and DOT were working to repair a part called the pillow block bearing, said Sandra Spann, DOT communications manager. It is part of the main drive shaft that pulls the ferry Colsac III along a steel cable stretched across Lake Wisconsin. Spann said the DOT engineer on the scene reports repair parts are

available at the Columbia County Highway Department shop. She said late yesterday the ferry will be back in operation this morning. Spann said she cannot say whether today's problem is something abnormal or simply a matter of a part that has worn out as a result of constant routine operation. The 15-car Colsac III was launched in May of 2003. During the 2003 ferry season, the new ferry boat had several breakdowns. The DOT eventually hired a consulting firm, Elliot Bay Design Group of Seattle, to review problems with the \$2.2 million vessel.

COLSAC III (U.S.A.)

Chicago, May 11 -- Ferry ColSac III returned to service May 9. -- Lloyd's Agents.

COLUMBIA (U.S.A.)

London, May 10 -- An Alaska Marine Highway System press release, dated Juneau, May 9, states: The Alaska Marine Highway System today announced that passenger ro/ro Columbia (3946 gt, built 1974) has been delayed in Ketchikan by an engine problem, and will not make its northbound schedule. In its place, Kennicott will pick up Columbia's northbound passengers and car deck load. Kennicott is scheduled to leave Ketchikan at 2315 tonight, will depart Wrangell at 1030 tomorrow and Petersburg at 1400 hrs, and arrive in Juneau at 2200 hrs. Captain John Falvey, AMHS general manager, said ferry system engineers are working around the clock with representatives of Cascade General, the Portland, Oregon shipyard that recently completed an 8-month-long rebuild of both of Columbia's Enterprise engines. "We believe the problem has been isolated to a defective camshaft in the starboard engine," Falvey said. "The repair work will be done in Ketchikan. In the meantime, we are bringing passenger ro/ro Taku back into service to fill in for Columbia until it is able to carry passengers." The camshaft repair is covered under warranty.

COMOROS STREAM (Netherlands)

See Alexis.

CONTSHIP ROME (Liberia)

London, May 7 -- C.c. Contship Rome, sailed Melbourne Apr 28, arrived Adelaide May 3 and sailed May 4 for Fremantle.

CORNER BROOK (Bermuda)

London, May 7 -- General cargo Corner Brook arrived Tilbury landing stage 1209, May 6 from Tilbury Dock.

London, May 8 -- General cargo Corner Brook, and tug Fairplay IX, left Tilbury landing stage 0808, May 7 for Piraeus.

DAEDALUS (Greece)

London, May 12 -- A press report, dated today, states: No harm came to the six Britons who had been asleep in a yacht moored at the port of Syros when passenger ro/ro Daedalus (15039

gt, built 1973) struck the vessel early yesterday, the Merchant Marine Ministry said. Daedalus, which had been docking with 122 passengers from Naxos, struck the vessel due to an engine malfunction, the ministry said. The six Britons managed to abandon the yacht before it sank, they added.

DAIO ROBIN (Panama)

Melbourne, May 5 -- Wood-chip Daio Robin sailed Geelong May 3 for Japan. -- Lloyd's Agents.

DIA P. (Panama)

Piraeus, May 10 -- Bulk Dia P. sailed Piraeus May 6 for Chalkis. -- Lloyd's Agents.

EL SAFA (Panama)

London, May 6 -- A press report, dated today, states: Coastguards in Falmouth are trying to help the crew of passenger ro/ro El Safa off Yemen who are stranded with no food and water. They were first contacted by El Safa when it broke down on Apr 3. The Yemenis have apparently refused to let the crew land. The master again called yesterday, saying they had been drinking "rusty tank water" for weeks and had no food. The International Transport Workers Federation has been asked to try to get the local authorities to send help. That there was a second call from El Safa's master, more than a month after the original distress signal was given, was unusual, said Falmouth deputy watch manager Pete Ritchie. "He came back to us apparently as a last resort. We obviously could not let it go. It was a matter of letting a responsible authority know about it." The vessel was also running low on fuel to run its generators, the master told coastguards in a telephone call. Its crew had not had contact with the vessel's Panamanian owners for at least three days. When Falmouth first picked up a Mayday call from El Safa, which said it had broken down and was drifting, it passed the message to local search and rescue authorities. "The vessel came back to say it had made contact with the Yemen, and they had promised to send help," said Mr Ritchie. "They obviously towed them to some position offshore and they have been there ever since." It is not known why the Yemeni authorities have denied the crew access to shore, or means to fix the engine. Falmouth Coastguards said they would continue to monitor the situation.

FEIXA (Argentina)

London, May 11 -- Following notice to mariners issued May 10 : Fishing Cabo San JuanP. towing fishing Feixa (355 gt, built 1981) in lat 47 41S, long 63 19W. Line length 700 metres, speed 3.4 knots, course 314, bound Caleta Paula.

FLEET TRADER 1

Lagos, May 9 -- Bulk Fleet Trader I is still discharging at port and repairs have also commenced. -- Lloyd's Agents.

FLYING DOLPHIN IV (Greece)

Piraeus, May 12 -- Hydrofoil Flying Dolphin IV completed repairs and returned to service, exact sailing date not known. -- Lloyd's Agents.

GENMAR KESTREL (Marshall Islands)

Piraeus, May 12 -- Crude oil tanker GenMar Kestrel completed repairs and sailed Skaramanga Apr 30 for orders. - Lloyd's Agents.

GENMAR STRENGTH (Liberia)

See Rene'l.

GRANDE NAPOLI (Italy)

Dubai, May 7 -- Understand ro/ro Grande Napoli is under repair at Dubai. -- Lloyd's Agents.

GUO TONG (Cambodia)

Yokohama, May 11 -- General cargo Guo Tong (1498 gt, built 1984), China for Osaka, had engine trouble in lat 30 55.6N, long 130 55.6E, off Makurazaki in Kagoshima, at 1900, local time, Apr 22. The engine was repaired by own crew and arrived Osaka under own power Apr 24 and sailed Apr 26 for Ningbo. -- Lloyd's Agents.

HAMAYUU (Japan)

Yokohama, May 9 -- Passenger ro/ro Hamayuu: Repairs have been completed and it sailed Shimonoseki May 6 for Busan. -- Lloyd's Agents.

HE XING (Cambodia)

Yokohama, May 11 -- General cargo He Xing (499 gt, built 1981) had propeller fouled by a fishing net in lat 33 17.9N, long 129 01.1E at 1140, local time, Apr 22. Vessel was towed to Imari port and a removal operation was carried out by Fukada Salvage. -- Lloyd's Agents. (Note -- He Xing subsequently arrived Sakai Apr 24 from Imari and sailed Apr 25 for Ningbo.)

HERA (Cambodia)

See "Turkey, Greece and Bulgaria" under "Weather & Navigation."

INABUKWA (Indonesia)

See "Malacca Strait" under "Piracy."

INDEPENDIENTE (Panama)

Freeport, Bahamas, May 4 -- Bulk Independiente arrived and sailed Freeport Apr 28. -- Lloyd's Agents.

IVAN NAZAROV (Russia)

London, May 12 -- A press report, dated May 11, states: General cargo Ivan Nazarov (1768 gt, built 1971), loaded with iron, hit the shore in Sariyer district of Istanbul last night. The vessel became out of control for an unknown reason and hit the shore in Rumelihisar coast of Sariyer. It was pulled away from the shore by a tug after the accident. No casualties were reported but there was minor damage to the vessel. An investigation is under way.

IVYAN (Turkey)

Varna, May 9 -- Chemical/oil carrier Ivyan arrived Varna May 8. -- Lloyd's Agents.

KAAWA (Uganda)

See Kabalega.

KABALEGA (Uganda)

London, May 9 -- A press report, dated today, states: Uganda Railways Corporation (URC) ro/ro Kabalega (1697 gt, built 1984), carrying military hardware sank in Lake Victoria yesterday after colliding with ro/ro Kaawa (1697 gt, built 1983). Kabalega, travelling from the Tanzanian port of Mwanza collided with Kaawa, reportedly carrying UPDF soldiers on a mission to fetch equipment from Tanzania at around 0300 hrs in the middle of the lake. So far nobody had been reported dead or injured during the accident. Railway workers said the ship was on the way back on Saturday evening (May 7) when it had a head-on collision with Kaawa heading to Mwanza. Survivors said Kabalega went to Tanzania on Friday with 22 empty wagons to fetch government goods. Other goods on board included oil products, baking flour, clothes and other general merchandise. The Army Chief Of Staff (COS), Maj. Gen. Joshua Masaba, confirmed that Kaawa had government officials. Ro/ro Pamba, which was travelling to Mwanza at almost the same time with Kaawa, was called and it rescued the victims. "The ship that caused an accident had a faulty radar and the braider vector that determines range and shows direction was not functioning," a URC worker who preferred anonymity said.

London, May 9 -- A press report, dated today, states: Ro/ro Kabalega sank in Lake Victoria yesterday after colliding with ro/ro Kaawa near Kuye Island, 51 nautical miles from Port Bell and 15 from Bukasa Islands, triggering a massive rescue and salvage operation. All the 25 crewmen were rescued and returned safely to Port Bell in Kampala. Kabalega went down at about 1128 hrs. For about eight hours after the accident, the ship stayed afloat, but slowly submerged as its crew was evacuated to Kaawa, before it sank. Transport minister John Nasasira yesterday described the 0330 hrs mishap, which reduced the country's lake fleet to two, as "a big loss." Police Marines commandant Joseph Katuramu said word of the accident came in at about 0800 hrs. A joint rescue operation brought together the Air force, Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), Police marines, Lake Rescue Institute and the Uganda Railways Corporation (URC). A helicopter from the UPDF air force was deployed as several other speedboats with divers were dispatched to the scene of the accident to rescue survivors and assess the situation. "The boats have been dispatched to pump out water from Kaawa as they escort it back to Port Bell," Nasasira said. The rescue team was also tasked to oversee the safe return of Kaawa to the Port Bell pier. Some URC authorities, citing lack of equipment, said it would be impossible to raise Kabalega out of the 84 metre-deep lake. At about 1500 hrs, ro/ro

Pamba docked at Port Bell and 25 crew members of the ill-fated Kabalega disembarked. Another 40 people, among them soldiers, came ashore on damaged Kaawa. Loaded with about 22 wagons of wheat, Kabalega, left Mwanza on Saturday for Port Bell. On the same day, Kaawa and Pamba, all loaded with empty wagons, left Port Bell for Mwanza, Nasasira said. "We don't know what could have happened or what the probable cause could have been. But I am constituting a probe team to look into that and many other issues," Nasasira said.

London, May 10 -- A press report, dated today, states: The government will set up a commission of inquiry into the sinking of ro/ro Kabalega Sunday (May 8) amid reports that the vessel was not insured. Insurance for Uganda's three vessels on Lake Victoria expired last December and was not renewed, according to Mr Paul Etiang, the chairman of board of governors of Uganda Railways Corporation (URC), which operates the fleet. Etiang was yesterday addressing the press at Port Bell Pier near Kampala. He was flanked by Transport and Communications Minister, Mr John Nasasira, who said the government would not allow any vessels back on the waters without insurance. Nasasira said a commission of inquiry into the accident will be instituted next week. He said he had directed the URC to liaise with her counterparts in Kenya and Tanzania to ensure that the flow of goods on Lake Victoria was not interrupted. Kabalega sank following a collision with ro/ro Kaawa. The two masters on board the ill-fated vessels have blamed their second-in-commands who were in charge of the vessels at the time of the collision. Captain Albert Ochaya of Kaawa and Captain Gerald Katumwa of Kabalega said unco-ordinated communication between the steering crew of the vessels at the time of overtaking caused the collision. "All was going on well, until Kaawa altered course towards Kabalega at the very last moment, hence the collision," Captain Katumwa said. However, Nasasira said it was pointless to speculate or apportion blame and said the facts would be established through investigations. He blamed the delay in reporting the accident on poor communication. Kaawa is currently docked at Port Bell awaiting repair. URC says it will be repaired in about 20 days at the Port Bell pier wet dock because the dry dock is occupied by a new cargo vessel under construction. The cost of repairs has not been established and URC is yet to contract a firm to assess the extent of the damage. In a statement to the press, Nasasira said divers from Kenya Ports Authority had been dispatched to assess and advise on the damage on Kabalega. "Basing on the findings on the extent of the damage and the possibility of recovery a decision on whether the vessel can be retrieved or not will be made," Nasasira said. Details indicate that

there were 21 wagons on Kabalega when it sank. They carried wheat belonging to messrs Bakhresa.

London, May 10 -- A press report, dated May 9, states: Uganda has lost at least eight million dollars after an uninsured state-owned ro/ro Kabalega sank following a weekend collision with ro/ro Kaawa in the country's part of Lake Victoria, officials said today. Insurance for the eight-million-dollar (6.2 million-euro) Kabalega had expired and was about to be renewed when the accident occurred yesterday near Kuye island, about 50 nautical miles from Kampala, Paul Etiang, chairman of the Uganda Railways Corporation (URC), said. Kabalegasank with 840 metric tonnes of cargo after colliding with Kaawa, both owned by the state-owned URC. Kaawa managed to sail back to Port Bell in Kampala, they said. URC has three cargo vessels and none of them had been insured by yesterday, officials said. The cause of the collision is still under investigation, they added.

London, May 12 -- A press report, dated May 11, states: A marine expert yesterday warned of a massive oil spill into Lake Victoria, a day after ro/ro Kabalega sank off Sese Island with 22 wagons of wheat. The Uganda Railways-owned vessel could have spilt up to 105,000 litres of heavy oil if its tank was full at the time it collided with ro/ro Kaawa on Sunday night (May 8), said Captain Joseph Mucuthi, a marine environment consultant. The oil slick could kill millions of fish and other lake life in several kilometres of the water system. He said: "It will be an environmental disaster if the vessel's tank was full at the time of the accident." The captain called on the Government to send experts from Mombasa to survey the site where the vessel sank to find ways of preventing the spill.

Dar es Salaam, May 12 -- Ro/ro Kabalega, belonging to state owned Uganda Railway Corporation, carrying 21 wagons of which two belonging to Tanzania Railways Corporation, loaded with 840 tonnes of wheat grain belonging to S. S. Bakhresa & Company, Tanzania, Ltd, being shipped from Mwanza, Tanzania to Port Bell, Uganda, in collision with ro/ro Kaawa in Lake Victoria, Ugandan territorial waters, 50 nautical miles from Kampala, on May 8 and sunk eight hours latter with the entire cargo. The hull was damaged extensively and pumping out the water was impossible. All crew are reported to be safe. Our enquires found that the collision could have been a result of an error in navigation or stalled engines. Poor visibility due to bad weather or faulty radar could also have led to the rare collision. The vessel is reported to be worth US \$ 8 million. The insurance cover had expired and due for renewal before the accident. -- Lloyd's Agents.

KALEETAN (U.S.A.)

London, May 7 -- A press report, dated May 5, states: Bremerton-

Seattle ro/ro Kaleetan that broke down mid-voyage yesterday was repaired and back in service last night, a ferry official said. The ferry was towed to Colman Dock. It appeared a short caused the vessel to break down. Crews replaced wires to get it running again, said Susan Harris, a spokeswoman for Washington State Ferries.

KASLA (NIS)

See Volga Highway.

KOBEE V (Panama)

Busan, May 6 -- Hydrofoil Kobee V, Busan for Hakata, with 163 passengers was struck by an unknown object some 14 miles off Busan, at approximately 1640, Apr 29. As a result Kobee V sustained heavy damage to its bottom area. No personal injuries with the exception of slight bruises were reported. Extent of damage reported: Most of bottom plates were destroyed/fractured. Seawater was leaking into the engine-room. Hydrofoil of the vessel was heavily destroyed. On Apr 30 Kobee V, in tow of a tug, returned to Busan for permanent repairs. Kobee V is under repairs at Sunjin Shipbuilding Co, Ltd, Busan and repairs expected to be completed by the end of June. -- Lloyd's Sub-agents.

KOLGUEV (Russia)

London, May 6 -- At 1240, May 4, bulk Kolguev (16344 gt, built 1987) reportedly lost an anchor in the Sorel anchorage.

Montreal, May 11 -- The (lost) anchor of bulk Kolguev was replaced instead of trying to recover it, as that was the least expensive solution. The vessel has departed. -- Lloyd's Agents.

LA PRINCESA (U.S.A.)

See Cemcon.

LINDSAY (South Africa)

See Ouro do Brasil.

LYKES VOYAGER (United Kingdom)

London, May 11 -- C.c. Lykes Voyager is still at Hud Taikoo Dock, Hong Kong.

MAARTEN JACOB (Netherlands)

Maassluis, May 6 -- Fishing Maarten Jacob is still under repair. -- Lloyd's Sub-agents.

MARITIME ANTALYA (Panama)

Yokohama, May 6 -- Bulk Maritime Antalya was under repair at Tuneishi Dockyard from Apr 12 to 25. -- Lloyd's Agents.

MATIAS F. ERASQUIN

Buenos Aires, May 10 -- Unknown Matias F. Erasquin, which was involved in a collision with bulk Oneida at km. 227 of the Parana Guazu River in March, was refloated on May 8 by the Argentine Coast Guard. Matias F. Erasquin was sunk at 32 metres aft and 28 fore. A crane was used to refloat it. Matias F. Erasquin will be towed to Campana today. -- Lloyd's Agents.

MATTHEW B. (U.S.A.)

London, May 9 -- Following received from Coast Guard, Houston, dated May 8: Four men were rescued when tug Matthew B. (61 gt, built 1970) sank in the Galveston anchorage at approximately 1900 today. The crew of an anchored ship nearby let down a ladder and rescued three of the men and the fourth was rescued by a Coast Guard rescue boat from Station Galveston. None of the men were injured in the accident. The tug was pushing a barge with 58,800 gallons of diesel onboard when it began taking on water and sank. The barge broke free from the tug and was recovered by tugs San Thomas and Atlas who took it to be moored at pier 10 in Galveston. Ships passing by are being instructed to proceed at a slow speed. The cause of the accident is being investigated by Coast Guard Marine Safety Unit Galveston.

London, May 10 -- A press report, dated today, states: US Coast Guard divers were working today to seal tug Matthew B.'s fuel tank after it sank yesterday evening, off the coast of the Bolivar Peninsula. The tug was pulling a barge containing 58,000 gallons of diesel fuel in the Bolivar anchorage when winds from the Sunday evening thunderstorm snapped the line connecting the two vessels. The barge remained intact, but the tug sank. The tug's fuel tank ruptured, sending at least part of the tug's 4,000 gallons of fuel into the water. Coast Guard Petty Officer Andrew Kendrick said divers were working to patch the leak, but officials were unable to estimate how much fuel had leaked into Galveston Bay. Kendrick said officials hoped to have the repair finished and the tug salvaged sometime today.

MCL TRADER (Russia)

London, May 6 -- Following received from Etel MRCC, timed 1022, UTC: General cargo MCL Trader (3466 gt, built 1990), Bremerhaven for Bordeaux, in lat 46 07.2N, long 01 16.8W, at pilot station, for engine repairs; estimated duration 6-8 hours. (Note -- MCL Trader sailed Bremerhaven 2005, May 2.)

London, May 10 -- General cargo MCL Trader arrived Bordeaux May 7.

METANOL (Malta)

Marseille, May 11 -- Chem.tank Metanol is still at anchorage in Fos sur Mer, waiting for transshipment of its cargo, which should take place at the end of this week. Only tank 12 was affected by the explosion. Although unconfirmed, it is reported that repairs should take place in Marseille. -- Lloyd's Agents.

MONITOR (U.S.A.)

See Cemcon.

MSC CHRISTINA (Cyprus)

Shanghai, May 8 -- C.c. MSC Christina is under repair at Da Dong Shipyard, Shanghai. The vessel is reported to have moved to the

shipyard around Apr 20, and repairs are expected to take 60 days. -- Lloyd's Agents.

MSC DENISSE (Panama)

Singapore, May 7 -- C.c. MSC Denisse arrived Singapore Eastern Working Anchorage May 6. -- Lloyd's Agents.

MSC KATIE (Panama)

London, May 8 -- A press report, dated May 5, states: The installation of a cofferdam on c.c. MSC Katie, by the firm Taylor Smith, in charge of the repair of the ship, is finished. This operation aims at ensuring the sealing of the ship. Everything is now in place for the refloating operation. The tanks which contained 850 tons of fuel and 50 tons of diesel remained intact after the collision. But the 10,000 cubic metres of sea water, which entered the engine-room, will be pumped out starting this afternoon. In the same way oil, oozing from the engine and which floats, will be pumped into the tanks of the ship to avoid any pollution problem in Port Louis roads. The pumping operation should be finished tomorrow. MSC Katie will then be berthed to discharge its containers. If all goes well, part of the containers will be forwarded to South Africa on board c.c. MSC America which due to arrive tomorrow. The remainder of the containers will be shipped to three destinations on other ships. C.c. Nordsun, sustained slight damage but was able to conclude its unloading operations, including 309 containers on behalf of Mauritius importers, and is currently anchored in roads. The 88 containers of textile products and seafood, which were initially to be dispatched on board Nordsun, were loaded on c.c. Nordbeach. Nordbeach will also forward 217 other containers to other destinations.

London, May 9 -- A press report, dated May 8, states: Two weeks after the collision between c.c. MSC Katie and c.c. Nordsun, MSC Katie was refloated successfully at around 1530, yesterday afternoon. Nordsun is in Port Louis roads awaiting for its insurers agreement on a guarantee to cover the the cost of repairs etc to MSC Katie.

Port Louis, May 9 -- C.c. MSC Katie was refloated during the night of May 7. Yesterday the vessel was berthed at the New Container Terminal for the discharge of its containers which are still being unloaded. Furthermore, it is understood the owners of MSC Katie have lodged a distraint in the Supreme Court against c.c. Nordsun. Nordsun was arrested May 6, and cannot leave the port unless an arrangement is made with the underwriters of the vessels. The owners and the underwriters of MSC Katie have requested that a bank guarantee be issued by Nordsun to cover the expenses incurred in respect of the repairs and refloating. -- Lloyd's Agents.

MSC ROBERTA (Panama)

Piraeus, May 12 -- C.c. MSC Roberta remains at Perama port, Piraeus,

undergoing repairs, which are reportedly expected to last one-to-two months. -- Lloyd's Agents.

MURMAN 2 (Russia)

London, May 9 -- Following received from Coastguard Shetland MRSC, timed 0657, UTC: Fishing Murman 2, UHUR, (2008 gt, built 1998), Esbjerg for Faroe Islands, empty, 18 persons on board, reported drifting 145 degs at 1.8 knots, in lat 59 17N, long 01 45W, at 0635, UTC, with unspecified main engine problem. Owners are sending a tug from Norway with ETA 17 to 18 hours. Tug/supply Anglian Earl tasked at "0715" hrs to proceed at economical speed and stand-by the vessel. Wind northerly force 6 to 7 (strong breeze to near gale) decreasing.

London, May 9 -- Following received from Coastguard Shetland MRSC, timed 0307, UTC: Fishing Murman 2: Tug/supply Anglian Earl arrived on scene at 1215, UTC, and will remain in the area until the commercial tug arrives at approximately 2200, UTC.

London, May 10 -- Following received from Coastguard Shetland MRSC, timed 0123, UTC: Fishing Murman 2: Tug Moegster Fjord arrived on scene at 2347, UTC, May 9, connected tow and now proceeding for Bergen. Tug/supply Anglian Earl off task at 2347, UTC, May 9 and proceeding for Scalloway.

NANA (Bolivia)

Istanbul, May 11 -- Passenger ro/ro Nana (442 gt, built 1965), Bar for Bourgas, sustained engine breakdown while transiting Dardanelles at 1610, local time, May 10, and anchored off Yenikoy. -- Lloyd's Agents.

NORDSUN (Cyprus)

See MSC Katie.

NORSEMAN (Malta)

Tunis, May 9 -- Tug Norseman was towed to Cercina jetty by a Tunisian workboat. Following this incident our surveyor ascertained that neither the machinery nor the hull is affected by fire except two batteries out of use (explosion) and electrical installation out of order. -- Lloyd's Agents.

NORWAY (Bahamas)

London, May 12 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: The Smitwijs division of the Smit towage company has reportedly been contracted to tow passenger Norway from Bremerhaven. Norway has an NCL crew of 40 on board and its destination is named as Singapore. Environmentalists in Germany have demanded the removal of asbestos before the vessel leaves, as some shipping sources have already named Indian breakers as the current owners of the vessel. The tug towing the vessel will be the Chinese tug De Da.

NORWEGIAN DAWN (Bahamas)

London, May 9 -- A press report, dated today, states: Three weeks after a 70-foot wave slammed into passenger Norwegian Dawn (92250 gt, built 2002), more rough weather threw the ship off course - forcing the

cancellation of a one-day Mother's Day cruise yesterday. The ship was returning to New York after a seven-day cruise to the Bahamas when it encountered a storm off the Carolinas. About 40 passengers spent the night in a Queens Comfort Inn after missing flights home to Mexico.

OCEAN VENTURE I (Panama)

London, May 9 -- Following received from Pickford & Black, Halifax, NS, dated May 8: General cargo Ocean Venture I remains at Sydney, NS. (Note -- Ocean Venture I was reported "dead" at Sydney, NS, in October 2003.)

ODIGITRIA (Liberia)

Montreal, May 5 -- Bulk Odigitria: Bearing is being remetaled, however, today the intermediate shaft was found to have several fractures. Full depth not yet known. Repairers waiting for instructions from Russian Register. Also we expect that repairs will include realignment of shafting starting at the main engine. Based on this it is not possible to state when repairs would be completed, probably not before May 15. -- Lloyd's Agents.

OLYMPIA (Greece)

London, May 9 -- Bulk/oil Olympia (44921 gt, built 1985, Liverpool for Brazil) sustained denting damage when unloading equipment fell onto the vessel as it was being removed from the No.8 hold at Alcan, berth Duncan 2, Ville la Baie, Quebec at 1400, EDST, May 7.

Montreal, May 11 -- Bulk/oil Olympia effected permanent repairs at Port Alfred and sailed May 9 for Port Cartier. -- Lloyd's Agents.

Montreal, May 11 -- On May 7, a rubber-tyred payloader fell onto the deck of bulk/oil Olympia from a height of three metres. The vessel sustained dented pipework, bent handrails and paint scrapes in the vicinity of the incident. No repairs were required and the vessel was not delayed. -- Lloyd's Agents.

ONEIDA (Malta)

San Lorenzo, May 11 -- Bulk Oneida arrived San Lorenzo May 5 from Rosario. -- Lloyd's Sub-agents.

OURO DO BRASIL (Liberia)

London, May 8 -- Following received from Cape Town MRCC, timed 0940, UTC: Fruit juice tanker Ouro do Brasil, ELPP9, (15218 gt, built 1993), Singapore for Brazil, was in collision with trawler Lindsay (174 gt, built 1973) in lat 34 06.43S, long 25 16.48E, at 2302, UTC, May 7. Lindsay capsized and sank within 30 seconds. Two crew of Lindsay, who were on the bridge, were rescued and the other 15 persons on board, who were below deck, went down with the vessel. Ouro do Brasil sustained bow damage and was taking water. Vessel is now at anchor in Algoa Bay awaiting survey etc. (Note -- Ouro do Brasil sailed Singapore Apr 26 for Santos.)

London, May 8 -- A press report, dated today, states: At least 14 people

have gone missing after trawler Lindsay was in collision with fruit juice tanker Ouro do Brasil and sunk off Port Elizabeth early today. Ian Gray, the National Sea Rescue Institute's Port Elizabeth station commander, said they were alerted to the collision about 0139 today. The collision took place about 9.5 nautical miles off Sardinia Bay, about 10 nautical miles (by road) from Port Elizabeth. Gray said: "It appears Ouro do Brasil collided broadside on the port side of Lindsay. Lindsay, with 17 crew on board, sunk shortly afterwards. Two people were rescued and taken to a Port Elizabeth hospital. An extensive air and sea rescue, involving 12 craft, was launched for the rest of the crew. Gray said the crews of two NSRI boats and two air force helicopters were searching the area since first light. Private boats, fishing vessels and others ships in the area were also alerted to the missing crew. A joint operations control centre was established at the NSRI base in Port Elizabeth. "The immediate search area plotted spans approximately 21 square nautical miles." Gray said: "According to information obtained from the skipper of the sunken vessel they were preparing to drop anchor when the collision took place. "A crewman was rescued shortly after the collision by Ouro do Brasil, and he is in a satisfactory condition." The skipper of Lindsay was rescued by fishing Lincoln at about 0240 hrs. He was suffering from suspected rib fractures, breathing difficulty and suspected inhalation and ingestion of diesel and diesel fumes. Both were in shock and were treated by NSRI medics. Gray said: "It is understood that most (or all) of the remaining crew, 15 men, were asleep in forward compartments when the accident occurred. The vessel sank about 20 seconds after impact." Swells were up to five metres and a southwesterly wind was expected to reach 20 knots. He said: "There is a wide and long debris field and all four of Lindsay's liferafts have been found as well as liferafts, unused, and flotsam and debris have been located by rescuers. By 0640 hrs there was still no sign of any of the missing crew."

London, May 9 -- A press report, dated May 8, states: Rescue services in Port Elizabeth are exploring the possibility of an underwater search for 14 fishermen who are presumed drowned after their vessel, trawler Lindsay, sank off Sardinia Bay following a collision with fruit juice tanker Ouro do Brasil. The Lindsay was en route from Mossel Bay to Port Elizabeth when it collided with the other vessel and sank within 20 seconds. The first vessel on the scene only managed to rescue the skipper, while one crew member was pulled out by another rescue vessel. Air and sea searches for the men were called off earlier this afternoon. Ian Gray, the National Sea Rescue Institute (NSRI) station commander, said they had retrieved unused liferafts floating in the ocean. The skipper is still in

hospital after suffering chest injuries and inhaling diesel. His crew member was treated and discharged later.

London, May 9 -- A press report, dated today, states: Fourteen crew members of Cape fishing trawler Lindsay are missing presumed dead after their vessel collided with fruit juice tanker Ouro do Brasil 20 nautical miles south of Port Elizabeth at 0130, yesterday. Only two survived. Yesterday sea and air searches, spanning more than 21 square nautical miles in high visibility, were called off at 1000. Lindsay had been preparing to drop anchor when it was in contact with Ouro do Brasil on its port side, 10 nautical miles off Sardinia Bay, while most of its crew was still asleep in forward compartments. Twenty seconds after impact Lindsay apparently turned upside down and began to fill with water. Lindsay's skipper was pushed out of the cabin by water pressure and remained afloat until he was rescued by a nearby fishing vessel, Lincoln, at 0245. He was breathing with difficulty, possibly from the ingestion and inhalation of diesel fuel. He may have fractured ribs, and was admitted to a private hospital in Port Elizabeth. The other survivor, a crewman knocked overboard from the upper deck, was soon rescued by Ouro do Brasil. He is in a stable condition at St George's Hospital in Port Elizabeth. The NSRI was contacted by Ouro do Brasil at 0140 and immediately co-ordinated a rescue effort involving the SA Air Force, Metro Rescue and Ambulance Services, Port Elizabeth Fire and Rescue Services, Netcare 911 Ambulance Services and area hospitals. The rescue effort involved 12 vessels and two helicopters. At the site of the accident, rescuers found a mile-long field of debris which contained all of Lindsay's liferafts and all four of its liferafts, presumed to be unused. The cause of the collision is under investigation by the SA Maritime Safety Authority and Port Elizabeth police. Officials say it may be difficult to locate Lindsay, as it is 130 metres below the sea's surface. At the time there were two-metre swells and a five-knot southwesterly wind. The water temperature was about 16C. Ouro do Brasil, damaged and leaking, remained at the scene until 0930, when it was released to dock at Port Elizabeth for repairs. The vessel sailing from Singapore to Brazil and was said to be close to the coast because of a favourable tide. Lindsay, owned by the Viking Fishing group, was making its way from Mossel Bay to Port Elizabeth when it dropped anchor 10 miles off the coast.

London, May 10 -- A press report, dated May 9, states: Maritime safety authorities have launched an investigation into the deaths at sea of 14 South African chokka fishermen after fruit juice tanker Ouro do Brasil collided with their trawler Lindsay off Port Elizabeth. Ouro do Brasil, which has docked in Port Elizabeth with minor damage, has been detained under the Maritime Safety Act for at

least the duration of the investigation. Ouro do Brasil was a Liberian-registered vessel with German officers and a South American crew, said Captain Nigel Campbell, chief investigator of the South African Maritime Safety Authority in Port Elizabeth. "We have already taken statements from the tanker's master, officer of the watch and lookout and today we will continue the investigation by questioning them," Campbell said. The investigation into the collision is expected to focus on the two vessels' positions and the extent to which they had kept a proper lookout while at sea.

London, May 11 -- A press report, dated May 10, states: The owners of trawler Lindsay, which sank near Port Elizabeth, Sunday (May 8) after a collision with fruit juice tanker Ouro do Brasil, are still investigating ways to recover bodies that might be trapped in the wreck, according to the Mossel Bay municipality. It is thought that the bodies of all 14 missing crew might be in the wreck of the Lindsay. Just two of the fishing vessel's crew, skipper Paul Landers and Johan Ehlers survived. The SA maritime safety authority's investigating officer, Nigel Campbell, had said earlier they would interview the master of the Ouro do Brasil to establish details of the collision. "The vessel was detained on Sunday in order for us to carry out a preliminary inquiry," said Campbell, a fishing vessel safety officer.

London, May 12 -- A press report, dated May 11, states: Retrieving bodies from trawler Lindsay, which sank following a collision with fruit juice tanker Ouro do Brasil, has been ruled out because of the depth at which the vessel lies, the owners said today. "We have taken advice from experts and have been told that the Lindsay lies about 150 metres below the surface," said Craig Bacon, a director of Viking Inshore Fishing. He said it was too deep for divers to reach as they would not safely be able to cope with the 14 bars of pressure at that depth. Normal safety standards restrict recreational divers to about 40 metres but technical divers have been known to reach 200 metres, diving experts explained. "However, we were also told that if any bodies did manage to escape from the vessel, the extreme cold and pressure would probably prevent them from reaching the surface," Bacon said. The bodies of 14 fishermen from the Lindsay are still missing after the collision off the coast of Port Elizabeth on Sunday morning (May 8). Bacon said the Lindsay sank 9.5 nautical miles from the shore and 20 nautical miles south-east of Port Elizabeth. Investigators from the SA Maritime Safety Authority (Samsa) were interviewing the crew of the Ouro do Brasil in Port Elizabeth harbour today. The vessel has been detained for the duration of the investigation. Spanish interpreters have been called to assist with the interviewing process, Samsa said, stating that they were still trying to determine who was at fault.

PACIFIC GAYLE (U.S.A.)

London, May 6 -- A press report, dated May 4, states: Crews are planning to blow up fishing Pacific Gayle (59 gt, built 1981) that wrecked on the rugged northern Mendocino (California) Coast last fall, and will use helicopters to haul away the wreckage from a popular beach. The dangerous operation will force the closure of Usal Beach for six days next week. "We're concerned about public safety because of risks associated with the operation," said Joaquin Mariante, a warden with the state Department of Fish and Game. Beginning Sunday, state and federal agencies plan to resume blasting operations to break up the wreckage of Pacific Gayle, a 50-foot crab boat that plied coastal waters from Fort Bragg until it went aground last November. It's the second closure of Usal Beach and the Lost Coast Trail within two weeks because of the unusual demolition operation, which is overseen by the U.S. Coast Guard and the Department of Fish and Game. The removal of Pacific Gayle is the second phase of an operation that began in the early morning hours Nov 27, when the crab boat surged across a coastal reef and ran aground along the rocky shoreline of Usal Beach. The master told investigators he had fallen asleep at the boat's wheel. Four crew members, including the skipper, got off the boat and walked to shore across large rocks. But Pacific Gale was tightly wedged among the rocks, and badly damaged. Insurance companies declared the hull and machinery a (constructive) total loss. State crews and the Coast Guard were able to remove about 1,800 gallons of diesel fuel from the stranded vessel. But the operation was forced to end because of foul late November weather and local tide conditions. As a result, about 1,200 gallons of fuel remained onboard through the winter months. A week ago, near perfect tidal conditions allowed state and federal crews to resume removing the last of the fuel to prevent environmental damage. After the fuel was removed, crews began using explosives to blow the boat apart.

PALAWAN (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, May 12 -- Ro/ro Palawan arrived Port Sudan May 3 and sailed May 4, passed Port Said May 7 and subsequently passed Istanbul May 10 for Trabzon.

PULLEN (U.S.A.)

Baltimore, May 11 -- Dredger Pullen has been repaired and is back in service. This vessel works primarily in the Hampton Roads area and there are no plans at this time to tow it outside of the Port area. -- Lloyd's Agents.

QUOS EGO (Netherlands)

London, May 10 -- Inland sandcarrier Quos Ego (816 dwt, built 1963) had problems near Hansweert in the River Scheldt at about 1000, local time, May 9. The 62-metre long vessel, owned by

Kepri Vof at 's Hertogenbosch had a leak in its hold and the incoming water also came into the engine-room. To prevent it from sinking, the captain sailed the vessel against a sandbank. Two tugs of the salvage company Polderman of Hansweert came to assist the vessel, which was in a critical situation. The salvage tugs Bravo and Charlie came alongside and pumped the incoming water out of the vessel and assisted it to the pier in Hansweert outer harbour. Assurance people came on board and an investigation was started. The leak in the hold will be repaired alongside the pier in Hansweert today.

RED POINT (Italy)

Rio de Janeiro, May 10 -- Chemical/oil carrier Red Point sailed Rio de Janeiro May 6 for Sao Sebastiao. -- Lloyd's Agents.

RENE'I (U.S.A.)

New Orleans, May 11 -- Owners of passenger Rene'I, LaBorde Marine, confirmed that vessel is a total loss. It is currently moored at Amelia, La. Crude oil tanker GenMar Strength was last reported to us anchored three miles offshore, no information on damage. -- Lloyd's Agents.

London, May 12 -- Crude oil tanker GenMar Strength arrived Port Arthur 0100, May 9.

RICKMERS GENOA (Marshall Islands)

London, May 12 -- General cargo Rickmers Genoa left Shanghai Apr 26.

ROSTOK (Russia)

Bucharest, May 9 -- General cargo Rostok: Wreck removal operations progress at a very slow pace due to high waters and strong currents. The initial plan was to capsize the wreck, but attempts have failed due to the reasons mentioned above. The initial schedule and procedure for wreck removal has been changed. The present intention is to cut the vessel transversally into four-five sections. As of today, cutting and removal of the engine-room section has been completed and cutting of the hull in way of No.3 cargo hold has commenced. -- Lloyd's Agents.

SAFA B. (Syria)

See "Cyprus" under "Port State Control."

SANTA EMMA (Panama)

London, May 5 -- A press report, dated today, states: Thousands of litres of oil-contaminated water have been pumped from the hold of ro/ro Santa Emma that ran aground in the Northumberland Strait last week. However, officials say the clean-up of the vessel is far from over. Sorting out who owns the vessel, and thus who is responsible for clean-up costs, is proving to be an equally arduous task. Maurice Landry, a spokesman for Transport Canada, says it may take "awhile" to solve the ownership question because of the complex legal issues involved. The vessel arrived in

Canada in January 2004 to pick up a load of peat moss, but was detained for failing to meet the standards of the Canada Shipping Act. It has been tied up at the former Marine Atlantic wharf in Cape Tormentine ever since.

London, May 9 -- Canadian authorities are continuing to pump bunker oil from the hold of abandoned ro/ro Santa Emma, which ran aground near a wharf in the Northumberland Strait off Canada's east coast. The vessel broke free of its moorings in high winds and drifted ashore in Cape Tormentine, New Brunswick. With a large gash to the hull above the waterline, it was listing 12 deg while sitting on the bottom. Santa Emma has been sitting idle for the past 15 months after being detained by Transport Canada, the federal transport department, for failing to meet structural and other inspection standards under the Canada Shipping Act. It had arrived in Canada in January 2004 from Piraeus to pick up a shipment of peat moss. The vessel is now tied to the wharf and part of its hull has been filled with saltwater to stabilise it. "Some 50,000 litres of oil-contaminated water have been removed from the diesel tanks, the main hold and the engine-room," said David Jennings, communications manager of the Canadian Coast Guard. "However, there is a lot of bunker C oil on board," Mr Jennings said. "We estimate that 350,000 litres have to be removed. This will require steam heat and the whole clean-up could take weeks." "Fortunately," Mr Jennings added, "there has been no escape of oil products to the environment." The incident has concerned local scallop fishermen whose season has just begun. Meanwhile, the Canadian government has not yet established the identity of the vessel's owners as part of its investigation. "There are complex legal issues we have to pursue and we are still in the process of determining ownership," said Maurice Landry, spokesman for Transport Canada. He disclosed that "there are a number of liens out against the vessel -- but it is my understanding it has not yet been seized." Mr Landry said that normally it is the responsibility of the owner to ensure there is no pollution and to pay the costs of clean-up. In the absence of a direct contact so far with the owner, Mr Landry indicated that to cover the clean-up costs Transport Canada has been authorised to access the federal Ship-source Oil Pollution Fund prior to eventually seeking reimbursement from the vessel owner.

SANTA REGINA (New Zealand)

Wellington, May 6 -- Crew on Cook Strait passenger ro/ro Santa Regina were ordered off the ship and threatened with the sack after refusing to comply with a Maritime Safety Authority order for extra hands on the navigation bridge. The authority made the order on Tuesday (May 3) after the BlueBridge passenger ferry Santa Regina and a 10-metre boat collided in the

Marlborough Sounds on Monday night, killing Picton man Norman McFarlane. The order, which was effective from Wednesday morning, requires all Cook Strait ferries to have at least three people on the bridge while in Wellington and Marlborough harbours, and four when visibility is poor. Maritime Union secretary Mike Williams said Strait Shipping, which owns ferry Kent, at the centre of the dispute, and Santa Regina, had tried to meet the new condition by taking crew away from their normal duties. That left just one person to lash vehicles and carry out safety and fire checks, he said. "Vehicles are lashed in harbour limits and unlash when they get into the Sounds. That's how you have a fast turn-around." The deck crew also checked trucks carrying gas, chemicals and other dangerous goods for leaks, and the ship for fires. The seven deck crew refused to serve on the deck on health and safety grounds, shortly before Kent was due to leave Wellington on Wednesday night. "The master suspended the crew and ordered them to leave the vessel. They refused and stayed on board," Mr Williams said. The company then issued a suspension notice that contained a threat to dismiss the crew members, Mr Williams said. Kent remained tied up at a Wellington wharf yesterday while negotiations took place between the company and union. About 1600, Strait Shipping agreed to bring in two extra crew on a 28-day trial basis. Strait Shipping spokeswoman Wendy Pannet said Kent was expected to leave for Picton at 2100 last night as scheduled but would not comment further. "It's company business, it's settled and that's that." -- Lloyd's Agents.

SCHIEBORG (Netherlands)

Bremen, May 12 -- Ro/ro Schieborg is still at SSW Schichau Seebeck Shipyard GmbH and will remain so for sometime. -- Lloyd's Agents.

SEA BEE (Mongolia)

London, May 7-- A press report, dated May 6, states: General cargo Sea Bee (3978 gt, built 1981), Qinghuangdao for Manila, cargo 5,000 tons steel, and its 23 Vietnamese crew members have been missing in Chinese waters for four days now, the ship's owner said May 2. Sea Bee was on its way from Qinghuangdao to Manila when it lost radio contact, said officials from Vietnam Maritime University. A subsidiary company of the university had hired the ship. When the ship lost contact, it was 100 nautical miles off the coast of Shanghai, the university said. Sea Bee had earlier sent SOS messages to a local rescue centre in Shanghai, university officials added. According to the Shanghai rescue centre, the weather was good when the incident occurred, said officials. Rescue operations are still under way, said officials, but so far, the fate of the ship and its crew remains unknown. On May 3, China sent a rescue boat to the

area where Sea Bee went missing. One day later, the Chinese rescue boat found an unidentified body near the area. The body had on a lifejacket with the name Sea Bee, officials said. The university and company have sent representatives to China to identify the body and help speed up rescue works. But, it is still too soon to say the ship had sunk and impossible to know the exact cause of the accident until the missing crew is found, university officials added.

London, May 7 -- A press report, dated today, states: General cargo Sea Bee from the Vietnam Marine University is believed to have had an accident somewhere off Shanghai from where it sent the last emergency signals on May 1. Sea Bee from the Dong Long Sea Transport Company under the university was said to have sent out the emergency signals to the Eastern Shanghai sea rescue centre when it was more than 100 nautical miles off Shanghai. A Chinese rescue ship discovered a victim's body at 0400, UTC, May 4 around the water where Sea Bee sent out its last emergency signal, according to a report from the officer on duty at National Searching and Rescue Centre of China sent to the Vietnamese Searching and Rescue Centre. On May 3, the Eastern Shanghai sea rescue centre sent vessel Donghaijiu 169 to the place where Sea Bee sent its last emergency signal for a rescue mission but has so far not yet found any information about the ship. Search and rescue efforts are underway, said Deputy Rector of the Vietnam Marine University Luong Cong Nho. He said that the university has been in regular contact with the Vietnamese Embassy in China and responsible agencies of China, pushing them hard to take all necessary measures to locate the missing sailors and the ship which is believed to have sunk. Sea Bee had bought US\$2 million in insurance for the ship and US\$25,000 for each of its crew members from the Bao Viet Insurance Company.

London, May 8 -- A press report, dated today, states: Chinese rescue workers have not found anymore Vietnamese crew members or their cargo ship, general cargo Sea Bee, that went missing in Chinese waters last week except for the body found May 4. The body found by a Chinese rescue boat on May 4 has been identified said a leader of the Vietnam Maritime University yesterday. A subsidiary company of the university had hired the ship for the journey. Currently, the university and company are trying to repatriate the corpse, said Luong Cong Nho, deputy rector of the university. Currently, "it is impossible to identify the cause of the missing vessel," said Mr. Nho, adding that the ship had obtained its operation license from the Vietnam Registry of Shipping.

London, May 9 -- A press report, dated today, states: General cargo Sea Bee, which went missing along with its 23 Vietnamese crewmen seven days ago in Chinese waters, was confirmed

to have sunk, the vessel's owners confirmed yesterday afternoon. Sea Bee was sailing 100 nautical miles off the coast of Shanghai when it sank in the early morning of May 2, said an official from Vietnam Maritime University. A subsidiary company of the university had hired the vessel, carrying 5,000 tons of steel, for a journey from China to Manila. Before losing radio contact, the vessel had sent SOS messages to Shanghai Rescue Centre. Although rescue work was immediately commenced, only one body was found by a Chinese rescue vessel around the area where Sea Bee sank. The other 22 crewmen are still unaccounted for. China has suspended rescue operations after seven days in line with international maritime laws.

London, May 10 -- A press report, dated May 9, states: General cargo Sea Bee, of the Dong Long Sea Transport Company of the Vietnam Marine University, which went missing on May 1, was found sunk off the coast of Shanghai by the Eastern Shanghai sea rescue centre of China. The ship was found in lat 32 53.5N, long 122 57.05E, at a depth of 30 metres, about 100 nautical miles off Shanghai's coast on the international sea route. As of 1000 today the Vietnam Marine University still had no information about the remaining 22 crew members.

London, May 10 -- A press report, dated today, states: Rescue authorities have found a second body from the 23 crew on general cargo Sea Bee. The body was brought ashore for identification today. Divers are continuing their efforts to find the remaining 21 missing sailors.

SEA HUMBER (U.K.)

Glasgow, May 10 -- General cargo Sea Humber effected repairs at Greenock and sailed at 1400, May 7, for Ardrishaig. The vessel loaded a cargo of timber and sailed Ardrishaig at 1800, May 8. -- Lloyd's Agents.

SHOEI MARU (Japan)

Yokohama, May 11 -- Lpg Shoei Maru (995 gt, built 1992), Kyushu for Niigata, ran aground in the port of Kanmon, at light buoy No. 7 in Wakamatsu Passage, at 2000, local time, Apr 29. Vessel was refloated by Fukada Salvage at 0115, local time, Apr 30. No personal injury or oil spill was observed. -- Lloyd's Agents.

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

London, May 12 -- A press report, dated May 11, states: Passenger ro/ro Spirit of Ontario I will leave for Saint Catherines, Ont, at 0200 Monday (May 16). The ferry is booked at Port Weller dry-dock all next week where it will undergo repairs. It is still scheduled to return to service Jun 17.

STEEL QUEEN (Netherlands)

Gdynia, May 11 -- General cargo Steel Queen is still at a shiprepair yard in Gdynia. The completion of repairs has been prologated for about one week. -- Correspondents.

STELLANOVA (Netherlands)

Troy, Mich., May 11 -- The Transportation Safety Board of Canada released its final report today into a collision on the St. Lawrence Seaway between the Dutch general cargo Stellanova and the Canadian bulk Canadian Prospector. At approximately 1900 hrs, Oct 12, 2002, the Stellanova was travelling west through the South Shore Canal on the St. Lawrence Seaway near Montreal, Quebec, while the Canadian Prospector was entering the South Shore Canal eastbound for Port Cartier, Quebec. The Stellanova was on the south side of the channel. The pilot on board Stellanova called the Canadian Prospector and arranged a starboard-to-starboard passing. Stellanova was manoeuvred in order to keep it on the south side of the channel, but it sheered towards the centre of the channel and the ships collided. Both vessels sustained significant damage. Stellanova struck the bank, causing minor pollution, which was eventually brought under control by St. Lawrence Seaway authorities. One member of Stellanova's crew received minor injuries as a result of the impact. In its investigation, the TSB found that, although mariners and pilots were trained in managing their bridge personnel, the principles learned were not fully put into practice. The investigation also found that Stellanova sheered towards the south side of the South Shore Canal possibly due to a reduction in thrust, to the propeller control lever design, and to the visibility from the bridge. As well, the pilot had not received hands-on training on similar vessels or on simulators re-enacting emergency situations. -- Great Lakes Shipping & Seaway.

SUN INVESTOR (Panama)

See CJK Linhai.

TAKASAGO 2 (Japan)

Yokohama, May 11 -- Understand from Shin Kurushima Dockyard Co Ltd., that lpg Takasago 2 is still under repair and that completion is due in the middle of June. -- Lloyd's Agents.

THIA CHRYSOULA (Cyprus)

London, May 6 -- Following received from Japan Coast Guard, dated today: Bulk Thia Chryssoula is still aground in lat 24 44.08N, long 123 27.86E. The crew are still on the vessel. There has been no oil spill. The vessel has sustained no damage.

London, May 7 -- Understood salvage services are being rendered to bulk Thia Chryssoula by Tsavlis Salvage (International) Ltd, under Lloyd's Open Form, dated May 5.

Piraeus, May 10 -- Bulk Thia Chryssoula will require lightering prior to a refloating attempt. Lightering operations should begin later this week. -- Tsavlis Salvage (International) Ltd.

Yokohama, May 11 -- Bulk Thia Chryssoula grounded May 4. Vessel tried to refloat from the shallow by

own power on May 5, however it failed. No oil spill or water ingress is observed at present and the vessel was under investigation by the officers of Japan Coast Guard. According to information obtained this evening, Thia Chryssoula is reportedly still aground. -- Lloyd's Agents.

THOMAS RENNIE (Canada)

London, May 6 -- At 2340, May 4, ferry Thomas Rennie (424 gt, built 1951) struck the City of Toronto ferry pier. The dock sustained damage and two crew members were injured.

TILOS (Malta)

London, May 11 -- Following received from Coast Guard Seattle, timed 0445, UTC: Bulk Tilos (31463 gt, built 1991), cargo soda ash, ran aground on sand in the Ilwaco Channel, at the entrance to the Columbia River, around 0800, local time, May 10. Vessel refloated itself on the rising tide around 1200, local time, same day, and has since proceeded to Astoria for inspection.

London, May 11 -- Following received from Coast Guard Seattle, timed 2045, UTC: Bulk Tilos refloated from sandy island at 1212 hrs and is presently anchored off Astoria, awaiting divers' inspection.

TOR III (North Korea)

Mersin, May 11 -- General cargo Tor III: Kemer Port Management advise almost half of the vessel, upper parts and hatch covers, was cut and demolished. Alp Denizcilik who bought the vessel has not landed the remaining part of the vessel in the water yet. Also, the cargo of limestone is still on board the vessel. -- Lloyd's Agents.

TRANS BOTNIA (NIS)

London, May 8 -- Ro/ro Trans Botnia (12076 gt, built 1998), bound Antwerp, had blackout on River Scheldt while passing Dow Scheldesteiger near Terneuzen yesterday and had to go to anchor. Tugs Multratug 5 and Westhinder proceeded from Terneuzen harbour to assist, but their assistance was not needed. After the engine problems had been resolved Trans Botnia heaved up anchor and proceeded to Berth 1207 at Antwerp. The vessel left Antwerp at 1415 today for Hamina.

TRIJATA (Singapore)

London, May 6 -- Crude oil tanker Trijata arrived Palermo Mar 4.

Palermo, May 11 -- Crude oil tanker Trijata will depart from Palermo on May 17, for the Black Sea. -- Lloyd's Agents.

UGUR DADAYLI (Turkey)

London, May 7 -- General cargo Ugur Dadayli arrived Tuzla Apr 29.

UNIQUE BRILLIANCE (Hong Kong)

See Cape Athos.

VB 53 (U.S.A.)

London, May 9 -- Following received from Coast Guard Norfolk, Va, dated

May 8: Coast Guard Marine Safety Office Hampton Roads is responding to a report of a diesel fuel spill from tank barge VB 53 (3166 gt, built 1971) on the upper James River below Richmond. The spill was reported to the Coast Guard National Response Centre at 1141 today. The barge was being pushed south on the James River in an area known as Kingsland Reach, and is currently aground about two miles northwest of the Interstate 295 bridge. Two cargo tanks sustained damage. The crew of the barge is transferring fuel from the damaged tanks to other tanks on the barge. The amount of diesel fuel spilled and the rate of discharge are unknown at this time. The cause of the damage is under investigation. The barge is a 300-foot single-skin tank barge owned by Vane Line Bunkering, Inc. of Baltimore, Maryland. The owners have dispatched divers and clean-up contractors who are currently on scene. The Coast Guard is also on scene and is monitoring the situation.

London, May 9 -- A press report, dated today, states: A barge (tank barge VB 53) carrying 175,000-300,000 gallons of diesel fuel sprang a leak yesterday, dumping some of its contents into the James River. The leak from the barge was reported around 1120 hrs by people who live on the banks of the river near Osborne Boat Landing in eastern Henrico County. Henrico fire officials could not say what caused the leak, but they estimated that 200 gallons had seeped out as of yesterday afternoon. "It looks a lot worse than it is," said Chief Kenny Dunn of the Henrico Fire Marshal's Office. Henrico fire personnel and barge workers tried to contain the diesel fuel as it spread across the water's surface in two red plumes. Though the spill was noxious to some, Dunn said he did not anticipate any resulting health issues and said there was little chance the fuel on the water would ignite. Of greater concern to fire officials was the timetable for cleanup. Dunn said officials with the company that owns the barge indicated shortly after the leak was discovered that another ship to which the remaining fuel could be transferred was not expected to arrive for 10 hours. In addition to the Henrico Fire Department, the U.S. Coast Guard and Virginia Department of Environmental Quality had personnel at the scene.

London, May 10 -- A press report, dated today, states: The US Coast Guard yesterday estimated that 2,000 gallons of diesel had spilled into the James River since Sunday morning, when tank barge VB 53 carrying the fuel went aground in eastern Henrico County and began leaking. No significant signs of pollution or fallout from the fuel leak had been observed on the James, officials with two state agencies said yesterday. Also by yesterday, the Coast Guard had closed a section of the river near Osborne Boat Landing to commercial and recreational traffic as the cleanup and investigation into how the barge went

aground continued. The prohibition "will remain in effect until the barge is out of the way," said Jerry Crooks, chief of investigations for the Coast Guard Marine Safety Office Hampton Roads. Though a cleanup effort is ongoing, a final leakage figure may not be known for some time. "It's going to be weeks before we have an accurate number," Crooks said. VB 53 ran aground about 1120 Sunday, its underbelly pierced by two large boulders lurking just beneath the water surface during low tide. The vessel is owned by Vane Line Bunkering, a tug and barge subsidiary of The Vane Brothers Co. that operates out of Norfolk, Baltimore and Philadelphia, Vane Line marketing manager Don Glenn said. The barge was loaded with 1.76 million gallons of fuel at the Richmond port around 1000 Sunday and was bound for New York. Yesterday, a second Vane Brothers barge was alongside VB 53 and was transferring the remaining fuel to that vessel, Glenn said. The Coast Guard is looking for witnesses who operated pleasure boats in that area of the James on Sunday morning. Meanwhile, officials with the state Department of Environmental Quality and the state Department of Game and Inland Fisheries said they had not seen visible signs of environmental harm as a result of the spill. "We're continuing to monitor the situation, but at this point we don't have any documented fish kills or data on any wildlife damage," Gary Martel, director of fisheries for the state Department of Game & Inland Fisheries, said. Martel said the section of the river where the spill occurred is sensitive because it is home to eagles, ospreys and other birds. It is also spawning season in that area for fish, such as the striped bass, that swim in from the Chesapeake Bay to lay eggs, he added.

London, May 11 -- A press report, dated today, states: Tank barge VB 53, which grounded in the upper James River on Sunday, May 8, was successfully refloated at about 0700, May 10.†Divers have determined that there are cracks in the bottom of the barge caused by the grounding.†The barge is not leaking at this time. Clean-up efforts are continuing, aided by favourable weather conditions. The safety zone enacted to protect the clean-up area remains in effect and is being enforced by the Coast Guard. The investigation of the accident is continuing.

London, May 12 -- A Coast Guard, Norfolk, Va, press release, dated May 11, states: Significant progress has been made in the response to the grounding of tank barge VB 53 and subsequent oil spill that occurred on May 8 in the upper James River. The barge was successfully moved back to the Kinder Morgan facility near Richmond without any additional spillage of oil. The barge is no longer leaking and has been boomed off as a precaution. The owners have submitted a discharge plan to the Coast Guard and will allow it to be

towed to a shipyard for repair. Workers have recovered 5,786 gallons of oily waste, a portion of which is water recovered with the oil. There are 44 workers cleaning up the spill using boats, vacuum trucks, absorbent materials and portable tanks. The environmental impact has been minimal with only one oiled bird found so far. The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality and Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries continue to assess the environmental impact along with the Coast Guard. Two significant fractures were found in the bottom of the barge. One fracture is 80 feet long and nearly five inches wide at its widest point. The second fracture is six feet long and nearly two inches wide at its widest point. The James River was reopened to vessel traffic on May 10, but a safety zone remains in effect for the area of the clean-up and the Kinder Morgan facility. Vessels are required to operate at a no wake speed within the safety zone, which is being enforced by Coast Guard vessels. The investigation of the casualty is continuing. The Coast Guard is interviewing several witnesses who have called in response to an earlier request.

VOLGA HIGHWAY (U.K.)

London, May 9 -- Information received states: Chem.tank Kasla (4724 gt, built 1974) was in contact with ro/ro Volga Highway (12337 gt, built 1980) in the Kiel Canal at 1040, May 3. Both vessels were able to proceed towards Kiel. (Note -- Volga Highway sailed Bremerhaven 0050, May 3, passed Brunsbittel 0658 same day and arrived Hamina May 5. Kasla, Rotterdam for Tallinn, passed Brunsbittel 0755, May 3.)

Hamburg, May 11 -- Agent of chem.tank Kasla informs there was no collision between said vessel and ro/ro Volga Highway. The agent stated that the vessels stood behind each other in a lock and slightly touched each other. No damage was recorded. Kasla continued its journey to Tallinn, Estonia, on May 3. -- Lloyd's Agents.

W.E.RICKER (Canada)

Vancouver, May 9 - Research W.E.Ricker is currently tied up at the Pacific Biological Station, Nanaimo. The vessel has a bent connecting rod, piston damage and damage to the engine block casting. Repair options are presently being assessed. The vessel will reportedly be replaced in the next five years and the engine is very old, so parts are not easily available. The cost of repairing the engine is not believed to be economical, and therefore the vessel will remain at berth until a decision is made, which could take some time. -- Lloyd's Agents.

ZENKO MARU NO.8 (Japan)

London, May 5 -- Following broadcast warning, timed 2318, UTC, May 4, states: Fishing Zenko Maru No.8 aground in the vicinity lat 07 16N, long 171 07E.

ZIM HOUSTON III (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, May 7 -- C.c. Zim Houston III arrived New Orleans May 4.



MALACCA STRAIT

London, May 10 -- A press report, dated May 9, states: Scores of pirates armed with weapons and swords hijacked general cargo Inabukwa (649 gt, built 1977) carrying tin from Indonesia's Riau Province to Singapore. Inabukwa, belonging to the state-owned sailing company PT Pelni, was hijacked in Lingga waters, Riau Province, on Apr 22 while carrying 573 tons of tin belonging to the Indonesia's PT Peleburan Timah. "The vessel was pirated on Hantu (Ghost) island; some of the pirates used guns," said Syamsuria, the vessel's master. More than ten pirates boarded the vessel and forced it to sail to Pasir Gudang, where the tin was unloaded. From the way they talked, the hijackers were apparently from Indonesia, the master said. After unloading the vessel, the pirates released the 17 crewmen and the vessel, a crewman said. "We then proceeded to Singapore and reported the case to Jakarta," he added. Riau provincial chief of Police Anton Bachrul Alam said that he had sent personnel to Malaysia to investigate the case.



CYPRUS

Limassol, May 11 -- General cargo Safa B. (1596 gt, built 1974), which arrived at Limassol on May 9, from Alexandria, is under arrest due to Port State Control deficiencies. -- Lloyd's Agents.



BRUNO SALAMON (Panama)

Odessa, May 6 -- Bulk Bruno Salamon is still under arrest at Nikolayev. -- Lloyd's Agents.

CALIFORNIA (Panama)

See under "Marine."

FEEDER 5 (Malta)

Cadiz, May 11 -- General cargo Feeder 5, now renamed Ghinwa, is being repaired at Bazan Shipyards, in San Fernando, Cadiz, after its sale to

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

a company named Powerfull Marine, from Panama. New flag is St. Kitts & Nevis. -- Lloyd's Agents.

KEMPO (Norway)

Las Palmas, May 5 -- Fishing Kempo is still in the same situation. -- Lloyd's Agents.

LAEMTHONG GLORY (Thailand)

London, May 12 -- Letters of indemnity given by a receiver to a charterer in lieu of bills of lading can be enforced by the owner directly against the receiver, the Appeal Court in London has found. Lord Justice Clarke and Lord Justice Neuberger ruled in favour of Laemthong International Lines, saying that under the Contracts (Rights of Third Parties) Act 1999 owners could proceed directly against the receivers under the latter's letter of indemnity. The court upheld a ruling by Mr Justice Cooke last year following which the appellants, Abdullah Mohammed Fahem & Co, were given leave to appeal by Lord Justice Potter. The dispute stemmed from a voyage by general cargo Laemthong Glory under an amended form of charter party providing for the carriage of a sugar cargo from Brazil to Yemen. Under a clause in the contract, in the event of the original bills of lading not being available at the discharge port the cargo could be released to the receivers against a faxed letter of indemnity. The cargo was delivered to the receivers, Abdullah Mohammed Fahem & Co, without production of the original bills of lading. After discharge was completed the vessel was arrested by Yemen Bank, which alleged it held the original bills of lading for the cargo and was claiming around \$3m. "The receivers sent their LOI to the charterers and not to the owners and the owners did not say that they were parties to the contract contained in or evidenced by it," the appeal court judgment stated. "The owners' case, which was accepted by the judge, is that they are entitled to enforce the terms of the receivers' LOI in their own right by reason of the terms of the 1999 Act." The appeal court judges agreed with Mr Justice Cooke that for the purpose of delivering the cargo the owners acted as the charterer's agents and were intended to be covered by the expression "your agents" in the LOI.

LE MEDOCAIN (France)

London, May 9 -- Ferry Le Medocain (1033 gt, built 1968), currently laid up at Bordeaux, is being offered for sale at public auction at Bordeaux on May 31.

LOLITA (Philippines)

See Margarita.

MARGARITA (Philippines)

Manila, May 6 -- Charges of qualified theft were filed against the 17-man crew of non specific tanker Margarita before a Manila regional trial court yesterday. The charges were filed by Shogun Ships, Inc, owner of the vessel,

against the ship's master, Dizon Abejo, and his 16-man crew. It was apprehended on Apr 28 in Manila Bay for stealing the cargo of 1.2 million liters of jet fuel. The jet fuel is owned by Philippine oil refiner, Petron Corp., which chartered her to transport the jet fuel from it's Bataan refinery to it's storage facility in Pandacan, Manila. It was caught as it was transferring the jet fuel to non specific tanker Lolita. The jet fuel had a market value of Pesos20 million (US\$370,000). Officials of of Shogun Ships said they were not a party to the hijacking of the cargo carried by their vessel. They said that they would not tolerate such acts by their employees and had thus filed the appropriate charges against them. -- Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Manila, May 6 -- Police officials said that charges had been filed against the 10- man crew of non specific tanker Lolita yesterday before a Manila regional trial court. Philippine National Police Maritime Group Task Force commander Col. Leonardo Suan said that the crew was indicted for violating the country's anti-fencing laws. It was apprehended on Apr 28 in Manila Bay as it was taking on stolen jet fuel from non specific tanker Margarita. The police alleged that the crew of Margarita had hijacked its cargo of 1.2 million liters of jet fuel and had sold it to Lolita. -- Lloyd's List Correspondent.

NORDSUN (Cyprus)

See MSC Katie under "Marine."

OCEAN BOOMER (Panama)

Gibraltar, May 6 -- Oceanographic research Ocean Boomer is still in port at Gibraltar. Funds are expected to arrive May 9, after which the name of the vessel's new owners can be disclosed. -- Lloyd's Agents.

RAVENI (Tonga)

Messina, May 9 -- C.c. Raveni is still under arrest at Augusta. -- Lloyd's Agents.

RIKA (Estonia)

Tallinn, May 12 -- General cargo Rika is still under arrest at Meeruse Harbour, Tallinn, with its engine room flooded. There have been no developments in the situation. -- Lloyd's Agnts.

THALASOPOROS (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

Limassol, May 11 -- Tug Thalasoporos, now named Pileas, sailed from Limassol on May 8. -- Lloyd's Agents.

VIETRANSTIMEX 05 (Vietnam)

London, May 6 -- A press report, dated today, states: Tanjung Pinang air and water police apprehended general cargo Vietranstimex 05 (1334 gt, built 1986) and its cargo of 40,000 sacks of sugar weighing 2,000 tons in Sore island waters in Riau Islands regency late Tuesday (May 3). Tanjung Pinang Police chief Adj. Sr. Comr. Widodo Eko Prihastopo said on

Wednesday that the Vietnamese vessel was apprehended because of its questionable manifest. The vessel, which came from Bangkok, Thailand, was meant to go to Pontianak but it was heading to Tanjung Priok Port in Jakarta instead, he added. "The ship's travel papers are only copies. Besides, sugar imports are prohibited," Widodo said. The vessel's master claimed the sugar belonged to PT Rajawali Nusantara Indonesia, a licensed sugar importer, but he could not produce the original documents, he said. The vessel, as well as its captain and 12 crew members, has been detained by Tanjung Pinang Police.



NIGERIA

Lagos, May 10 -- A 10,000 barrel-per-day oil pipeline in Nigeria's southern delta has been closed by probable sabotage just two weeks after U.S. oil giant Chevron repaired it, company officials said today. The 16-inch line from Makaraba oilfield to the Escravos export terminal was originally shut by ethnic violence in the remote swamp region two years ago. "We were celebrating because we only completed the work on the pipeline two weeks ago. Now it has been blown up, damaged or broken by external interference," said a company source, adding that he did not know who had done it or why. A company spokesman said Chevron was still investigating the cause of the break in the line, and was not ruling out sabotage. He could not give any details of the volume of oil spilled into the environment. The Makaraba pipeline was carrying about 10,000 bpd at the time of the attack, as Chevron had been restoring production from the field gradually. Makaraba pumps at 12,000 bpd at full capacity. The California-based company still has 140,000 barrels per day (bpd) of oil production in the area closed due to extensive sabotage during the 2003 fighting, which was fuelled by ethnic rivalry ahead of elections. -- Reuters.

PAKISTAN

Karachi, May 9 -- Pakistan state owned second largest gas utility-Sui Southern Gas Company said this afternoon that a gas pipeline supplying gas in Balochistan Province of Pakistan was damaged in a blast on May 6. In a statement SSGC, pointed out explosion was occurred in a gas pipeline near Sibi, Balochistan. The four-inch diameter SSGC pipeline, where the incident occurred, supplies gas to village Khajjak near Killi Nasiran. The blast was reported immediately after it occurred at 2315 , May 6. It severed the overhead gas pipeline in a "nullah," disrupting the supply of gas. The company operatives shut off a line valve 100 ft up-stream

of the site of the blast, and leakage stopped at 0030 hrs (May 7). SSGC staff reached the site of the damage early Saturday morning (May 7) and completed the repair work by 1300 hrs when the normal supply of gas to the area was restored. -- Lloyd's List Correspondent

TAMAULIPAS AREA, MEXICO

Mexico City, May 5 -- Mexican state oil monopoly Pemex today reported another oil spill. Crude spilled from a pipeline running through farmland in the northern state of Tamaulipas yesterday, a Pemex spokesman said. He said the leak was due to corrosion. Pemex Chief Executive Luis Ramirez said at the weekend that safety was the company's "number one priority" following a rash of environmental accidents in recent months. A local official said today he saw a column of oil some 15 metres high spurting out of a ruptured pipeline in Tamaulipas, spraying black gunk over nearby fields. There were no casualties. "We estimate about 150,000 litres of oil were spilled," Juan Flores, civil protection chief in the municipality of Altamira, told Reuters. "This is the first time we've had an accident of this size here, but no property or people were affected," he added. He said repairmen worked all night to fix the pipeline which by this afternoon was operating normally, running to a nearby refinery. A clean-up operation was still under way. The day before, a combined oil and gas pipeline exploded in the oil-rich southeastern state of Tabasco, polluting some six hectares of land, according to environmental watchdog Profepa. -- Reuters.



Pollution

FRENCH ATLANTIC COAST

London, May 12 -- The Ukrainian master and Greek owner of general cargo Zuara have been ordered to pay a fine of Euro 400,000 after having been found guilty of causing pollution off the French coast. Ivan Semerenko has been ordered to pay 10% of the fine and Sunbeam Maritime of Piraeus the remaining 90%. The Zuara was spotted by a French Customs service aircraft on Oct 1 last year, 115 km west of the tip of the Brittany peninsula, at the head of a pollution slick measuring 55.7 kilometres by 40 metres.

GIBRALTAR

See California under "Marine."

GOTLAND AREA, SWEDEN

Gothenburg, May 9 -- This morning a long oil belt was detected by Coast Guard aircraft units, measured to a total length of 97 km but only 10 to 100 metres wide. The weather in the area and forecast is positive and the Coast Guard will try to collect as

much as possible during today and during the night. Two big special vessels plus other surface units are participating. At 1400 today the oil was in an approximate position 30 km west of Gotland and from Gotska Sandoen to Oland's southern point. Estimate a total of 25 cubic metres of oil. Two special surface buoys were dropped from the aircraft for sampling and testing and later picked up by the vessel. -- Westax Marine Services AB.

Gothenburg, May 11 -- The news late yesterday reported that the Coast Guard had identified "a suspicious vessel" presently at Amsterdam and suspected of causing the dumping of approximately 25 tons of sludge. It was the vessel's own position transmitter that revealed its position and allowed this to be recorded by Coast Guard investigators. Position speed and location seems to be correct. The vessel was from Finland and was said to have called at the port of Gotland on its way to Amsterdam but at present this is somewhat uncertain. -- Westax Marine Services AB.

Gothenburg, May 11 -- Investigating officer working on behalf of the DA for environmental department states matter still under investigation. The samples from the buoys dropped from Coast Guard aircraft have been analyzed and found a "Class II" product. Neither part willing to expose the name of the vessel at present since matter still under investigation, but a number of items pointing towards the actual vessel, presently in a Continental port. -- Westax Marine Services AB.

Gothenburg, May 12 -- German authorities have taken samples on board "this actual vessel", on behalf of Swedish Board of Navigation, which they believed passed the area of outlet at the appropriate time. Samples have been sent sent to SKL/official lab for analysis to establish whether the samples match those from buoys dropped from CG aircraft. -- Westax Marine Services AB.

JAMES RIVER, VIRGINIA, UNITED STATES

See VB 53

TAMAULIPAS AREA, MEXICO

See under "Pipeline Accidents."

TOKYO BAY, JAPAN

London, May 12 -- A press report, dated today, states: Cosmo Oil Co., Japan's fourth-biggest refiner, said diesel and crude oil from its Chiba refinery spilled into Tokyo Bay this morning during maintenance work. Diesel and oil from the 110,000 barrels-a-day capacity No. 1 crude distillation unit was flushed out together with water into the Yoro river while the CDU was being cleaned, said spokesman Tatsuya Yano. It happened at 0725, local time, he said. A thin film of oil coated an area of sea 800 metres long and about 250 metres wide, Yano said. The Tokyo-based company used chemicals and barriers to disperse and contain the spillage. No oil was visible on the water's

surface as of 1300 hrs, he said. The Asahi Newspaper earlier said the slick extended about 1.2 kilometres from the shore. Shipments from one of two terminals at the refinery were suspended at 1100 hrs. Local authorities will decide when the vessel, which mainly transport fuel, can resume operations, Yano said. Cosmo Oil yesterday shut the No. 1 CDU for planned maintenance checks until June 13. The Chiba refinery's No. 2 crude distillation unit, which can process 130,000 barrels per day, is operating normally, said Cosmo Oil spokesman Hideaki Yoshioka. The company has no plan to shut it because of the accident, he said.



AFGHANISTAN

Kabul, May 8 -- Heavy rainfalls over the last few days in the central and south-western parts of Afghanistan, has led to extensive flooding of agricultural land leading to loss of life and the killing of hundreds of animals, aid bodies said on Thursday (May 5). According to the United Nations in Kabul, the most recent flood took place in the south-western Farah Province. Reports from the department of rural rehabilitation and development in the province indicated that at least six people and 200 livestock were missing, after a flood in the Purchaman district of Farah on Wednesday. The UN was still trying to determine the extent of flooding. "It is a mountainous area and currently inaccessible by road, therefore, it has hampered the needs assessment," Martin Battersby, a public information officer with the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), said on Thursday. He said an emergency group was meeting yesterday to discuss supplying emergency assistance to the affected area in Farah. According to UNAMA, there have been additional reports of flooding over the past four days, particularly from the provinces of Ghor, Wardak, Logar and Kapisa, in central parts of the country. "Initial reports suggest that generally damage seems to have been relatively light, compared to previous flooding throughout Afghanistan earlier in the year," he said. Battersby said teams -- made up of both local government and international agencies -- had been dispatched to various flood affected areas and would report in the next few days. Meanwhile, reports from Western Ghor Province indicated that heavy rain on Monday damaged houses in the villages of Barakhana, Karistan and Jarmatu in Chaghcharan district, and that floods had damaged agricultural land in Taiwara, Tulak, and Shahrak districts, he added. "An initial assessment has been made by the provincial authorities. In addition, the Combined

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Disaster Management Team, a body including local government officials and representatives of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the World Food Programme and UNAMA, is on its way to Chaghcharan," the UN information officer said. Non-food items for 500 families, which had been pre-positioned earlier in Chaghcharan, would be distributed pending verification, he added. Kapisa, Wardak and Logar provinces were reportedly affected by flood damage in several areas. In the village of Kohna Deh in the Kohistan district in Kapisa flooding blocked part of a canal, which provided irrigation for 6,000 Jeribs (30,000 hectares) of agricultural land. In Wardak, flooding in Maidan Shar, Chak and Nurk districts damaged crops and irrigation channels. -- Reuters.

BANGLADESH

London, May 7 -- A press report, dated May 6, states: Lightning strikes have killed at least 11 people during thunderstorms in Bangladesh that also destroyed about 300 huts, news reports said. The storms also damaged rice crops. Lightning killed at least five farmers in Rangpur district, 250km north of Dhaka, the reports said. Three other people were killed in neighbouring Dinajpur district, they said. Two teenagers died when lightning struck them on their way home in Comilla district, 90km east of Dhaka. Lightning also killed a farmer as he worked in a field in Bhola district, 105km south of Dhaka, the report said. In Rangpur, the storms destroyed about 300 huts, leaving about 1,500 people homeless.

CHILE

London, May 10 -- Underwriters who reinsured part of the risk in respect of bulk Avon, which ran aground and became a total loss, have warded off a claim against them on the basis that they would never have consented to policy changes which they were not told about but which were agreed between the lead insurer and the shipowner. American International Marine Agency of New York Inc and American Home Assurance Co had sued the underwriters who had participated in a hull and machinery insurance of a vessel as following insurer underwriting 15%. Now, though, Deputy Judge Richard Siberry QC has dismissed their \$225,000 claim. He held that if the claimants had wanted to bind the reinsurers to the variation in the original insurance relating to Avon, which had been agreed by the lead insurers, they should have sought specific agreement from the reinsurers. As it was, the reinsurers argued that they were not consulted, would not have agreed to the variation and that in those circumstances they were not liable to pay. Backing them, the judge said the case raised, among other things, the question of whether the claim which had been recognised and paid by the claimant insurers was as a matter of

law within the risks covered by the reinsurance. He said that in the circumstances he did not consider it was. Posing the question of whether the claimants were in breach of the reinsurance by virtue of amendments that had been made to the insurance, he said he considered they were, with the result that the reinsurers were discharged from liability under the reinsurance. (Note -- Avon grounded in Valparaiso harbour during a storm Sep 10, 2000. Vessel was refloated Nov 2 before sailing Nov 17 and being scuttled 34 miles off port.)

COLOMBIA

London, May 8 -- A press report, dated today, states: Heavy rains across several Colombian regions in the last two weeks have killed 16 people, injured 30 others, left seven missing and 41,500 people displaced. Areas close to rivers and mountains have fared the worst due to flooding and some mudslides, Civil Defence director Eugenio Alarcon said. In all, 21 houses have been destroyed and nearly 5,000 damaged. In the worst case, in Floridablanca in Santander province, rains caused an avalanche on Apr 18 that affected 1,700 families and killed three people. Alarcon said people often ignored construction guidelines when building homes, leaving some homes at risk due to poor drainage. The rains are set to continue until June, said meteorological institute IDEAM.

HONG KONG

London, May 10 -- A press report, dated today, states: A driver was killed and another two men were injured, one critically, when their trucks were crushed under falling containers yesterday as typhoon-strength gusts of up to 135 kph tore across Hong Kong. The winds -- caused by severe downdrafts from thunderstorms lashing the city at lunchtime -- caused havoc on the roads and across the port. A tornado was also reported. It is believed to be the first time containers have toppled in such numbers, with Hong Kong International Terminals (HIT) logging the strongest winds at its terminals in two decades. A HIT spokesman said a gust of up to 135 kph was recorded at about 1250 hrs at container terminal No 4 in Kwai Chung, where one of the two accidents took place. The first accident happened just after 1230 hrs at the container depot outside terminal No 9 in Tsing Yi. The depot is also managed by HIT. Two trucks were crushed when 23 containers tumbled from four stacks of empty containers. "There was a sudden, violent rush of wind and burst of rain in the district before the report of the industrial accident in the container terminal. It was like a typhoon hitting Hong Kong," a police officer said. One of the trucks, driven by Chan Shui-sang, 47, was buried under three containers, said Lo Chun-man, South West divisional officer of the Fire Services Department. A crane and teams of firefighters and medical officers were sent to the scene in a bid to free Chan,

who was trapped inside his vehicle. Chan was cut free from the wreckage after workers toiled for three hours to lift the containers. He was certified dead at the scene. The other truck was hit by one container and its driver escaped with an injured shoulder. He was last night in a stable condition in Princess Margaret Hospital. About 20 metres from the site of the Tsing Yi accident, another 10 containers crashed down, blocking Hong Wan Road outside the terminal. No one was injured. About 15 minutes after the Tsing Yi accident, a container truck was hit by one of two containers that fell from a stack at container terminal No 4 in Kwai Chung. The 44-year-old driver was trapped and had to be freed by firefighters. He was taken to Princess Margaret Hospital, where he was in a critical condition last night. The Labour Department, Fire Services Department and police are investigating the accidents. Leung Wing-mo, senior scientific officer at the Hong Kong Observatory, said a sudden downdraft of air caused by the squally thunderstorms was responsible for the gusts. "It's just like a jet of water hitting the ground but there is no way out," Mr Leung said the thunderstorms had formed within a trough moving south from the mainland. They could strike anywhere and predictions were almost impossible. The strongest gusts were higher than the average 118 kph speeds needed to trigger a No 10 typhoon signal. Such typhoons, however, pack gusts in excess of 220 kph. Mr Leung said observatory officers would visit Ta Kwu Ling today after receiving a report of a tornado. A villager claimed a tornado nearly ripped the roof off his single-storey house about 1230 hrs. The amber rainstorm signal was raised from 1210 until 1420 hrs. A thunderstorm warning hoisted at 1125 hrs was lowered at 1530 hrs. More storms are forecast today.

London, May 11 -- Hong Kong's Labour Department is conducting an investigation into what caused two accidents involving collapsing container stacks, killing one person and injuring two others. The accidents occurred around noon on Monday (May 9) in high winds of up to 135 kph and lashing rain. In the first incident, at HIT's terminal No 9 in Tsing Yi, 23 containers fell from four stacks, crushing two trucks. One of the trucks, driven by Chan Shui-sang, 47, was buried under three containers. Mr Chan was certified dead at the scene. A second truck driver escaped with minor injuries. The second accident happened within 15 minutes of the first as a container truck was hit by one of two containers that toppled from a stack at terminal No 4. The driver was taken to Princess Margaret Hospital in a critical condition. While the weather was severe, Hong Kong is regularly a victim of typhoons, raising concern that the empty containers were not sufficiently lashed. Hong Kong Labour Department spokeswoman Susanna Ho said it was

too early to come to any definite conclusions as to the cause of the accidents. An HIT spokesman was not available for comment.

London, May 11 -- A press report, dated today, states: The fatal toppling of several stacks of shipping containers at Kwai Chung and Tsing Yi had observers demanding answers yesterday and the terminal operators crying out for more space. The powerful winds that struck on Monday (May 9), sending containers hurtling down on unsuspecting workers and killing a truck driver, are normally preceded by several typhoon warnings, which escalate as the storm gathers power. The warnings give workers time to level the stacks and lash thousands of boxes together before heading for shelter. But Monday's gale came out of nowhere. Hutchison's Hongkong International Terminals (HIT), lessors and managers of the property where the fatal accident took place, are refusing to comment on operational procedures during investigations. However, what is immediately clear is that the practices at the yard are no different from those employed at most other terminals and ports in the city and across the region, according to senior port executives. Whether those practices adequately protect workers on Hong Kong's space-constrained docks remains open to question, they say. The Kwai Chung docks are the busiest in the world, moving 13.4 million containers last year. Handling that many units requires storage space for about 280,000 boxes and, with limited space for storage, they must be stacked. The containers that fell on Monday, crushing 47-year-old driver Chan Shui-sang, were empty and stacked at least seven high. Regulations don't govern how high boxes may be stacked, but seven high is common at ports from Shenzhen to Singapore. The Kwai Chung facilities are industrial premises and regulated by the Labour Department. The department sets down guidelines for operators, which are not law and therefore not mandatory. Failure to follow each one of the guidelines is not in itself an offence but failure to offer "a safe working environment" is penalised, according to the department. "Under the general duties provisions of the factories and industrial undertakings ordinance, a duty-holder who failed to provide and maintain a safe system of work in connection with container operations in adverse weather conditions is liable to a fine of \$500,000 and to imprisonment for six months," a department spokesman said. Industry veterans said the ordinance's vague guidelines made it hard to know when safety rules had been violated. However, one terminal executive offered a solution. "The government should allow us to have additional yard space," he said.

MEXICO

Mexico City, May 5 -- At least eight people, including some children, have been killed by a rainstorm which cut

off power and flooded hundreds of homes in the southern Mexican state of Oaxaca, authorities said today. The storm, which raged from last night until this morning, also blew off roofs and felled trees. "Even though strong rains are more or less normal in the state, we hadn't had such strong ones for 15 years," a local government spokesman said. Four people, including two boys, drowned in the town of Guegoretze Ocotlan when the car they were travelling in was swept away by a swollen river. One person was believed to have been electrocuted in the capital, Oaxaca. Local emergency crews received dozens of calls from people trapped in cars and houses by the rain, which in some places was accompanied by hail, local media said. -- Reuters.

PHILIPPINES

London, May 12 -- A press report, dated today, states: A seven year-old boy was missing and more than a hundred people were displaced early today after the rain-swollen Simuay river burst its banks and flooded two towns on the southern Philippine island of Mindanao, officials said. The child was lost as his family joined some 39 other families who fled waist-deep waters on 11 villages on the town of Sultan Mastura before dawn, said the town Mayor Armando Mastura. Several millions of pesos worth of rice and corn crops were destroyed, he added. Six other villages were flooded in the adjacent town of Sultan Kudarat, forcing some 20 other families to flee to higher ground, local officials said. Heavy rain has soaked the Cotabato river basin of Mindanao over the past two weeks, residents said.

ROMANIA

Bucharest, May 8 -- Heavy floods at the weekend in Romania killed one man, damaged hundreds of homes across the country and disrupted rail and road traffic, the Environment Ministry said today. A 55-year-old man died yesterday evening in the southern county of Dambovitza after being carried away by a swollen river and another had to be rescued by helicopter, a local council spokesman told state agency Rompres. The ministry said in a statement 742 houses were flooded across the Balkan country after heavy rain yesterday, up from a previous estimate of around 600. The floods affected 2,515 hectares of agricultural land. The worst hit area was the southeastern county of Buzau where landslides cut off 200 houses. A bridge was destroyed and traffic was interrupted. The Environment Ministry said around 22 km of roads were affected by the floods across the country. In the western county of Timis, already hit by the worst floods in 50 years three weeks ago, around 30,000 hectares of land were still covered by water a metre deep. Hungarian authorities sent 20 high power pumps to help drain the water. Around 3,700 people in Timis were forced to abandon their villages

and authorities have started a campaign to vaccinate the population, fearing outbreaks of malaria and hepatitis. Meteorologists warned that more rain was expected over the next two days. -- Reuters.

RUSSIA

London, May 11 -- A press report, dated today, states: Twenty settlements in six districts of Russia's Stavropol territory were flooded after torrential rains. There were no casualties among the population, the regional emergencies and civil defense department told Itar-Tass. There are 832 private houses with a population of 3,728 in the inundated area that exceeded 24.5 square kilometres. One hundred and thirty-eight people were evacuated to safer places, the press service said. Torrential rains eroded the dam on the Kuma river, Sovetsky district, and damaged levees in the Georgiyevsky district's settlements of Podgornaya, Nezlobnaya and Krasnokumskaya. Two bridges were washed away in the Mineralovodsky district's villages of Shchmeika and Borodynovka. The sewage header in the town of Nevinomyssk was not functional for several areas, which cut off water supply to residential areas with a population of 30,000. The repair operation involved 50 units of equipment. According to preliminary estimates, the economic damage caused by floods in the region has reached some 70 million roubles (\$2.5 million).

London, May 12 -- A press report, dated May 11, states: Well over a thousand people were evacuated and many more experienced power cuts after floods in the Russian Caucasus swept away bridges and cut communication lines, emergency services and regional government officials said here today. Some 25,000 homes in the republic of North Ossetia were left without gas after the floods and the motorway that links Russia to Georgia was closed after it was swamped by a mudslide. In the Chechen capital Groznyy, 200 homes were evacuated because of flooding while 50 homes in the west of the republic suffered a similar fate. Six bridges in the Vedeno gorges were swept away by high waters and telephone lines in the same southwest region of Chechnya were down, emergency services said. Around 1,500 people were also evacuated from their homes in the Republic of Ingushetia, where several refugee camps housing Chechens are located. One of the refugee camps was destroyed, leaving 200 displaced persons without shelter.

TURKEY, GREECE AND BULGARIA

London, May 10 -- A press report, dated May 9, states: Turkey is demanding US\$30 million damages over the incident in which general cargo Hera sank near the Bosphorus strait with 19 people on board -- Bulgarians and Ukrainians -- Turkish newspaper "Hurriet" reported today. The newspaper said that three Turkish

ministries filed the suit against the shipping company that owned Hera. The ministries say that the shipping company has not pulled the vessel out of the waters and that it is now polluting the region. The vessel sank Feb 13, 2004, near the Bosphorus. All the crew were lost but only five bodies were found. Relatives of the missing sailors from Hera accused Bulgarian and Turkish authorities of purposefully concealing substantial evidence in the case that might prove there had been survivors in the wreck a year ago.

UNITED STATES

London, May 6 -- A press report, dated today, states: Recent storms are being blamed for millions of dollars in damage to Valley crops. Cherry growers suffered the worst. Rain during this time of year is never good for cherries. One cherry farmer has seen more rain, just in the past week, than his crop can handle. Experts predict so far, California's Tulare County farmers have lost up to \$5.5 million dollars worth of cherries, and, that's just an early estimate. With more rain, some say that number could double.

London, May 9 -- A press report, dated today, states: High winds wreaked havoc across Massachusetts Saturday (May 7) as dozens of trees toppled into power lines, across streets and, in one case, on top of a moving car. At least two people were hurt in weather related accidents. According to police in Brockton, Mass, a woman was driving along West Street about 0920 hrs when a tree fell onto her car, smashing the windshield and dislocating her shoulder. Firefighters said the car came to a stop near 271 West St. The driver was taken to medical centre for treatment. A Kingston woman was hurt when her car hydroplaned into an utility pole in Plympton about 1345 hrs. The woman had driven through a large puddle when she lost control of her 2004 Jeep Cherokee and struck the pole, severing it near the base. Live wires fell on the Jeep trapping the woman inside, according to police. Police said power was cut to the area remotely so that rescue workers could free the driver. She was taken to a local hospital. Fallen trees were also reported on Ash Street near Silver Road, Elsworth Street near Belmont Avenue and Winthrop Street. The tree on Elsworth Street fell near an electrical transformer. The other three trees came to rest on wires according to firefighters. Scattered power outages were reported across the city throughout the day. Debbie Drew, spokeswoman for National Grid of Massachusetts, said 870 city residents were without power for periods between noon and 1245 hrs. Drew said power had been restored to nearly all customers in a matter of minutes. Three utility poles were knocked down in Kingston on West Street when a tree fell into the wires at about 0940 hrs. Some wires were snapped and

others were drawn taut, pulling the poles down according to police. Falling limbs smashed into a parked car at 127 Lake St. about 1020 hrs and a tree fell into another set of wires on Lydon Lane after 1500 hrs. Kingston firefighters said another tree was blown into wires at Indian Pines and High Pines Streets. In Halifax, a large limb blocked River Street during the morning.

London, May 10 -- A press report, dated May 9, states: A storm system which included hurricane-strength wind gusts up to 115 mph hit North Carolina's Outer Banks Friday (May 6) as a storm system pushed through North Carolina, bringing wind gusts and driving rain. According to Tony Spencer, Hyde County emergency management co-ordinator, a gust of 115 mph was reported Friday on Ocracoke Island at the state ferry docks. Seas were reported at 20 feet at Diamond Shoals off Hatteras Island and 14 feet off Duck, on the northern Outer Banks. The Coast Guard said it rescued two men from a sailboat 55 miles east of Cape Lookout on Saturday. Their 40-foot sailboat, At Ease, was caught in the rough water after leaving Newport News on Thursday heading for Charleston. Robert Cummings, 40, the vessel owner from Newport News, and Jerry McCarthy, 35, from Charleston, were on board the sailboat when it had engine problems and a hatch was knocked out by a wave. The men told the Coast Guard that the boat was rolled by waves that knocked them overboard at least twice. A Coast Guard rescue swimmer was lowered into the 15- to 20-ft seas and 30- to 35-knot winds and the men jumped off the boat and were hoisted into a helicopter. "They were exceptionally well-prepared for the emergency they ended up facing," said Lt Andy Barrow, one of the helicopter pilots that hoisted the men. "They each had on a survival suit ... and during the night, they were tethered to the boat, which probably saved their lives when the boat rolled and they were thrown overboard." Robert Frederick, National Weather Service forecaster at the Newport office, said the low-pressure system deepened more than forecasters had predicted, creating more powerful winds. Almost five inches of rain fell on Hatteras Island by 1400 Friday, Frederick said. Flooding and rainwater made NC 12 on Ocracoke Island impassable, Spencer said, and about 18 inches of rainwater flooded the streets in the island village. After two trips in the early morning, rough seas and strong winds finally forced ferry service to stop. About a foot of wind-driven sand piled on NC 12 in Buxton, forcing road workers in the early afternoon to clear the pavement to allow traffic to get through.

London, May 11 -- A press report, dated May 10, states: More than \$5 million in flood damages prompted officials in north central Idaho to

declare a state of emergency, while wild storms drenched parts of southern Idaho. The National Weather Service said flood watches were in effect today in Nez Perce and Lewis counties in north central Idaho, the Sun Valley area in central Idaho, the Magic Valley in southeastern Idaho and the Upper Snake River Valley in eastern Idaho. Four straight days of heavy rain showers in pockets of a state that is in the midst of a persistent six-year drought brought a mix of despair and relief. In the state's southern agriculture belt, "we're at a much better spot than we were a month ago," said Mike Beus, Snake River water manager for the US Bureau of Reclamation. "Reservoir storage has improved. We were already using storage at this time last year." Added Ron Abramovich, a water supply specialist with the Natural Resources Conservation Service: "Snowpack is pretty ripe right now." However, Vince Alberdi, manager of Twin Falls Canal Co., said farmers were worried the fields were becoming waterlogged. In the populous Treasure Valley, in south-western Idaho, deluges yesterday left water six inches deep at the major Boise intersection of University Drive and Front Street. Commissioners met in Lewiston yesterday to tally \$5.33 million in damage from a series of flash floods Friday and Sunday afternoon (May 6 and 8) that washed away parts of seven county roads. Another \$750,000 damage was estimated in repairs to private homes and outbuildings. Emergency Services Co-ordinator Melvin Johnson said the county had asked the Natural Resources Conservation Service to help estimate the damage to agriculture property done by the rainstorm-fuelled floods. "If it meets federal criteria, we might get federal assistance that we desperately need to get roads back in shape and also to do some repairs for families," he said. The National Weather Service reported rainfall from a half inch to nearly an inch and a half fell on north central Idaho yesterday evening and another half inch was expected to fall by this afternoon.

London, May 12 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: Snow and rain fell across Wyoming and Utah today, unleashing rock slides and flooding at lower elevations. The potent spring storm dropped several inches of rain on northern Wyoming and nearly two feet of snow in the mountains, renewing hopes the state could emerge from a yearslong drought that has devastated rangeland grasses. In Utah, up to four inches of snow mixed with rain fell on the Salt Lake Valley, slowing rush-hour traffic. Cool temperatures dropped the snow line to about 5,000 feet in elevation, which covers much of Utah. A separate storm rumbled through northern Illinois this morning, leaving tens of thousands of residents without power until the afternoon and cancelling hundreds of flights at O'Hare International Airport.

Earthquakes



INDONESIA

London, May 9 -- A press report, dated today, states: An earthquake measuring 5.5 on the Richter scale has shaken the capital of Indonesia's Aceh province, Banda Aceh. Inhabitants rushed out of their homes and offices and gathered in the streets as the earthquake hit at 0830, local time. The meteorology and geophysics office says the earthquake was centred 33 kilometres under the ocean floor, 153 kilometres west of Banda Aceh.

Jakarta, May 10 -- A earthquake measuring 6.6 on the Richter scale shook Indonesia's Sumatra island today but there were no reports of casualties or damage, officials said. "There was no tsunami," said Setiono, an official at the Meteorological and Geophysics Agency in Jakarta. The quake was felt across parts of southern Sumatra, and underscores the heavy seismic activity along the western side of the island since a 9 magnitude earthquake on Dec 26 triggered a massive tsunami that hit 13 Indian Ocean nations. Setiono said the latest quake occurred 267 km north-west of the town of Liwa around 0809, local time. It had a depth of 33 km. -- Reuters.

PANAMA

London, May 6 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: A large earthquake measuring six on the open-ended Richter scale was detected off the coast of Panama at 1912, GMT, today, the Earth Sciences Observatory at Strasbourg announced. It put the epicentre of the quake at lat 5.39N, long 82.80W.

SOUTH-EAST ASIA

London, May 10 -- A press report, dated today, states: The Indian Ocean tsunamis caused extensive damage to coral reefs of the Andaman and Nicobar islands which are now smothered by sediment that will take years to wash off, scientists said yesterday. The archipelago, which spans 800 km from Indonesia to Myanmar, sustained deep damage to coral in the hard-hit south-west areas and a major shift in the geography of the islands, according to a survey prepared by Indian government scientists. Science and Technology Minister Kapil Sibal unveiled the preliminary findings on the coral reefs from a survey by four research vessels as part of an effort to understand the long-term impact of the Dec 26 tsunamis that killed more than 16,000 people on the islands and south Indian mainland coast. More than 2,000 people died on the islands alone and 5,640 are still listed as missing. "If we take Andamans as a straight line then areas east have moved westward at

places by three metres maximum and certain parts have sunk by 90 cm and this is permanent," said Mr Harsh Gupta, the top bureaucrat in the Science and Technology Ministry. A seismologist by profession, he warned that it may take three years before geological stability comes to the archipelago which has been hit by thousands of aftershocks ranging between three and five on the Richter scale since the tsunamis. He also said the tsunamis pushed tonnes of silt onto reefs in the south-west of the island chain that are home to 200 types of coral and thousands of fish species. The sediment blocks light from reaching the fragile coral making it difficult to sustain life or regenerate new coral. He said the survey found fish catches in the worst hit south-west areas of the island chain have dropped sharply to 300 kg per catch from 1,500 kg before the disaster.

Political & Civil Unrest



AFGHANISTAN

London, May 5 -- A press report, dated today, states: Fierce battles between US-led coalition forces and Taliban-led militants have left about 64 rebels dead, the US military said today, the bloodiest fighting in Afghanistan in nine months. Nine Afghan troops and a policeman were also killed. Seven US soldiers were wounded in the fighting, which began Tuesday (May 3). American warplanes and helicopters pounded bands of militants in clashes in Zabul and Kandahar, two restive provinces in the south of the country. The Afghan troops died when insurgents ambushed their patrol near Spin Ghar in Kandahar province yesterday evening, the worst-ever loss for the new US-trained army, the Defence Ministry said. A US spokesman, Lt. Cindy Moore, said the troops were killed after climbing out of their trucks. Allied warplanes were called in to help them, and 20 militants were killed in the ensuing battle, Moore said. Three Afghan troops and an American soldier embedded with the unit were injured, she said. The US military also more than doubled the death toll from a clash the previous day in neighboring Zabul province, saying that 44 militants as well as an Afghan policeman had died in several hours of fighting in an area that has seen repeated large-scale fighting. The militants killed Tuesday were a "mix of Taliban and anti-coalition militants" who appeared well-armed and disciplined, US spokesman Col. James Yonts said. Ali Khail, spokesman for Zabul province's governor, said documents found on dead militants showed two were Chechens and one was Pakistani, but

US officials wouldn't release their nationalities, saying it might benefit their enemy. The military had previously said 20 militants died in the battle in Zabul's remote Dehchopan district, about 205 miles south-west of the capital, Kabul. The toll rose to 44 after troops found more bodies. Afghan Interior Minister Ali Ahmad Jalali said at a news conference today that more than 100 militants and at least 12 Afghan police had been killed in the past month, excluding most of the latest casualties. Several civilians, as well as one US and one Romanian soldier, have also died.

London, May 8 -- A press report, dated today, states: At least two people have been killed by an explosion at an internet cafe in the Afghan capital, Kabul, police say. A single loud bang was heard just before 1800, local time, blowing out the windows and scattering debris around the Park Residence Internet Cafe. One eyewitness reported seeing a man throw what he believed was a hand grenade at the cafe in the Shahr-e-Now area where many foreigners live. "It was a terrorist act," a police chief said.

Kabul, May 9 -- Two US Marines were killed in a battle with insurgents in Afghanistan, the US military said today, the latest casualties in a surge of rebel violence. The Marines were hunting for a group of insurgents north-west of the city of Jalalabad yesterday when the clash with about 25 rebels erupted, the US military said in a statement. -- Reuters.

London, May 10 -- A press report, dated today, states: US forces battled insurgents for five hours in eastern Afghan mountains and two Marines and up to 23 rebels were killed, the US military said. The latest clash in a wave of violence came shortly before a senior Afghan official called on Taliban rebels, and for the first time their leader, Mullah Mohammad Omar, to give up their fight under a government amnesty. A Taliban official, speaking by telephone from an undisclosed location, claimed responsibility for killing the Marines.

Kabul, May 12 -- Demonstrations spread in Afghanistan today over a report that U.S. interrogators at Guantanamo Bay had desecrated the Koran, and one protester was killed and four others wounded in a blast, officials said. Several hundred students shouting "Death to America" held a peaceful protest outside Kabul University but in other areas of the country demonstrations turned violent, a day after four people were killed and 70 wounded in riots in Jalalabad. Protesters attacked police posts and government offices in a district of Wardak province, southwest of Kabul, and an ammunition store was torched, an official said. "A depot of ammunition was set on fire and exploded. One protester was killed and four were injured," said Interior Ministry spokesman Lutfullah Mashal. -- Reuters.

INDIA

London, May 10 -- A press report, dated May 9, states: Eight persons, including five militants, were killed in Jammu and Kashmir overnight, an official spokesman said today. He said security forces gunned down three militants in an encounter at Lodhana in Doda district of Jammu region today. The encounter ensued after a search party was attacked by militants. Some Arms and ammunition were recovered from the slain militants, he added. One militant each was killed by the security forces in two different encounters at Gandoh and Ramban today. One SLR, one AK rifle, six UBGL grenades, one UBGL, one hand grenade and two magazines were recovered from the slain militants. Two persons were killed in a bomb blast at Lolab in the frontier district of Kupwara while body of one Mushtaq Ahmad Lone was recovered at Sopore today. Militants shot at and wounded one at Garind in the central Kashmir district of Badgam today. He has been hospitalised.

New Delhi, May 9 -- About 200 Maoist rebels, some armed with AK-47s assault rifles, attacked a mining unit of India's largest aluminium and copper producer, shutting down its operations, a company official and police said today. The raid took place on Saturday (May 7) night at the Samri aluminium mining unit of Hindalco Industries Ltd., 495 km north-east of Raipur, capital of the Chhattisgarh state in central India, one of the country's poorest states. Hindalco said its national operations would not be affected as the company had other captive mines across the country. "They used bulldozers to demolish buildings including the laboratory, staff quarters, office buildings and a guest house," an Hindalco spokeswoman said by telephone from the company's corporate headquarters in Bombay. They also burnt a company jeep and damaged another, she said. Police said the Maoists used Hindalco's own bulldozers to bring down the buildings at the Samri mines. -- Reuters.

London, May 11 -- A press report, dated today, states: Seven people, including three security personnel, were killed and about 50 injured when militants triggered an improvised explosive device (IED) in Srinagar today. Two militant outfits, Al Nasreen and Islamic Front, claimed responsibility for the blast. Official sources told UNI that militants detonated a powerful IED kept in a car at the heavily guarded Jawahar Nagar Chowk around 1045 hrs this morning.

Guwahati, May 11 -- The leader of a powerful insurgent group in remote north-east India warned there could be fresh violence after lengthy peace talks with New Delhi failed to resolve the decades-old conflict, the rebels said today. The warning from the National Socialist Council of Nagaland (NSCN I-M) came after Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said at the

weekend that finding a solution to the revolt by the Naga tribespeople would take more time. But the NSCN (I-M), which began a ceasefire with Indian security forces in 1997 and held talks in India and abroad to seek a solution to their demand for an independent homeland, signalled its patience was wearing thin. "The worst may come again. Be prepared for any eventuality," a senior NSCN (I-M) official quoted general secretary Thuingaleng Muivah as telling supporters late on Tuesday at the rebel headquarters near Dimapur, the commercial hub of Nagaland state. Muivah was speaking after returning from New Delhi where the latest series of talks between the militant group and Indian officials failed to make a breakthrough. -- Reuters.

INDIA-PAKISTAN

London, May 5 -- A press report, dated today, states: India has announced a new timetable of talks with Pakistan. Indian Foreign Ministry spokesman Navtej Sarna says "technical level talks" on the proposed bus service between India's holy Sikh city of Amritsar and Lahore in Pakistan will begin next Tuesday (May 10) in Lahore. Mr Sarna says discussions on the disputed Siachen glacier, the scene of a bloody clash between the neighbours in 1987, will start on May 25 in Islamabad. India's announcement follows a visit to New Delhi last month by Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf, during which the two countries declared that their 15-month-old peace process was "irreversible."

INDONESIA

London, May 7 -- A press report, dated today, states: A seven-year-old boy was shot dead on Wednesday (May 4) in North Aceh regency, as a car in which he was travelling was allegedly ambushed by a group of Aceh rebels. Ten others were also injured during the incident, including three soldiers. The victims were evacuated to Cut Meutia Hospital in Lhokseumawe, the capital of North Aceh regency, while two of the soldiers were rushed to the Medan military hospital in North Sumatra for intensive medical treatment. The incident began when Rahmadana, the seven-year-old boy, was on board a public transportation vehicle along with other 12 passengers, five of them soldiers. The vehicle was heading from Kuta Makmur district to Lhokseumawe in the morning when a group of Free Aceh Movement (GAM) rebels opened fire in Simpang Jambe subdistrict, North Aceh regency, some 25 kilometres from Lhokseumawe, an eyewitness said. Although soldiers are not permitted to use public transportation vehicles for their own safety in war torn Aceh, in reality, soldiers often use such vehicles. The group of men, believed to be members of GAM, quickly fled the area. Separately, GAM spokesman Tengku Jamaika acknowledged that his men had ambushed the vehicle. He blamed

the Indonesian military for using civilians as cover during military operations.

London, May 12 -- A press report, dated today, states: The Indonesian government will return its tsunami-hit Aceh province to civilian rule after the current state of emergency expires next week, officials said today. Coordinating Minister for Political, Legal and Security Affairs Widodo A. S. said the emergency, imposed two years ago in an attempt to clamp down on a growing separatist movement, would not be renewed. He said that military anti-insurgency operations would continue despite a unilateral truce declared by the rebels after the Dec 26 tsunami.

IRAQ

London, May 5 -- Flights between Amman and Baghdad resumed yesterday after several days of halt for security reasons, an official from Jordan's Royal Airline company said. The airways resumed its Baghdad flights when the Iraqi Civil Aviation Authority (ICAA) issued ground safety clearance, the official, whose name was not revealed, told the press. According to the official, both the Jordanian national carrier and Iraqi Airways had suspended their flights to Baghdad since Sunday (May 1) following an increase in mortar attacks on the Baghdad Airport. Jordan's Royal Airline, the first commercial airline to resume flights to Baghdad following the US-led invasion, has provided an alternate route for those wishing to avoid the seven hour overland trip to the war-torn country.

London, May 6 -- A press report, dated today, states: Two police officers said the bomb was planted inside the minibus and set off as it approached the checkpoint in Tikrit, 80 miles north of Baghdad. But an officer in the Iraqi National Guard said the blast was caused by a suicide car bomb that drove up alongside the minibus at the checkpoint. The explosion was part of stepped-up attacks by militants targeting Iraqi security forces who are working alongside coalition soldiers to fight the insurgency. Two suicide bombers with explosives strapped to their bodies attacked two recruitment centres for Iraqi security forces this week, killing a total of 73 people. The Tikrit explosion occurred about 0530 BST, the Muslim day of worship for most Iraqis. Police Lieutenant Colonel Saad Abdul Hamid and police Major Hakim al-Azawi, who works at Tikrit hospital where the wounded were rushed, both said the bomb was hidden in the police minibus and set off as it drove up to the main checkpoint at the eastern entrance to Tikrit, killing at least seven policemen and wounding eight.

Baghdad, May 6 -- A suicide bomber in a car blew himself up near a vegetable market in a southern Iraqi town today, killing at least 22 people and wounding 45, a police official said. The attack in the mostly Shi'ite Muslim town of Suwayra was part of

an escalation of guerrilla violence that has stepped up pressure on Iraq's new government announced eight days ago. Guerrilla bombings and other attacks have killed over 200 people since the cabinet was announced, raising fears that the attacks will fuel sectarian tensions. Swayra is near Iraq's so-called "triangle of death" south of Baghdad where insurgents have launched many deadly attacks and carried out kidnappings. -- Reuters.

London, May 7 -- A press report, dated today, states: A suicide car bomb exploded at a well known square in central Baghdad today, killing at least six people and wounding nearly 30, officials said. The US military said the casualties included an unspecified number of American civilians. The powerful blast in Tahrir Square damaged shops and set fire to several cars. The remains of several mutilated bodies were seen lying in the street as fire trucks fought the blaze, which sent a large plume of black smoke up into the sky. The attack was part of a surge in violence that has killed more than 275 people - many of them Iraqi soldiers and police - since Prime Minister Ibrahim al-Jaafari's new government was sworn in on Apr 28. Car bombs yesterday struck a market and a police bus outside the capital, killing at least 25 people. A dozen bodies also were uncovered in a garbage dump on the outskirts of Baghdad, some of them blindfolded and shot execution-style. Meanwhile, Iraqi militants holding an Australian engineer hostage issued a 72-hour ultimatum for Australia to start pulling its troops out of Iraq. Police Maj Abbas Mohammed Salman said at least six people died in today's suicide car bombing at Tahrir Square. However, a police officer at the scene gave a higher casualty count, saying 17 people were killed, including some who appeared to be Westerners. Al-Kindi Hospital said it had received four bodies and 29 wounded victims from the blast. Two more bodies and seven injured people were sent to Ibn al-Nafis hospital, officials said. US military spokesman Maj. Darryl Wright said the casualties from the car bomb included an unspecified number of American contract workers.

London, May 9 -- A press report, dated today, states: Iraq's parliament approved six cabinet nominees yesterday, handing four more posts to the disaffected Sunni Arab minority and taking the country a step closer to completing its first democratically elected government after many months of wrangling. However, the Sunni selected as the human rights minister immediately turned down the post, saying he could not accept a position awarded on sectarian criteria. Hashim Abdul-Rahman al-Shibli said he had not been consulted about the ministerial job, which would have taken the total number of Sunnis in the cabinet to seven. "Concentrating on sectarian identities leads to divisions in the society and state, and for that reason I respectfully decline the post," he said. His statement

underscored the ethnic and religious divisions that have hampered the Iraqi government since landmark parliamentary elections on Jan 30. Gunmen yesterday shot and killed Zoba Yass, a senior official in the transportation ministry, police said. His driver was also shot dead during the attack in southern Baghdad. Mr Yass, the director general of the ministry's projects, was being driven through the Dora area of the capital on his way to work when his car came under fire. Police and officials from the transportation and interior ministries said it was not clear whether the insurgents had been in a vehicle or on foot, but that they had escaped from the scene. Elsewhere, coalition forces killed six insurgents and detained 54 suspects in raids targeting the terrorist group al-Qaeda in Iraq yesterday. The United States military said the raids took place in Qaim, near the Syrian border. Coalition forces said they had been acting on information they received from Mohammad Amin Husayn al-Rawi, identified as a key associate of Iraq's most wanted militant, Abu Musab al-Zarqawi. Al-Rawi was captured on Apr 26. Soldiers captured a further 55 suspected insurgents in raids on Saturday (May 7) in Baghdad and the area around Mashru, about 50 miles south of the capital, the US military said. Those detained included an unidentified senior military officer in Saddam's government. Mr al-Jaafari's government has less than eight months left to complete its main tasks: draft a new constitution by mid-August and submit it to a referendum no later than Oct 15. If approved, new elections must be held by Dec 15, under Iraq's transitional law. The prime minister pledged to take "all necessary measures" to restore security and said the government could impose martial law, if necessary. The new nominees approved for the 37-member cabinet included a Sunni former military man as defence minister, while a Shiite who served as oil minister in the first US-picked provisional cabinet was returned to that key post. The defence ministry went to Saadoun al-Duleimi, a former lieutenant-colonel in Saddam's notorious general security directorate who left Iraq in 1984 and lived in exile in Saudi Arabia until Saddam's fall in April 2003. A moderate, he comes from a powerful Sunni tribe in Anbar province, the homeland of the insurgency. The oil ministry was returned to Ibrahim al-Uloum, a Shiite who was accused of inexperience when he first held the post in the former US-appointed governing council. The other nominees were Mihsin Shlash, a Shiite, as electricity minister; Osama al-Nujaifi, a Sunni, as industry minister; and Abed Mutlak al-Jiburi, a Sunni, as a deputy prime minister.

London, May 9 -- A press report, dated today, states: At least three policemen were killed and six wounded when a suicide car bomb exploded at a checkpoint in southern Baghdad today,

police said. The car bomb hit two police vehicles, with several policemen standing nearby.

London, May 9 -- A press report, dated today, states: One of Australia's most senior Muslim leaders is heading to Iraq to attempt to secure the release of an Australian held by militants for more than a week. Sheikh Taj al-Din al-Hilali has already appealed on Arabic television for Douglas Wood's captors to set him free. His family have also pledged to make a charitable donation to the people of Iraq to help secure his release. Over the weekend, hostage-takers gave the Australian government 72 hours to start pulling its troops out of Iraq. Sheikh Taj is expected to hold talks with government officials on his arrival in Iraq. However, it is unclear how he intends to intervene or what sort of influence he will be able to wield. At the weekend, new images of Mr Wood were broadcast on al-Jazeera television. Suffering from a black eye and with his head shaved, the engineer said: "Move out of Iraq or I will be killed." His captors gave Australia 72 hours to start pulling its forces out, but the video did not say what they would do if their demands were ignored. Australia has about 1,000 military personnel in and around Iraq. Prime Minister John Howard has said they will stay until their job is done and insists he will not cave in to threats by extremists. Meanwhile, in France, French Foreign Minister Michel Barnier said his government was working "in extremely difficult conditions" to free journalist Florence Aubenas, who has been held hostage for four months. Ms Aubenas, who works for French newspaper Liberation, was seized in Baghdad on Jan 5 with her Iraqi guide. She was seen pleading for help in a video released on Mar 1.

London, May 10 -- A press report, dated today, states: US forces said they killed 75 insurgents in a sweep near the Syrian border for Iraq's most wanted man, Abu Musab al-Zarqawi. The US military said a joint air and ground operation had been launched in western Iraq to eliminate "terrorists and foreign fighters" from an area "known as a smuggling route and sanctuary for foreign fighters", north of the Euphrates River. The commander of US forces in the Gulf, General John Abizaid, earlier this month accused Syria of ignoring US demands to stop foreign fighters crossing the border into Iraq. US forces said 75 insurgents were killed in the first 24 hours of operations in the area believed to be a stronghold of Zarqawi, Al Qaeda's frontman in Iraq. Zarqawi's group immediately denied that 75 had been killed and also denied any of its leaders had been arrested, in Internet statements posted yesterday. These statements contradicted reports from Iraqi officials that two senior members had been detained. US forces did not say if they sustained any casualties in the desert sweep, but the military earlier said it lost eight soldiers over the

weekend elsewhere in Iraq. In other violence, nine Iraqis were killed and 17 wounded, as insurgents continued to strike at the fledgling security forces. A Japanese employee of a foreign security firm was kidnapped in Iraq, Foreign Minister Nobutaka Machimura was quoted as saying by Kyodo News. An Al Qaeda-linked militant group said it had seized a Japanese hostage during a "fierce battle" in western Iraq, in a statement posted on an Islamist website. Kyodo News said a Cypriot security firm had also confirmed the man was on its payroll. Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi, visiting Moscow for World War II anniversary ceremonies, has been informed of the incident, public broadcaster NHK said. Identity card photographs accompanying the statement from the Army of Ansar al-Sunna gave the hostage's name as Akihiko Saito, 44.

London, May 10 -- A press report, dated today, states: The governor of one of Iraq's most dangerous provinces has been kidnapped by insurgents calling for an end to US operations close to the Syrian border. Raja Nawaf, governor of the western province of Anbar, was seized at a roadblock between the town of Qaim and the provincial capital Ramadi. In a telephone call to Mr Nawaf's brother, a group claiming to have kidnapped the Anbar governor - who only recently took up his post - said they would hold him captive until US troops pulled back from Qaim, where the US says it has killed 100 insurgents. Earlier, two car bombs exploded in Baghdad, killing seven and injuring 47. The dead were thought to be civilians, killed by the first blast. Six policemen were injured in the second blast, at an Iraqi river police station. Today's first car bombing hit Saadoun Street, a busy part of Baghdad's business district hit by a similar explosion on Saturday (May 7) that killed 17 people.

London, May 11 -- A press report, dated today, states: A man with explosives hidden under his clothes set them off while standing in a line of people waiting outside a police and army recruitment centre in northern Iraq today, killing at least 30 people and wounding 35, police said. Police first thought the powerful blast in Hawija, a small town 150 miles north of Baghdad, was caused by a car bomb, but Police Maj. Sarhad Qadir later said officials found it was an attacker standing in a line of about 150 recruits.

Baghdad, Apr 11 -- Three suicide bombs killed at least 56 people in Iraq today, the latest attacks in an escalating campaign of guerrilla violence. In the deadliest blast, a suicide car bomber blew up his vehicle in the northern town of Tikrit among a crowd of mainly Shi'ite migrant workers from southern Iraq who had gathered to look for work on construction sites. Police said at least 28 people were killed and more than 60 wounded. A policeman at the scene in Tikrit, 175 km north of Baghdad,

said the blast was near a police station but the target was the crowd of workers. In the town of Hawija, southwest of the strategic oil city of Kirkuk in northern Iraq, a suicide bomber walked into an army recruitment centre and detonated an explosive belt, killing at least 25 people and wounding 34, hospital sources said. A third suicide bomber blew up his vehicle near a police station in the southern Baghdad suburb of Dora, killing at least three civilians. Police said the bomber was trying to reach the police station but blew up his car before reaching the building. While the Iraqi government insists the insurgency is crumbling, guerrilla attacks have killed nearly 400 people in the past two weeks. Insurgents have also snatched two more foreign hostages -- an Australian engineer captured in Baghdad in late April and a Japanese security contractor seized on Sunday (May 8) in western Iraq. The captors of Australian hostage Douglas Wood, 63, demanded that Australia pull its troops out of Iraq by yesterday. Canberra insisted it would not negotiate with kidnappers and the deadline passed with no word on his fate. The Japanese hostage, 44-year-old Akihiko Saito, was captured when a foreign security convoy was ambushed in western Iraq on Sunday evening. One of Iraq's most feared insurgent groups, the Army of Ansar al-Sunna, said it was holding Saito. Ansar al-Sunna has killed scores of hostages, including foreigners from countries with no connection to the Iraq war. Insurgents have also kidnapped the Iraqi governor of the rebellious western province of Anbar, and are demanding that his tribe release captured fighters loyal to Jordanian militant Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, leader of the al Qaeda network in Iraq. Raja Nawaf, who only became governor of Anbar a few days ago, was abducted with four bodyguards on the road from the town of Qaim, near the Syrian border, to the rebel stronghold of Ramadi, his brother Hamed Nawaf told Reuters. The U.S. military has launched a major offensive in the desert north of Qaim, which it says is a key base of foreign fighters entering Iraq from Syria. The military says it has killed more than 100 insurgents since the offensive began. At least 14 U.S. servicemen have been killed in Iraq since Saturday (May 7), an unusually heavy toll for the American military. -- Reuters.

London, May 11 -- A press report, dated today, states: There are reports of two large explosions at a factory near Khor Al Zubair, Iraq's second largest port, at about midday today. The factory has sustained severe damage and there are understood to be several casualties. The cause of the blasts has not yet been established, and is under investigation. The situation at the nearby port, where between four and six ships are currently berthed, is unclear.

London, May 11 -- A press report, dated today, states: Iraq's second largest port, Khor Al Zubair, is operating as normal, despite two large explosions at a factory near the port area at about midday today. The factory has sustained severe damage and there are understood to be several casualties. The cause of the blasts have not yet been established and are under investigation.

London, May 12 -- A press report, dated today, states: Suspected insurgents killed a brigadier general as he drove to work at the Ministry of Defence in Baghdad today, police said. The attackers opened fire from two cars at a vehicle carrying Brig. Gen. Iyad Imad Mahdi in the Jihad neighbourhood of western Baghdad at 0645 hrs, said police Capt. Hamid Hussain. No other information was immediately available. In a separate incident, two U.S. Marines were killed yesterday when their armoured vehicle drove over a mine in north-west Iraq during an offensive against insurgents, the U.S. military said today. The military said 14 marines were wounded in the blast. The marines were taking part in Operation Matador, an offensive against insurgents and foreign fighters in north-western Iraq near the Syrian border.

London, May 12 -- A press report, dated today, states: At least 12 people were killed when a car bomb exploded near a market in eastern Baghdad, Iraqi police said. An army general has also been killed in Baghdad. Brig Gen Iyad Imad Mehdi was shot by unidentified gunmen as he was driving to work. A police colonel was shot dead an hour later as he left his home in the south-east al-Amin district. The violence follows a day after a series of suicide bomb attacks in central Iraq which killed 71 people. Two car bombs have exploded in the northern city of Kirkuk, one targeting a police station, and at least one person was killed and four others were wounded, police said. The market blast destroyed several market stalls in the Jadida district. Police said they were investigating what the intended target might have been. The attacks come amid reports that insurgents holding an Australian hostage have extended a deadline. Kidnappers holding Douglas Wood, 63, had demanded the withdrawal of Australian troops from Iraq by Tuesday (May 10). Australia's top Muslim leader, Sheikh Taj al-Din al-Hilali, has flown to Baghdad to try to secure his release, and said today that the hostage-takers had extended their deadline until today. His spokesman said he had not met the kidnappers nor seen Mr Wood, who was working as an engineer in Iraq for about a year before he was seized. They have not demanded a ransom, but the mufti's spokesman says Sheikh Taj "seems to think that money will sway these people". A number of other foreigners are being held hostage, including a Japanese security contractor and several European journalists.

IVORY COAST

Yamoussoukro, May 7 -- Five days of talks between Ivory Coast's army and rebel chiefs in the capital Yamoussoukro ended today with no date set for the start of disarmament. At earlier talks in April, both sides had agreed to study a proposal from a national disarmament committee to start handing in guns on May 14. The army and rebels said then that a definite date for disarmament would be set at the Yamoussoukro meeting. However Alain Richard Donwahi, head of the committee, played down the lack of a start date, saying the talks had been positive and that a timetable would be presented to military chiefs from both sides next Friday (May 13) for approval. "I can tell you 90 percent of the work has been done. Next week we are going to take a day to validate the work done at this seminar," he said. "There are no problems." Army chief Colonel Philippe Mangou had said earlier today that he wanted a date to be set in Yamoussoukro, while rebel commander Cherif Ousmane argued that more preparation on the ground was needed before fixing a timetable. Previous disarmament attempts have foundered on mutual accusations of betrayal and several peace deals have crumbled after sporadic bursts of fighting. New Forces spokesman Sidiki Konate said today that if the rebels felt President Laurent Gbagbo was not respecting the terms of the South African agreement in any way, they reserved the right to pull out of the disarmament process. Besides the rebel New Forces who control the north of Ivory Coast, the war also spawned pro-government militias, who have taken part in anti-French protests and attacks on rebels. They are also due to be disarmed under the peace plan. -- Reuters.

KENYA

London, May 9 -- Freight company employees barricaded the port of Mombasa in protest against new loading regulations at the weekend, according to news agency reports. Riot police had to be called in to control the mob. The rioting was provoked by the port management's recent decision to enforce a new loading rule which stipulates that transporters book their loading days and limit the number of trucks at the port to 210 a day. The transporters, who had been camping at the Kipevu gate since Tuesday (May 3), ran out of patience and decided to block the gate, effectively stopping the movement of vehicles in and out of the port. They demanded to speak with either the Kenya Port Authority managing director or the container terminal manager. Police and KPA security officers manning the gates called for back-up and the presence of riot police scared off the rioters. A port official said the transporters had been given sufficient notice to reorganise their operations and abide by the new rule after a meeting attended by representatives of the Kenya Transport Association and the clearing

and forwarding association. By limiting the number of trucks in the port the area would be decongested, allowing for greater efficiency, KPA public relations manager Jule Imathiu said. "We have instances where trucks come in here without anything important to do but camp here intending to solicit business," he added. "Many trucks do that, leading to congestion. We want to create order that will benefit all of us." Abdul Wafula, representing the transporters, said importers with huge consignments to clear would incur heavy losses because of the new regulations.

LEBANON

London, May 7 -- A press report, dated today, states: An explosion ripped through a shopping area in the port city of Jounieh in the Christian heartland north of Beirut late yesterday, reportedly killing at least one person on the eve of the return from exile of Lebanon's most prominent anti-Syrian politician. Witnesses in Jounieh, about 15 km north of Beirut, said the explosion occurred near the main square of the picturesque town. The Lebanese Broadcasting Corp said it happened near a Christian religious radio station at the entrance to the market. A Sri Lankan labourer died and at least two others were wounded, according to LBC. Police did not comment on casualties from the blast, which started a fire in nearby shops. The explosion also shattered windows of apartments and cars in the historic area. President Emile Lahoud condemned the attack and indicated a link between the explosion and political developments expected today, likely referring to parliament's possible discussion of a divisive election law and the return of Michel Aoun, the anti-Syrian Christian politician, from 14 years of exile in France.

LIBERIA

Monrovia, May 11 -- U.N. peacekeepers fired shots in the air in north-eastern Liberia today to break up a protest by thousands of ex-fighters demanding money they say is owed to them under a disarmament scheme. A U.N. spokesman in the capital Monrovia said there were no injuries and that calm had returned to Ganta, a town on the border with Guinea. Ganta was former President Charles Taylor's stronghold before he fled into exile at the end of years of war. "It is true that the Bangladeshis (U.N. peacekeepers) fired in the air to disperse the crowd," said Paul Risley, a spokesman for the United Nations peacekeeping mission. Risley said the ex-fighters were demonstrating over tuition fees and payments for reintegration, promised under a disarmament scheme that was launched after nearly 14 years of on-off war in the West African nation ended in 2003. Some Ganta residents said the crowd paid little heed at first to the peacekeepers' efforts, but Risley

said: "The Bangladeshis performed as directed and ordered and there is now law and order in Ganta." Residents of Ganta said former fighters took to the streets after interim President Gyude Bryant visited the town today and handed out around 75,000 Liberian dollars (\$1,300), pledging that the rest of the money would be paid. "The ex-fighters were not happy about that and said they would be kicked out of school (unless their tuition fees are paid)," resident Saye Dolo said. In a report last month, Human Rights Watch said ex-fighters from Liberia were being recruited to take up arms again in neighbouring countries like Guinea and Ivory Coast. It urged donors to fund a \$39 million shortfall for the disarmament programme, saying the gap threatened to deprive 40,000 ex-fighters of training. -- Reuters.

MYANMAR

London, May 9 -- A press report, dated today, states: Military-ruled Myanmar draped a tight security blanket yesterday over the sites of three bombings in the capital after the junta blamed the unprecedented attacks on ethnic guerrillas and pro-democracy activists. At least 11 people died when the devices, hidden in bags and set off by timer, exploded Saturday afternoon (May 7) at two up-scale shopping malls and a convention centre. Witnesses reported dozens dead. Armed security forces were deployed around the sites. Windows and doors of the Dagon and Junction Eight shopping complexes were boarded up and the surrounding areas cordoned off, with nearby shops closed. An explosion also damaged the Yangon Trade Centre, where a Thai trade fair was taking place, according to the official newspaper "New Light of Myanmar." One bomb was left among seats in front of a stage at the Yangon Trade Centre, another at the bag check counter at a grocery store at Junction Eight, and a third near the ground floor escalator at the Dagon shopping centre. An official at the Home Affairs Ministry said a fourth bomb was placed near a generator at Dagon. Tensions remained high in Yangon, where shopping complexes were closed yesterday while security teams and bomb disposal experts combed the city amid concerns another bomb had yet to blow up. State television showed images of mangled metal ceilings and twisted aluminium rafters at the three sites. State radio and officials in two Yangon hospitals said 11 people had been killed. Yangon General Hospital yesterday said 162 people were hospitalised but in good condition. Hospital authorities said they expected the official death toll to climb. Witnesses at the three sites reported dozens of people killed and saw mangled and burned bodies, some missing heads and limbs. Authorities have blamed an alliance of ethnic rebel armies and a pro-democracy exile group for the bombings. The New Light of Myanmar charged that the explosions were the responsibility

of the Karen National Union (KNU), the Shan State Army (SSA), the Karenni National Progressive Party (KNPP) and the National Coalition Government of the Union of Burma, which it described as "terrorist groups" that committed "brutal acts in collusion." "Members of the terrorist groups" placed bags containing time bombs at the trade centres. At the Yangon Trade Centre where the Thailand Exhibition was being held, a time bomb in a bag was placed among the seats in front of an entertainment stage on the third floor. However, SSA leader Yawd Serk rejected the paper's accusation, saying his group was not capable enough to bring kilograms of explosives to Yangon. KNU secretary-general Pado Mahn Sha Lapan also denied his group was responsible for the bombings. KNPP secretary-general Raymond Htoo said his group never had a plan to hurt people but that Myanmar authorities had done so. He noted that such bombings had happened several times in Myanmar and the junta always put the blame on its opponents. Experts said the three ethnic armies, fighting for autonomy for their regions, have never worked together, nor have the pro-democracy dissidents in exile ever joined with the rebels. Burma watchers could provide no consensus on who was behind the blasts but agreed the military's claims were not credible. At the border pass in Mae Sai district of Chiang Rai, Myanmar authorities yesterday blocked cargo trucks from the Thai side from crossing the border to Tachilek in Burma. Third Army commander Lt-Gen Picharnmet Muangmanee said if the bombings resulted from internal conflict, it would not affect the border situation. However, Burma had reinforced its troops and stepped up patrols along the border and a battle between the United Wa State Army and the SSA was imminent opposite Mae Hong Son Province.

NEPAL

Kathmandu, May 10 -- Nepali troops killed 26 Maoist rebels in a fierce gunbattle in the east of the kingdom after hundreds of the guerrillas attacked a military base, the army said today. Three policemen and one soldier were also killed in the clash yesterday night at Bandipur, 450 km east of Kathmandu, an officer said. "We have recovered 26 bodies," the officer told Reuters. "They failed in their plan to overrun the security base. The Maoists were using civilians as human shields in a blatant violation of human rights." Dozens of civilians were injured in the attack, the biggest in three weeks. -- Reuters.

Kathmandu, May 12 -- Nepal's powerful Maoists will support the country's main political parties in their campaign to restore democracy after King Gyanendra seized power three months ago, a rebel statement said. The monarch stunned the world on Feb 1 when he fired the government, suspended civil liberties and jailed politicians, saying the move

was necessary to crush the Maoists who are fighting to topple the world's only Hindu ruler and install a single party communist republic. On Sunday (May 8), seven centrist and leftist political parties who have often bickered in the past said they will launch a joint programme seeking restoration of democracy including the revival of parliament dissolved in 2002. "It is a progressive step. Our party has decided to help the joint protest movement by the political groups," Maoist chief Prachanda said in a statement received late yesterday. The Maoist overture to the politicians came as US Assistant Secretary of State for South Asia, Christina Rocca, ended a visit to Nepal on Wednesday. She urged the king and the political parties to fight the Maoists jointly and said the revolt was a threat to regional stability. Prachanda made a fresh appeal to the political parties to form an "extensive front" with his group to establish democracy in the nation. -- Reuters.

NIGER

Niamey, May 8 -- At least 11 people were killed and 12 injured during three days of clashes between nomadic herdsman and farmers in the south of Niger, state radio said today. It said the fighting started on Thursday (May 5) in the Dosso region about 140 km south-east of the capital Niamey when a group of farmers attacked a camp of herdsman. The security forces in the landlocked West African country intervened and arrested 33 people, the radio said. -- Reuters.

PAKISTAN

London, May 6 -- A press report, dated today, states: Two paramilitary soldiers were injured in a blast close to a railway track, while a main powerline was bombed in a restive southwestern Pakistani province today, officials said. The soldiers were patrolling along a railway track in Bakhtiarabad and found a pair of explosive devices nearby, which exploded when they tried to examine them, paramilitary commander Rizwan Malik said. Shrapnel from the blast injured the soldiers but there was no damage to the track, some 220km south-east of Quetta, the capital of Baluchistan province, Mr Malik said. Separately, suspected insurgents blew up a main electricity transmission line pylon in the Mach district, some 70km south of Quetta, government power company spokesman Gebrail Khan. The power line remained intact, Mr Khan said, but long power cuts were necessary to replace the tower. No one had claimed responsibility for the blasts.

London, May 9 -- A press report, dated today, states: Two bomb blasts damaged a railway track in troubled southern Pakistan, but there were no casualties, officials said. Two small bombs exploded on the railway line near Kashmore Colony railway station, about 600 km north of Karachi on the border with south-western Baluchistan province, senior

railway police officer Shafi Muhammad Mughal told AFP. "The bombs were locally made and of low intensity but they uprooted a small portion of the track," Mr Mughal said. No train was passing on the track when the blasts occurred, he said. Local authorities, who have tightened security along the rail lines, could not say who was behind the most recent bombings. Nationalist tribesmen demanding more political rights, jobs and royalties from the natural resources of Baluchistan province have stepped up attacks on rail tracks and power lines since the start of the year. Pakistan has moved thousands of troops into Baluchistan after a rocket barrage on a gas plant at Sui left eight people dead in January.

PHILIPPINES

London, May 10 -- A press report, dated today, states: Suspected communist rebels have shot and killed a local mayor and one of his bodyguards during a daylight raid on his town hall. Santa Rosa Mayor Leon Arcillas, an ally of President Gloria Arroyo, was killed shortly after conducting a wedding. Police in Santa Rosa, an industrial town just outside the capital, Manila, said Mr Arcillas had previously received death threats from rebels. The Maoist New People's Army tried to kill Mr Arcillas two years ago. Mr Arcillas and the bodyguard were ambushed and shot as they walked down a corridor in the Santa Rosa municipal building. The New People's Army, which has assassinated public figures before, is an armed wing of the Philippines Communist Party. The group has fought for a Maoist state in the Philippines for three decades, and is estimated to have as many as 8,000 fighters.

RUSSIA

London, May 11 -- A press report, dated today, states: An explosion has killed a police officer in the southern Russian region of Dagestan. Russia's Itar-Tass news agency reports the explosion occurred as the officer was driving through the centre of Makhachkala, the regional capital. Dagestan borders Chechnya, where Russian forces have been battling rebels for more than a decade. Tass says another police officer has been seriously wounded, and other cars have been damaged.

SOMALIA

Mogadishu, May 7 -- Fresh clashes erupted in Somalia's southern port of Kismayo, forcing the prime minister to cancel a planned tour of the town, officials said today. Disagreements among rival militia groups triggered the fighting, with some sharply opposed to Prime Minister Ali Gedi's visit to Kismayo while others supported it, officials said. "There have been clashes in Kismayo engineered by those opposed to the prime minister's visit. We have no idea of casualties but the place is unstable," said an official at the prime

minister's office in the Kenyan capital Nairobi. But Gedi who returned to Nairobi today played down the clashes, saying the reason he did not travel to Kismayo was simply because there was no time. "My time was consumed in Mogadishu after the explosion of a bomb. I will be back to Kismayo and other places in Somalia," he told journalists after arriving in Nairobi. Officials had said militias supporting the chairman of the Jubba Valley Alliance, Barre Aden Shire, wanted Gedi to visit Kismayo but his opponents were against it. Other officials said Shire's house had been attacked yesterday. A spokesman for the Jubba Valley Alliance, Abdulahi Sheikh, said the attack was carried out by a group of militias who were unhappy because they had not been paid their salaries and it had nothing to do with the prime minister's trip. Gedi said he was committed to transferring his government to Somalia by the end of May but added it would be difficult to operate without peacekeepers. Deployment of troops from Uganda and Sudan to Somalia to protect his administration have been delayed, but Gedi said he did not expect the delays to last long. The fledgling administration is Somalia's 14th attempt at government in as many years. -- Reuters.

London, May 10 -- A press report, dated today, states: The most powerful warlords in Somalia's capital, Mogadishu, have agreed to set up a united force, which they say will restore security to the lawless city. They say they will withdraw some of their battle wagons and gunmen from the city, to make it safer. Like the entire country, Mogadishu is divided between rival warlords, whose gunmen can be seen operating roadblocks on many street corners, where they demand money from commercial vehicles. This is the first time that the rival Mogadishu warlords, who have been bitter enemies for many years, have agreed to work together. They want to show that the capital is safe enough for the government to set up there, instead of Baidoa and Jowhar, which have been suggested as alternatives. The new force will dismantle the roadblocks and end banditry, say the warlords, who are all ministers in the new government. Warlords Mohammed Qanyare Affra, Osman Ali Atto and Muse Sudi Yalahow have agreed on what proportion of the new force each will contribute. The position of the other main Mogadishu warlord, Hussein Aideed, is not clear. Mr Qanyare said that the gunmen will be retrained and turned into a security force. "We want to remove from the city, technicals [battle-wagons] and the militia, in order to get normal security," he said. However, for the moment, the gunmen are likely to remain loyal to the warlords, rather than President Abdullahi Yusuf, who has little support in Mogadishu.

London, May 12 -- A press report, dated today, states: Somalia's exiled parliament has voted in favour of two

measures strongly opposed by key warlords, raising fears over the peace process. Those MPs present, in Nairobi, supported calls for a regional peacekeeping force and to relocate to two Somali towns, but not the lawless capital, Mogadishu. The vote was boycotted by MPs loyal to the Mogadishu-based warlords, who this week said their forces would unite. Of the 152 MPs present, 145 voted in favour of setting up in Baidoa and Jowhar until Mogadishu is considered safe. There were seven abstentions. But more than 100 members of the 275-strong parliament are in Somalia, including the warlords who control the capital, and have refused calls to return to Kenya. Foreign donors are pressing the transitional government to relocate to Somalia. The African Union is to meet to consider the foreign troop deployment. The session will examine a proposal to send 1,700 Sudanese and Ugandan troops to ensure the security of President Abdullahi Yusuf Ahmed, but the issue of foreign troops is controversial. President Yusuf is seen as an ally of Ethiopia but he has little support in Mogadishu. Many Somalis do not trust Ethiopia, since a war in the 1970s. The Mogadishu warlords accused Ethiopia of sending weapons into Somalia - a charge Ethiopia denied. Since his election last October, President Yusuf has called for an African Union protection force before he can lead his government back to Mogadishu. The regional body, Igad, has agreed to send troops but a lack of finance and security fears have led to delays. Mogadishu warlords Mohammed Qanyare Affra, Osman Ali Atto and Muse Sudi Yalahow, who have spent years fighting each, said that they would this week start withdrawing their forces from the capital and setting up a single militia force. They say this will restore security in Mogadishu but some government officials fear that the force could be used against them, if relations continue to deteriorate.

THAILAND

Yala, Thailand, May 12 -- Three bombs exploded in Thailand's restive Muslim south today, police said, wounding at least nine people in a region where more than 600 people have died in 17 months of violence. The first bomb went off around 0730 hrs at a food stall near a train station in Songkhla Province, wounding three people. An hour later, a second blast outside the home of the provincial chief judge in Yala Province wounded five police officers, police said. A third bomb hidden under a pick-up truck parked near Yala's City Hall wounded a female passenger, a witness said. "The victim, a Yala health worker, looks seriously injured and was rushed to hospital," the witness said.

UGANDA

London, May 6 -- A press report, dated today, states: Rebels attacked villagers tending their fields in northern Uganda on Thursday,

hacking to death at least 10 people and wounding some 14 others, an army spokesman said. The rebels from Lord's Resistance Army attacked the victims with machetes and hoes. They stole nothing during the raid, which apparently was intended only to terrorize civilians, Lt. Tabaro Kiconco said. The attack at Koch Goma, about 15 miles south-east of Gulu town, was part of the rebels' strategy to show they are still capable of destabilizing the region, despite their being weakened considerably in the course of the civil war, Kiconco said. Gulu is 235 miles north of the capital, Kampala. The shadowy rebel group, which has little contact with the outside world, was not reachable for comment. The government has been in peace talks since December with the rebels, who took up arms 18 years ago to overthrow President Yoweri Museveni.

VENEZUELA

London, May 5 -- A press report, dated today, states: Venezuelan troops with air and fluvial support plus elite intelligence units have been rushed to the oil-rich western region where sabotage actions have forced a considerable drop in production, announced president Hugo Chavez yesterday. Venezuelan Defence Minister General Jorge Garcia revealed that mid-April security forces activated the "Black gold 25" plan because "the situation in the west has become somehow tricky: materials, equipments have been lost or stolen to sabotage and we're facing a 'silent' strike from some oil workers. We've dispatched helicopters, motorboats, vehicles and troops to protect the oil fields and detect saboteurs". President Hugo Chavez claimed that oil company PDVSA, Petroleos de Venezuela S.A. in the Maracaibo Lake region was pumping 100,000 barrels a day below the specified volume of approximately 1.2 million barrels per day. Venezuela's official oil production is 3.1 million bpd, but oil industry observers believe it's closer to 2.6 million bpd. "There's people out in the west who insist in sabotaging us; we've discovered recurrent damage to valves, machinery and when this happens over and over, it's not an accident" blasted President Chavez adding that's why "we've sent the Army". However, one of the causes could be labour unrest because contracts of 4,000 temporary workers expired Apr 30 and a number of them "will not be renewed", anticipated Venezuelan Energy and Oil Minister Rafael Ramirez. Another issue is the recent firing of 40 PDVSA Occidente managers, which, according to official spokesmen, brought to light "serious irregularities". Some involve alleged corruption cases, while others are violations of collective bargaining rules. Apparently these difficulties have led to the shut down of five oil drills in Lake Maracaibo belonging to Chevron Texaco. Analysts believe the underlying reasons date back to 2002/2003, when the opposition led

strike of oil industry skilled workers and management with the purpose of toppling President Chavez was defeated and PDVSA "saved" by hiring unskilled labour in support of the loyal workers and managers who kept the refineries going. Many of these unskilled labourers apparently are among those about to be declared redundant.

Labour Disputes



AUSTRALIA

London, May 12 -- A press report, dated today, states: Hundreds of train commuters can expect to be late to work today after services were disrupted last night following a snap strike by RailCorp maintenance workers. The Australian Metal Workers' Union and the Electrical Trades Union stopped work late yesterday for 24 hours after a random drug-testing unit arrived at the Flemington maintenance centre. The strike caused lengthy delays for commuters last night. The walkout also affected maintenance centres at Hornsby and Mortdale. RailCorp had conducted random drug testing of safety workers since February last year but a spokeswoman for RailCorp, Helen Willoughby, said the workers did not want to be tested. Some services were cancelled on the Illawarra, South Coast, Western and Northern lines last night and buses will run this morning south of Sutherland. Ms Willoughby said the Illawarra line was the worst affected last night, with only six trains running in each direction during the evening peak. Michelle Stone, a spokeswoman for the Transport Minister, John Watkins, said he was disappointed that commuters were caught up in the dispute.

EGYPT

Karachi, May 11 -- A go-slow by Egyptian air traffic controllers held up 20 flights out of Cairo for between three and six hours yesterday, airport officials said. Civil Aviation Minister Ahmed Shafiq told journalists at news conference the go-slow was illegal and the air traffic controllers could be liable to imprisonment or replacement by foreign controllers or by the Egyptian armed forces. The state carrier Egypt Air lost \$600,000 yesterday and \$31 million over the past 10 days because of the work slowdown, he added. -- Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Cairo, May 12 -- A go-slow by Egyptian air traffic controllers delayed 25 flights by up to two hours yesterday, a day after passengers were forced to wait up to 10 hours, airport officials said. Civil Aviation Minister Ahmed Shafiq told reporters four controllers had been dismissed for a go-slow he calls illegal. One air traffic

controller said the ministry had dismissed eight of Egypt's 350 controllers since Tuesday (May 10) as a result of what he said was a work-to-rule in line with standards set by the International Civil Aviation Organization. Controllers want salaries doubled over three years, better health insurance and other improvements, he said. Shafiq has said after recent increases they have no reason to complain. Public-sector employees in other jobs receive much lower salaries. The Egyptian state news agency MENA quoted controllers as saying they wanted their four colleagues reinstated. Shafiq said on Tuesday state carrier Egypt Air lost \$600,000 that day and \$31 million over the previous 10 days because of the work slowdown. -- Reuters.

GREECE

London, May 12 -- Greece's domestic ferry services were idle yesterday as seafarers' unions claimed near-100% participation in a general strike which brought transport and other services to a halt across much of the country. The strike, called amid labour movement resentment at the government's refusal to call a May Day public holiday in lieu of the regular May 1 celebrations, which this year fell on Orthodox Easter Sunday, affected operation of many Greek ports while the Corinth Canal was closed until midnight last night. Flight controllers participated in the 24-hour stoppage, wreaking havoc with airline schedules, as did public employees and some private sector workers. Greek-crewed oceangoing vessels were operating normally and regular services were kept up by Adriatic ferries plying the routes between Greece and Italy. According to John Halas, general secretary of the Panhellenic Seamen's Federation only one domestic ferry left the port of Laurium for the Aegean islands. "I do not think anything else moved," said Capt Halas.

PAKISTAN

Karachi, May 11 -- The air traffic controllers in Pakistan have adopted a go-slow policy as a mark of their protest against the denial of promotions, causing the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) a loss of millions of rupees daily, local media pointed out. Earlier, the air traffic controllers used to accommodating the national and international transit traffic beyond set rules and regulations of the CAA by giving shortcuts and diversions to aircraft and facilitating aircraft out of the way. But, now, "go by the book" or go-slow policy being followed by them would result in 15 to 20 minutes delay in the landing of every domestic and international flight. The air traffic controllers said they had been denied promotions for 22 years, while their colleagues in other branches of the CAA were getting promotions and allowances on regular basis. The controllers have stopped accommodating the domestic and international traffic, causing delay in

flights and waste of fuel to airlines, the sources said, adding that if they continued the policy the international traffic would be left with no choice but to opt for another international route. An official of CAA said that the air traffic controllers were bound to "go by the book". He denied that there was any delay in landing or departure of domestic or international flights. "If flight of any airline is delayed due to the air traffic control it immediately lodges a complaint with the CAA," he said, adding that so far they had not received a complaint from any domestic or international airline. -- Lloyd's List Correspondent.

SRI LANKA

London, May 6 -- A press report, dated yesterday, states: The train service in Sri Lanka came to a standstill today with the strike of engine drivers entering the second day. No passenger or goods train left from Fort Railway Station in Colombo this morning. The strike began last night after the Transport Minister failed to provide satisfactory response to the demand for a new salary scheme and a name change for engine drivers, trade union sources said. Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapakse has invited leaders of Railway Trade Unions for an urgent conference this evening to find a solution for the demands put forward by them, sources said. Meanwhile, railway authorities said engine drivers had begun the protest without any advance notice while their trade union leaders were holding talks with the Transport Minister on Tuesday (May 3), sources said. The All Ceylon Railway Employees General Union has warned that the strike will continue until its demands are met, sources said. Thousands of commuters especially government and private sector workers in the south were inconvenienced due to the disruption of train services, sources said.

Awards & Settlements



DISCRIMINATION, UNITED STATES

London, May 12 -- A press report, dated May 11, states: The city of Hamtramck, Mich. has agreed to pay \$150,000 to 15 people who claimed they were victims of polling-place discrimination because of their ethnicity, a lawyer said today. The plaintiffs - U.S. citizens born in Bangladesh and Yemen - sued in 2002, alleging poll workers questioned their citizenship and required them to take oaths when they attempted to vote in the 1999 general election. The city clerk did nothing to stop the challenges, said David Nacht, a lawyer for the voters. Following the election, the U.S. Justice Department opened an investigation and the city agreed to

revamp its election procedures. The department continues to send monitors to Hamtramck elections. Nacht said the settlement was reached and approved earlier this year after a judge ruled that Michigan's civil rights laws extend to the polling place.

PATENT INFRINGEMENT, UNITED STATES

London, May 11 -- A press report, dated May 6, states: Alcon Inc was ordered to pay Advanced Medical Optics Inc \$95 million in damages and stop selling certain eye surgery products that a jury ruled had infringed on Advanced Medical's patents. In a press release today, Alcon, a Swiss maker of eye-care products, said it believed the jury verdict was not supported by evidence and said it would ask the court to set aside the verdict, and would appeal if necessary. Alcon said it had decided to make the software changes necessary to remove the feature at issue from the products. The decision came in the US District Court in Delaware. In December, 2003, Advanced Medical, a maker of contact lens care and ophthalmic surgical products, filed a complaint against two Alcon units -- Alcon Manufacturing Ltd and Alcon Laboratories Inc. The suit claimed that some Alcon phacoemulsification products infringed on Advanced Medical's proprietary cataract-removal technology. Phacoemulsification is the process of using ultrasonic waves to break up the cataract.

PERSONAL INJURIES, UNITED STATES

London, May 10 -- A press report, dated today, states: Two Montville men have been awarded more than \$6 million for injuries from a construction accident in Willimantic seven years ago. Richard Archambault, 44, and Dubie Sowell, 37, had sued Konover Construction Corp., based in West Hartford. The lawsuit claimed the company failed to adopt safe procedures as the general contractor for a B.J.'s Wholesale Club in Willimantic Plaza. The two men were injured when a trench caved in on them on Oct. 30, 1998, according to Robert I. Reardon, attorney for Archambault. A six-person jury in Superior Court awarded Archambault a total of \$3.4 million. The jury awarded Sowell a total of \$2.8 million, according to Reardon. Archambault was excavating a water line when a trench caved in, burying worker Jimmy Dowd. Archambault and Sowell jumped in to save their friend and the trench caved in a second time, burying them. All three of the men were rescued, but Archambault and Sowell both suffered permanent injuries, according to Reardon.

ROAD TRAFFIC ACCIDENT, UNITED STATES

London, May 12 -- A press report, dated May 11, states: A Lubec (Maine) man who was seriously injured in a crash a day after he bought his truck from a used car dealer has been

awarded \$3 million in damages. Harold Morey, 36, suffered a head injury and broken bones on Feb 28, 1997, when a wheel fell off his 1989 Ford pickup a day after he bought the vehicle from Antone's Sales and Service, according to his lawyer, A.J. Greif of Bangor. Friday's (May 6) verdict is believed to be the largest ever awarded in a civil lawsuit in Washington County. The jury found that the wheel came off because a retaining nut on the axle had been overtightened and stripped. The seller said the wheel was knocked off when the truck hit a culvert while spinning out of control. Bangor attorney David King, who defended Antone's Triangle Inc., the parent company of Antone's Sales and Service, said Monday (May 9) his client was considering appealing the verdict and damage award to the state Supreme Judicial Court. Antone's Sales and Service, which no longer sells used cars, was unaware of any problem with the vehicle when it was purchased from the previous owner, he said. A defence expert had testified that the wheel came off as a result of the accident after it struck a culvert, King said. Morey, who was not wearing a seat belt, was travelling toward Lubec on Route 189 the night of the accident. He crashed into a utility pole after passing a vehicle. Deputies who investigated the accident concluded that a mechanical defect was the primary cause, with speed a contributing factor. The former urchin diver suffered a severe brain injury and broken bones, Greif said. Morey no longer needs medical care but can't work and owes more than \$100,000 in medical bills, his lawyer said.

SEXUAL ABUSE, UNITED STATES

London, May 10 -- A press report, dated May 9, states: A Davenport jury has awarded nearly \$1.9 million to a man who said he was abused by a former Roman Catholic priest nearly 50 years ago. The man, now 56, testified that former priest James Janssen, 83, abused him for several years in the 1950s and 1960s and that the church kept it secret for decades. Janssen, who was defrocked by the Vatican last year, initially admitted during testimony last week that he had abused the man, but later recanted the testimony. Janssen, who Levien said still faces seven similar lawsuits, was not in court for the verdict. He was not required to attend. His attorney, Edward Wehr, made an appearance in the courtroom, but left before the jury entered. A psychiatrist testified that the man suffered severe post-traumatic stress disorder and was left unable to work, maintain a relationship or file a lawsuit until 2003 when his condition improved with a new combination of prescription drugs. Janssen was assigned to several eastern Iowa parishes between 1956 and 1988 and is accused of abusing boys throughout his career. The man who filed the lawsuit was also part of a larger \$9 million settlement with the Davenport

diocese. The settlement cleared the diocese of any future liability but not individual priests.



AMAGASAKI, JAPAN

London, May 8 -- A press report, dated today, states: A commuter train which derailed and crashed into an apartment building in Amagasaki, Hyogo Prefecture, on Apr 25 was travelling well above the speed limit on the railway section at 126 kilometres-per-hour just before the fatal accident, police investigators said yesterday. The police earlier said they suspected the train derailed after going into a curve at a speed exceeding 100 kph. The speed limit for that section of the line is 70 kph. The train driver is believed to have sped up to make up for the train's 90-second delay due to a 40-metre overrun at a previous station. (See issue of May 6.)

London, May 12 -- A press report, dated May 11, states: The total number of people injured in Japan's deadliest train crash in four decades has climbed to 540, the railway company said on Monday (May 9). The West Japan Railway Company commuter train derailed and slammed into an apartment building on Apr 25 at Amagasaki in western Japan leaving 107 dead. The total number of injured has risen to 540 people with about 120 still in hospital, the company said. Investigators believe the train's 23-year-old driver was going well over the speed limit because the train was running late, causing the derailment. Train drivers in Japan face heavy pressure to keep to timetables in a country whose rail service is famous for punctuality.

BELLOWS FALLS, VERMONT, UNITED STATES

London, May 5 -- A press report, dated today, states: Authorities are waiting for equipment to get some derailed freight cars back on the tracks in Bellows Falls, and clear up a highway traffic jam on the other side of the river in New Hampshire. No one was hurt when four boxcars carrying paper left the tracks as the slow-moving train crossed a bridge over the Connecticut River just before 0400, today. The rest of the 65-car train is stretched behind the derailment over the bridge and into New Hampshire, blocking Route 12 at a crossing in North Walpole. Charles Hunter, general manager of the New England Central Railroad said they don't know yet what caused the accident. He said the train was headed to Palmer, Mass., from White River Junction. Hunter said he expected Route 12 would be cleared by mid-morning, with the railroad line re-opened by this evening.

BODIJA AREA, IBADAN, NIGERIA

London, May 11 -- A press report from La Salle, Quebec, datelined Ibadan, Nigeria, May 8, states: Security agents and men of the Oyo State fire services were put on red alert in Ibadan at the weekend, as a north-bound train carrying over 10 tanks of petroleum products went off the track in Ibadan, spilling three tanks of PMS, raising fear of possible fire explosion. The accident, which occurred at Bodija area in Ibadan, was said to have been caused by a heavy rainfall on Saturday night (May 7), which washed away some part of the rail track. Although no loss of life was recorded as at the time, the incident caused serious panic in the area, as residents fled their homes for fear of possible fire out- break. Fuel spilled over a long stretch of residential areas, causing serious odours of petrol throughout Saturday night. According to an eye witness, the heavy downpour piled up a heap of sands covering some parts of the rail tracks and caused the train to derail. Yesterday, a large detachment of police were stationed in the area, to prevent people from scooping fuel. Men of the state fire service were also on a red alert in the area, while members of Oodua Peoples Congress (OPC) also stood guard and educate people on the dangers of naked fire in the area. Managing Director of the Nigerian Railway Corporation (NRC), Alhaji Abdul Raham Abubakar, who led the Corporation's management to the scene, described it as a sad incident. He said, "It is unfortunate, but we thank God that no death was recorded. We will blame the people for dumping refuse on the rail track, so we will not compensate anybody for evacuating them from their houses, even most of them are illegal occupants," he said. NRC workers have begun evacuation of the remaining petroleum products from the area.

CASSELTON, NORTH DAKOTA, UNITED STATES

London, May 7 -- A press report, dated May 6, states: Burlington Northern Santa Fe crews today re-opened rail routes after 25 train cars loaded with soybeans derailed at Casselton, North Dakota. Railroad spokesman Gus Melonas said one of the tracks reopened this morning and the other was open to train traffic by late afternoon. A railroad worker was injured when the train derailed, pinning him inside a crushed maintenance truck for about 45 minutes. The worker, identified as Matt Nelson, 23, of Cooperstown, was treated at a Fargo hospital. His injuries appeared minor, authorities and railroad officials said. Melonas said crews worked through the night clearing the tracks. He said workers were vacuuming the spilled soy beans and putting them into trucks. The train was headed from East Dubuque, Ill., to Kalama, Wash., when 25 of the 107 cars left the tracks, Melonas said. All but one of the derailed cars tipped over. Each car carries about 110 tons of

soybeans, he said. Derailed cars were shoved the cars to the side. The total clean-up was expected to take about three weeks, Melonas said. Officials still are investigating the cause of the derailment, he said.

ESSEX AREA, MONTANA, UNITED STATES

London, May 11 -- A press report, dated May 10, states: Five empty grain cars derailed early today on the main Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway line near Essex, Montana, company officials said. The cars were part of a 120-car train of empty grain cars en route from Pasco, Wash., to Minot, N.D., BNSF spokesman Gus Melonas said. No one was injured, and the derailed cars remained upright off the tracks. Melonas said the derailment occurred at 0145 about 4 miles north-west of Essex on the tracks that run parallel to US 2 across northern Montana. Heavy equipment was brought in from Havre to get the cars back on the track. Railroad crews were brought in from Havre, Whitefish, Browning and Billings to help with the clean-up, Melonas said. The track was cleared in time for Amtrak's Empire Builder passenger train, which passed through the Essex area shortly before 0900, Amtrak spokesman Marc Magliari said.

JAMO CHONHRO AREA, SINDH PROVINCE, PAKISTAN

Karachi, May 12 -- A Pakistan Railway's engine and four bogies, carrying doctors and staff of the railways from Khokhrapar to Mirpurk derailed near Jamo Chonhro, in Sindh Province, on Tuesday (May 10) evening. No injuries were reported. The train derailed when doctors and staff were returning, damaging the engine and the four bogies. Railway traffic between Mirpurkhas and Khokhrapar was suspended after the incident. Railway officials reached the spot yesterday morning to clear the track. -- Lloyd's List Correspondent.

LAWN AREA, TEXAS, UNITED STATES

London, May 12 -- A press report, dated May 11, states: A West Texas rail line is open again today following the derailment of about 25 cars of a freight train. Nobody was hurt in Monday's (May 9) derailment involving a Burlington Northern Santa Fe train hauling potash heading for Brownwood.. The cars left the tracks near Lawn, which is about 25 miles south of Abilene. The cause of the derailment is sought. Fort Worth-based B-N-S-F says the tracks have been cleared and the line re-opened overnight. Sergeant John Graham says officials are trying to figure out whether something was accidentally left on the tracks, due to construction in the area. A small fire broke out during the accident. Authorities want to know whether the train struck and dragged some type of object.



SOBER WORM

London, May 6 -- A press report, dated May 5, states: The Sober.P worm made up 5.4% of all e-mail on the Internet over the weekend (May 7-8), antivirus form Sophos said. That number was an increase even from what was seen on Friday, News.com reported. The worm appeared within the past two weeks and is continuing to spread. It comes in English and German versions as an attachment. It runs when the attachment is activated. One delivery method was a mail that told users they had won tickets to soccer's World Cup. Like previous worms, the virus sends itself to e-mail addresses found on infected computers. Last week, Sophos said the worm turned off Symantec's antivirus protection and Microsoft's Windows XP firewall on infected machines.



AEGEAN SUN (Greece)

London, May 10 -- Greece's Merchant Marine Minister has called for severe penalties to be meted out to a Greek shipping company and its master after ro/ro Aegean Sun (10171 gt, built 1975) under Greek colours called at the prohibited Northern Cyprus port of Famagusta. Aegean Sun returned to Piraeus at the weekend (May 7-8) and master Stathis Stylianos was taken into custody, while his master's licence and seaman's book were confiscated pending an investigation. The Greek authorities had ordered the vessel to immediately put into the nearest Greek port, underlining that Capt Stylianos could face up to two years in jail if he refused. The northern segment of Cyprus has not been internationally recognised since a 1974 Turkish occupation and a Greek directive of 1980 explicitly forbids the country's vessels to call at the territory's ports. "Greek vessels that do not uphold our national interests should not fly the Greek flag," said the ministry. Press reports said that the vessel was carrying 216 used cars from the port of Harwich. Aegean Cargo, the Piraeus-based operator at the centre of the storm, has reportedly pleaded it was unaware of the charterers' intention to divert the vessel to Famagusta and the vessel had originally been bound for Syria. Shipping Minister Manolis Kefaloyiannis said: "After we learned that a Greek vessel illegally put in at the occupied port of Famagusta, orders were issued for the most severe penalties to be imposed on the

shipowning company and on the master of Aegean Sun." Cyprus government spokesman Kypros Chrysostomides called the incident "unacceptable" and pledged measures to prevent any repeat. Diplomatic tension over Cyprus has also resulted in a long-running Turkish ban on Cyprus vessels calling in Turkey.

AUSTRALIAN WHEAT SHIPMENTS UNDER INVESTIGATION BY IRAQ

London, May 12 -- A press report, dated today, states: Three cargoes of Australian wheat totalling 120,000 metric tons remain stranded in vessels standing off Umm Qasr, Iraq, Peter McBride, a spokesman for Australian wheat exporter AWB Ltd., said today. The three vessels have been at anchor off Umm Qasr for around three weeks as AWB awaits news from the Iraqi government about the results from the latest round of quality testing of the wheat. Iraq refuses to allow the wheat to be landed, claiming it is contaminated with iron dust. AWB categorically rejects the claim, pointing to the results of tests taken both before the wheat left Australia and after it arrived off Umm Qasr. McBride said AWB representatives spoke with Iraqi officials about the issue as recently as yesterday. "We want to get this issue resolved as soon as possible, but they're still waiting for test results," he said in a brief interview. The wheels are turning slowly in Iraq. We're endeavoring to keep the lines of communication open," McBride added.

COLLAPSE OF BRIDGE OVER RIVER NUHAKA, NEW ZEALAND

London, May 6 -- Following received from LaSalle, Quebec, dated today: A 60-tonne crane and two railway wagons tumbled into the Nuhaka River, north of Wairoa, early this morning as two spans of the bridge they were travelling across collapsed under the weight of the crane. Ontrack, which maintains rail tracks on behalf of Toll, confirmed that no one was injured as there were no staff on the crane when the accident happened, at 0720 hrs. The crane was one of two on their way to the bridge to repair a faulty pile, but the pile collapsed under the weight of the crane as it passed over, sending the equipment and two wagons tumbling into the river below. Ontrack chief operating officer William Peet said in a statement. "It's naturally a matter of concern that a bridge pile should fail, but it wouldn't be appropriate to comment further until investigations have been completed." The Transport Accident Investigation Commission had already been notified and investigators were travelling to the site today, Mr Peet said. Ontrack is also working with the regional council to minimise any potential spillage of diesel from the crane into the river. The bridge is about 20km north of Wairoa, is 100 metres long and about 9m above the river.

COLLAPSE OF CONSTRUCTION CRANE, SANIBEL CAUSEWAY, FLORIDA, UNITED STATES

London, May 7 -- A press report, dated today, states: Crews yesterday began dismantling the crane that toppled over next to the Sanibel Causeway last week, killing one man and injuring another. About 25 workers with New Orleans-based Boh Bros. Construction Co, a subcontractor on the project to build a new bridge, will handle the cleanup. It's expected to take five days. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration is investigating the accident. Boh Bros is subcontractor for Jacobs Construction Services Inc., which was hired by Lee County to handle the \$122 million bridge project. Officials said the accident may cause a three- or four-week delay. Cost of the cleanup was not available, but workers will cut up pieces of the crane and put them on a barge bound for New Orleans where the crane will be repaired, Lee County officials said. Another crane and barge will be moved to the site. Crane repair could reach \$1 million. The cleanup will not affect traffic on the bridge, and construction on other parts of the bridge has continued.

LEAKAGE FROM NUCLEAR POWER PLANT, SELLAFIELD, CUMBRIA, UNITED KINGDOM

London, May 11 -- A press report, dated May 10, states: A nuclear reprocessing plant at Sellafield has closed after a radioactive leak, prompting renewed calls for it to be shut down permanently. The Thorp reprocessing plant, one of two on the Cumbrian site, was forced to close after a split pipe leaked enough contaminated liquid to fill a large swimming pool. The spill of a highly dangerous mix of nuclear fuel is not a danger to the public. But experts may have to build special robots to recover the 20 tonnes of liquid contaminated with uranium and plutonium. The Republic's Environment Minister Dick Roche stressed last night he had been aware of the Apr 18 leak and had informed the public at the time via a press release. Mr Roche added: "I am firmly resolved to continue to press for the safe closure of Sellafield in the interests of the health and safety of the Irish people and our environment." Emmet Stagg, Irish Labour party spokesman on Nuclear Safety, said: "This is the latest in a long list of incidents at Sellafield that again raises questions about the safety of the plant and the honesty of those who operate it." Green Party spokesman Ciaran Cuffe added: "At a time when Britain's Labour government is trailing proposals to build new plants, another leak at Sellafield only underlines the transnational consequences of such decisions." Fergus O'Dowd (FG) said the safest course of action would be for Sellafield to be shut down once and for all.

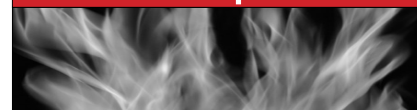
London, May 11 -- A press report, dated May 9, states: Norwegian authorities and environmental activists reacted with concern today to news of a leak at the Sellafield nuclear

reprocessing facility in England. The facility has long posed a conflict between the two countries. Norwegian officials have worried for years that emissions from Sellafield are polluting local fishing grounds, with winds sending radioactivity towards the country's west coast. News today that 20 tons of highly radioactive fuel had leaked into a tank at the site on the north-west coast of England. The waste is said to contain both plutonium and uranium mixed with saltpetre. Norway's Minister for the Environment, Knut Arild Hareide, said he immediately ordered a report from the Norwegian Radiation Protection Authority (NRPA, Statens stralevernet) regarding the leak. He told news bureau NTB that contact had been established between the radiation authority and its counterpart in the UK. Hareide also said he would take up the matter with the British environmental protection minister, Elliot Morley, to ensure that it's followed up at a political level. "Such leaks reveal the risk of nuclear power," Hareide said. Per Strand of the NRPA said the leak at Sellafield appeared to be a "local problem." Environmental activist Frederic Hauge of the Norwegian group Bellona called it "a serious situation." Hauge stressed that it was difficult, however, to determine just how serious. "It all depends on how widespread the leak is, and whether it's been captured by Sellafield's security systems," he said. "We don't have enough information yet." The bin where the leaked fuel was collected was said to be so radioactive that no one could get near it. There were no indications, however, that any of the radioactive material had leaked into the ground.

POWER OUTAGE AT REFINERY, BELLE CHASSE, LOUISIANA, UNITED STATES

London, May 11 -- A press report, dated May 10, states: A power failure shut down parts of ConocoPhillips' 250,000-barrel-a-day refinery in Belle Chasse, La. today, a company spokeswoman said. Laura Dilley said she did not know when the affected units will be back in use. Company policy kept her from commenting about details, she said. Entergy Corp. said a 115-kilovolt transmission line running 25 miles from Port Nickel to Carlisle went out about 0800 hrs. The investigation of what caused the power failure continued. Air quality monitoring this morning did not show any increase in pollution. However, the incident caused crude oil and gasoline prices to rise in New York.

Fires & Explosions



CHEMICAL PLANT, PORTLAND, OREGON, UNITED STATES

London, May 10 -- A press report, dated today, states: Three people

suffered minor injuries yesterday after a pressure cooker exploded at a chemical plant near the Columbia River, officials said. The injuries were not considered life-threatening, and the workers underwent decontamination before being taken to an area hospital, according to Portland Fire and Rescue. Workers at Lacombs Laboratories Inc. were heating a pharmaceutical precursor used in drugs to fight HIV in Africa when the pressure cooker they were using exploded at about 0415 hrs, causing a two-alarm fire, officials said. State and city environmental agencies were on the scene, monitoring whether chemicals from the plant leaked into the Columbia River. "It was a pretty substantial explosion," Lt. Allen Oswalt of the Portland Fire Bureau said at the scene. The residents of a nearby houseboat community were asked to stay indoors with the windows closed, but were not evacuated. About 200 workers at a nearby Nordstrom warehouse were evacuated after the explosion. Power to the area was knocked out, and a water main and natural gas lines were damaged, officials said. The Coast Guard and the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality assisted fire crews to evaluate potential contamination. The cause of the explosion is under investigation.

COAL MINE, HANCHENG, SHAANXI PROVINCE, CHINA

London, May 7 -- A press report, dated today, states: Twenty-two miners were confirmed dead from a coal mine blast on Apr 29 in Hancheng city in north-west Shaanxi province, the State Administration of Coal Mine Safety said on its website.

COAL MINE, QITAIHE, HEILONGJIANG PROVINCE, CHINA

London, May 12 -- A press report, dated May 11, states: Two people are dead and seven missing following a coal mine gas explosion in Qitaihe in northeast China's Heilongjiang Province today. Eleven miners were underground when the explosion occurred at 1700 hrs, today. Two narrowly escaped, while nine were trapped in the mine. Rescue efforts are underway. The cause of the accident is under investigation.

COAL MINE, XINGANMENG TUQUAN COUNTY, CHINA

London, May 7 -- A press report, dated today, states: Five more miners have been confirmed dead following a blast at a coal mine in northern China's Inner Mongolia, bringing the total death toll to 12, a government department reports. The blast occurred at the Wanlong mine in Xinganmengtuquan county on Wednesday (May 4), with the State Administration of Coal Mine Safety reporting on its website that the five additional bodies were found today. Nineteen miners were in the mine shaft when the blast occurred, but

seven of them escaped, it said. A flood at the Tengda coal mine near Jiaohe city in north-eastern Jilin province on Apr 29 resulted in the deaths of 27 miners.

FACTORY, PRETORIA, SOUTH AFRICA

London, May 12 -- A press report, dated today, states: Firefighters from five fire stations in Pretoria last night battled for more than two hours to put out a fire at a mattress factory in the Pretoria West industrial area. The factory, known as Easy Sleep, was gutted by a blaze that started just before knock-off time. Tshwane Emergency Services spokesperson Johan Pieterse said officers received a call at 1805 hrs and dispatched firefighters to the scene. By then the fire had already caused considerable damage to the structure. Pieterse said the owner of the factory reported the fire after an attempt to extinguish it had failed. It was too early to determine the cause of the blaze, but damages would probably run into millions of rands. Pieterse said indications were that there might have been some explosion from inside the structure, because bricks were scattered all around the area.

PREMISES, BEACHES, ONTARIO, CANADA

London, May 9 -- A press report, dated today, states: The Ontario Fire Marshal's office is investigating a four-alarm fire in the Beaches yesterday. Fire crews arrived to find smoke billowing from the roof of a three-storey building on Queen Street, east of Woodbine Avenue at around 0320 hrs. The fire grew quickly from two-alarm to four-alarm status when it threatened to spread to nearby buildings. Commander Brian Kirk said the fire appeared to have started at the rear of the first floor. Damage is estimated at more than Can\$1-million.

PREMISES, HARTLAND, NEW BRUNSWICK, CANADA

London, May 9 -- A press report, dated today, states: A fire has destroyed a manufacturing plant that is one of the biggest employers in Hartland, NB. The owner of Craig Manufacturing said today he plans to rebuild his business, which makes equipment such as graders and plows and employs 90 people in the town of 900. "Our goal is to formulate a plan that will get us back into business as soon as we possibly can," John Craig told the Canadian Press. He said everything was lost, but the business, which covered a whole block in downtown Hartland, was insured. Police ordered the evacuation of nearly half the town on Saturday night when it looked like the fire could burst propane tanks or spread to a nearby gas station. Those residents were allowed to return home early today.

PREMISES, ISLAMABAD, PAKISTAN

Karachi, May 12 -- A press report, dated today, states: More than 35

stalls and shops were gutted when the fire engulfed G-9/4 thrice-a-week bazaar at 1500 hrs yesterday in Islamabad, believed to have been caused due to short-circuiting, causing million of rupees loss but no casualty was reported. Talking to reporters, ASP City Tahir Ayub Khan said that no injury was reported during the fire incident and Deputy Commissioner Islamabad, Tariq Mehmood Pirzada has ordered formation of an inquiry committee to probe into the matter. However, he ruled out the possibility of terrorism or sabotage. The rescue 15 teams and fire brigade vehicles reached soon at the spot to extinguish the raging flames of fire, ASP said. -- Lloyd's List Correspondent.

PREMISES, RAS AL KHOR, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Karachi, May 11 -- About 50 offices were destroyed in a fire that broke out in Ras Al Khor, United Arab Emirates early yesterday morning. Firefighters from two stations put out the fire. According to Colonel Rashid Al Matroushi, director of Dubai Civil Defence, on hearing the fire report, the rescue team reached the accident site immediately and was able to control the fire and stop it from spreading to the other warehouses and offices. The fire destroyed the offices of Al Futtaim Carillion but no casualties were reported, said Nawfal Al Jourani, head of corporate communication at the Al Futtaim Group. Col Al Matroushi told local media that the fire started in five temporary buildings, which had been divided into 75 offices. "Of these offices, 50 were gutted." A fire expert from Dubai police has been assigned to find out the cause of the fire. He will soon report on the incident. "No human losses occurred in the fire, however, computers, furniture, photocopying machines, stationery and Internet servers, were destroyed," he said. -- Lloyd's List Correspondent.

PREMISES, SHARJAH, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Karachi, May 7 -- A huge fire gutted around seven workshops, warehouses and factories in Sharjah Industrial area Nos 3 and 4, in United Arab Emirates yesterday. Police said the fire broke out around 1300 hrs at a carpentry workshop and it spread to nearby warehouses and factories. It took around five hours for the civil defence from Sharjah and Dubai to put out the fire. No one was injured, however losses are estimated at several thousand dirhams, but no official figure has been ascertained. Police said an investigation will start to find out the cause of the fire. Preliminary investigations, however, indicate an electrical fault was the cause. -- Lloyd's List Correspondent

RESTAURANT, HOBART, INDIANA, UNITED STATES

London, May 11 -- A press report, dated today, states: The cause of an early morning fire that destroyed the

kitchen and roof of a restaurant is under investigation. Orange flames and thick, black smoke began pouring from TGI Fridays, 2487 E. 80th Ave., about 0615 hrs, yesterday, Hobart Assistant Fire Chief Steve Mast said. One restaurant worker was treated for smoke inhalation. The fire caused an estimated \$1 million in damage, Mast said. Mast said the fire began in the hood system over one of restaurant's stoves. It spread from the hood to the roof, forcing firefighters to tear open the kitchen ceiling, while other firefighters used chain saws to cut a hole in the roof to prevent the fire from spreading to the dining area. It took firefighters more than two hours to extinguish the fire. TGI Fridays will be closed for repairs at least four weeks, said Greg Wittig, director of operations. The restaurant employs about 100 people.

SHOPPING COMPLEX, DERBYSHIRE, UNITED KINGDOM

London, May 12 -- A press report, dated today, states: The first of 10 shops rebuilt after a fire swept through an out-of-town shopping complex has reopened. Seven units were destroyed and three badly damaged in the fire at the McArthur Glen Centre at South Normanton in October 2004. The fire was caused by an electrical fault in the Marks and Spencer outlet and spread quickly through the roof space to other stores.

SHOPPING COMPLEX, MPUMALANGA, SOUTH AFRICA

London, May 9 -- A press report, dated May 8, states: A fire that broke out at shopping complex in Nelspruit, Mpumalanga shortly after end of business earlier this afternoon has finally been brought under control. Local firefighters struggled for about four hours to put the blaze under control. Firefighters and emergency services personnel were alerted when security guards at the complex saw smoke coming from the building. One of the managers of a shop said when the fire broke out, stock to the value of about R5 million was inside the shop. The Mbombela local fire brigade says no one was injured as the fire fortunately broke out when everyone had left already. The cause of the fire has not yet been established.

WAREHOUSE, SOUTH TROY, UNITED STATES

London, May 12 -- A press report, dated today, states: A warehouse on the site where the iron sides of a famed Civil War ship were made burned yesterday, causing firefighters to close the Menands Bridge and sending up smoke that was visible for miles. The five-alarm fire struck a South Troy warehouse that had been the home of Portec Inc. and was being used by a hauling and demolition company. A caller on a cellphone reported the Water Street blaze at 0510 hrs. The fire was under control by noon but firefighters stayed on the scene all day hosing down hot spots. The fire's origin was unknown, so it

was being investigated as a crime. "We're investigating it as a suspicious fire, but we aren't finding anything so far," said Assistant Fire Chief Craig Leroy. Leroy ordered the Menands Bridge closed so firefighters could run water hoses across it. When crews arrived, flames were roaring from the building, which was severely damaged. "When we pulled in, the whole south end and the roof was ablaze and one of our initial concerns was that flaming roofing material was being carried by the wind over houses to the north of the fire," the assistant chief said as an aerial hose truck poured water on the north end of the building about 0830 yesterday. No one was injured in the fire, which was fought by some 50 Troy firefighters and crews from Albany and Watervliet. Albany, Green Island and Watervliet Arsenal firefighters and Colonie EMS personnel manned Troy's stations as a backup. An acetylene tank did explode, but no one was injured. "The size of the building was a major challenge. It's actually a mountain of refuse inside the building. The fire load required a large amount of water to knock the fire down."

WILDFIRES, UNITED STATES

London, May 6 -- A press report, dated today, states: A small brush fire quickly escalated into a 3,900-acre forest fire in central Wisconsin today, forcing at least 96 people from their homes, officials said. No one was injured, said Jennifer Rabuck, fire information officer for U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. About 120 buildings, including homes, barns and sheds, were within the perimeter of the fire that followed Highway 13 in Big Flats and Colburn in rural Adams County, Rabuck said. Fire officials were concentrating on containing and extinguishing the blaze and weren't sure how many buildings were affected, she said. By last night, firefighters had about 50 percent of the fire contained and planned to work through the night to take advantage of cooler temperatures. Rabuck said the blaze was initially reported as a small brush fire.

London, May 7 -- A press report, dated May 6, states: A fast-moving blaze in Wisconsin that began as a grass fire destroyed 15 homes and forced dozens to flee as it spread to almost 4,000 acres before being contained overnight, officials said today. Hot spots remained today and more than 200 homes and businesses lost electricity as the flames consumed utility poles, damaged transformers and burned at least 25 miles of power lines. No major injuries were reported. The pine-forest fire was the state's largest in 20 years, Natural Resources Secretary Scott Hassett said. The blaze in rural Adams County began yesterday when a landowner started a small fire to clear grass before building a campfire, said Steve Courtney, a Natural Resources incident commander. Along with the homes, the fire destroyed camper-

trailers and other outbuildings. Nearly 100 people had fled a 100-square-mile area and about two dozen spent the night at an elementary school.



ACCIDENT, MINNEAPOLIS- ST. PAUL INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, MINNESOTA, UNITED STATES

London, May 11 -- A press report, dated today, states: A Northwest Airlines DC-9 that had reported hydraulic problems collided with a Northwest Airbus on the ground yesterday at Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport, injuring six people. The accident happened shortly after 1930 when the DC-9 landing from Columbus, Ohio, lost control of steering as it was taxiing to its gate and the Airbus was backing away from its gate for take-off to San Antonio. The DC-9 had 94 passengers and five crew members on board. The Airbus was carrying 38 passengers and five crew-members. The injured included four crew-members from the DC-9 and two ground employees. No passengers were hurt during the incident, but afterward one passenger complained of shortness of breath and was treated as a precaution. None of the injuries appeared life-threatening, said Northwest spokesman Thomas Becher. Passengers on both aircraft were evacuated, said Pat Hogan, spokesman for the Metropolitan Airports Commission. The escape slide on the Airbus had been deployed. After the crash, the DC-9 appeared to be partially lodged underneath the Airbus. The top of the DC-9's cockpit area made contact with the Airbus' wing and was damaged. Hogan said the National Transportation Safety Board was investigating, and the aircraft could not be moved until investigators arrived. The aircraft were not affecting other air traffic.

B-2552

London, May 9 -- A press report, dated today, states: Mistakes by poorly trained flight crew caused the crash of an Air China International passenger jet in South Korea, resulting in the death of 129 people on board, aviation authorities said. Wrapping up a three-year-long investigation, the Korea Aviation-Accident Investigation Board (KAIB) said the crew had failed to pull up and turn the plane again when they missed a right approach area. The plane continued flying low under driving rains before smashing into a small hill near the airport, the board said in a report last week. "The flight crew exercised poor crew resource management and lost situational awareness during the circling approach to runway 18R, which led them to fly outside of the circling approach area, delaying the base turn,

contrary to the captain's intention to make a timely base turn. The flight crew did not execute a missed approach when they lost sight of the runway during the circling approach to runway 18R, which led them to strike high terrain (mountain) near the airport," it said. When the first officer advised the captain to execute a missed approach about five seconds before impact, the captain did not react, nor did the first officer initiate the missed approach himself, according to the report. The independent investigative body added in an appendix to the 151-page report that poor weather conditions and the airport's automatic altitude warning system could have been contributing factors. The B767-200 aircraft was completely destroyed by crash impact and a postcrash fire after it crashed during a circling approach on a hill at Gimhae International Airport on April 15, 2002. Of the 166 persons on board, 37 persons including the captain and two flight attendants survived, while the remaining 129 occupants including two co-pilots were killed.

C-GCHX

London, May 10 -- Eurocopter 105S, C-GCHX, operated by the Canadian Coast Guard, crashed into the ocean, at 1020, PDT, May 7, one nautical mile south-east of Bella Bella, British Columbia. It had completed 27 external load operations and was returning to the Coast Guard medium navaid's tender Bartlett, about two nautical miles away, with an external load of emptied lifting equipment, "bonnets", carried on a long line. While en route, the load appeared to go behind and above the tail rotor and the long line was then observed to be hanging from the back of the helicopter. The helicopter began to descend in a spin and impacted the water. It sank immediately. The pilot was able to exit the sunken helicopter, but remained face down in the water. He was wearing a life jacket, but it was not inflated. The pilot was rescued and revived within minutes, but remained in critical condition. The helicopter was not recovered. The water depth is about 140 feet. Weather on scene; Scattered cloud 2000 feet, visibility 15 miles, winds calm, seas rippled.

CRASH INTO SEA OFF BELLA BELLA, BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA

London, May 9 -- A press report, dated May 8, states: A Canadian Coast Guard helicopter crashed off the coastal B.C. community of Bella Bella on Saturday (May 7). A Coast Guard news release said the experienced pilot is in stable condition in hospital after being rescued from the water by a member of the public. The incident happened while the helicopter was slinging materials from the Canadian Coast Guard vessel Bartlett to the Driad Point light station, 500 kilometres north-west of Vancouver, said Coast Guard Pacific assistant commissioner Terry Tebb. The pilot

was returning to the vessel from the light station when the rigging used to transfer goods became entangled in the tail rotor, Tebb said. The pilot was recovered almost immediately from the water by a member of the public and taken by a Coast Guard fast response craft to the Bella Bella medical facility. He was later airlifted to Victoria by air ambulance where he remains under observation in intensive care, Tebb said. The Transportation Safety Board is investigating the incident, Tebb said.

CRASH, KOLYADYNETS, UKRAINE

London, May 12 -- A press report, dated today, states: An Antonov-2 crashed near the village of Kolyadynets, Ukraine's Sumy Region this morning, the Emergency Situations Ministry's press-service report. The aircraft fell while spraying chemicals over farm fields. The pilot and the passenger - an employee of the local farming enterprise - died. "According to preliminary findings, the crash was due to technical problems," the source said. Investigators have been dispatched to the scene to probe into the causes.

CRASH, BATANGAS, PHILIPPINES

London, May 8 -- A press report, dated today, states: Four people were killed and two others were injured when a six-seater Cessna crashed in a coconut field shortly after take off from the Barradas airstrip in Batangas today, police said. The four charred bodies were found near the crash site in Tanauan town, some 70 km south of Manila, deputy town police chief Major Noel Sandoval said. Police said all the victims were Filipinos. The two injured persons sustained serious burns and bone injuries and were taken to the Mercado Hospital based in Tanauan and Makati Medical Centre. The six victims were on their way to go skydiving when their aircraft crashed near the airstrip in Santor village where it had taken off. The airstrip is often used by private aircraft owned by businessmen or chartered by tourists. Initial investigation showed the aircraft may have developed engine trouble. Sandoval said the bodies were being gathered by a Philippine Air Force rescue team and would be airlifted to Manila.

London, May 10 -- A press report, dated May 8, states: A light private aircraft crashed into a residential area south of the Philippine capital on Manila today, killing four people on board and injuring two others. The Cessna 207 aircraft owned by Chemtrad Corp. was carrying six people when it hit a coconut tree and plunged into a village in Tanauan town in Batangas province, some 37 miles south of Manila, aviation officials said. Four people on board, including a businessman and a commercial photographer, were burnt to death while two others survived but remained critical, they said. It was not clear whether the airplane had just

taken off or was about to land, officials said, adding that a probe was under way.

CRASH, BUFFALO GROVE, ILLINOIS, UNITED STATES

London, May 9 -- A press report, dated May 8, states: Police say no one was seriously injured when a Cessna 150 crashed in a field in the Chicago suburb of Buffalo Grove, Illinois. The aircraft was apparently en route from Milwaukee to Palwaukee Municipal Airport last night when it encountered mechanical difficulties around 2300 hrs. The aircraft landed about two miles from the airport. Officers say when they reached the crash site, the pilot and his male passenger were standing clear of the wreckage and appeared not to be injured. Both were taken to a nearby hospital as a precaution. Federal Aviation Administration officials are investigating the crash.

CRASH, CORDOBA, ARGENTINA

London, May 9 -- A press report, dated today, states: Six people were killed and three others seriously injured as a mini business jet crashed yesterday night at the international airport of Argentina's second largest city of Cordoba, according to a spokesman of the airport. The spokesman said the Piper Navajo PA 31 private jet, with two pilots and seven passengers aboard, landed 700 metres short of the runway, killing the pilots and four passengers. The spokesman said the four passengers killed were a well-known Argentine car racer and his child and the head of the Toyota auto racing team and his child. The racers were returning from the western city of San Juan after a car race there. An Air Force spokesman said it was not clear what caused the accident. Local TV footage showed that the fog was heavy as the tragedy occurred about 2000 hrs.

CRASH, DYMOCK, GLOUCESTER, UNITED KINGDOM

London, May 9 -- A press report, dated May 8, states: A pilot and his passenger have been airlifted to hospital after his helicopter crashed into a house. The helicopter was trying to land at Ockington Farm, near Dymock, Gloucestershire, when it hit the roof of the farm and crashed. The pilot was airlifted to hospital in Cheltenham. His passenger had to be cut from the wreck and was airlifted to Selly Oak Hospital in Birmingham. Her condition is described as serious but stable. The woman suffered chest, abdomen and pelvic injuries. The pilot escaped serious injury. It is believed the couple lived at the farm. Insp Tony Fisk, of Gloucestershire Police, said air accident investigators would visit the scene tomorrow morning, when the French-registered helicopter would be recovered.

CRASH, KOOSKIA AREA, IDAHO, UNITED STATES

London, May 12 -- A press report, dated May 11, states: The pilot of a

small plane was found alive today, two days after he crashed in north-central Idaho, a state Transportation Department spokesman said. Pilot Paul C. Herr, of Pasco, Wash., was being treated at St. Joseph Regional Medical Centre in Lewiston, Transportation Department spokesman Mel Coulter said. Herr, who was alone in a single-engine Piper 180, was headed from Jackson, Wyo., to Pasco on Monday (May 9) when he reported engine failure over Idaho. Though air traffic controllers in Seattle tried to direct him to an airstrip in Kooskia, Idaho - just 20 miles away - he never arrived. Searchers with the Idaho Transportation Department, the Idaho County sheriff's office and the U.S. Forest Service gathered that day, but low clouds and rainstorms kept the rescue workers from carrying out an aerial search until today. They found the wreckage at about 1130 hrs, in an extremely rugged backcountry area, 45 miles east of Kooskia, Idaho County sheriff's spokeswoman Trudy Slagle said. Slagle said Herr was alert in the plane wreckage when rescue workers finally reached him. The National Transportation Safety Board will investigate the cause of the crash, the sheriff's office said.

CRASH, LOS PADRES NATIONAL FOREST, CALIFORNIA, UNITED STATES

London, May 10 -- A press report, dated today, states: Two men in a single-engine aircraft that crashed in the hills above the Santa Ynez Valley were rescued yesterday, authorities said. Both the pilot, Keegan Bailey and his passenger, Clayton Fitzgerald were taken by helicopters to Marian Medical Centre. Both men were believed to be residents of the Santa Ynez Valley. Fitzgerald was listed in critical condition yesterday evening while Bailey, who was found in stable condition, was still being evaluated. The Cessna was reported missing after reportedly taking off Sunday (May 8) from the Santa Ynez Airport for a pleasure flight over Figueroa Mountain, according to Sgt. Erik Raney of the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Department. The was last seen Sunday morning at the airport getting fuel, enough for up to four hours of flight, and taking off about 0900 or 1000, Raney said. Neither the pilot nor passenger had contacted family or co-workers yesterday and an automobile remained at the airport. When informed about the overdue flight mid-morning yesterday, airport manager Kim Joos immediately contacted authorities, according to Jim Kunkle, Santa Ynez Airport Authority president. "She understood the magnitude of the situation and really reacted," Kunkle said. Four aircraft with six pilots quickly took off to help find their fellow flier. Just before 1500 yesterday, aviators found the wreckage in the Mantana Schoolhouse area of the San Rafael Wilderness of Los Padres National Forest. "When we saw it, we didn't think anybody

survived it. It looks pretty bad," Kunkle said. "That was unbelievable. We didn't expect to have that kind of outcome." The wreckage was in a "horrible canyon," and not easily accessible, Kunkle added. "The California Highway Patrol helicopter crew reported seeing at least one survivor of the wreckage," Raney said, at the crash site about 10 miles northwest of the Forest Service's Figueroa Mountain lookout. Helicopters ferried the sheriff's search-and-rescue team and county fire paramedics to the site. "They found, once on the ground, that the two subjects on board were both alive," Raney said, and both men were transported to Marian Medical Centre by helicopters from the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's and Ventura County Sheriff's departments. The Cessna 140 is registered to Douglas L. Bailey of Hendersonville, Tenn., according to FAA records. Douglas L. Bailey's reportedly is the pilot's dad. The cause of the crash remains under investigation. Both the Federal Aviation Administration and National Transportation Safety Board were notified yesterday.

CRASH, SWANSEA, UNITED KINGDOM

London, May 9 -- A press report, dated May 8, states: A helicopter has crash-landed at Swansea Airport, and the pilot and two passengers taken to hospital. Mid and West Wales Fire Service said the privately-owned Robinson R44 came down as it was preparing to land. An airport spokesman said the accident happened at about 1320, BST. No other aircraft was involved and paramedics and fire crews were quickly on hand. The airport said the three people were taken to hospital with minor injuries as a precaution. An inquiry has been launched by the Air Accident Investigation Board.

D-IHDS

London, May 12 -- Cessna T310R, D-IHDS, operated by Flugschule Gregor Stahnke, sustained substantial damage during a wheels up landing following an in-flight main landing gear failure during final approach to an airport near Barth, Germany, at approximately 0915, UTC, Apr 23. The pilot and co-pilot were seriously injured.

EMERGENCY LANDING, HOKKAIDO, JAPAN

London, May 9 -- A press report, dated today, states: A Japan Airlines jumbo jet from New York bound for Narita International Airport made an emergency landing yesterday at Shin Chitose Airport in Hokkaido after oxygen masks in the passenger cabin were released due to reduced air pressure, JAL officials said. No one was injured in the incident, JAL said. The Narita-bound Boeing 747, which originated in Sao Paulo, Brazil, and was coming into Tokyo via New York with 355 passengers and 19 crew, made the emergency landing at 1250 hrs. The Aircraft and Railway

Accident Investigation Committee of the Land, Infrastructure and Transport Ministry said that the incident was considered "serious" and that it would dispatch two investigators to Shin Chitose Airport today to look into it. The masks are designed to release automatically in the event of reduced cabin pressure. After the oxygen masks were released, the pilot made a rapid descent to about 3,000 metres from around 11,000 metres. The aircraft landed about 70 minutes later. JAL officials said that, while no one was hurt, some passengers complained of pain in their ears when the air pressure fell. The airline said it has opened an investigation into the incident. Some passengers said they felt a slight air current in the cabin just before the masks came down. Some aviation experts suggested that the depressurisation may have occurred gradually.

London, May 10 -- A press report, dated today, states: A transport ministry panel found yesterday that one of the cabin pressure control valves on a Japan Airlines jumbo jet that made an emergency landing Sunday (May 8) had not functioned properly, leaving it closed even after landing when it should have been fully open, sources close to the panel's inspections said. The valves, also called outflow valves, are part of the cabin pressure control system. They are supposed to open gradually as the aircraft descends in order to adjust the amount of air mass that exits in the cabin and to become fully open on landing to equalize air pressure inside and outside the aircraft.

EMERGENCY LANDING, HONG KONG

London, May 8 -- A press report, dated today, states: A Vancouver-bound Air Canada flight that reported an in-flight fire returned safely to Hong Kong's airport today about 40 minutes after take-off, officials said. The reported fire turned out to be a short-circuited cabin light that emitted smoke but did not catch fire and there were no injuries, Airport Authority Hong Kong spokeswoman Jo Ngai said. She identified the flight as AC008 bound for Vancouver. She said the aircraft, an Airbus A343, was carrying 231 passengers and 16 crew members.

EMERGENCY LANDING, KANSAI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, OSAKA PREFECTURE, JAPAN

London, May 9 -- A press report, dated today, states: A JAL aircraft on a flight from Nagoya to Manila made an emergency landing yesterday at Kansai International Airport in Osaka Prefecture, changing its destination after its altimeter failed to function, airport authorities said. No one was hurt in the incident, JAL officials said.

FLIGHTS DELAYED DUE TO GO-SLOW BY AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS, EGYPT

See "Egypt" under "Labour Disputes."

FLIGHTS DELAYED DUE TO GO-SLOW BY AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS, PAKISTAN

See "Pakistan" under "Labour Disputes."

G-OUEL

London, May 12 -- The helicopter crash that killed British Superbike champion Steve Hislop was caused by rotor blades striking the tailboom, a report has found. Hislop, 41, died when the R44 (G-OUEL) he was piloting crashed near his birthplace of Hawick in the Scottish borders in 2003. The loss of control could have resulted from "mishandling of the controls", the Air Accidents Investigation Branch (AAIB) said. But it added that an aircraft malfunction "could not be eliminated". The AAIB said available evidence indicated the accident on 30 July 2003 followed a main rotor blade strike on the tailboom, probably caused by excessively low main rotor speed. The report said: "The control loss and low rotor RPM (revs per minute) may have resulted from spatial disorientation and mishandling of the controls, but the possibility that aircraft malfunction had contributed to the accident could not be eliminated." Hislop, a father-of-two who lived on the Isle of Man, was flying from Hawick to Wycombe Air Park in Buckinghamshire and had decided to take a western route via Carlisle. Low cloud was around and a right turn he made just south of Teviothead, near Hawick, indicated that he had decided to divert from the original routing and to either land, turn back or route further west. The AAIB said that having flown up from Wycombe to Hawick two days before, Hislop had told a friend he had an enjoyable flight and that "his only problem was preventing the helicopter 'wobbling' when he attempted to fold his map". The report said that having probably entered cloud, the helicopter entered a rapid descent and the main rotor blades struck the tailboom. Most of the tailboom detached, the rotors virtually stopped and the helicopter crashed. The AAIB issued a number of safety recommendations including asking manufacturers Robinson to include in its pilot's operating handbooks a warning of the possibility of a hazardous loss of rotor speed in certain manoeuvres.

INCIDENT AT HASANUDDIN AIRPORT, MAKASSAR, SOUTH SULAWESI, INDONESIA

London, May 7 -- A press report, dated today, states: One front tyre of a Lion Air aircraft transporting 153 passengers and seven crew members from Jakarta blew upon landing at Hasanuddin Airport, Makassar, yesterday, forcing the airport management to close the airport to air traffic for about one hour. All passengers were safe and were immediately evacuated in vehicles prepared by the airport management and Lion Air 2,000 metres from the runway. Ade Arin Noenohitoe, a staff

member of the airport management company PT Angkasa Pura I, said that the Boeing MD-82 flown by captain Edwar Limbung touched down at 1042, local time. Upon touching down one of the aircraft's front tyres blew, thereby forcing the aircraft to an abrupt halt, Ade said. The aircraft was towed off the runway at 1147 after the tyre was replaced so that the airport could re-open, Ade said. He explained that due to the minor accident at least three flights, namely a Lion Air flight from Surabaya and a Batavia Air flight from Biak, Papua, to Sepinggan airport in Balikpapan, East Kalimantan, and a Garuda Indonesia flight from Biak to Ngurah Rai Airport in Denpasar, Bali had to be rescheduled. "Now, however, air traffic is back to normal again," Ade said, adding that Lion Air passengers from the aircraft had been transferred to other airlines to continue their journey.

N337DR

London, May 6 -- Rockwell Commander 980, N337DR, crashed near North Las Vegas Airport, Nevada, at 1614, May 5, while on a flight from Las Vegas to San Diego, California. The aircraft was destroyed. One of the three persons on board was seriously injured.

London, May 6 -- A press report, dated May 5, states: A passenger was forced to crash land a private aircraft today after the pilot suffered an apparent heart attack, authorities said. The pilot later died. The two passengers were taken to University Medical Centre in Las Vegas after the crash at North Las Vegas Airport, said Donn Walker, regional spokesman for the Federal Aviation Administration. The Rockwell 980 (N337DR) was registered to Douglas R. Reichardt of Henderson, who was piloting the aircraft. The two passengers did not appear to be seriously hurt, authorities said. The pilot had filed a flight plan to San Diego and the plane took off from North Las Vegas at 0830 hrs, Walker said. About 45 minutes later, the aircraft crashed on its belly several hundred feet short of an airport runway. The pilot is believed to have suffered a heart attack, Walker said. The FAA and the National Transportation Safety Board are investigating the crash. Reichardt had a valid multiengine airline transport pilot's licence, according to FAA records.

N453WA

London, May 10 -- North American CNJ-6, N453WA, operated by Warbird Adventures Inc crashed at Bartow, Florida, at 2017, May 9. The aircraft was destroyed. The two persons on board were killed.

N98117

London, May 9 -- A press report, dated May 8, states: A Georgia couple's plane crashed into the water near the Fort Pierce inlet after it ran out of fuel around 1700 hrs, yesterday, according to U.S. Coast Guard

officials. Three rescue boats saved the man and woman, ages 56 and 52, who had just cuts and scrapes, but the single-engine plane, a Cherokee 140, sank in the water. The couple took off from the Bahamas and had intended to land in Fort Pierce, Petty Officer Thomas Jack said. The plane, a Piper Cherokee 140, still remains in the water, about two miles south and three miles east of the inlet. The Federal Aviation Administration and the National Transportation Safety Board will determine what to do with the plane, Jack said.

London, May 9 -- Piper PA-28-140 (Cherokee), N98117, operated by Georgia Cherokee Airshares 1 LLC, while on a flight from Marsh Harbour, Bahamas, for Fort Pierce, Florida, with two persons on board, reported out of fuel and ditched into water 10 miles south-east of Fort Pierce, at 2051, UTC, May 7. The aircraft was submerged. Both persons on board suffered minor injuries.

VH-TFU

London, May 8 -- A press report, dated today, states: Search crews are setting out this morning to try to reach the wreckage of an aircraft that crashed in far north Queensland with 15 people on board. Poor weather and difficult terrain is expected to hamper their attempts. A police spokeswoman said the searchers were being briefed before beginning their attempts to reach the twin-engine aircraft which had 15 people on board when it crashed into a hillside at about midday yesterday. The aircraft was carrying two male pilots and 13 passengers, ten men and three women, including a policewoman. None are believed to have survived the crash. The spokeswoman said the burnt-out wreckage was about 11 km north-west of the Lockhart River airport at Iron Range. The wreckage was located by a search helicopter crew but failing light forced them to abandon attempts to lower a paramedic to the wreckage. Acting Superintendent of Cairns Police, Superintendent Michael Keating, said police aircraft were on standby and every effort would be made to get officers to the scene by first light. None of the people on board the Fairchild Metroliner commuter aircraft are likely to have survived, Supt Keating said. "The observations from people within the (rescue) helicopter is that it is highly unlikely that anyone would have survived the crash. The impact is very severe," he told reporters. The Aero-Tropics Air Services aircraft had left the small Aboriginal community of Bamaga, 40 km from the tip of the peninsula, and had almost reached Lockhart River, just south of the Iron Range National Park, when it crashed. The pilot had radioed air traffic control four minutes before the aircraft was due to arrive at Lockhart River at 1145, AEST, and was preparing to land as scheduled. Supt Keating said the aircraft was flying in rain, low cloud and 20-knot winds when it crashed into the hill, but there was nothing to suggest the

plane's pilot or crew had been in distress. Australian Transport Safety Bureau personnel were also en route to Cairns and expected to reach the site today.

London, May 8 -- A press report, dated today, states: Authorities have confirmed there are no survivors from a passenger aircraft that crashed yesterday on Queensland's Cape York Peninsula. Ten male passengers, three women passengers and two crewmen were onboard the Metroliner. Police winched into the crash site from a helicopter shortly after 0700, AEST, today. Senior investigator Bill Fry says the bureau is relying on police assistance. The wreckage was found on a hill with a 60 degree slope. Mr Fry says recovering the flight recorders will be a priority. "If we can locate those, those will be recovered as soon as possible, and they'll be transported to the Australian Transport Safety Bureau laboratories in Canberra for download and analysis," he said. Aero-Tropics, which operated the Metroliner aircraft, has confirmed three of its employees were among the 15 people killed. Bad weather and rugged terrain had prevented rescue and recovery crews from reaching the crash site earlier. Nine Air Transport Safety Bureau (ATSB) investigators have travelled to Cairns, with four expected to reach the Iron Range crash site this afternoon.

London, May 10 -- A press report, dated today, states: An aircraft that crashed in far north Queensland killing all 15 people aboard had an engine problem last month, its owner said today. But Transair Australia said the aircraft had flown more than 60 hours since repairs were carried out. Transair, which owned and operated the aircraft used on the service under a commercial agreement with Aero Tropics of Cairns, said the Fairchild Metroliner 3 had suffered an engine problem on Apr 20. The company's director, Duncan MacKellar, said the aircraft had suffered a loss of power in one engine while preparing for take-off from Cairns. "The pilots as part of their procedures check their instruments and follow procedures, and on this occasion the power output from that engine did not meet requirements," Mr MacKellar said. "It certainly wasn't an engine failure." He said the pilots had returned to the terminal and a well-respected maintenance company that the airline used assigned had engineers to check the engine. "They made some adjustments and the flight took off about an hour and a half later," Mr MacKellar said. He said the engine had flown 60 to 70 hours since the incident. "It would be speculation that I don't want to enter into (to try to link the engine problem to Saturday's crash)," Mr MacKellar said. The aircraft crashed into a 500m rainforest-covered peak on Saturday (May 7) while attempting to land at Lockhart River after flying from Bamaga near the tip of Cape York Peninsula. Cairns police Superintendent Mike Keating said

determining whether the engines played any part in the crash was a task for the Australian Transport Safety Bureau (ATSB). "Any reports about the airworthiness are speculation, there are no confirmed reports of that, that is part of the ATSB and police investigation," Supt Keating said. Mr MacKellar said today the regular daily flights from Cairns to the Cape operated by Transair for Aero Tropics had been suspended at the request of communities on Cape York as a mark of respect to the victims. But he said the flights would resume and he believed Aero Tropics had received strong bookings for the service.

London, May 12 -- Swearingen SA.227DC Metro 23 VH-TFU, operators Aero-Tropics Air Services, leased from Transair Australia, crashed into the side of the Iron Range Mountain, 10 kms north-west Iron Range Airport, Queensland, May 7. The two crew and 13 passengers on board were killed.

London, May 12 -- A press report, dated today, states: The cockpit recorder on the aircraft (VH-TFU) that crashed in northern Queensland, killing all 15 people on board, has provided few clues for investigators. The Australian Transport Safety Bureau says the two recorders were badly damaged in the crash near Lockhart River on Cape York. Spokesman Alan Stray says while the flight data recorder has provided information about the altitude and speed of the aircraft, the cockpit recorder contains little other information. "Preliminary analysis of the 30-minute cockpit recording tape indicates that it contains a variety of electrical impulses and fragments of conversation," he said. "Some of those have been identified from previous flights but at the moment there has been nothing found from this flight," he said. The weekend crash was Australia's worst air disaster in 30 years.

ZK-POA

London, May 5 -- A press report, dated today, states: Investigators will continue to search today for missing pieces of an aircraft that crashed in Taranaki on Tuesday night as they try to form a picture of what caused the fatal crash. The Airworks Metroliner, carrying courier cargo from Auckland to Blenheim, crashed about 2215 Tuesday (May 3), 5km east of Stratford, killing Clive Rodger Adamson of Wellington, and Anthony Brian Arthur Drummond of Manukau City. Transport Accident Investigation Commission (Taic) investigator John Goddard told National Radio that today would involve more "leg work" at the accident scene. "Today we need to look at and find the other significant parts of the plane we haven't seen yet," he said. "The detail of the pieces of wreckage would start to fill in a picture of the way things happened." Meanwhile, the aircraft's black box and flight recorder, which were located yesterday, will be sent to Australia for specialist analysis. "We

will be taking them across to Canberra to the Australian Transport Safety Bureau who have a specialist lab where they can extract the data from them for us," Mr Goddard said. "That is a very specialist job and they have one of the few such places around the world." Mr Goddard said it was too early to know whether the aircraft had exploded in mid-air, as described by witnesses. "There has certainly been an inflight fire, exactly at what stage of the whole sequence that happened I don't know at this point," he said. But early indications were that the courier packages being carried were not the cause of the fire. "A preliminary look at it suggests the fire has been external to the cargo hold," he said. Courier packages were scattered over farmland around the crash scene, the location of which also provided information to investigators. "That has the potential to tell us the sequence of break-up of the aircraft," Mr Goddard said. But the main focus today was on the remaining pieces of wreckage and more police were at the scene helping with the search, he said. "It's quite a lot of basic leg work really. With luck we'll be able to allow the cargo to be removed (today), leaving us with just the aircraft wreckage." Mr Goddard said investigators had been in touch with the US manufacturers of the aircraft, and they may assist in the investigation. "We may well be getting some assistance from them from the United States. They're waiting for more information from us to decide whether they need to come and help. There's quite a lot of interest in the States, in terms of manufacture, about this accident." The aircraft had been in contact with air traffic controllers before it vanished suddenly from radar screens, without any distress calls. Until Tuesday's crash, the twin-prop Fairchild Metroliner SA227-AC, had a clean safety record, Civil Aviation Authority spokesman Bill Summer told NZPA. The aircraft are usually used to transport cargo, especially post, but can carry passengers. The pilots' bodies were removed from the wreckage yesterday and post mortem examinations would be carried out today.

London, May 12 -- Swearingen SA.227AC Metro III ZK-POA, operator Airwork, NZ, was on a scheduled NZ Post return flight when it crashed in rural farmland six kms east of Stratfor, New Zealand, at 2315, May 2. The wreckage was scattered over a large area of at least two to three sq km. The two crew on board were both killed.

Product Recalls



POGO STICKS AND PUSH TOYS, UNITED STATES

London, May 10 -- A press report, dated today, states: Toy maker Fisher-

Price Inc. is recalling about 150,000 defective Grow-to-Pro Pogo Sticks and about 50,000 Lil' Wagster Dragster push toys because they pose an injury risk to children, government regulators said today. The East Aurora, N.Y.-based company has received 17 reports of injuries from the pogo sticks, including one of teeth being knocked out. It also has received nine reports of injuries from the push toys, including loosened teeth, cut gums and bruises to the mouth and chin, the Consumer Product Safety Commission said. The pogo sticks can jam in the down position, then suddenly release, creating a risk of falls. This is the result of a faulty pin. The recalled pogo sticks, made in China, have a round, removable base, two foot pegs, and the words "Grow to Pro Pogo" stamped on the front. They come in green, with a model number of 73386, or pink, with a model number of 77356. The push toys have an opening at the top of the handle where a child's chin can get stuck, causing injuries to the jaw and teeth. The toys, made in Mexico, have a blue handle that attaches to a green race car with red wheels and the number three stamped on its front. A dog with a helmet is in the driver's seat. The recalled model number is B0335, which can be found stamped on the underside of the car. The pogo sticks were sold at discount department and toy stores for between \$25 and \$30 from January 2002 through to August 2004. The push toys were sold for about \$13 from December 2002 through to February 2005.

SAAB MOTOR VEHICLES, NEW ZEALAND

London, May 6 -- A press report, dated today, states: Saab has recalled 2001 and 2002 Saab 9-3 convertibles after identifying a potential fault which could result in fuel leakage. The company said that fuel pump retaining tabs in some cars may have been damaged during manufacture. Over time this could cause the fuel lines to loosen, resulting in leaking fuel which could be a fire risk.

VIDEO HEAD CLEANERS, UNITED STATES

London, May 12 -- A press report, dated May 11, states: The Consumer Product Safety Commission announced the recall of around one million Wet System Video Head Cleaners from RadioShack Corp., because the cleaning solution bottle, labelled as containing isopropanol, actually contains methanol, which can be fatal or cause blindness if swallowed. Also, the bottle lacks cautionary labelling and child-resistant packaging, as federal law requires for methanol. No injuries or illnesses have been reported. RadioShack stores nationwide and the company's web site sold the product from December 1995 to January 2005. It was made in China and cost about \$13.

GENERAL MOTORS VEHICLES, UNITED STATES, MEXICO AND CANADA

London, May 11 -- A press report, dated May 10, states: General Motors Corp. is recalling more than 300,000 trucks and sport utility vehicles because of problems with the turn signal on some vehicles, the company said today. GM, the world's largest automaker, said a driver indicating an upcoming turn by moving the directional signal up or down might cause the front and rear turn lights to flash, making it appear like a hazard warning. The recall involves the 2003-2004 model years of the Chevrolet TrailBlazer, the GMC Envoy, the Isuzu Ascender and the Oldsmobile Bravada. It also includes the 2004 Buick Rainier. Company officials said the problem raised safety concerns that a driver might not be able to signal his or her intention to turn, change lanes or warn others that the vehicle was impaired along the side of the road. There have been no crashes or injuries related to the defect, GM spokesman Alan Adler said. The company spotted the problem through warranty reports filed by motorists. GM said the recall involved 286,478 vehicles in the United States and 19,195 vehicles in Mexico, Canada and its export market. Permanent replacement parts will be available to dealers in August. In the

meantime, consumers may have their directional/hazard signals fixed with temporary parts until a more permanent fix becomes available.

HONDA MOTOR VEHICLES, JAPAN

London, May 7 -- A press report, dated today, states: Honda Motor Co said yesterday it will recall 1,691 Fit compact cars to fix a braking defect. In a report filed with the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport, Honda said the car's braking fluid may leak as its brake pipe could rupture due to inappropriate welding of its rear axle beam to a component supporting a coil spring.

Port Conditions



ITALY

Genoa, May 10 -- Port situation May 10: Genoa and Savona: No vessels awaiting berths. La Spezia: No vessels awaiting normal berths. -- Lloyd's Agents.

PAKISTAN

London, May 9 -- A report from Toba Tek Singh, dated May 8, states: Heavy rain and hailstorm coupled with dust storm damaged the standing and harvested wheat crop in various villages in Gojra area last night. The untimely rain has also resulted in further delay of threshing of the crop. Lighting also killed a nine-year-old boy in at Chak 94-JB. Kaleem was playing in the street during the rain when the incident occurred.

PANAMA CANAL

London, May 11 -- A press report, dated May 10, states: Repairs to the tow track at Gatun Locks have commenced and will continue through until 2359 hrs, May 21. The Panama Canal Authority advises that both lanes will be operational and that the impact on shipping should be minimal.

Port Delays

Country/Port	Date of report	No.of vessels waiting and/or days delay
Australia		
Abbott Point	09-May-2005	Coal: One vessel at berth, 12 vessels due by 1/6; no delays expected.
Brisbane	09-May-2005	Coal: Fisherman Island coal berth; Six vessels due by 20/5; up to 2 days delay expected.
Dalrymple Bay	09-May-2005	Coal: Three vessels at berth, 30 at anchor; 35 vessels due by 30/6; 10- 30 days delay expected. Vessels are berthing in order of cargo availability. Shippers have a certain entitlement of coal shipped through the terminal. If they exceed their entitlement, additional vessels are moved further down the list, with a resulting additional delay in berthing.
Dampier	09-May-2005	Iron ore: Shippers are experiencing some grade/stockpile problems. Some vessels will berth out of turn and the berthing lineup may change at short notice. Parker Point: One vessel loading at berth, 5 at anchor; 9 vessels due by 18/5; 1-11 days delay expected; East Intercourse Island; One vessel loading at berth, 1 at anchor; 11 vessels due by 18/5; 2-8 days delay expected; a shift to lay-by on completion of loading always possible.
Geraldton	09-May-2005	Iron ore: Two vessels due by 22/5; up to 1 day's delay expected.
Gladstone	09-May-2005	Coal: R.G. Tanna coal terminal: Two vessels at berth, 4 at anchor; 29 vessels due by 3/6; up to 5 days delay expected; Barney Point: 1 vessel at anchor; 8 vessels due by 20/6; up to 2 days delay expected. CQPA have proposed a shutdown of Barney Point shiploading activities from 06:00 16/5 to 06:00 26/5 for section replacement of wharf deck.
Hay Point	09-May-2005	Coal: Two vessels at berth, 8 at anchor; 7 vessels due by 19/6; 1-7 days delay expected.
Newcastle	09-May-2005	Coal: Kooragang 4, 5 and 6: One vessel at berth, 4 at anchor; 32 vessels due by 25/5; Dykes 4+5: 1 vessel at berth, 1 at anchor; 15 vessels due by 22/5; Kooragang and Dyke terminals: up to 3 days delay expected.
Port Hedland	09-May-2005	Iron ore: BHP Iron Ore Pty. Ltd., Mt. Newman (Nelson Point), "A" berth: One vessel loading at berth, 3 at anchor; 4 vessels due by 14/5; 2-5 days delay expected; "B" berth: 1 vessel loading at berth, 3 at anchor; 4 vessels due by 13/5; up to 4 days delay expected; BHP Iron Ore Pty. Ltd., Goldsworthy (Finucane Island "C" berth): 1 vessel loading at berth; 3 vessels due by 13/5; no delays expected; "D" berth: 2 vessels at anchor; 2 vessels due by 15/5; 1-3 days delay expected.
Port Kembla	09-May-2005	Coal: Three vessels at anchor; 11 vessels due by 30/6; CB1: no vessels; up to 7 days delay expected..
Port Walcott	09-May-2005	Iron ore: Two vessels loading at berth, 1 at anchor; 18 vessels due by 25/5; up to 3 days delay expected; cargo grade shortages and stockpile may result in vessels berthing out of turn; shippers request that load plans be submitted as early as possible (8 days) so they can co-ordinate stockpiles more effectively; shippers advise that stores, air freight and baggage can no longer be delivered to the vessel or taken off at berth, but must be delivered/removed by launch.
Brazil		
Paranagua	10-May-2005	Sixteen vessels berthed of which 4 fertiliser dischargers, 5 pellets loaders, 1 containers, 2 sugar loaders, 1 reefer loader, 3 other loaders; 14 vessels waiting in roads, of which 9 to load (1 sugar, 2 pellets, 1 soya, 5 other vessels), 5 to discharge (1 fertiliser, 4 others); 45 vessels due over the next 7 days.
Rio Grande	10-May-2005	Three vessels berthed of which 2 fertiliser dischargers, 1 wheat loader; 10 vessels waiting in roads; 28 vessels due over the next 10 days.
Santos	10-May-2005	Seventeen vessels berthed of which 2 fertiliser dischargers, 2 sugar loaders, 1 pellets loader, 3 wheat dischargers, 1 full container loader/discharger, 1 bulk soya loader, 1 Ro/Ro loader, 1 bulk LPG discharger, 2 chemical products dischargers, 1 bulk salt discharger, 1 bulk juice loader, 1 other loader/discharger; 21 vessels waiting in roads; 24 vessels due over the next 7 days;
Sao Sebastiao	10-May-2005	Six vessels berthed, 6 waiting in roads; 5 vessels due over the next 10 days.
Vit6ira	10-May-2005	One sugar loader berthed; Terminal Vila Velha: 2 full container loaders/dischargers; Tubarao: 1 pig-iron loader, 1 iron ore loader, 1 other loader; Praia Mole: 2 steel products loaders, 2 coal dischargers, 1 granite loader; Portocel: 1 cellulose loader; Ubu: no vessels; 24 vessels waiting in roads; 24 vessels due over the next 7 days.
Bulgaria		
Bourgas	8/9-May-2005	Nine vessels in port of which 7 loading (1 empty, 1 bulk ammonium nitrate, 1 metal, 1 scrap, 2 coils, 1 barite concentrate), 2 discharging (1 billets, 1 zinc concentrate); 6 vessels in roads of which 5 to load (2 empty, 3 coils), 1 to discharge coal; 8 vessels due of which 5 to load (1 equipment, 1 container, 1 passenger vessel, 1 bulk ammonium sulphate, 1 steel sheets), 3 to discharge (1 container, 1 zinc concentrate, 1 iron ore).

Port Conditions

Varna	8/9-May-2005	Varna East, Varna West, Balchik: Thirty-seven vessels in port operating of which 17 loading (2 sunflower seeds, 1 scrap, 5 soda, 1 chamote/kaolin, 1 equipment, 2 kaolin, 2 TSP, 1 sulphuric acid, 1 hydrochloric acid, 1 bulk cement), 9 discharging (4 bulk coal, 2 copper concentrate, 1 steel coils, 1 steel sheets/pipes, 1 clay), 11 discharging/loading (10 containers, 1 slag/petroleum coke).
Egypt		
Alexandria	09-May-2005	Twenty-four vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 21 general cargo, 2 bulk carriers, 1 containers; 16 vessels dry-docked; 16 vessels at inner anchorage, 9 at outer anchorage.
Damietta	09-May-2005	Twenty-one vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 13 general cargo, 4 bulk carriers, 1 tanker, 3 containers; 2 vessels at inner anchorage, 5 at outer anchorage.
Suez Canal	09-May-2005	Twenty-nine vessels transiting Northbound, 26 Southbound.
Estonia		
Paljassaare	09-May-2005	1 coal vessel loading at berth; no vessels waiting at anchorage; 1 vessel due, with 7 days berthing delay expected.
Israel		
Ashdod	09-May-2005	No labour problems. Four general cargo vessels loading at berth, 14 vessels discharging at berth (11 general cargo, 3 bulkers), 4 container vessels loading/discharging at berth; 1 general cargo vessel waiting at anchorage to discharge, 1 container vessel waiting at anchorage to load/discharge; 1 vessel awaiting orders; 21 vessels due, with 2-3 days delay expected.
Haifa	09-May-2005	No labour problems. Five vessels discharging at berth (1 general cargo, 4 bulkers), 8 vessels loading/discharging at berth (6 containers, 2 tankers); 2 bulkers waiting at anchorage to discharge, 2 tankers waiting at anchorage to load/discharge; 2 vessels under repairs/dry-docked, 1 awaiting orders; 13 vessels due, with 2-3 days delay expected.
Pakistan		
Karachi	09-May-2005	Nine vessels discharging at berth (2 rice, 1 crude oil, 1 palm oil, 1 steel coils, 2 DAP, 2 general cargo), 1 container vessel loading/discharging at berth; 2 vessels waiting at anchorage to load (1 cement, 1 rice), 2 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (1 palm oil, 1 chemicals); no vessels bunkering, none under repairs/dry-docked, none awaiting orders; 7 vessels due (4 containers, 1 general cargo, 1 rice, 1 chemicals), with no berthing delays expected.
Port Qasim	09-May-2005	Two vessels discharging at berth (1 fertiliser, 1 coal), 1 container vessel loading/discharging at QICT berth; no vessels waiting at anchorage
Russia		
Novorossiysk	10-May-2005	Fifteen vessels in port operating of which 13 loading (1 bulk cement, 1 bulk urea, 1 DRI, 1 ocils, 1 barley, 1 citrus, 1 steel sheets, 1 steel billets, 1 bulk NPK/bulk ammonium nitrate, 1 coils/slabs, 1 wheat, 1 aluminium, 1 D/O), 1 discharging ore; 3 vessels in roads, all to load (1 bulk fertiliser, 1 bulk cement, 1 steel billets); 69 vessels due of which 66 to load, 3 to discharge (1 bulk NPK, 1 cars, 1 bulk fertiliser); Oil terminal: 3 tankers loading at berth (2 crude oil, 1 DO); 5 tankers in roads of which 4 to load crude, 1 DO; 6 tankers due, all to load (5 crude oil, 1 fuel oil).
Spain		
Bilbao	09/10-May-2005	Thirty-four vessels operating (9 tankers, 25 others), of which 6 loading, 16 discharging, 12 loading/discharging.
Cadiz	09/10-May-2005	Twenty-three vessels in port of which 11 operating (3 Ro/Ros, 1 containers, 2 (May 10) cereals, 2 wheat, 1 peas, 2 passenger vessels), 12 vessels under repair; no delays..
Sagunto	09/10-May-2005	Twenty-one vessels in port operating of which 10 discharging (9 steel products, 1 vehicles), 6 loading (2 steel products, 1 baled scrap, 1 cement, 2 bulk fertiliser), 4 Ro/Ros discharging/loading general cargo, 1 vessel loading/discharging steel coils; no vessels outside commercial wharf; no berthing delays at present.

Port Conditions

Sri Lanka

Colombo	09-May-2005	Berthing/unberthing (pilotage) delays being experienced on breakbulk/conventional vessels. Delays to conventional vessels are due to the fact that container/feeder vessels are given priority at breakbulk berths if there is container congestion. Conventional cargo vessels at BQ 1 and 2 are facing navigation delays. Thirteen container/feeder vessels loading at berth, 16 vessels discharging at berth (10 containers/feeders, 1 bagged sugar, 1 bulk clinker, 1 steel billets, 1 bagged urea, 2 bulk cement); no vessels waiting at anchorage; 3 vessels dry-docked, 1 under arrest; 1 vessel at new tanker berth; 10 vessels due (8 containers/feeders, 1 Ro/Ro, 1 bulk cement), with no delays expected.
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Ukraine

Ilichevsk	09-May-2005	Eight vessels in port operating of which 7 loading (5 steel products, 1 container, 1 vegetable oil), 1 discharging tropical oil; 2 vessels in roads, both to load steel products; 20 vessels due of which 15 to load (9 steel products, 1 wheat, 5 vegetable oil), 5 to discharge/load containers.
Mariupol	09-May-2005	Eleven vessels in port operating, all loading (3 steel, 4 fire-clay, 1 barley, 3 coal); SRY: 5 vessel (4 equipment, 1 pipes); 4 vessels in roads, all to load steel; 41 vessels due of which 38 to load (19 steel, 4 coal, 1 coke, 1 steel billets/fire-clay, 9 fire-clay, 1 sunflower beans, 1 pitch, 1 wheat, 1 sulphur), 1 to discharge heavy lifts, 2 to discharge/load containers.
Odessa	09-May-2005	Twenty vessels in port operating of which 13 loading (6 metal, 2 metal/wood, 1 scrap, 1 general cargo, 1 corn, 1 sunflower seeds, 1 wheat), 6 discharging (1 citrus, 1 bananas, 1 baggage, 1 building materials, 2 wheat), 1 discharging/loading containers; 6 vessels in roads of which 4 to load (2 metal, 2 corn), 2 to discharge (1 citrus, 1 oil); 59 vessels due of which 31 to load (19 metal, 1 scrap, 4 ore, 3 wheat, 1 barley, 1 corn, 1 wood, 1 ferroalloy), 8 to discharge (3 metal, 1 ore, 2 citrus, 1 sugar, 1 oil), 20 to load/discharge containers.

United States

Beaufort	10-May-2005	Louis Dreyfus terminal: 2-3 days delay expected.
Galveston	10-May-2005	Galveston directs minimum safe speed from Houston Ship Channel Lighted Buoy 12 to Lighted Buoy 26 due to a sunken towboat in Anchorage Charlie and a badly listing barge near the Bolivar Buoy Line. Bolivar Roads Anchorage Charlie is closed to all vessel movements. ADM-Farmland terminal: 1-2 days delay expected.
Houston	10-May-2005	LDC Dreyfus terminal: no delays expected; Cargill terminal: 1-2 days delay expected.
Kalama	10-May-2005	Kalama export terminal: 1 day's delay expected; United Harvest terminal: no delays expected.
New Orleans	10-May-2005	Mississippi River terminal berthing delays: Cenex-Harstates/Myrtle Grove: 1-2 days delay expected. Cargill-Westwego: 2 days delay expected. ADM/Ama: 3-5 days delay expected. Bunge/Destrehan: no delays expected. ADM/ Destrehan: 3-5 days delay expected. ADM/Reserve: 3-5 days delay expected. Cargill/Reserve: 1 day's delay expected. Peavey/Paulina: Closed. Zen-Noh/Convent: 1-2 days delay expected. Cargill/Baton Rouge: no delays expected. Mississippi River mid-stream buoys - estimated berthing delays based on new vessel presented as load-ready and weather permitting: Mile 121.5 ADM (Gemini) - Destrehan: no delays expected; Mile 158.0 Cargill (K2) - Convent: 3 days delay expected; Mile 180.0 Cooper (America) - Darrow: 7 days delay expected.
Portland	10-May-2005	Columbia Grain terminal: 2 days delay expected; CLD Irving terminal: 2 days delay expected; CLD, O Dock terminals: 2 days delay expected.
Seattle	10-May-2005	Louis Dreyfus (Pier 86) terminal: 2 days delay expected.
Tacoma	10-May-2005	Temco terminal: 2 days delay expected.
Vancouver, WA	10-May-2005	United Harvest terminal: 1 day's delay expected.

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