

October 12 2007

QM2 walkway thought to have design defects

By Andrew Spurrier

DESIGN defects on the walkway on to the Queen Mary 2, which collapsed in November 2003 causing the death of 16 people, meant it was bound to give way "one day or another", an expert witness told a court yesterday.

Claude Bonetat was one of three expert witnesses called by the court who pointed to conception defects in the 15 m by 1.5 m structure that served as access to the almost completed cruiseship.

They told the court that the walkway lacked reinforcements, notably in the form of diagonal bars on its underside and fixation bars at its extremities.

"Whatever happens, a walkway like that would have turned over one day or another," said Mr Bonetat.

The experts indicated that the walkway should have been conceived for a maximum charge of 500 kg per sq m instead of 150 kg per sq m, but said that this discrepancy had not caused its collapse under the weight of some 50 visitors and yard workers.

"It was not conceived for so many people," said Mr Bonetat. "But the charge would not have exceeded its capacities of resistance if it had been suitably conceived."

The previous day, the former head of Chantiers de l'Atlantique, which has since become Aker Yards Saint Nazaire, had told the court he considered a construction defect was the cause of the collapse.

Unlike the walkway's builder, Suez group subsidiary Endel, which claimed the walkway was intended for small loads and yard workers, not members of the public, Patrick Boissier told the court he considered the walkway had not been subjected to abnormal use.

Mr Boissier said, however, that he could not see what more the yard could have done to prevent the accident happening.

"From the first day, I have been asking myself, 'What did we do that we should not have done?' This question remains without reply. I count on the court to reply."

He acknowledged, nevertheless, that the yard had a moral and civil responsibility for what had happened. "We will not flee our responsibilities," he said.

The court heard that the walkway was one of five to the Queen Mary 2, but was the only one in service on the day the accident occurred, when more than 1,000 people were expected to visit.

Chantiers de l'Atlantique and Endel, as well as four employees of each company, are on trial in Saint Nazaire on charges of causing accidental death and injury.

Sea Sparkle seafarers in asbestos alert

THE 27 seafarers aboard the bulk carrier Sea Sparkle have been x-rayed in Townsville and placed on an asbestos register after the substance was found on the bulker last week, reports Lloyd's List DCN.

International Transport Workers Federation co-ordinator Dean Summers said the Chinese seafarers were examined and a record was made of their state of health.

The master of the Panama-flagged Sea Sparkle was issued with a deficiency notice after an Australian Maritime Safety Authority investigation found asbestos in the cabin of the ship's crane last Thursday.

Asbestos was also found in the crew's cabins, galley and mess room, and six bags of it was discovered in the ship's engine room. The ITWF and the Maritime Union of Australia have requested a full audit of the 1984-built, 38,380 dwt vessel, which is operated by Cosco Bulk Carrier. They want an asbestos safety management system developed.

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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
ARKLOW FLAIR	general	IRL	BV	2,069	4,500	2007	In collision with mv Agat while anchored Flushing Roads Sep 28. Serious damage above waterline. Moored at Sloehaven for repairs. Sailed Flushing Oct 2 for Santander.
HENG TAI	general	BLZ	—	9,892	16,120	1977	Taking water through crack in hull in lat 10 13 N, long 95 44E, Oct 1. Twenty of the 25 crew rescued, search under way for others. Sank in lat 10 13N, long 95 12E, Oct 2.
ISLAND STAR	passenger	BHS	LR	46,811	4,300	1990	Passengers and crew left vessel due mechanical failure off Nice during bad weather Sep 25. Subsequent cruise cancelled while repairs effected. Arrived Marseilles Sep 29. Oct 6 cruise from Palma unaffected.
JACOB ALAN	trawler	USA	—	132	—	—	Took on water and sank in 180 feet of water about 40 miles SE Nantucket, in lat 41 05N, long 69 16W, Sep 29. Crew rescued. Salvage company hired to recover the vessel.
MARIE D.	tug	USA		380	—	1977	Engine-room fire on board on the Lower Mississippi River at Mile marker 923, Oct 3.
NORDLYS	passenger/ ro-ro	NOR	NV	11,204	860	1994	Hit by sideways gust of wind and pressed against quay at Honningvaag, North Norway, Sep 28. To effect temporary repairs before proceeding to repair yard. ETD Oct 10.
OLAGORTA	fishing	ESP	BV	557	405	1987	Had fire on board, listing and drifting in South Atlantic in lat 44 54S, long 60 01W, Sep 30. Twenty-four of the 27 crew rescued. Still adrift in lat 44 21S, long 59 23.5W, Oct 3, listing to port side.
SAMUR 10	general	RUS	RS	1,640	1,233	1987	Grounded on breakwater while approaching Noushekhrr Sep 30. Holed, water ingress. Pumps being used. Vessel listing. Still aground Oct 4. Closing of holes and draining of internal accomodations continuing.
VALUR IS-18	fishing	ISL	—	160	—	1973	Experienced engine gearbox problems in bad weather in Jokulfirdir, Vestfjords, Sep 27. Towed to Isafjordur harbour same day
VIEN DONG 2	general	VNM	NK	5,999	7,598	1990	Reported aground in lat 09 13.24N, long 92 45.24E, Sep 29. Still aground Oct 4, crew still on board.
WEESAM EXPRESS 1	ferry	PHL	—	227	—	—	Grounded off Iguana Bank, central Philipppines, Sep 30. Survey revealed damage to both propellers. Refloated by tug and towed to Iloilo. To be drydocked after it sustained propeller damage.

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The following reports are reprinted from Lloyd's List



AGAT (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Sep 30 -- Following received from Netherlands Coast Guard, timed 1420, UTC: General cargo *Agat* (2730 gt, built 1984) reported drifting with auxiliary engine problem in lat 53 39.7N, long 05 06.2E, at 1300, local time. (Note -- *Agat* sailed Antwerp Sep 28 for Szczecin.)

London, Sep 30 -- Following received from Netherlands Coast Guard, timed 1530, UTC: General cargo *Agat* has total blackout and has now been taken in tow by sistership general cargo *Lena*, destination unknown. Current position is lat 53 36.5N, long 05 03.8E.

London, Oct 1 -- Following received from Den Helder RCC, timed 0002, UTC: General cargo *Agat* reported at 2305, UTC, Sep 30, that the problem had been rectified, and the vessel is now proceeding under its own power to Szczecin. (See also *Arklow Flair*.)

AIGIORGIS (Malta)

Kochi, Oct 3 -- Bulk carrier *Aigiorgis* sailed Tuticorin for Colombo on Sep 28, after obtaining clearance from the Mercantile Marine Department. -- Lloyd's Agents.

ALGOPORT (Canada)

London, Oct 2 -- Bulk carrier *Algoport* sailed Hamilton (CAN) Sep 12.

ANNE S. PIERCE (Canada)

London, Oct 1 -- Fishing (general) *Anne S. Pierce* (332 gt, built 1982), with 19 persons on board, was reported disabled in the St. John's Narrows, in lat 47 36N, long 52 41W, at 1600, UTC, Sep 13. The vessel was subsequently towed back to the wharf (? in St. John's, NF) without further incident.

ANTONIA (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

Batumi, Sep 27 -- According to Albatros Shipping, the agent for Roll On Roll Off *Antonia* at Poti, the vessel is presently in the same condition and repairs have not yet started. The spare parts are expected to arrive from Greece early next week. -- Lloyd's Agents.

ARKLOW FLAIR (Republic of Ireland)

Zeebrugge, Sep 28 -- General cargo *Arklow Flair* (2069 gt, built 2007), from Antwerp, was in collision with general cargo *Agat* (2730 gt, built 1984), from Antwerp, while in anchor at Flushing Roads, at 1600, local time, today. -- Lloyd's Sub-agents.

Maassluis, Sep 28 -- *Arklow Flair* has sustained serious damage above the waterline, while the damage to *Agat* is not yet known. -- Lloyd's Sub-agents.

Maassluis, Sep 28 -- General cargo *Arklow Flair* is moored at Scaldiahaven in Flushing for

reparation of her damage. General cargo *Agat* is still anchored at Flushing roads. -- Lloyd's Sub-agents.

London, Sep 29 -- According to Lloyd's MIU AIS, general cargo *Arklow Flair* stationary at Middelburg since 1943, UTC, Sep 28. According to Lloyd's MIU AIS, general cargo *Agat* stationary at Breskens between 1646, UTC, Sep 28, and 0538, UTC, Sep 29. Vessel subsequently reported 1.3 nautical miles from Flushing at 0556, UTC, Sep 29, proceeding Szczecin, and at 0611, UTC, Sep 29 in lat 51 37 40.03N, long 03 21 21.62E, Domburg 9.4 nautical miles, speed 9.8 knots.

Flushing, Oct 2 -- The Russian master of general cargo *Agat* was fined Euros 2,000 and prohibited from sailing for 24 hours following his vessel's collision with general cargo *Arklow Flair*, which was anchored in Flushing Roads about 1600, local time, Sep 28. The *Agat* sustained damage to its stern and the *Arklow Flair* was left with a small hole in its bow above the waterline. The river police boarded the *Agat* and found that the master had been drinking, after which he was taken from his vessel and sent ashore for an alcohol test. The authorities carried out an investigation into the incident. The *Arklow Flair* subsequently weighed anchor and sailed into the Sloehaven in Flushing for repairs to its bow. -- Correspondent.

London, Oct 4 -- General cargo *Arklow Flair* sailed Flushing at 1300, Oct 2, for Santander.

ARUNG SAMUDERA (Indonesia)

Brisbane, Oct 2 -- Training *Arung Samudera* is still at Brisbane and no repairs have been carried out to date. -- Lloyd's Agents.

AVANTIS IV (Greece)

Piraeus, Oct 3 -- General cargo *Avantis IV* remains at Volos and is still under repair. It is estimated that the repairs will be completed by Nov 15. -- Lloyd's Agents.

BALTIYSKIY 109 (Russia)

London, Sep 28 -- Following received from Aarhus RCC, timed 0935, UTC: General cargo *Baltiyskiy 109* is still aground, waiting for the weather to improve so that dredger *Grete Fighter* can begin taking off some cargo in order to facilitate refloating.

London, Sep 29 -- According to Lloyd's MIU AIS, general cargo *Baltiyskiy 109* still stationary in lat 55 32 44.7N, long 09 46 41.52E, at 0647, UTC, Sep 29.

London, Sep 29 -- Following received from Aarhus RCC, timed 1100, UTC: General cargo *Baltiyskiy 109* is still aground, waiting for the weather to improve so that dredger *Grete Fighter* can begin taking off some cargo in order to facilitate refloating, which expected Tuesday (Oct 2).

London, Oct 1 -- Following received from Aarhus RCC, timed 1040, UTC: General cargo *Baltiyskiy 109* is still aground. It will probably commence lightering its cargo to dredger *Elisabeth Hoj* tomorrow afternoon.

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London, Oct 2 -- Following received from Aarhus RCC, timed 1410, UTC: General cargo *Baltiyskiy 109* remains aground. The lightering operations involving transfer of cargo to dredger *Elisabeth Hoj* is now scheduled to commence at 0600, local time, tomorrow.

London, Oct 3 -- Following received from Aarhus RCC, timed 0915, UTC: General cargo *Baltiyskiy 109* is still aground. Lightering of the cargo to dredger *Elisabeth Hoj* has not yet commenced but will start today.

Aarhus, Oct 3 -- General cargo *Baltiyskiy 109* is still aground. The deck cargo, approximately 540 tonnes of timber, will be discharged today. Refloating is expected tomorrow. -- Lloyd's Agents.

BANGLAR SHOURABH (Bangladesh)

Chittagong, Oct 3 -- According to Bangladesh Shipping Corporation, the owners of crude oil tanker *Banglar Shourabh*, the vessel is presently lying afloat near Chittagong dry dock berth and undertaking painting and repair works. It has not been decided yet when the vessel will be ready for commercial voyage. -- Lloyd's Agents.

BARBAROSSA (Gibraltar)

Naples, Oct 1 -- At present, general cargo *Barbarossa* is in the port of Naples berthed at Quay No 47. Understand that the vessel did not sustain any structural damages following the fire. However, in the lower hold there is about one metre of water, which was used to extinguish the fire. The main damage was sustained by the load made up of units of tower sections of wing turbines. The extent of damage to the vessel or the cargo is unknown. -- Lloyd's Agents.

BERMUDA I (Cambodia)

See "Romania" under "Port State Control."

BLUE OCEAN (Norway)

Hamburg, Sep 28 -- Yacht *Blue Ocean*: The situation remains unchanged as the payment is still outstanding. -- Lloyd's Agents.

BLUE WATER PRINCESS (Philippine)

Manila, Oct 3 -- UCPB General Insurance, the hull insurance underwriter for the sunken ro-ro ferry *Blue Water Princess 1*, reported today that it had found a new buyer for the wreck. UCPB General officials said that they were now negotiating a sale agreement with Manila-based Royal Jessam Petromin Resources Inc. Royal Jessam replaced ACA Shipbreaker and Salvage Inc, which earlier won the bid to buy *Blue Water Princess 1* but was disqualified after it failed to produce a downpayment for the vessel. Royal Jessam is reported to have matched ACA Shipbreaker's bid of Pesos four million (approximately US\$87,000). Lawyers of Royal Jessam and UCPB General are now discussing the terms of the sale agreement. Royal Jessam reportedly wants the sale agreement to

incorporate a provision guaranteeing the transfer of the vessel's ownership documents including registration certificate and vessel registry to the company within a set period. UCPB General officials said that they want the sale to be concluded by Oct 15. If the payment is not delivered by that date, the insurance company will begin entertaining other buyers. -- Correspondent.

BOW STAR (Singapore)

London, Oct 3 -- According to Lloyd's MIU AIS Chemical tanker *Bow Star* was still at anchor in lat 01 06 31N, long 104 10 50E, at 0707, UTC, today.

BSLE PRESTIGE (Panama)

London, Oct 3 -- According to Tuticorn Port Trust bulk carrier with container capacity *BSLE Prestige* (16992 gt, built 1980), cargo machinery, which anchored 1932, Sep 29, to restow previous port cargo, was still in port at 0600 today. (Note -- *BSLE Prestige* sailed Chennai Sep 14 for Marina di Carrara.)

CANADIAN RANGER (Canada)

London, Oct 2 -- Bulk carrier *Canadian Ranger* (16358 gt, built 1943) upbound, struck the approach wall of the Cote St. Catherine lock at 1148, EDST, Oct 1. (Note -- According to Lloyd's MIU AIS, *Canadian Ranger* stopped at Cote Ste. Catherine between 1146 and 1431, Oct 1, and was located in lat 45 24 54.07N, long 73 40 13.22W, speed 6.2 knots, at 2017, Oct 1.)

CAPTAIN BLUE (North Korea)

Piraeus, Sep 28 -- General cargo *Captain Blue* remains at Zakynthos for inspection. -- Lloyd's Agents.

CLIPPER LEADER (Bahamas)

London, Sep 27 -- Chemical tanker *Clipper Leader* (6522 gt, built 2004) took a sudden shear to port in lat 46 38.26N, long 71 42.50W at 0420, UTC, today, and had to go to an emergency anchorage. Electronic problems in the steering system were reported. (Note -- According to Lloyd's MIU AIS, *Clipper Leader* was located in 45 46 19.26N, long 73 22 28.02W, at 1955 today, speed 10.3 knots.)

COLUMBIA (U.S.A.)

Seattle, Sep 28 -- Passenger ro/ro *Columbia* was removed from service in mid-August following the loss of a starboard engine piston rod. Vessel is reported in Ketchikan, Alaska, awaiting repairs. -- Lloyd's Agents.

DK IRIS (South Korea)

London, Oct 3 -- According to Lloyd's MIU AIS general cargo *DK Iris* was located stationary at Busan, in lat 35 04.6N, long 129 02 34.8E, at 0847, UTC, Oct 3.

London, Oct 4 -- According to Lloyd's MIU AIS general cargo *DK Iris* was reported in lat 33 30.29N, long 131 46.13E, 5.5 nautical miles from Kunisaki, Japan, speed 11.5 knots, course 186 deg, at 0222, UTC, Oct 4.

DONGEBORG (Netherlands)

Montreal, Sep 28 -- General cargo *Dongeborg* had portable main engine control system of the bridge failure while entering Iroquois Lock on her outbound voyage. The main engine did not go astern and she hit the ship arrestor system. No hull damage. Main engine central controls were being used from there on until the technician could ascertain what the actual cause was. -- Lloyd's Agents. (Note -- According to Lloyd's MIU AIS, *Dongeborg* arrived Cote Ste. Catherine 0438, UTC, Sep 25, and sailed at 0454, UTC, same day for Dunkirk.)

DREAM (Bahamas)

Piraeus, Sep 28 -- Passenger (cruise) *Dream* remains at Rhodes. Understand from the vessel's local agent that it has sustained major damages. It is unknown when the vessel will commence repairs. -- Lloyd's Agents.

London, Oct 3 -- A press report, dated today, states: More than 300 sailors, including Filipinos, from passenger (cruise) *Dream* have been stranded for weeks in Rhodes after the vessel was detained for spilling waste in the harbour, the local municipality said today. "A crew delegation came to the town hall and asked for food and water," municipal press officer Thanassis Marasiotis told Agence France-Presse. "We intend to provide them with supplies for as long as it takes, but they are unpaid and nobody from the company has turned up to assume responsibility." The 340 sailors, mostly from Pakistan, Romania and the Philippines, have been on the vessel since Sep 18, when it developed a ten-degree list shortly after docking at the harbour. An inspection by the Rhodes port authority showed that the waste tanks had overflowed and tipped the ship to its side. Divers also found hatchways in the hull, apparently designed for waste discharge and crudely plugged with blocks of wood, Marasiotis said. "The ship does not have pumps for waste removal and apparently just dumps it overboard," he said. "The tanks held 3,000 tons of waste that took a week to remove. She was on a cruise from Turkey to Cyprus with over 930 Israeli passengers who continued their voyage on charter flights. An island prosecutor has charged the ship's operators with willfully polluting the environment. The Rhodes press officer could not identify the company, but the ship's classification society DNV lists the ship's operators as Piraeus-based Danielle Ship Management Ltd. The Greek master is currently on board under guard by the Greek authorities. The ship will remain at Rhodes for around a week for necessary repairs.

DUBAI TRANS (Panama)

Dubai, Oct 3 -- Roll On Roll Off *Dubai Trans* had a fire on board at Hamriyah at 1430 hrs, Oct 1. *Dubai Trans* has been declared as a CTL and reportedly sold as scrap a few months ago but was waiting in the port for the buyer to take delivery. -- Lloyd's Agents.

London, Oct 3 -- A press report, dated Oct 2, states: Dubai Civil Defence sprung into action yesterday after a fire broke out on board a cargo vessel (Roll On Roll Off *Dubai Trans*) at Dubai's Hamiryah Port. Firefighters received a call reporting the blaze, which started in the vessel's kitchen, at around 1300 hrs and around 20 officers reached the blaze shortly afterwards. Officers attended the scene from fire stations across Dubai. A spokesperson for Dubai Civil Defence said: "No-one has been injured in the blaze and fortunately it was not a big fire."

E.R.BERGEN (Antigua & Barbuda)

Hull, Oct 2 -- Supply *E.R.Bergen* completed repairs and sailed Hull Sep 29. -- Lloyd's Agents.

ENDEAVOUR (Liberia)

London, Sep 29 -- According to Lloyd's MIU AIS, fully cellular containership *Endeavour* arrived Rio Haina 1757, UTC, Sep 19, and still stationary in lat 18 25 02.44N, long 70 01 01.1W, at 0507, UTC, Sep 29.

Santo Domingo -- Fully cellular containership *Endeavour* arrived in tow at Rio Haina at around 0600, Sep 19 and berthed at Pier No 6 west, where it is undergoing main engine repairs. -- Lloyd's Agents.

ENERGY CHAMPION (Isle of Man)

Montreal, Oct 1 -- Product tanker *Energy Champion* (42011 gt, built 2005) touched bottom Oct 1 while departing from Sorel. The vessel is currently anchored, awaiting a diver's inspection. -- Lloyd's Agents.

ESTHER JENKE (Netherlands)

Amsterdam, Sep 28 -- Fishing (general) *Esther Jenke*, which arrived Ymuiden, in tow, at 1319 hrs, Jun 19, sailed at 0229 hrs, Jun 20. -- KWSA Reporting.

EUROCARGO VALENCIA (Italy)

Portsmouth, UK, Oct 2 -- Fishing (general) *Tuna Pro No.1* (built 1974), operating in Malta for Ta Matthew Tuna Ranch, while entering Valletta's Grand Harbour, experienced an engine failure in front of the Deep Water Quay Area and made contact with roll on roll off *Eurocargo Valencia* (20883 gt, built 1999) at 1624, local time, yesterday. Tug *Mari* was dispatched immediately and started towing *Tuna Pro No.1* at 1657, local time, towards French Creek to be secured from other traffic. The tug was then secured alongside at 1715 hrs and it started pushing *Tuna Pro No.1* towards its new berth, Laboratory South 1. -- Correspondent. (Note -- *Eurocargo Valencia* arrived Valletta at 1205, Oct 1, and sailed at 1702 same day.)

EXPLORER (Antigua & Barbuda)

Belfast, Oct 1 -- General cargo *Explorer* is still effecting engine repairs. ETC of repairs and expected sailing date is tomorrow. -- Lloyd's Agents.

Belfast, Oct 3 -- General cargo *Explorer* is still effecting engine repairs. Estimate for completion of

repairs and expected sailing date is tomorrow. -- Lloyd's Agents.

FAYSAL (Syria)

London, Oct 2 -- General cargo *Faysal* arrived Aliaga Sep 4. (See issue of Sep 5.)

FR8 PRIDE (Singapore)

Quebec, Sep 27 -- Permanent repairs to crude oil tanker *FR8 Pride* were carried out in Quebec. The vessel departed Ultramar Terminals yesterday, en route to Puerto Rico. -- Lloyd's Agents.

FREE JUPITER (Marshall Islands)

London, Sep 27 -- Following received from the owners of bulk carrier *Free Jupiter*: "The owners of the *Free Jupiter* refer to a recent report issued by Lloyd's Casualty wherein it is alleged/asserted that the *Free Jupiter* ran aground because of a navigational error and that the crew was using old charts which did not reflect the shallow depths the vessel was passing through. The owners categorically deny the above baseless allegations/assertions. The charts used by the vessel were up to date and there is no evidence whatsoever that the grounding occurred due to an alleged shortage of up to date charts or use of charts which were not up to date." Lloyd's MIU would like to apologise to the owners of the *Free Jupiter* for any inconvenience caused.

London, Feb 27 -- A press report, dated today, states: FreeSeas Inc announced today that bulk carrier *Free Jupiter* will undergo an unscheduled drydocking to complete repairs following a grounding incident on Sep 21 off the coast of the Philippines. The drydocking is expected to take place after the refloating of the vessel and completion of the current trip charter. The company expects that the vessel's repairs and related expenses will be covered by the vessel's insurance.

Manila, Sep 28 -- Bulk carrier *Free Jupiter* is experiencing some water ingress but flooding has been contained with the use of onboard pumps. Divers from the salvage tugs *Ranger* and *Limay* have attempted to carry out an underwater inspection to determine the source of the leaks but they have been unable to find any holes as the vessel's bottom hull is too firmly lodged into the coral bed for a thorough survey. The salvage barge *Atlas*, which left Manila under tow on Monday (Sep 24), is expected to arrive at the accident site tomorrow. Unloading of cargo from *Free Jupiter* is expected to take place upon its arrival. -- Correspondent.

Manila, Sep 29 -- A small fleet of barges, led by salvage barge *Atlas*, reached bulk carrier *Free Jupiter* around 1600 today. *Atlas* and accompanying fleet of two barges immediately deployed to unload nickel cargo from *Free Jupiter*. -- Correspondent.

Manila, Oct 1 -- Salvage barge *Atlas* completed a partial unloading of the cargo of nickel ore from grounded bulk carrier *Free Jupiter* today. The nickel ore was offloaded onto the two barges

chartered to serve as floating storage facilities while *Free Jupiter* is being refloated. Salvors said that the partial unloading should be enough to lighten the vessel for refloating. It was also reported that patches had been applied to several small holes in the vessel's hull. However, the salvors said that the full extent of the damage to the vessel would only be known once it is refloated and an underwater survey carried out. -- Correspondent.

Manila, Oct 3 -- Unloading of cargo of nickel ore from *Free Jupiter* resumed today as salvors determined that the amount of nickel offloaded onto the two barges was not enough to lighten the vessel for refloating. Nickel ore is now being transferred to another barge which arrived early today. Refloating of the vessel is being undertaken by SMIT Singapore Pte Ltd and Manila-based Malaysian Towage and Salvage. -- Correspondent.

GENMAR PROGRESS (Liberia)

London, Oct 1 -- Following received from the operators of crude oil tanker *GenMar Progress* (52164 gt, built 1991), dated today: While at anchor in the port of Guayanilla on Aug 29, 2007, the crew of *GenMar Progress* reported finding a sheen near the vessel. The company, through the Qualified Individual, notified the National Response Centre and local Coast Guard representatives boarded *GenMar Progress*. All vessels in the area were detained on Aug 31 by order of the Captain of the Port. This order was rescinded later that day for *GenMar Progress* and the vessel departed Puerto Rico on Sep 1. An internal company investigation to determine the circumstances was commenced immediately. On Sep 27, General Maritime Management requested a meeting with US Coast Guard officials in Port Arthur to share the preliminary results of their investigation and cited the probability that the vessel had contributed to the spill in Puerto Rico. That meeting was held on Sep 28. The Coast Guard investigation is ongoing. "General Maritime Management is committed to environmental stewardship and continues to co-operate fully and completely with the Coast Guard in this investigation," said Darrell Wilson, a spokesperson for General Maritime. General Maritime has dispatched its QI team to Puerto Rico to participate in the clean up effort.

GEZA HOPE (Syria)

Alexandria, Oct 1 -- General cargo *Geza Hope* arrived in tow at Alexandria outer roads on Sep 26. The master did not inform the Alexandria Port Authorities about arriving in tow as the tug left the vessel at the border of international waters. Later, he informed them that the vessel experienced a mechanical problem and it needs to be towed inside the port for repairs. The vessel will be towed to Quay No 66 where discharge and/or repairs will be carried out. -- Lloyd's Agents.

Alexandria, Oct 2 -- General cargo *Geza Hope* was towed today to Quay No 39 instead of Quay No 66, as the latter quay is still occupied. The vessel will start discharging its cargo and then proceed for repairs. -- Lloyd's Agents.

GOVERNOR (U.S.A.)

London, Oct 3 -- A press report, dated Oct 2, states: Passenger ro/ro *Governor* (678 gt, built 1954) on a trip to Martha's Vineyard was in collision with ferry *Island Home* (1567 gt, built 2007), at 0800, local time, yesterday. The two ferries collided after *Governor* lost steering due to a mechanical problem. There was only minor damage to the two vessels and no one was injured in the accident. Members of the Coast Guard's local marine safety office inspected *Island Home* and cleared it to return to service, which it did a little over an hour after its regular departure time of 0815 hrs. "There was a dent in the hull above the waterline," Coast Guard Petty Officer Lauren Downs said of *Island Home*, adding that *Governor* was moving at about two knots at the time of the accident. Coast Guard officials would examine *Governor* again before it was returned to service. At the time of the accident, *Governor* was making a hazardous cargo run and did not have any passengers on board. As part of standard practice after an accident, the crew of *Governor* was tested for drug and alcohol use. The results came back negative.

GREGO

See "Somalia" under "Piracy."

GUDVANGEN (Norway)

London, Oct 2 -- Roll On Roll Off *Gudvangen* arrived Bergen Aug 21 and, according to Lloyd's MIU AIS, was stationary in lat 60 23.23N, long 05 17.31E, 0.6 nautical miles from Laksevaag, Norway, at 0802, UTC, today.

HALANDRIANI (Panama)

Montreal, Sep 28 -- Bulk carrier *Halandriani* (16651 gt, built 1980), on outbound voyage to Italy, loaded with US wheat, heavily contacted a fender at the Eisenhower Lock at 1000, Sep 27. Reported eight inch by 1/2 inch fracture in No.1 port top side tank approximately 2 m above the waterline. No damage to Seaway property. Temporary repairs will be done at Quebec City Sep 29 before she loads her top off cargo. Permanent repairs deferred for owners' convenience. -- Lloyd's Agents. (Note -- According to Lloyd's MIU AIS, *Halandriani* arrived St.Lambert Lock 0133, UTC, Sep 28, sailed St.Lambert Lock 0211, UTC, same day and in lat 45 54 29.4N, long 73 12 56.64W, Contrecoeur 1.8 nautical miles, speed 12.8 knots, bound Quebec, 1004, UTC, Sep 28.)

London, Oct 1 -- Bulk carrier *Halandriani* sailed Quebec about Sep 30.

HALIFAX (Canada)

London, Sep 28 -- Bulk carrier *Halifax* (20646 gt, built 1963) downbound, struck the arrester cable and sheared

the arrester cable pin at Lock 7, Welland Canal at 0032, Sep 19. Seven vessels were delayed approximately six hours until repairs were completed.

London, Sep 29 -- Bulk carrier *Halifax* arrived Halifax about 1610, Sep 19, from Sandusky.

HANJIN GOTHENBURG (Germany)

London, Oct 3 -- According to Lloyd's MIU AIS fully cellular containership *Hanjin Gothenburg* was still at anchor in lat 37 39 42N, long 121 30 32E, at 0459, UTC, Oct 2.

HARVEY C. (U.S.A.)

London, Oct 1 -- Following received from Coast Guard Cleveland, timed 1440, UTC: Tug *Harvey C.* (52 gt, built 1980) had a small electrical fire at pierside, at Mile 224, River Illinois, approximately 0900, Sep 30. The fire was extinguished promptly. Investigations are being carried out.

HENG TAI (Belize)

London, Oct 2 -- Following received from Atlas Ship Management, Karachi, timed 2336, UTC, Oct 1: Our representative on board general cargo *Heng Tai* (9892 gt, built 1977), Haldia for Singapore, reported via Inmarsat Mini-M at 2150, UTC, Oct 1, that the vessel had a crack in the hull and was taking water in lat 10 13N, long 95 44E, and the crew were abandoning the vessel.

London, Oct 2 -- Following received from Australia RCC, timed 0026, UTC: Distress relay received from tug/supply *Pacific Sentinel* reporting Mayday (distress) received from general cargo *Heng Tai* in lat 10 13N, long 95 44E.

London, Oct 2 -- Following received from Australia RCC, timed 0504, UTC: Twenty of the crew of general cargo *Heng Tai* have been rescued and the search is continuing for the remaining five.

London, Oct 2 -- Following navigation warning dated today, states: General cargo *Heng Tai*, 28 persons on board, taking on water in lat 10 13N, long 95 12E at 0335, UTC, today.

London, Oct 3 -- Following received from Port Blair MRCC, timed 2318, UTC, Oct 2: General cargo *Heng Tai* sank in lat 10 13N, long 95 12E, at 0450, Oct 2. All 26 crew members were rescued.

London, Oct 3 -- A press report, dated today, states: General cargo *Heng Tai*, with 23 crew on board, sank at 0500 yesterday, in the Andaman Sea, nearly 200 miles south-east of Port Blair, officials said today. The Indian Coast Guard have confirmed the rescue of 26 of the crew, while two remain missing. The vessel was bound for Singapore, from Haldia, with iron ore. "We are searching for the missing crew, but are likely to abandon the search, by tonight," Mr S.P. Sharma, Inspector General of the Coast Guard's Andaman and Nicobar Region, said.

HUAI LAI HE (China)

Venice, Oct 1 -- Fully cellular containership *Huai Lai He* sailed Venice Sep 28 for Koper. -- Lloyd's Agents.

HUTUOHE (Panama)

London, Oct 2 -- Fully cellular containership *Hutuohu* arrived Singapore Sep 29 and sailed Sep 30 for Jakarta.

ICELANDICA HAV (Bahamas)

Oslo, Sep 28 -- General cargo *Icelandica Hav* left Mongstad at 1115, Sep 27, for Ghent, its port of discharge. All the repairs were completed for the vessel, which had experienced problems with the main engine regulator. -- Lloyd's Agents. (Note -- According to Lloyd's MIU AIS, *Icelandica Hav* was last reported 34.1 nautical miles off Vigsnes, in lat 59 22 58.74N, long 04 33 53.68E, at 2022, UTC, Sep 27, course 204 deg, speed 8.8 knots.)

ILHA AZUL (Madeira)

Oporto, Sep 28 -- Viana do Castelo inform passenger ro/ro *Ilha Azul* is still at the shiyard, the repairs are expected to be completed by Nov 25. -- Lloyd's Agents.

ILLAHEE (U.S.A.)

Seattle, Sep 28 -- Reported that Roll On Roll Off *Ilhahee* returned to service in the San Juan Islands Sep 18. -- Lloyd's Agents.

ISLAND HOME (U.S.A.)

See *Governor*.

ISLAND STAR (Bahamas)

London, Sep 30 -- A press report, dated today, states: Hundreds of passengers on board passenger (cruise) *Island Star* (46811 gt, built 1990) had to be ferried to safety in lifeboats during a storm. The passengers' ordeal began after the engines failed on *Island Star*. Many of the 1,473 passengers panicked when the vessel's master gave the order to abandon ship off the coast of Nice. He explained over the vessel's Tannoy system that he was not prepared to risk their or his crew's safety. The *Island Star* first had engine and power problems as it left Genoa. Passengers realised something was wrong when the power failed and all the lights went out. During the power failure, the master explained to passengers that technicians were being flown out to the vessel, and after emergency repairs she proceeded towards Nice. Mr Ikin said: "After eventually getting going, the power failed again and the master said he could not hazard the lives of the passengers or crew and would have to call an emergency evacuation. He reassured all passengers that there was no danger of the ship sinking but still people were anxious about what may happen. They held a meeting in the ship's theatre and, after initially offering a 60% refund to all passengers, the master said Island Cruises had agreed to issue a full refund." It is understood that Island Cruises' managing director, Tim Ryan, was flown out to *Island Star* to help oversee the evacuation and assist passengers. (Note -- *Island Star* sailed Genoa Sep 25 for Marseilles.)

London, Sep 30 -- A press report, dated today, states: Almost 1,500

passengers, who were scheduled to sail from Palma, Majorca, yesterday were forced to cancel their holiday on passenger (cruise) *Island Star* due to essential repairs on the vessel's engines. Tour operator Island Cruises only informed the 1,489 customers of the cancellation the day before they were due to depart, resulting in some angry passengers being unable to make alternative arrangements for their holiday. *Island Star* had been forced to cut short its previous Sep 22 cruise because of related mechanical failure and the vessel has now been taken to a nearby port for further repairs. Patrick Ryan, managing director of Island Cruises, said: "We deeply regret needing to take this decision, but the safety and comfort of our passengers must always come first. We will be offering our passengers a 100% cash refund and a 25% future cruise discount certificate to try to make up for this disappointment." Some Island Cruise holidaymakers are booked on a one-week resort holiday in Palma followed by the seven-day cruise on *Island Star*. These will be offered a second week at the resort or a 50% refund on the cost of their holiday together with a 25% future cruise discount certificate for a seven-night Mediterranean cruise which can be taken by October 2009.

London, Oct 2 -- Passenger (cruise) *Island Star* arrived Marseilles Sep 29.

London, Oct 3 -- Island Cruises press releases state:

Dated Sep 27: Island Cruises confirms that one of its vessels, passenger (cruise) *Island Star*, had a power outage on Tuesday evening, Sep 25, while on a week's Mediterranean cruise. The vessel, with 1,476 passengers on board, docked at (? off) Villefranche, where every effort was made to resolve the problem. Unfortunately, this proved not to be possible and the decision was taken to fly cruise passengers home on Sep 27.

Dated Sep 28: Island Cruises regrets to announce the cancellation of its passenger (cruise) *Island Star* cruise from Palma, Majorca, Sep 29. This is due to essential repairs which have to be carried out on the vessel's engines and 1,489 passengers are affected. *Island Star* was forced to cut short its Sep 22 cruise because of related mechanical failure and the company does not wish to risk inconveniencing and disappointing passengers on the Sept 29 cruise. It is now being taken to a nearby port for further repairs. The *Island Star* cruise leaving from Palma on Oct 6 is unaffected and will take place as scheduled.

ISTANA V (Indonesia)

London, Sep 29 -- Product tanker *Istana V* sailed Surabaya Sep 12 for Kumai.

JACOB ALAN (U.S.A.)

London, Oct 3 -- A press report, dated today, states: The 70-ft fishing *Jacob Alan* was about 40 miles south-east of Nantucket when it began taking on water around 1800, Friday (Sep 28), according to the Coast Guard. The New

Bedford fishing vessel *Sancor* interrupted its groundfishing trip to rescue the crew from the lifeboat. Coast Guard officials believe the *Jacob Alan* is sunk off Nantucket in 180 ft of water, said Lt Phil Wolf, a senior investigating officer with Coast Guard Sector South-eastern New England. Vessel owner Mark Freedman of Plymouth has hired a salvage company to recover the vessel, said Lt Wolf, who is investigating the cause of the sinking.

JACOB ALLEN (U.S.A.)

London, Sep 29 -- A press report, dated Sep 28, states: The Coast Guard said six people have been rescued from fishing (general) *Jacob Allen* (132 gt, built 1980) that was taking on water about 40 miles south-east of Nantucket. The six were picked up from a liferaft by fishing *Sancor*, about 1800 today. The Coast Guard said there are no injuries. *Sancor* took the rescued people to New Bedford. The Coast Guard warned mariners to avoid the partly submerged *Jacob Allen*.

London, Sep 29 -- Following received Coast Guard Boston, timed 1241, UTC: Fishing (general) *Jacob Allen* reported taking water yesterday in lat 41 05N, long 69 16W. Crew rescued by fishing *Sancor*. Coast Guard intend to fly over site today to see if vessel remains partly submerged or has sank.

London, Sep 30 -- Following received from Coast Guard Boston, timed 2304, UTC, Sep 29: Fishing (general) *Jacob Allen* has not been located and is presumed sunk.

KANG ZHONG (Hong Kong)

London, Oct 3 -- Bulk carrier *Kang Zhong* arrived San Lorenzo (ARG) at 0504, Sep 26.

KARMSUND (Barbados)

Sandnes, Sep 27 -- The crew of general cargo *Karmsund* (2728 gt, built 1979) discovered a hole in the vessel's ballast tank during cargo operations at Tananger, near Stavanger, at 1000, local time, Sep 26. All the cargo was discharged and the vessel sailed to a shipyard for drydocking, arriving early today. ETC is Sep 28. -- Correspondent. (Note -- According to Lloyd's MIU AIS, *Karmsund* was reported 1.8 nautical miles from Avaldsnes, in lat 59 19 54.59N, long 05 17 23.08E, at 0629, UTC, today, course 224.2 deg, speed 3 knots.)

London, Oct 1 -- According to Lloyd's MIU AIS, general cargo *Karmsund* was reported 1.2 nautical miles from Kopervik, in lat 59 17 42N, long 05 19 47E, at 2109, UTC, Sep 27, course 176.2 deg, speed 14.1 knots.

KIEL (Germany)

Kiel, Sep 29 -- Support *Kiel* went onto the slipway of the Gebr. Friedrichs Yard, Kiel-Friedrichsort, on Sep 28 to have its damaged bulwark repaired. Foreship damaged in a collision in May. As the damage did not need to be repaired immediately, the repair will be carried out during the regular overhaul works. The damaged steel plates on port side will be replaced within the next two weeks. -- Correspondent.

KINYU MARU NO.8 (Japan)

Yokohama, Oct 3 -- The starboard side of product tanker *Kinyu Maru No.8* (699 gt, built 1993), Hakata for Ube, and the bow of yacht *Senku Maru* (1 gt) came into contact in lat 33 56.76N, long 130 37.55E, at 1300, Oct 1. No injuries were reported. -- Lloyd's Agents.

KITION (Bahamas)

London, Oct 4 -- A press report, dated today, states: A river pilot board decided yesterday that enforced supplemental training is punishment enough for a pilot who in February lost control of an oil tanker (crude oil tanker *Kition*) and hit the Interstate 10 bridge in Baton Rouge, causing \$10 million in damage and sparking a federal government probe. "The Board of Examiners recognizes the limited effectiveness of punitive measures. Therefore, the Board seeks to accomplish safety mitigation through remedial and continuing education measures first," said a statement by the examining board of the New Orleans-Baton Rouge Steamship Pilots Association, or NOBRA. The ruling comes after a hearing last week by the NOBRA board, which sought to determine whether NOBRA member J. Strahan Jr. could have prevented the February accident, which tore off a bumper on the bridge pylon meant to protect the hulls of passing ships. According to the statement, "a lack of situational awareness" and "terrible" communication between Strahan and other mariners, including the tanker's master and the masters of three assisting tugs, contributed to the accident. The board decided that Strahan, a licensed pilot since 2002, could learn to correct such problems by undergoing up to six weeks of remedial training in procedures such as docking, anchoring and buoy system manoeuvring. The training would occur under the supervision of instructor pilots, who would ultimately debrief a "third-party expert for review." Strahan also would have to complete a course in maritime safety and risk assessment. The NOBRA board ruling comes before the close of an investigation of the collision by the National Transportation Safety Board. The agency does not expect to complete its probe for another few months, agency spokesman Keith Halloway said.

KOLA (Russia)

London, Oct 4 -- Roll On Roll Off *Kola*, bound for Bandar Abbas, passed Gibraltar at 1429, Oct 2.

KONKAR GEORGIOS (Greece)

London, Oct 4 -- Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 1115, UTC: Bulk carrier *Konkar Georgios* (27011 gt, built 1997), Lower Cove for Matanzas, loaded with 39,000 tonnes of dolomite, grounded in the River Orinoco, in lat 08 37.5N, long 60 37.68W, at 1640, local time, yesterday with a pilot on board. Vessel refloated under its own power on higher tide and resumed voyage at 2050, local time, same day. Investigations revealed no damage.

KVARTS (Russia)

Portsmouth, UK, Oct 2 -- General cargo *Kvarts* (173 gt, built 1972), on a voyage from Okhotsk to Vanino with a cargo of 80 tons of fish, sent out a distress signal while in lat 53 27N, long 141 41E, at 0056, Oct 2. Vessel *Agat* sailed from the port of Moskalvo to the scene at 0325 hrs, while a helicopter departed at 0445 hrs. Also in the vicinity is general cargo *Omskiy 122*. Rescue co-ordination is being conducted by MSKTS Vladivostok. -- Correspondent.

Vladivostok, Oct 3 -- General cargo *Kvarts* sent SOS signal yesterday morning. The vessel was spotted from a helicopter in shallow waters, 30 kilometres north-east of the Rybnovsk settlement on the Sakhalin Island today. The bodies of two dead crew members were found during the night. Another dead sailor was found this morning. Two seamen have not yet been found. -- Lloyd's Agents.

London, Oct 3 -- A press report, dated today, states: The bodies of two more crew members of general cargo *Kvarts* have been found, bringing the total death toll to four, a local emergencies spokeswoman said. The bodies of the sailors were discovered on the coastline of a village in Lyuga at 0030, UTC, the spokeswoman said. According to preliminary information, all the men died of hypothermia. One more crew member is still missing, added the spokeswoman. The search operation, involving a rescue ship and a helicopter, is continuing. The shipwrecked vessel has been located, and there are no reports of a fuel leak.

London, Oct 4 -- A press report, dated Oct 3, states: The self-propelled barge *Kvarts*, carrying two 40-foot containers with seafood, that went missing in the Sea of Okhotsk, has been spotted from a helicopter at shallow waters 30 kilometres north-east of the Rybnovsk settlement on the Sakhalin Island, the Far East regional centre of the Emergency Situations Ministry said today. The barge is half sunken and there are no people on board and around it. Helicopter pilots transmitted the vessel's coordinates to rescue groups. Several vessels are sailing to the area. So far there is no information about the fate of two members of the five-strong crew of the *Kvarts*. The bodies of two dead sailors were found during the night. Another dead sailor was found on Wednesday morning. However, rescuers are yet to establish if these sailors were crew members of the distressed barge.

LARA (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

London, Oct 4 -- Understand general cargo *Lara* (1948 gt, built 1967), Alexandria for Azov, struck a pier of a mansion in Kandilli, for an unknown reason, at approximately 0600, Oct 1. Tug *Kurtarma 4* and patrol vessel *Kiyi Emniyeti 8* were sent immediately to the place of incident by Istanbul VTS. Vessel was anchored safely at Buyukdere escorted by *Kurtarma 4* and *Kiyi Emniyeti 8*. (Note -- *Lara* sailed Alexandria Sep 23 with ETA Azov today. According to Lloyd's MIU AIS

Lara was stationary in lat 41 09 14N, long 29 02 43E, at 1632, UTC, yesterday.)

LEONE (Italy)

See *Huai Lai He*.

LILLIAN (Belize)

See "Republic of Ireland" under "Port State Control."

LISA A. (Panama)

London, Oct 1 -- Following received from Coastguard Liverpool MRSC, timed 1215, UTC: Crane barge *Lisa A.*: The list was corrected last week with the help of the tide and the vessel is now under tow of a tug, bound for Belfast, where ETA today.

Belfast, Oct 2 -- Crane barge *Lisa A.* arrived Belfast Oct 1 for repairs. -- Lloyd's Agents.

MAR ALMUDENA (Marshall Islands)

London, Sep 30 -- Asphalt tanker *Mar Almudena* arrived Abidjan Sep 5 from Lobito.

MARIA S.MERIAN (Germany)

Kiel, Oct 1 -- Research *Maria S.Merian* today moved from the Lindenau Yard in Kiel-Friedrichsort to the opposite side of the harbour and berthed in the East Harbour at 0930 hrs. --- Correspondent.

MARIE D. (U.S.A.)

London, Oct 4 -- A Coast Guard Paducah press release, dated Oct 3, states: The Coast Guard co-ordinated efforts along with the Fulton County Emergency Management Agency in Kentucky, and the Mississippi County Emergency Management Agency in Missouri today in responding to a fire on tug *Marie D.* (380 gt, built 1977) on the Lower Mississippi River at approximately mile marker 923. The Coast Guard received a call at 1130 hrs, reporting there was an engine-room fire onboard *Marie D.* Upon discovering the fire crewmembers onboard the tug implemented the vessel's emergency action plan which included activating installed firefighting suppression system, closing off all ventilation, pushing the tug's three barges on the shore and evacuating the crew. The cause of the fire is under investigation. There was no pollution and river vessel traffic was unaffected.

MEDWINA (Philippines)

Manila, Sep 28 -- The Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) reported today that it had fined the owner of ferry *Medwina* with Pesos 10,000 (US\$220) for violation of the terms of its licence as a cargo vessel. MARINA director Bashieruddin Adil said that *Medwina* was operating as a passenger ferry when it stalled off Sulu island on Sep 8. The vessel was found to be carrying 65 passengers, violating its Certificate of Public Convenience licence which limited its carriage to cargo. Its license could have been revoked and it would have been forced to cease operations indefinitely but the

MARINA decided to impose the lighter sentence, as this was the vessel's first offence. The owner and crew of the vessel are still facing additional administrative sanctions from the MARINA for other violations including overcrowding and the crew's lack of certificates of competency. -- Correspondent.

Manila, Sep 29 -- Engine repairs to ferry *Medwina* have been completed at the Phittco Pier, Zamboanga. Vessel can not operate until its safety certificate is restored by the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA). *Medwina*, which is still anchored at the Phittco Pier, will undergo a repair and safety audit by MARINA inspectors in the coming days. -- Correspondent.

MERIOM WAVE (Marshall Islands)

London, Sep 27 -- Following received from Curacao RCC, timed 1535, UTC: As of yesterday, product tanker *Meriom Wave* was still anchored in the same position, awaiting spare parts, in order to effect repairs. No update on the situation has been received today.

London, Sep 29 -- Following received from Curacao RCC, timed 1600, UTC: Tug has delivered spare parts to product tanker *Meriom Wave*, which was anchored off Aruba. Current position of *Meriom Wave* unknown.

MERWEDELTA (Netherlands)

London, Sep 29 -- General cargo *Merwedelta* arrived Savona Sep 25 from Piombino and sailed Sep 27 for Volos.

MIA (Philippines)

London, Oct 1 -- A press report, dated today, states: Fourteen Cebuano crew are missing while four others were rescued after a cargo vessel owned by JPS Shipping Lines, capsized last Friday (Sep 28) in Cabile Island between Tubbataha and Cagayancillo Islands in Palawan. JPS manager Gallagher Gallarde said they sought help from the Philippine Coast Guard and the Philippine Navy after they lost contact with the general cargo *Mia* on Sep 28. It was only yesterday that the company got confirmation that *Mia* sunk, when a fishing vessel informed them that they rescued four crew. One of them is in a critical condition. Gallarde said *Mia* left San Fernando, Cebu on Sep 27, with 18 personnel on board, six officers and 12 crew members. The vessel was carrying 880 metric tons (about 22,000 bags) of cement from Taheyo Cement Corp. The vessel is valued at P15 million while the cement is estimated to cost more than P3 million. The cement was to be delivered to EEI Engineering Equipment at Brooke's Point, Palawan where a project is ongoing. Gallarde said they are hoping other crew will have been rescued by the Coast Guard and Navy. The captain Renato Dongallo, is among those missing. Gallarde said that the vessel was expected to arrive in Palawan at 0600, Sep 28, but the master sent a message at about 1555, Sep 28, stating that they their time of arrival will be 1300, Sep 29. No reason was given for the change.

He said his office communicated with *Mia* again, but they lost contact with the master and all crew, most of whom had mobile phones. "We thought they just took shelter somewhere and had no signal because of typhoon 'Hannah.'" What we did was to contact the cement consignee to help locate the vessel," Gallarde said. He said it was only yesterday when *Alester* of Irma Fishing Corp informed them that they had rescued four crew from the vessel. JPS Shipping has three cargo vessels. The company is a member of the United Trampers Association of the Philippines. Lt-Sg Paolo Z. Abejuela of the Philippine Coast Guard Visayas Command said their central office in Manila is co-ordinating with other agencies in the rescue operation to find the rest of the crew. Director Glenn Cabanez of the Maritime Industry Authority (Marina) 7, said his office will investigate the incident. Marina 7 marine specialist Mardon Martin said JPS Shipping should file a marine protest because an investigation will start.

London, Oct 2 -- A press report, dated today, states: Four of the rescued crew members from general cargo *Mia*, which sank off the coast of Cagayancillo, Palawan, over the weekend, saw how their co-workers were eaten alive by sharks while they were calling for help, a police official said Tuesday (Oct 2). Senior Superintendent Dennis Pena, Palawan police director, said the rescued crew members of the ill-fated *Mia* were still in shock after they helplessly witnessed their colleagues being imangled by sharks. He said the four are now confined at the Cuyo District Hospital in Cuyo town. Because of this account of the survivors, Pena said most of the 14 missing crew members of the vessel, which sank 28 nautical miles off Cagayancillo, could already be dead. He, however, stressed that they will continue with their search and rescue operations for the missing crew men. Pena said their investigation is now focused on the possibility that the sunken cargo vessel was overloaded.

Manila, Oct 2 -- Philippine maritime safety officials believe that a deadly combination of stormy seas and a water-logged cargo of cement sank general cargo *Mia*. "Seawater entering the cargo hold would have made the cement heavier and lowered the vessel into the water. A large wave crashing onto the vessel would easily have brought it down," Maritime Industry Authority Enforcement Division chief Arnie Santiago said. Philippine Coast Guard and Navy vessels are now scouring the waters around Tubbataha reef looking for possible survivors. Coast Guard personnel are also on the look out for a possible oil spill which could seriously damage Tubbataha reef, a major marine preserve. -- Correspondent.

London, Oct 4 -- A press report, dated today, states: The Philippine Coast Guard reported yesterday that search and rescue teams did not find any of the 14 missing passengers and crew of general cargo *Mia*, which sank off

Palawan last Saturday (Sep 29) after the vessel encountered bad weather caused by tropical storm *Hanna*. Lt Senior Grade Armand Balilo, PCG spokesman, said divers and swimmers continued rescue operations for the missing passengers despite the bad weather. There were reports that some of the missing passengers were attacked by sharks. Based on testimonies of the four survivors earlier rescued, they saw three of their 14 companions being attacked by sharks after the victims jumped into the sea from the sinking vessel, Balilo said. The 14 passengers have been missing since the vessel sank at around 1600 hrs, some 28 nautical miles south-west of Cagayancillo in Palawan, at the height of the storm. The vessel, owned by GPS Shipping Lines, left Cebu on Sep 26 en route to Brooke's Point in Palawan to deliver 800 tonnes of cement. The vessel was reportedly scheduled to arrive at Brooke's Point on Sep 28, but the master had advised their base office of the delay in their arrival due to strong winds and waves caused by the tropical storm. The four survivors from the sunken vessel were identified as chief mate Roulette Sapaluda, Rey Cabuhay, oiler Marlon Tiguman and apprentice Richard Abregana. They were rescued late Monday by a passing fishing vessel and brought to Cuyo Hospital for treatment. Balilo said they have not yet determined the cause of the sinking but the PCG vowed to start a formal investigation after the 14 missing passengers are found. Local police in Palawan said they were looking into the possibility that the vessel was overloaded. It was discovered that the 426-ton vessel was carrying 800 tonnes of cement. Reports said the PCG learned about the sinking of the vessel only through the rescuers of the four survivors.

MIDAS (Panama)

Dubai, Sep 27 -- Bulk carrier *Midas* has been sold as scrap. Vessel was still lying at Sharjah anchorage area last time we heard. -- Lloyd's Agents.

MSC ERMINIA (Panama)

Zeebrugge, Oct 1 -- Fully cellular containership *MSC Erminia* arrived Antwerp Sep 29 and sailed Oct 1 for Kristiansand. -- Lloyds Sub-agents.

NAGA KIN 5 (Cambodia)

Yokohama, Oct 3 -- General cargo *Naga Kin 5* (1412 gt, built 1978), Pohang for Toyohashi, grounded in shallow water in lat 33 54.07N, long 130 55.24E, at 0428, Sep 28. The vessel refloated by its own means at 0555 same day. No oil spill or water ingress was reported. -- Lloyd's Agents.

Yokohama, Oct 4 -- General cargo *Naga Kin 5* arrived Kokura Sep 28 from Nishiyama and sailed Oct 3 for Dalian. -- Lloyd's Agents.

NORDLYS (Norway)

Trondheim, Sep 28 -- Passenger Ro/Ro *Nordlys* (11204 gt, built 1994), with 208 passengers on board, was hit by a sideways gust and pressed against the

quay at Honningsvaag, northern Norway, resulting in a hole in the vessel's hull, at noon today. The vessel will stay at Honningsvaag while temporary repairs to the cargo hold, port side, are carried out, whereafter it will proceed to repair yard for permanent repairs. No passenger / crew injuries have been reported. Of the 208 passengers, 165 were on a trip to North Cape this afternoon. According to the company's communication manager, 30 passengers scheduled for Kirkenes were offered alternative transportation and 150 scheduled for Bergen were offered to continue their journey on board the northbound passenger ro/ro *Midnatsol* or the southbound passenger ro/ro *Kong Harald* tomorrow. -- Lloyd's Agents.

Kiel, Oct 4 -- The scheduled sailings of passenger ro/ro *Nordlys* to Kirkenes and Bergen had to be cancelled after it had hit a quay in Honningsvaag while attempting to berth at 1200, Sep 28. The vessel is expected to resume its schedule on Oct 10. The accident was caused by stormy winds. -- Correspondent.

NORDSKOTT (Norway)

Aalborg, Sep 27 -- Roll On Roll Off *Nordskott* is expected to sail for Hirtshals this afternoon. -- Lloyd's Agents.

London, Oct 2 -- Roll On Roll Off *Nordskott* passed Skaw, northbound, at 2115, Sep 27.

OLAGORTA (Spain)

London, Oct 1 -- Following navigation warning dated yesterday, states: Fishing (general) *Olagorta* (557 gt, built 1987) adrift in lat 44 54S, long 60 01 W. All crew members rescued.

London, Oct 2 -- Following navigation warning dated today, states: Fishing (general) *Olagorta* adrift in lat 44 27S, long 59 32W, fire set on board, heeling on the port side and drifting. All crew members rescued.

London, Oct 3 -- A press report, dated Oct 2, states: Twenty-four of the 27 crew members of fishing (general) *Olagorta* that caught fire early Sunday morning (Sep 30) in the South Atlantic will be arriving in Montevideo in the coming hours after having been rescued by another Spanish vessel. The master, chief engineer and a third officer of *Olagorta* remain on board fishing *Playa de Galicia*, which was the first vessel to come to the rescue. *Olagorta*, based in Vigo, normally operates in the South Atlantic and experienced what is presumed to be an accident, 209 miles off the coast of the Argentine Patagonian province of Chubut, Puerto Camarones, according to the Argentine Coast Guard. Apparently the fire broke out when half the crew was working on deck with smoke and flames rapidly advancing because of the wind. However quick reaction and calling for help from other fishing vessels in the area saved the day even when the rescue had to be done with Zodiac fast boats since it had become too risky to board side by side. The 24 crew members, most of them Peruvians, on

their way to Montevideo are on board Spanish fishing *Costa do Cabo*. Meantime *Olagorta* still on fire and apparently condemned is slowly drifting north-east, reported *Playa de Galicia*. The Argentine Navy and Coast Guard responsible for Search And Rescue (SAR) operations in the area sent a P-3B Orion aircraft to over see operations and a corvette ARA *Gomez Rocca* has been dispatched in the event that the fishing vessel can be recovered.

London, Oct 3 -- Following navigation warning dated today, states: Fishing (general) *Olagorta* adrift in lat 44 21S, long 59 23.5W, listing to port side, drifting 090 degrees. All crew members rescued.

OTAPAN (Mexico)

Maassluis, Oct 1 -- Chemical tanker *Otapan* is still in port at Botlek, Rotterdam. -- Lloyd's Sub-agents.

PARAMUSHIR (Russia)

Vladivostok, Oct 3 -- General cargo *Paramushir* completed repairs and sailed from the port of Nakhodka yesterday. -- Lloyd's Agents.

PERE CHARLES (Republic of Ireland)

London, Oct 3 -- A press report, dated Oct 2, states: It will cost almost Euros 1 million to raise two fishing trawlers that sank off the Co Wexford coast with the loss of seven lives, it was revealed today. The salvage of the trawler *Pere Charles* and the *Maggie B.* is expected to take place this month off Co Wexford, and the wrecks will be taken to Arklow for inspection by the Marine Casualty Investigation Board. Irish Diving Contractors, based in Lusk, Co Dublin, won the E960,000 Department of Transport contract ahead of two other bidders. The contract also includes the disposal of the vessels. The *Pere Charles* went down off Hook Head in Co Wexford in January, the *Maggie B.* also sank off Hook Head in March 2006. The families of the victims have lobbied the Government to have the boats raised and have collected thousands of names in petitions. They believe the remains of their loved ones or their personal belongings will be found on the wrecks.

PIETARI FLAME (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

See "Portugal" under "Port State Control".

PIPIT (U.K.)

Flushing, Oct 2 -- General cargo *Pipit* (794 gt, built 1984), England for Yerseke, with a cargo of 1,400 tons of shells, ran aground near the harbour entrance of the port of Yerseke at approximately 1800, Sep 30. Shortly before the high tide, while entering the harbour, it ran outside the harbour on a seawater pipe, which supplies the local mussel companies with fresh seawater. An attempt to pull the vessel off with a local fishing vessel failed. Further assistance was refused by the master of *Pipit* who wanted to try to refloat the vessel on its own power. Until the early

morning of Oct 1, he had not succeeded and asked for the help of the professional salvors to free the vessel, which blocked the harbour entrance. The tugs *Zephyrus* from Multraship and the *Delta* from Polderman succeeded in refloating the vessel at high tide at 0700 hrs. *Pipit* then came alongside the discharging berth. It is not known if the vessel was damaged during the grounding. -- Correspondent.

Maassluis, Oct 3 -- After discharging cargo at Yerseke, general cargo *Pipit* sailed Oct 1 for Amsterdam via inland waters. -- Lloyd's Sub-agents.

PISURAYAK KOOTOOK (Canada)

London, Oct 1 -- Tug *Pisurayak Kootook* (669 gt, built 1969) was struck by the barge it was towing, after grounding in the Oniak Channel of the Mackenzie River, in lat 68 32.42N, long 134 02.00W, at 2144, Sep 27. The collision punctured its fuel tank. Spill control measures were initiated and clean-up operations are under way.

PRIDE OF BILBAO (U.K.)

London, Sep 29 -- A press report, dated Sep 28, states: A ferry officer pleaded not guilty today to further charges in connection with the deaths of three sailors in the English Channel. Michael Hubble attended a pre-trial review at Winchester Crown Court relating to the deaths of James Meaby, Jason Downer and Rupert Saunders from yacht *Ouzo* between August 20 and 23 last year. Hubble was the officer of the watch on passenger ro/ro *Pride of Bilbao* when, it is alleged, the vessel either collided with or swamped *Ouzo* off the Isle of Wight. Hubble pleaded not guilty today to three counts of engaging in conduct as a seaman that was likely to cause death or serious injury to the men. At a previous hearing the officer pleaded not guilty to the manslaughter of the three men through gross negligence. Prosecuting counsel Christopher Parker QC told the court the trial, which is expected to start on Oct 29, would take about six weeks. *Ouzo* had left Bembridge on Aug 20 to sail to Devon for the Dartmouth Regatta but it never arrived. All three men were found in the sea off the Isle of Wight a few days later. The 25-foot sailfish sloop they were sailing has never been found, and no alarm was raised from it prior to its disappearance. Hubble was employed as an agency worker on *Pride of Bilbao* at the time of the alleged offences. The vessel was en route from Portsmouth to Bilbao at the same time as the disappearance of *Ouzo*. An inquest, which was opened and adjourned into the deaths of the three men, heard two of them had time to inflate their lifejackets. The hearing was told Mr Meaby from Tooting, south London, and Mr Downer from Kent, were found with their lifejackets manually inflated. The third crew member, Mr Saunders, also from Tooting, who owned and skippered the yacht, was wearing a lifejacket which had automatically inflated. The body of Mr Meaby was discovered in the sea 10 miles south of Nab Tower on

Au 22 and the bodies of Mr Downer and Mr Saunders were located south of St Catherine's Point a day later. The cause of death for Mr Meaby was a combination of drowning and hypothermia, while the other two died of drowning. Mr Justice Owen adjourned the case and Hubble was granted unconditional bail.

PRIDE OF TELEMAR (Norway)

London, Sep 28 -- A press report, dated Sep 27, states: Passenger ro/ro *Pride of Telemark* is now drydocked at Cityvarvet, Gothenburg, to repair damage sustained when the vessel hit the breakwater in high winds at Hirtshals on Sep 11 and tore a large gash below the waterline. Managing director of Kystlink, Jarle Dragsten, said that hull repairs should be finished by the end of next week. After that there is some cabling work to be done. If that work is not to extensive *Pride of Telemark* should leave Gothenburg in two weeks time.

QUEEN OF OAK BAY (Canada)

London, Oct 3 -- A press report, dated today, states: A mechanical problem on the Roll On Roll Off *Queen of Oak Bay* (6969 gt, built 1981) has forced two round-trip cancellations from Horseshoe Bay, this morning. "We are having a mechanical problem with the *Queen of Oak Bay*, so unfortunately we have had to cancel the first two round trips today. So that will be the 0630 hrs and 1030 hrs exit from Horseshoe Bay, as well as the 0830 hrs and 1230 hrs, exit from Departure Bay. We expect the vessel to be back in service for 1500 hrs," said BC Ferries spokesperson Debra Marshall.

Vancouver, Oct 3 -- Roll on roll off *Queen of Oak Bay* has been taken out of service due to mechanical problems and is expected to remain out of service for a week. -- Lloyd's Agents.

QUEEN OF THE NORTH (Canada)

London, Sep 28 -- A press report, dated today, states: B.C. Ferries wants the Transportation Safety Board to give back the electronic chart system that sank with passenger ro/ro *Queen of the North*, but a judge has ruled the board does not have to. B.C. Ferries retrieved the system's hard drive from the sunken vessel using a submersible in June, 2006, three months after the sinking. As part of the safety board's investigation, B.C. Ferries turned the hard drive over, but the company wants it back so it can release some of the information. Justice Christopher Hinkson ruled Wednesday (Sep 26) the board gave B.C. Ferries some information from the hard drive, but did not return the drive itself. B.C. Ferries argued if it had had access to the hard drive, it could have performed its own analysis of the data. The judge also noted that unlike investigators from the safety board, B.C. Ferries was stymied in its probe of the accident because some of the officers on the bridge refused to speak to the ferry company. The board "is authorised to afford assurances of confidentiality and treat statements that it obtains as

privileged," Hinkson wrote. "In performing its work, the (board) does not need to return any documents or items seized unless it chooses to do so, or a court of competent jurisdiction orders it to do so."

Vancouver, Oct 3 -- Passenger ro/ro *Queen of the North*, which sank on Canada's Pacific coast last year, may have had only a less-experienced crew member on the bridge when it slammed into an island, the vessel's operator said today. BC Ferries said after it released its report on the accident in March that it received information the helmswoman told people during the sinking that bridge officers had not been at their required posts. BC Ferries acknowledged that contradicted information in its March report, which concluded that human error was the likely cause but said at least one officer was on the bridge to help steer the vessel. *Queen of the North*, with 101 people on board, sank in the middle of the night on Mar 22, 2006, near Hartley Bay, British Columbia, on a coastal route traveled by thousands of summer tourists annually. Ninety-nine people were rescued by residents of the isolated coastal community, but two passengers went down with the vessel. The March report quoted the helmswoman as saying she was never alone on the bridge, and that she and a senior officer had tried to avoid hitting the large island by turning off the vessel's autopilot at the last minute. The two officers assigned to the bridge that night refused to talk to investigators. Two non-bridge employees contacted investigators after the report was released, BC Ferries said. "Just prior to us both getting into one of the rafts, the quartermaster said; 'It is not my fault, it was not my fault, I was left alone,'" BC Ferries quoted one of the new unnamed witnesses as telling investigators. The cause of the accident is still under investigation by Canada's Transportation Safety Board, which is expected to release its report by the end of the year. -- Reuters.

QUINALT (U.S.A.)

London, Oct 1 -- A press report, dated Sep 30, states: While two of Washington state's oldest ferries sat in a shipyard awaiting repairs, legislators and ferry executives were considering the possibility that at least one of the vessels is beyond repair and must be retired. The state's four 80-year-old Steel Electric-class ferries are "nearing the end of their useful life," but there is no money to replace them, Washington State Ferries Executive Director Mike Anderson told legislators during Senate and House transportation committee meetings. Results of a hull survey of roll on roll off *Nisqually* are due next week. If the results aren't good, the vessel could be retired, Anderson said. "We have to figure out how much money you should put into an old, old boat like that," he told lawmakers. The Steel Electric ferries are the only vessels in the state's fleet agile enough to navigate the rough water and narrow harbors between Keystone on

Whidbey Island and Port Townsend on the Olympic Peninsula. If the ferries fail to meet the Coast Guard's new safety standards, "there are no viable options to replace the vessels," Anderson said. Consequently, there is a risk the route could be closed, officials conceded. Even previously mentioned options such as using passenger-only ferries or borrowing ferries from other communities have been eliminated. Studies showed those ideas were impractical or impossible, Anderson said. If the route between Whidbey Island and Port Townsend is closed, even temporarily, it could dramatically affect the economies there, while adding hours to commute times, officials said. The state has wrestled much of the year with a string of hull cracks and other problems on its Steel Electric-class vessels. Since March, the state has spent \$3.5 million patching leaks, replacing stern tubes and repairing other unanticipated problems, Anderson said. The latest troubles have revolved around corrosion of the stern tubes, the cast-iron pipes that house the ferries' propeller shafts where they run through the hull. The stern tubes have been in salt water since 1927, when the Steel Electrics were first launched in California's San Francisco Bay. The Coast Guard ordered closer inspection of the stern tubes after a 20-inch crack developed in July in a stern tube on roll on roll off *Illehee*. The crack allowed water to stream into the hull at a rate of five gallons per minute. That stern tube, as well as its twin on the other end of the vessel, was deemed too corroded for continued use. Replacements were fabricated and *Illehee* returned to service earlier this month in the San Juan Islands. The same stern tube problem was discovered on roll on roll off *Quinalt*. Crews at Todd Shipyards in Seattle are attempting repairs. *Nisqually* was pulled from service early this month to undergo inspection mandated by the Coast Guard. Only roll on roll off *Klickitat* is now operating between Whidbey Island and Port Townsend. State lawmakers in 2001 approved building new ferries and have set aside nearly \$350 million to complete the work. At the time the new vessels were authorised, replacing the aging Steel Electrics was the priority. Ferry officials, however, decided to build bigger vessels. Washington State Ferries is preparing a special report that analyses options for replacing the Steel Electrics. Anderson told legislators he expected to have some preliminary results by January. However, with a tightening budget and a recent state audit that suggests cutting service to save money, new vessels are probably years away, lawmakers were told last week.

RHODODENDRON (U.S.A.)

Seattle, Oct 3 -- Roll On Roll Off *Rhododendron* returned to service Sep 8. -- Lloyd's Agents.

RIOMADA

London, Oct 2 -- A press report, dated today, states: The 22-m luxury yacht

Riomada (101 gt) was intentionally grounded to avoid sinking at Pula on Sep 26. The vessel was about three miles west of Pula when it suddenly sustained an ingress of water. The vessel came to rest close to the shore with the stern submerged and the bow still pointing out of the water.

SAMUR 10 (Russia)

Portsmouth, UK, Oct 1 -- General cargo *Samur 10* (1640 gt, built 1987), Astrakhan to Noushekh, cargo of 2590 tonnes of metal, ran aground when approaching the port of Noushekh at 1235, Sep 30. Vessel was under control of the local pilot. The vessel ran aground on the northern part of the eastern breakwater. There is a hole in the underwater part of the housing and water ingress in the forward living quarters. At 1445 hrs, pumping from the cargo hold started with the vessel's pumps and shoreside pumps. The vessel is listing 10 degrees on the starboard side. Further assistance and cargo off loading will begin at dawn, today. -- Correspondent.

Portsmouth, UK, Oct 2 -- General cargo *Samur 10* is still aground at the entrance of the port of Noushekh. The state of the vessel is stable with a list of eight degrees. Divers continue to inspect the hull and facilitate repair of holes. Pumping with the aid of shoreside pumps continues. One of the hold covers has been removed and after the removal of the second cover unloading of the cargo will begin. -- Correspondent.

Portsmouth, UK, Oct 4 -- Work is being conducted on closing of holes and draining of internal accommodations of general cargo *Samur 10*. Unloading of the vessel is being conducted simultaneously and with more than 600 tons already unloaded, it is expected to be completed today. Towing of the vessel to the moorage is planned after the work on closing of holes and unloading the vessel is completed. Weather conditions are favourable. -- Correspondent.

SEA PARK (Panama)

Durres, Sep 29 -- At the end of August negotiations concluded for the sale/purchase of general cargo *Sea Park*. Vessel remains in the same position berthed in Durres shipyard. We can confirm that vessel sold and changed name to *Green Flower*, provisionally re-registered under Panama flag. Vessel is doing necessary repairs in Durres shipyard. -- Lloyd's Agents.

SENKU MARU (Japan)

See *Kinyu Maru No.8*.

SERENITY (Bermuda)

London, Sep 27 -- Following received from Bermuda RCC, timed 1530, UTC: Ferry *Serenity* is still out of service.

SETTU MARU (Japan)

London, Oct 2 -- Following navigation warning dated today, states: Waterlogged vessel, 499 tonnes, (general cargo *Settu Maru* 496 gt, built 1992) adrift in vicinity of lat 33 19.1N, long 133 58.9E at 1530, UTC, today.

SHAH BADAR 2 (Bangladesh)

Chittagong, Oct 2 -- According to Mariner Services Limited, the local agents of general cargo *Shah Badar 2*, the salvage operation has commenced and is in progress. It is being delayed due to the rough sea and strong currents. -- Lloyd's Agents.

SHOFUKU MARU NO.18 (Japan)

See *Teno Maru*.

SICHEM MALAGA (Malta)

London, Sep 27 -- Owners and managers of combined chemical and oil tank *Sichem Malaga*, which lost propulsion off the Island of Crete on Sep 14, report that the vessel was secured at a berth in Perema, Piraeus port, at 0940, Sep 27, awaiting the arrival of a new propeller ordered from the original manufacturers. All the cargo from the vessel was lightered off OPL Malta, with completion on Sep 21.

Piraeus, Oct 4 -- According to the agents of combined chemical and oil tank *Sichem Malaga*, the vessel is at Drapetsona. Repairs have not commenced as the new propeller ordered has not yet arrived. It is estimated that the repairs will be completed within the next month. -- Lloyd's Agents.

SILVER ARROW (Belize)

Yokohama, Oct 3 -- General cargo *Silver Arrow* has completed repairs and will sail from Wakayama 1500 today for Tagounoura. -- Lloyd's Agents.

SLAVYANIN

(St. Vincent & Grenadines)

Limassol, Sep 30 -- Roll On Roll Off *Slavyanin* is still at Limassol, detained by Cyprus Ports Authority. -- Lloyd's Agents.

SPICEISLANDER I

London, Sep 27 -- The crew of the Norfolk based *USS Stout* rendered assistance to ferry "Spice Island" (? passenger ro/ro *Spiceislander I* 836 gt built 1967) in international waters off the coast of Somalia, on Tuesday (Sep 25). The vessel was just carrying a crew and was travelling from Oman to Tanzania when it called for help, after running out of fuel, in an area prone to piracy. The *USS Stout* and a helicopter from *USS James E. Williams* responded to the request for help. The helicopter was first on scene and established communications with the ferry's crew. *USS Stout* arrived on scene late evening and stayed with the 180-foot vessel until sunrise, when assistance operations could begin. After a boarding team conducted a safety and security inspection, the vessel was towed, while the naval vessel provided the 10-man crew with food, water, and 7,800 gallons of fuel, eventually getting it running on its own.

STARLING (Singapore)

London, Oct 3 -- According to Tuticorin Port Trust combined chemical and oil tank *Starling* (5256 gt, built 2007), cargo 8,350 tons palm oil, which anchored Tuticorin 1325, Sep 24, was

still in port under repair at 0600 today. (Note -- *Starling* sailed Singapore 0345, Sep 8.)

TENO MARU (Japan)

Yokohama, Oct 3 -- General cargo *Teno Maru* (749 gt, built 1997), Kawasaki for Hakodate, and fishing (general) *Shofuku Maru No.18* (19 gt), bound for fisheries, were in collision in lat 40 08.4N, long 142 01.7E, at 0450, Sep 24. *Teno Maru* sustained scratches to the port midsection and *Shofuku Maru No.18* sustained damage to the starboard bow. No oil spill or water ingress was reported and there were no injuries. -- Lloyd's Agents.

THOR AMALIE (Panama)

London, Oct 3 -- Following navigation warning issued today: Engine troubled general cargo *Thor Amalie* (3120 gt, built 1984) adrift in lat 45 32N, long 140 03.6E, at 0235, UTC, today. (Note -- *Thor Amalie* was last reported to have sailed Everett 1510, Sep 8 for Korsakov.)

London, Oct 4 -- Following navigation warning issued today: Engine troubled general cargo *Thor Amalie* reported adrift in lat 45 41.7N, long 140 06.7E at 2200, UTC, Oct 3.

THOR HAWK (DIS)

London, Oct 3 -- Fully cellular containership *Thor Hawk* remains anchored at Tuticorin port under repair.

TIGER SPIRIT (Cyprus)

Singapore, Sep 27 -- General cargo *Tiger Spirit* is still at Singapore Technologies Shipbuilding and Engineering Ltd. Floating Dock No 2. -- Lloyd's Agents.

TRANS-1 (Bangladesh)

Khulna, Oct 1 -- Understand from Harbour Master, Mongla Port authority and barge owner Mr. Abu Bakar, that salvage of barge *Trans-1* has yet to be completed. The salvage operation is presently suspended due to rough seas/bad weather. Upon improvement of the weather situation, salvage operations will resume. -- Lloyd's Agents.

TRINITY SIERRA (Cyprus)

See "Portugal" under "Port State Control".

TRUST DUBAI (Singapore)

Yokohama, Oct 3 -- Roll on roll off *Trust Dubai* (5879 gt, built 1987) contacted Chuo Wharf East No 2, Niigata, at 0750, Sep 28, while berthing. The vessel sustained cracking to the port bow. No water ingress or oil spill was reported. -- Lloyd's Agents.

TUNA PRO NO.1 (Guinea)

See *Eurocargo Valencia*.

VALUR IS-18 (Iceland)

London, Oct 2 -- A press report, dated Sep 28, states: A specialist Icelandic trawler rescue team successfully saved a trawler with a crew of eight, when the vessel got into trouble in rough weather. Fishing (general) *Valur IS-18*

(160 gt, built 1973) had drifted out of control in the Iceland's Western Fjords area when it suffered a gear failure during a heavy storm, yesterday. Facing large waves, the crew could do little except back into the wind to try to prevent the vessel from running aground. A team from Iceland's ICE-SAR marine rescue service managed to attach a line to the *Valur IS-18* and towed it into harbour at Isafjordur. Two other vessels arrived on the scene to offer help, but their services not needed. None of the trawler crew were injured.

Reykjavik, Oct 2 -- Fishing vessel *Valur IS-18*, owned by FiskAri ehf./Guðjón M Kjartansson ehf., S'davik, encountered engine (gear) problems at 1500 hrs, Sep 27, in Jokulfirdir in the Vestfjords in Iceland. First on the scene was the fishing/passenger vessel *Saedis IS-67*. Next was the rescue ship *Gunnar Fridriksson*, but neither was able to take her in tow. A tug boat from Isafjordur *Sturla Halldorsson* subsequently arrived on scene and towed the *Valur IS-18* into Isafjordur harbour arriving at 1900 hrs, Sep 27. -- Lloyd's Agents.

VEENDAM (Netherlands)

London, Sep 27 -- Passenger (cruise) *Veendam* (55451 gt, built 1996) had propulsion failure while docking at Section 22, port of Quebec, at 0610, Sep 20. The manoeuvre was completed safely with assisting tugs. (Note -- *Veendam* arrived and sailed Halifax Sep 25, subsequently arriving Boston, USA, at 0715, Sep 27.)

VERA-1 (Malta)

Odessa, Oct 1 -- The fire which broke out on general cargo *Vera-1* during welding works spread very quickly and was extinguished by five fire brigades and two fire vessels the same day. The vessel is nearly burned out and two workers who inhaled the smoke were hospitalised. The *Vera-1* is in the dry dock of "port service," Nikolayev. -- Lloyd's Agents.

VESTLAND (Panama)

Trondheim, Oct 3 -- General cargo *Vestland* is presently undergoing sea trials. It is expected to sail for Maaloy this afternoon for bunkering. It is then expected to sail for Vedde. -- Lloyd's Agents.

Trondheim, Oct 4 -- General cargo *Vestland* left the Solund Verft AS yard 1830 yesterday. -- Lloyd's Agents.

VIEN DONG 2 (Vietnam)

London, Oct 3 -- Following navigation warning issued 1601, UTC, Sep 29: General cargo *Vien Dong 2*, 3WQP, (5999 gt, built 1990) grounded in lat 09 13.4N, long 92 45.4E. Mariners advised to exercise caution and render assistance. (Note -- *Vien Dong 2* was last reported to have arrived Haldia Sep 22.)

London, Oct 3 -- Following received from Port Blair MRCC, timed 0850, UTC: General cargo *Vien Dong 2*, cargo iron ore, with 19 crew, remains aground with crew still on board.

London, Oct 4 -- Following received from Port Blair MRCC, timed 0735, UTC: General cargo *Vien Dong 2* is still aground. SMIT Salvage from Singapore are currently assessing the situation.

VILLA (Italy)

See "Italy" under "Labour Disputes."

VOLGO-BALT 210 (Russia)

London, Sep 28 -- Following received from Aarhus RCC, timed 0940, UTC: General cargo *Volgo-Balt 210* was cleared to sail following inspections and has proceeded to Klaipeda.

Copenhagen, Sep 28 -- General cargo *Volgo-Balt 210* grounded by Nordre Rose Lighthouse on Sep 25. The Lighthouse was under repair and the repair people observed the grounding and reported to the Admiral Danish Fleet. Both the Admiral Danish Fleet and the Marine District of Bornholm ordered the vessel to stay and await the Danish environmental protection vessel *Miljo 102*. However, the vessel refloated without help and continued its voyage to Klaipeda. Later it was caught up by *Miljo 102*, boarded by the Danish Police and escorted back to the bay of Koge, where it anchored. As no oil spill was ascertained; it was released after payment of a penalty of DKK 10,000.00 to the Danish police and presentation of a Certificate of Seaworthiness issued by the vessel's flag nation. The vessel pulled up anchor at 1700 hrs, Sep 26, and continued its voyage to Klaipeda where it arrived 0600, Sep 28. -- Lloyd's Agents.

VOLGO-DON 5053 (Russia)

Portsmouth, UK, Sep 29 -- General cargo *Volgo-Don 5053* (4000 gt, built 1973), Point Shala for Rybinsk, cargo of 5,000 tons of crushed stone, ran aground Km 538.7, River Sheksna, 2100, Sep 28. Rescue vessel *Shluzovoy-125* is en route the scene. -- Correspondent.

VOLGONEFT 262 (Ukraine)

Portsmouth, UK, Sep 29 -- Product tanker *Volgoneft 262* (3475 gt, built 1978), Yaroslavl for St.Petersburg, cargo of 4447 tons petroleum residue, ran aground on the Chembovska fairway, Km 1167, River Svir 1167, at 1920, Sep 28. At 0630 today, rescue vessel *OT-2023* arrived on scene to assist with the removal of the vessel from the sandbar. -- Correspondent.

WEELEK NO.3 (Panama)

London, Oct 1 -- Combined chemical and oil tank *Weelek No.3* arrived Ajman Sep 20 and sailed Sep 28.

WEESAM EXPRESS 1 (Philippines)

Manila, Oct 1 -- The Philippine Coast Guard reported that ferry *Weesam Express 1* (227 gt) ran aground off Iguana Bank in the central Philippines at around 1250, Sep 30, while navigating the shallow portion of the Iloilo Strait. The vessel had departed from Bacolod City and was en route to Iloilo City when the accident occurred. All 67 passengers were reported to be safe. An underwater survey conducted

by Philippine Coast Guard divers revealed cuts and dents on both propellers. The divers were not able to examine the bottom hull, however, because of poor visibility. The vessel was pulled free from its grounding position during the afternoon by salvage tug *Sea Tractor* and was towed to Iloilo port at around 1445 the same day. The Coast Guard said that it was still investigating the cause of the accident. -- Correspondent.

Manila, Oct 1 -- Ferry *Weesam Express 1* will have to undergo drydocking to repair the damage it sustained when it ran aground in the shallow portion of the Iloilo Strait on Sep 30. Initial reports indicate that the vessel sustained propeller damage. According to the sources at SRN Fast Seacrafts Inc, the Zamboanga-based owners and operators of the vessel, a thorough survey is required to determine the damage to the bottom hull. The company is now looking for a suitable shipyard in Iloilo province where the vessel can be repaired. -- Correspondent.

Manila, Oct 2 -- The Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) has cancelled the safety certificate of ferry *Weesam Express 1*. In a memorandum dated Oct 1, the MARINA said that the safety certificate of the vessel is suspended "until such time that an investigation/underwater survey is conducted by a MARINA-accredited underwater surveying entity and duly supervised by a MARINA safety engineer." The cancellation of the safety certificate effectively grounds *Weesam Express 1* as a vessel cannot operate legally without a valid safety certificate. -- Correspondent.

WINDFIELD (Bahamas)

Cape Town, Oct 1 -- General cargo *Windfield* arrived Cape Town Sep 28 from Rotterdam. -- Lloyd's Agents.

ZHEN HUA 8 (St.Vincent & Grenadines)

See "Belgium" under "Port State Control."



SOMALIA

London, Oct 1 -- A press report, dated Sep 28, states: Gunmen seized fishing (general) *Grego* off the coast of war-torn Somalia on Sep 22. The vessel was seized off north-eastern Somalia and is believed to be docked in the coastal port of Berbera, said Andrew Mwangura of the Kenyan branch of the Seafarers' Assistance Programme. "The vessel was seized on Sep 22 by gunmen who accused it of illegal fishing in Somali waters," Mwangura said. "The vessel's nationality and the number of crew on board was not immediately clear," he added.

Port State Control



BELGIUM

Kiel, Oct 4 -- Semi-sub HL vessel *Zhen Hua 8* (37456 gt, built 1980) was detained in Zeebrugge and was shifted from Berth No 221 to Berth No 702. It had delivered five cranes at the CHZ terminal. The vessel had previously been under detention for 12 days in Zeebrugge after the delivery of new cranes for the APM terminal on Mar 16, 2006. In total there were 27 deficiencies, of which seven reasoned for detention. -- Correspondent. (Note -- *Zhen Hua 8* arrived Zeebrugge at 0956, Sep 25.)

PIETARI FLAME (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

See "Portugal - Psc (Pietari Flame)" under "Port State Control".

PORTUGAL

Ponta Delgada, Sep 28 -- Bulk carrier *Trinity Sierra* is still berthed at Ponta Delgada, under detention by the Port State Control and also arrested by local Civil Court on account of several local debts. -- Lloyd's Agents.

Ponta Delgada, Sep 28 -- Reefer *Pietari Flame* (10853 gt, built 1978) arrived Ponta Delgada for bunkering and is not allowed to resume its voyage until clearance by Port State Control, after deficiencies were found on board. -- Lloyd's Agents.

London, Sep 29 -- Reefer *Pietari Flame* arrived St.Michaels Sep 27 from Guayaquil.

Ponta Delgada, Oct 1 -- Reefer *Pietari Flame* has complied with all Port State Control recommendations, in connection with the deficiencies found on board and was released from detention. The vessel sailed from Ponta Delgada for Gibraltar, at 2030, local time, Sep 30. -- Lloyd's Agents.

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

Dublin, Oct 4 -- General cargo *Lillian*, under detention at New Ross, was released and renamed *Aggeliki*. Vessel sailed Oct 3. -- Lloyd's Agents.

ROMANIA

Bucharest, Oct 1 -- General cargo *Bermuda I* is still at Constantza, under Port State Control detention. -- Lloyd's Agents.

Seizures & Arrests



AEGEAN I (Greece)

Piraeus, Oct 3 -- Passenger (cruise) *Aegean I* remains at Eleusis. There have been no developments in its situation. -- Lloyd's Agents.

ARCTIC WOLF (Russia)

London, Oct 4 -- Fish factory *Arctic Wolf*: Understood vessel is likely to remain under arrest at Kirkenes for some time.

BERONIKE (Belize)

Kiel, Sep 28 -- General cargo *Beronike* (2007 gt, built 1985) was stopped by the police on the River Elbe where the Russian master was found completely drunk, in the night of Sep 27. The vessel was directed to Cuxhaven and detained there. The master was taken to a hospital for blood testing and was fined Euros 4000. Also, improperly lashed ropes were found on the hatches which could have got entangled in the propeller when being washed overboard. -- Correspondent.

London, Sep 29 -- According to Lloyd's MIU AIS, general cargo *Beronike* stopped at Cuxhaven between at 0632, UTC, Sep 26, and 0046, UTC, Sep 29, and in lat 54 01 43.38N, long 07 36 08.22E, Langeoog 17.2 nautical miles, speed 8.2 knots, at 0528, UTC, Sep 29.

CAPETAN LEFTERIS (Greece)

Zeebrugge, Oct 2 -- Bulk carrier *Capetan Lefteris* (23594 gt, built 1984) was placed under arrest at Antwerp, at 1954, Sep 25. -- Lloyd's Sub-agents. (Note -- *Capetan Lefteris* subsequently sailed Antwerp 2053, Sep 26, and arrived Flushing at 2359 same day.)

KASLA (Russia)

Portsmouth, UK, Sep 28 -- Chemical tanker *Kasla* (4724 gt, built 1974) placed under arrest on Sep 27 in St. Petersburg on the orders of a judge of the Kirov region. The reason for the action is the fault of the shipowner who has delayed wage payments for 3.5 months to the crew, reports "Vostok-media" with reference to Russian trade union of seamen. -- Correspondent. (Note -- According to Lloyd's MIU AIS, *Kasla* in lat 59 54 37.12N, long 30 13 31.37E, Kanonerskiy 0.8 nautical miles, stationary, at 1303, UTC.)

MISS CHINA (U.S.A.)

London, Oct 2 -- Fishing (general) *Miss China* (101 gt, built 1978), which took up valuable docking space at Bismore Park Marina in Hyannis Harbour, Massachusetts, was towed away Thursday (Sep 27) by its new owner, said Barnstable marina manager Eric Shufelt. Joe Dooley of Nantucket took possession last week in hopes of repairing it as a fishing vessel, Shufelt said. The town of Barnstable gave the boat to Dooley in exchange for paying about \$2,000 for the storage until it was towed away last week, Shufelt said. He estimated it would have cost \$20,000 to remove the vessel for salvage. The town was losing between \$2,000 and \$4,000 in docking fees every month the boat took up space at the marina, he said. The headache started last September when the *Miss China's* crew abandoned the vessel at the marina. The owners, Donna and Richard Spalding, did not have enough money to haul it away,

marina officials said. The town took the Spaldings to court and a federal judge ruled the town could take the boat over. John Baker of Hyannis bought the 30-year-old boat for \$10. But Baker did not remove the boat within 10 days, as required under a court order, so U.S. District Court Judge Nancy Gertner, in Boston, gave it back to the town in August. With the vessel gone, the marina has started reserving the valuable space for future rentals.

SAN GIORGIO I (Panama)

Chennai, Oct 1 -- Bulk carrier *San Giorgio I* (10984 gt, built 1977) is under court arrest at Chennai port. -- Lloyd's Agents.

SENTINEL (Comoros)

Genoa, Oct 1 -- General cargo *Sentinel* is still under arrest at Genoa. -- Lloyd's Agents.

SHIREEN S. (U.K.)

Maassluis, Oct 1 -- Tug *Shireen S.* is still under arrest at Rotterdam. -- Lloyd's Sub-agents.

SUNGAI JULAN 1 (Malaysia)

Manila, Sep 28 -- The owners of the Malaysian-registered tug *Sungai Julian 1*, represented by Pandiman Phils Inc, have appealed against the recommendation of the Bureau of Customs legal department forfeiting the vessel in favour of the Philippine government. The Customs legal department had submitted their recommendation to Customs Commissioner Napoleon Morales two weeks ago but with the submission of the appeal, the Customs Commissioner has deferred a decision and ordered the legal department to review the petition. *Sungai Julian 1* is currently the subject of forfeiture proceedings at the Bureau of Customs for technical smuggling arising from the sale of part of the fuel oil in its tanks while docked at Poro Point port on Jan 1. In their appeal, Pandiman have urged the Bureau of Customs to release *Sungai Julian 1*. It was argued that the sale of part of the vessel's fuel supply was a solitary act of a single crewman, done without the knowledge of the vessel's owners. The amount involved was also not in commercial quantity since it involved pilferage of the tug's own limited fuel supply. Given the limited quantities involved and the non-involvement of the owners, it was reasoned that forfeiting the vessel would be subjecting the owners to unfair and excessive punishment. Lawyers at the legal department said that they were now studying the appeal and hope to come up with their recommendation to the Customs Commissioner by next week. -- Correspondent.

SWIFT (Cyprus)

London, Oct 1 -- Understand bulk carrier *Swift* (22751 gt, built 1983) has been arrested at Antwerp. The vessel is currently at Berth 474, Antwerp. (Note -- *Swift* arrived Antwerp Sep 25.)

Weather & Navigation**HURRICANE "DEAN"**

London, Sep 28 -- A press report, dated Sep 27, states: Hurricane "Dean's" \$10 million in damage to Majahual, the Mexican port built for cruise ships on the Costa Maya along the country's southern Yucatan coast, will take twice as long to repair as had been expected, officials say. Two of the three berths will re-open in about a year, by Sep 1, and the final berth is expected to be back in operation by January 2009. Carnival, Royal Caribbean, Celebrity, Holland America, Norwegian and Princess cruise lines have rerouted vessels from the damaged port, but they have committed to returning for the 2008-09 season, said Cesar Lizarraga, vice president of marketing and sales for Costa Maya.

HURRICANE "FRANCES"

London, Sep 27 -- A press report, dated today, states: The destruction of boats at the City Marina Fort Pierce during hurricane "Frances," and whether it could have been prevented by the city, is at the heart of a civil lawsuit being heard this week in federal court. U.S. District Judge Donald Graham began hearing testimony yesterday in the case of Great Lakes Reinsurance et al. v. City of Fort Pierce, Bellingham Marine Industries and B.K. Marine Construction. The civil trial, which will be decided without a jury, is expected to conclude today. The plaintiffs, representing two insurance companies, are claiming total damages of roughly \$2.5 million for the loss of seven boats. They claim the marina was not designed to withstand a storm as strong as hurricane "Frances" and had a duty to warn boat owners about the dangers; the marina was negligent for not doing so and made it difficult for some boats to be able to leave before the storm, the suit states. The defendants, including the city and the companies that built and installed the docks, deny any responsibility and say the marina told owners it was their responsibility to find a safe anchorage for their boats during a tropical storm or hurricane. Both sides agree the marina, which was in compliance with all building codes, was built to withstand 73-mph winds when filled with boats and was subjected to hurricane winds of roughly 80 mph and gusts of up to 108 mph for two to three hours during hurricane "Frances." Graham will be required to decide factual questions, such as whether the marina gave adequate warnings to boat owners, and legal questions, such as whether the marina was negligent and what level of damages could apply if so. The plaintiffs presented most of their case yesterday and will conclude early today.

HURRICANE "LORENZO"

London, Sep 29 -- According to the National Hurricane Center, Miami, depression "Lorenzo" dissipating over eastern Mexico. At 2100, UTC, Sep 28 the center of tropical depression "Lorenzo" was located near lat 20.8N, long 99W, or about 105 miles west of Tuxpan, Mexico. Depression moving west-north-west near 9 mph. Maximum sustained winds are near 25 mph with higher gusts.

London, Sep 30 -- A press report, dated today, states: At 1100, ET, today, "Lorenzo's" winds had diminished to 25 mph, the National Hurricane Centre said.

London, Sep 27 -- Tropical storm "Lorenzo" is forecast to strike Mexico at about 0000, UTC, Sep 28. Data supplied by the US National Hurricane Centre suggests that the point of landfall will be near lat 20.4N, long 96.0W. "Lorenzo" is expected to bring one-minute maximum sustained winds to the region of around 92 kmph. -- Reuters.

London, Sep 28 -- A press report, dated today, states: "Lorenzo" made landfall early Friday (Sep 28) after strengthening rapidly into a Category 1 hurricane as it bore down on Mexico's Gulf Coast with powerful winds and rain, forcing authorities to evacuate low-lying coastal communities. The US National Hurricane Centre in Miami said the hurricane made landfall along the east-central coast of Mexico, southeast of Tuxpan. Officials cancelled classes and opened more than 60 shelters on the coastline of Veracruz state Thursday, as Mexico's government issued a hurricane warning from Palma Sola to Cabo Rojo. At least 30 communities near several rivers were ordered to evacuate late Thursday. The US National Hurricane Centre said late Thursday that "Lorenzo" was forecast to strengthen further before hitting land in the "next several hours" near the small port of Tuxpan. The ports of Tecolutla, Tuxpan and Nautla were ordered to close by midnight, Veracruz's port authority said. At 0200, EDT, "Lorenzo" was centred about 40 miles east-southeast of Tuxpan and was moving westward at 8 mph, the Florida-based centre said. It had top sustained winds near 80 mph. The storm was expected to come ashore with "dangerous and battering waves" as well as storm surge flooding of two to four feet, the centre said. Forecasters said the slow-moving "Lorenzo" could dump five to ten inches of rain in Veracruz, with isolated downpours reaching 15 inches. Mexico's Interior Secretary warned of mudslides in at least four states and said port activity in the Gulf Coast states of Veracruz and Tamaulipas would be suspended. "Lorenzo" was expected to weaken rapidly after making landfall.

London, Sep 28 -- Following received from the Meteorological Office, timed 1049, UTC: Tropical storm "Lorenzo" made landfall before the last Air Force reconnaissance aircraft arrived but radar imagery from Alvarado, Mexico, suggests that the centre made landfall about 40 nautical miles south-south-

east of Tuxpan at approximately 0500, UTC. The radar presentation of the eyewall was degrading as the centre was crossing the coast so the landfall intensity is rather uncertain but estimated to be 65 knots. Imagery after the satellite eclipse period shows much warmer cloud tops near the centre than prior to landfall but a rather potent band of deep convection now extends southwards from near the centre of Lorenzo to south of Veracruz. The slow motion of this system is likely to produce torrential rains possibly up to 15 inches in some locations, these are expected to cause life-threatening flash-floods and mudslides. Forecast for 1800, UTC: Position lat 20.9N, long 98.2W, maximum winds 30 knots.

SUDAN

Khartoum, Sep 27 -- The worst floods in living memory in Sudan have killed 150 people, made hundreds of thousands homeless and cost the country an estimated \$300 million in damages, a Sudanese official said today. Heavy and early winter rains have caused flash floods and forced rivers to burst their banks in Africa's largest country, which has been recovering from decades of multiple civil wars. "We have about 73,000 houses completely destroyed and 29,000 partially destroyed," said Hamadallah Adam Ali, head of Sudan's civil defence authority. He said 150 people had been killed and 302 injured by the flooding, with 42,000 livestock lost. Ali said that 1,748 public buildings had been damaged, estimating the total losses at \$300 million. -- Reuters.

TROPICAL STORM "HANNA"

London, Sep 29 -- At 1400 today, tropical depression "Hanna" was in the vicinity of Benguet province, lat 16.5N, long 121.0E, based on satellite, radar and surface data, with maximum sustained winds of 55 kph near the center. It is forecast to move west at 22 kph. South-west monsoon affecting Visayas and Mindanao. "Hanna" has accelerated westward and is now crossing Northern Luzon.

London, Sep 29 -- A press report, dated today, states: Hundreds of passengers were stranded today in the eastern Philippines as Coast Guard officials stopped sea vessels from sailing due to strong waves and heavy rains caused by tropical storm "Hanna.". The Coast Guard said more than 200 people and several trucks and passenger buses were stranded at the port of Tabaco in Albay province, 330 km south-east of Manila. The Philippine weather bureau warned people in low-lying areas and on mountain slopes to be on alert against flashfloods and landslides amid heavy rains from tropical storm "Hanna." "Hanna," with maximum sustained winds of 55 kmph, was moving at 17 kilometres per hour and was spotted today in the vicinity of the north-eastern province of Aurora. The storm was expected to hit the Philippines' northern region tomorrow.

London, Sep 30 -- A press report, dated today, states: At 1400 today, tropical depression "Hanna" 260 km west-north-west of Iba, Zambales, lat 16.2N, long 117.5E, maximum sustained winds 55 kph near the center. It is forecast to move west-south-west at 22 kph. South-west monsoon affecting the western sections of Central and Southern Luzon and Western Visayas.

London, Oct 1 -- A press report, dated Sep 30, states: At least five people were killed in a landslide triggered by a tropical storm that battered the northern Philippines, the Office of Civil Defence said today. Four people were still missing after the landslide buried two houses in Hingyon town in the northern province of Ifugao late yesterday, according to Anthjomny Golez, OCD deputy administrator. "A nine-year-old child was also injured in the incident," he said. The weather bureau said tropical storm "Hanna" had maintained its strength as it continued to move away from the country towards Vietnam. It was packing sustained winds of up to 55 kph, and was moving towards Vietnam at 19 kph. The OCD said the storm also caused massive flooding, forced ferry services to shut down and caused more than 2,000 people to abandon their homes in the affected areas. Yesterday evening, the coast guard rescued 40 employees of the US embassy who were stranded on Corregidor Island, just west of Manila, amid heavy rains and strong waves. The employees were all unharmed, the coast guard said. Hundreds of passengers were also stranded in various ports in the eastern Philippines due to the storm, the OCD said. The weather bureau warned the public that while the storm was already moving away from the country, more rain was still expected because of another weather disturbance.

TROPICAL STORM "JULIETTE"

London, Oct 1 -- Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today, states: AT 0900, UTC, today, the centre of tropical storm "Juliette" was located near lat 21.0N, long 114.8W. The position is accurate to within 30 nautical miles. The present movement is toward the north-north-west, or 330 deg, at nine knots. Forecast position: At 0600, UTC, Oct 2, the centre is predicted to be near lat 23.2N, long 115.7W.

London, Oct 2 -- Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today, states: At 0001, UTC, today, the centre of tropical storm "Juliette" was located near lat 23.1N, long 115.7W. Forecast position: At 0001, UTC, Oct 3, the centre is predicted to be near lat 24.3N, long 116.1W, with maximum winds of 20 knots and gusts to 25 knots.

TROPICAL STORM "KAREN"

London, Sep 28 -- A press report, dated today, states: Tropical Storm "Karen" weakened slightly in the open Atlantic Ocean. "Karen's" centre was about 780 miles east of the Windward Islands at 2300, EDT, Sep 27, and

moving northwest near 14 mph. Its maximum sustained winds had decreased from 65 mph to 60 mph. The centre forecast that the disorganized storm would continue to lose strength in the near term, but said it could then regain force and become a hurricane in five days.

London, Sep 28 -- Following received from the Meteorological Office, timed 1049, UTC: Tropical storm "Karen": The satellite presentation of "Karen" has deteriorated during the last six hours and the burst of deep convection that had previously obscured the low-level centre has weakened. Latest conventional and microwave imagery suggests that the low-level circulation centre is to the south of the previous advisory position and the initial position has been adjusted accordingly. "Karen" is expected to move on a general west-north-westward to north-westward track for the next two to three days in response to a low- to mid-level ridge to the north of the cyclone. Forecast for 0600, UTC, Sep 29: Position lat 16N, long 52.4W, maximum winds 35 knots.

London, Sep 29 -- According to the National Hurricane Center, Miami, tropical storm "Karen" hanging onto tropical storm strength. At 0900, UTC, the center of tropical storm "Karen" was located near lat 16.6N, long 52.9W, or about 590 miles east of The Leeward Islands. "Karen" moving west-north-west near 12 mph. Maximum sustained winds are near 40 mph with higher gusts. Tropical storm force winds extend outward up to 175 miles from the center.

London, Sep 30 -- A press report, dated Sep 29, states: At 1100, ET, today, tropical storm "Karen" was downgraded to a tropical depression as its winds diminished to 35 mph, forecasters said. It was 530 miles east of the Windward Islands and was moving to the north-west near 9 mph.

TROPICAL STORM "MELISSA"

London, Sep 30 -- A press report, dated Sep 29, states: Tropical storm "Melissa" appeared to have reached its peak with 40 mph winds, hurricane center forecasters said. At 1100, ET, "Melissa" was moving to the west near 8 mph in the middle Atlantic, far from inhabited land, the center said.

London, Oct 1 -- A press report, dated Sep 30, states: Tropical storm "Melissa" weakened into a depression today far out in the open Atlantic, forecasters said. At 1700, EDT, the degenerating remnants of "Melissa" were centred about 665 miles west of the Cape Verde Islands and posed no immediate threat to land, according to the National Hurricane Centre. The system was moving west-north-west at around 14 mph, and its maximum sustained winds were near 30 mph, down from 45 mph yesterday.

TYPHOON "KROSA"

London, Oct 2 -- Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today, states: The centre of tropical storm "Krosa" was located near lat 16.4N, long 131.1E at 0001, UTC,

today. Movement past six hours 135 deg at four knots. Position accurate to within 60 nautical miles. Maximum sustained winds 45 knots with gusts to 55 knots. At 0001, UTC, Oct 3, the centre is predicted to be near lat 16.6N, long 130.8E, with maximum sustained winds of 55 knots and gusts to 70 knots.

London, Oct 3 -- Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today, states: Typhoon "Krosa" near lat 17.0N, long 130.2E at 0000, UTC, today. Movement for the past six hours 280 degrees at six knots. Maximum sustained winds 75 knots, gusts 90 knots. Forecast position lat 17.9N, long 129.2E at 1200, UTC, today. Maximum sustained winds 85 knots, gusts 105 knots. Forecast position lat 18.9N, long 128.1E at 0000, UTC, Oct 4. Maximum sustained winds 95 knots, gusts 115 knots.

London, Oct 3 -- A press report, dated today, states: Tropical storm "Krosa" intensified into a typhoon over the Philippine Sea east of northern Luzon, and was expected to spawn monsoon rains until the weekend, the weather bureau said today. Surprisingly, after gaining more strength, the weather disturbance brought only cloudy weather with scattered rain showers and thunderstorms in central and southern Luzon, and western Visayas today. This type of weather will continue to prevail in these areas tomorrow, according to the Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA). "The typhoon is carrying thin clouds, that's why we only experienced cloudy weather," PAGASA senior weather specialist Robert Sawi said in an interview. The typhoon, however, was forecast to bring light to moderate monsoon rains over central and southern Luzon, and western Visayas from tomorrow night until Saturday (Oct 6) morning, he said. "Krosa", the ninth cyclone to hit the country, is expected to swirl out of the country on Monday (Oct 8). The disturbance, packing winds of 120 kilometres per hour and gustiness of 150 kph, gained more speed over Philippine Sea, and was moving west northwest at 13 kph toward the southern islands of Japan and Taiwan. It was estimated at 690 kilometres east of northern Luzon at 1400 hrs, today. PAGASA has not raised any signal as an offshoot of the typhoon, which is not expected to hit land.

London, Oct 4 -- A press report, dated today, states: Typhoon "Krosa" is forecast to strike Taiwan at about 0001, UTC, Oct 7. Data supplied by the US Navy and Air Force Joint Typhoon Warning Centre suggest that the point of landfall will be near lat 24.5N, long 121.9E. "Krosa" is expected to bring 1-minute maximum sustained winds to the region of around 212 km/h (132 mph). Wind gusts in the area may be considerably higher.

London, Oct 4 -- Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today, states: Typhoon "Krosa" near lat 19.2N, long 127.3E at 0600, UTC, today. Movement for the past six hours

310 degrees at nine knots. Maximum sustained winds 115 knots, gusts 140 knots. Forecast position lat 20.3N, long 126.0E at 1800, UTC, today. Maximum sustained winds 120 knots, gusts 145 knots. Forecast position lat 21.3N, long 124.9E at 0600, UTC, Oct 5. Maximum sustained winds 120 knots, gusts 145 knots.

TYPHOON "LEKIMA"

London, Oct 1 -- Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today, states: At 0600, UTC, today, the centre of tropical storm "Lekima" was located near lat 15.8N, long 112.9E. Movement for the past six hours: 315 deg at eight knots. The position accurate is to within 60 nautical miles. Maximum sustained winds 55 knots with gusts to 70 knots. At 0600, UTC, Oct 2, the centre is predicted to be near lat 17.5N, long 110.6E.

Hanoi, Oct 2 -- Hundreds of Vietnamese fishermen were in danger at sea as storm "Lekima" headed towards the country's central coast after killing five people in the Philippines. More than 650 fishermen were still in the path of the storm, including 194 who had taken shelter in the Spratlys, a report from the sea border patrol forces said. It said another vessel with 25 people on board was in danger as the vessel was close to the Paracels, near the centre of "Lekima", which killed five people and left four missing in the Philippines as it strengthened into a storm and headed for Vietnam. The Hanoi government said it had contacted more than 160,000 fishermen working in the South China Sea before the arrival of "Lekima", centred north of the Paracels on Tuesday morning (Oct 2) and moving northwest into the Tonkin Gulf. "Lekima" was swirling winds of up to 73 mph, moving at 15 kph and would make landfall on the central coast on Wednesday night, the national weather centre said. The storm was expected to dump heavy rains on central Vietnam and might trigger landslides and flash floods, it said in a bulletin. It is expected to hit land about 500 miles north of the Central Highlands. -- Reuters.

London, Oct 2 -- Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today, states: At 0001, UTC, today, the centre of tropical storm "Lekima" was located near lat 16.8N, long 111.6E. Movement for the past six hours: 305 deg at seven knots, with maximum sustained winds of 60 knots and gusts to 75 knots. The position accurate is to within 60 nautical miles. At 0001, UTC, Oct 3, the centre is predicted to be near lat 17.9N, long 108.4E, with maximum sustained winds of 70 knots and gusts to 85 knots.

London, Oct 3 -- A press report, dated today, states: Chinese authorities evacuated 100,000 people as typhoon "Lekima" lashed the southern tourist island of Hainan after killing at least nine people in the Philippines, state media reported today. Meteorologists warned of possible flash floods and landslides triggered by the heavy rains carried by "Lekima" which was packing

winds of nearly 119 kph, Xinhua news agency said. The typhoon made landfall near Hainan's southernmost city of Sanya and weakened into a severe tropical storm, it said. Sluice gates at 17 reservoirs on Hainan were opened to divert possible flood water, Xinhua said, quoting a spokesman of the Hainan Provincial Headquarters of Flood, Typhoon and Drought Control. More than 20,000 fishing vessels were also recalled to harbour, he said. More than 3,000 passengers, mostly tourists, were delayed yesterday because the ferry service from Guangdong province on the mainland to Hainan Island had been suspended, according to the Guangdong Maritime Affairs Bureau, Xinhua said. Six flights from the island's capital Haikou were also cancelled but 143 were not affected, it said. Heavy rains and strong gales were forecast to hit most of Hainan and the coastal areas of Guangxi and Guangdong provinces today, Xinhua said. "Lekima" was upgraded to a typhoon yesterday afternoon after lashing the Philippines where it killed nine people and left another missing after unleashing landslides, floods and high waves. (See issue of Oct 3.)

London, Oct 3 -- Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today, states: Typhoon "Lekima" near lat 17.6N, long 108.2E at 0000, UTC, today. Movement for the past six hours 270 degrees at nine knots. Maximum sustained winds 70 knots, gusts 85 knots. Forecast position lat 17.6N, long 106.3E at 1800, UTC, today. Maximum sustained winds 60 knots, gusts 75 knots. Forecast position lat 17.5N, long 104.1E at 0000, UTC, Oct 4. Maximum sustained winds 35 knots, gusts 45 knots.

London, Oct 3 -- A press report, dated today, states: Typhoon "Lekima" slammed into Vietnam's central coast this evening, killing two people, destroying hundreds of houses and unleashing floods in one of the country's poorest regions. The storm made landfall in Quang Binh and Ha Tinh provinces around 1900 hrs, packing winds of more than 80 mph, disaster officials said. Disaster officials had evacuated about 400,000 people from the region, moving them to schools and public buildings further inland. A 13-year-old boy drowned in Quang Ngai while trying to anchor his family's boat, and another death was reported in Quang Binh province, said provincial disaster official Truong Ngoc Hung. Hundreds of houses collapsed and the typhoon tore the roofs off scores more, said disaster official Nguyen Duc Tien. The typhoon knocked down telephone and power lines in Ha Tinh Province, causing widespread blackouts. "Lekima" destroyed thousands of acres of rice crops in Nghe An Province, according to officials there. "Lekima" was upgraded from a tropical storm to a typhoon as it approached the coast this afternoon. Earlier, "Lekima" appeared to be heading toward southern China, where officials evacuated 100,000 people and called 20,000 fishing boats back to harbour, but it shifted course and began heading to Vietnam.

Ky Anh, Vietnam, Oct 4 -- Typhoon "Lekima" lashed Vietnam and southern China with torrential rains and high winds, killing at least seven people, damaging hundreds of homes and disrupting air, sea and train travel, officials said on Thursday (Oct 4). The storm, which killed at least five people in the Philippines last weekend, swept into central Vietnam from the sea on Wednesday night, blowing roofs off houses, sinking scores of fishing vessels and grounding flights before moving to Laos. The typhoon raised rivers to dangerous levels in Ha Tinh and Quang Binh provinces, but the damage caused was not as serious as feared. A Vietnamese government report said many areas reported blackouts due to "Lekima", the Vietnamese name of a local fruit. The national weather centre in Hanoi warned residents to take precautions against flash floods and landslides. It said the centre of the storm passed through Quang Binh, crossed Laos on Wednesday night and advanced into northern Thailand where it weakened into a depression. "Lekima", the fifth storm of 2007, killed 7 people, while 3 others were missing, officials said. The storm hit China's beach resort of Sanya on Hainan island on Tuesday, trapping tourists and forcing the evacuation of 225,000 people. Vietnamese authorities evacuated tens of thousands of people before the storm hit. Three cargo vessels capsized while taking shelter at a port in Quang Binh, a Reuters reporter travelling in the region said. National carrier Vietnam Airlines and Pacific Airlines, the second-largest airliner, cancelled flights to the central cities of Vinh, Hue and Danang on Wednesday. The southern Chinese provinces of Guangdong and Guangxi were hit with heavy rain and strong winds. Most shipping and rail services linking Hainan with the mainland resumed late on Wednesday, Xinhua news agency said. -- Reuters.

London, Oct 4 -- Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today, states: Tropical storm "Lekima" centred within 60 nautical miles of lat 18.0N, long 104.6E at 2100, UTC, Oct 3. Forecast to move west at about eight knots for the next 24 hours. Maximum winds near the centre are estimated to be 40 knots.



Natural Disasters

AL TAIR ISLAND, YEMEN

London, Oct 1 -- A search for survivors is under way after a volcano erupted on a Red Sea island near Yemen. The western part of the tiny al-Tair island, used as a military base, collapsed following the eruption, Yemen's defence ministry said. Coast Guards and a Canadian frigate are searching for nine Yemeni soldiers based on the island. Yemen's President

Ali Abdullah Saleh flew to nearby Hudaidah port yesterday to observe the situation. He ordered Yemen's navy to send rescue teams to the area. The Canadian Navy frigate *HMCS Toronto* was sailing towards the Suez Canal when it received a request for help in the search and rescue operation. Yesterday evening, navy spokesman Ken Allen said that the entire island was "aglow with lava and magma as it pours down into the sea." He added: "The lava is spewing hundreds of feet into the air, with the volcanic ash also 1,000 feet in the air."

Sana'a, Oct 1 -- A volcano erupted on an island off Yemen's Red Sea coast late yesterday, killing at least three Yemeni soldiers and spewing lava hundreds of metres into the air. A government official said three bodies had been recovered, along with one survivor. Another four soldiers stationed on Jabal al-Tair island, some 80 miles off Yemen's mainland, were still missing and believed to be dead. The government previously said at least eight soldiers had been killed. A Defence Ministry official on the island said its western part had "collapsed" into the sea. Naval vessels were searching the surrounding waters for missing soldiers. The island has no civilian inhabitants. Canadian navy vessel *Toronto*, part of a NATO fleet sailing north towards the Suez Canal at the time of the eruption, was also conducting search and rescue operations at the request of the Yemeni Coast Guard. "*Toronto* recovered one live survivor who was transferred to a Yemeni Coast Guard vessel, as well as two dead soldiers who were transferred to a Yemeni patrol boat," said Lieutenant Commander Angus Topshee, second-in-command on *Toronto*. Yemen's Oil Minister Khaled Mahfoudh Bahah said several earthquakes yesterday had triggered the eruption. Jamal al-Shalaan, head of the Yemeni Earthquake Centre, told state news agency Saba that three quakes ranging between 4.3 and 4.4 on the Richter scale had struck the island at around 1127, UTC. President Ali Abdullah Saleh had flown to nearby Hodeidah port late yesterday and told the Yemeni Navy to send rescue teams, Saba reported. Canadian Navy spokesman Ken Allan said the volcano on the two-mile-long island had spewed ash thousands of feet into the sky but that activity had now died down. Yemen's Maritime Affairs Authority issued an advisory for vessels to keep well clear of the island on the Bab al-Mandab passage at the southern entrance to the Red Sea, one of the world's shipping chokepoints. -- Reuters.

London, Oct 2 -- A volcanic eruption is taking place on the Jazirat Al-Tair Island in the southern Red Sea. The Yemeni Maritime Affairs Authority in Sana'a are urging all vessels to keep well clear of the area (lat 15 32.0N, long 41 50.0E).

London, Oct 3 -- A press report, dated Oct 2, states: The search by Canadian and other NATO sailors for survivors of a volcanic eruption on an island in the Red Sea has been called off. Ken Allen,

a spokesman for the Canadian Navy, said the search ended shortly after noon, local time, today. The crew of the Canadian frigate *Toronto* managed to pull one survivor out of the water, along with two bodies. However, Allen said a vigorous search of an area north of the island of Jabal al-Tair found no other bodies. He said two Yemeni military personnel who were stationed on the island are missing and presumed dead. *Toronto*, based in Halifax, was in the area with a NATO fleet when the eruption began on Sunday evening (Sep 30). The vessel has since sailed on with the NATO fleet towards the Mediterranean Sea.

London, Oct 3 -- A press report, dated Oct 2, states: A volcano on a Yemeni island in the Red Sea was spewing a deadly mix of lava and ash for the third straight day today, after erupting for the first time since the 19th century. Yemeni authorities said three soldiers had been killed during the eruption on the island of Jabal al-Tair, home to a garrison of 50 soldiers, and that five others were missing. The garrison had been evacuated after the eruption of the 1,200 metre-high volcano, which began at 1200 (1000, UTC) on Sunday (Sep 30). The bodies of the three soldiers were recovered from the sea, while a fourth was found alive, military official Abdel Bari Shamsan was quoted as saying by the official Saba news agency. Shamsan was speaking in the port city of Hodeidah, some 150 km from the island. An initial toll yesterday put the dead at six. A Yemeni Coast Guard official said the volcano remained active today, releasing lava, ash and black smoke high into the air. A team of volcanologists dispatched to the area reported that the eruption produced one-kilometre-long lava flows and blackened the water within a 9.7-km radius of the island. The eruption sparked a sea search by NATO warships passing through the area on their way to the Suez Canal, after a request from the Yemeni Coast Guard. At first light today, NATO and Yemeni naval vessels restarted their search for the missing soldiers. A coast guard official told AFP that maritime movement was not hampered by the eruption, as major shipping routes in the area were located at least 13 km from the island. There had been considerable seismic activity around the island ahead of the eruption, the Yemeni Defence Ministry said. It said an earthquake measuring 7.3 on the Richter scale had been recorded on Friday.

Sanaa, Oct 3 -- The head of the Ministry of Oil's Geological Survey Authority (GSA), Ismael al-Janad, said yesterday that the volcano which erupted on the tiny island of Jabal al-Tair in the Red Sea on Sep 30 was still active. "It will take time to calm down," he said. Yemeni geologists linked the volcano to seismic activity which coincided with the eruption. The Earthquake Observation Centre said it had recorded tremors in the Red Sea from Sep 22 until the volcano's eruption. They measured 2.0-3.6 degrees on the Richter scale, with five

of the larger ones. Abdul-Jalil al-Salahi, another official at the GSA, said the volcano destroyed all the buildings of the naval base, which had to be evacuated as the eruption sent part of the island collapsing into the sea and covered the rest with lava. The authorities in al-Hodeidah, the nearest town on the mainland, have warned fishermen not to approach the island. -- Reuters.

London, Oct 3 -- A press report, dated today, states: Due to the volcano eruption of Jazirat Al-Tair in the southern part of the Red Sea (lat 15 32.0N, long 41 50.0 E) and destruction of part of Jazirat Al-Tair, the lighthouse in the island was destroyed and will be out of commission temporarily.

London, Oct 4 -- A press report, dated today, states: The volcano that erupted on a small island off the coast of Yemen has again begun spewing lava and ash into the air, Yemen's navy said today. Hussein Abdul-Rahman, head of the command and control centre at the Naval Operation Room, told state news agency Saba that the volcano had restarted eruptions, without giving any further details. The volcano lies on the island of Jazirat Al-Tair in the Red Sea, about 130 km from Yemen. The volcano has so far produced one-km-long lava flows and blackened the water within 10 km of the island. Six Yemeni soldiers, part of a garrison of 50 stationed on the island, were killed in the eruption, while another 15 were injured. On Monday (Oct 1), Yemen's coast guard said shipping had been unaffected by the eruption.

INDONESIA

London, Oct 2 -- A press report, dated today, states: A strong earthquake hit the western coast of Indonesia's Sumatra island Tuesday (Oct 2), prompting authorities to temporarily issue a tsunami alert. The quake with a preliminary magnitude of 6.4 struck nearly 100 miles off the coast of the town of Bengkulu, the Meteorological and Geophysics Agency said. There was no sign of large waves reaching the coast and authorities lifted the tsunami alert after one hour. The US Geological Survey put the strength at a weaker 6.2-magnitude.

MOUNT RUAPEHU, NEW ZEALAND

Wellington, Sep 26 -- New Zealand's Mount Ruapehu erupted, spewing out ash and rock that injured one climber and caused around 50 people to be evacuated off the mountain, local media reported today. The 10-minute eruption started about 2020 yesterday and sent a cloud of ash and dust to a height of 15,000 feet, Geological and Nuclear Sciences said. It also caused mudslides down the side of the mountain. -- Reuters.

NEW ZEALAND AND GUAM AREA

London, Oct 1 -- A press report, dated Sep 30, states: Three strong earthquakes struck today near New Zealand and the US territory of Guam in remote parts of the Pacific Ocean, monitoring agencies said. None of the

quakes caused a tsunami, according to the Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre in Honolulu, Hawaii. There were also no reports of damage, as the quakes were centred far from land. A magnitude 7.3 earthquake was registered near New Zealand's uninhabited Auckland Islands, about 300 miles south-west of its southernmost city of Invercargill, the United States Geological Survey said on its Website. Another quake struck four hours later in the same region with a magnitude 6.6, the USGS said. Earlier, a magnitude 7.1 quake shook the Pacific Ocean about 215 miles south-east of the island of Guam, the Japan Meteorological Agency said. Stuart Weinstein, the assistant director of the Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre, said the quake was in an isolated part of the Pacific Ocean where they seldom occur, and that it was probably felt on Guam as well as Saipan, part of the US commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

London, Sep 27 -- A press report, dated today, states: An earthquake struck off the coast of Papua New Guinea but there was no threat of a major tsunami, officials said today. The 5.6 magnitude quake struck beneath the Pacific Ocean, 531 miles north-east of Port Moresby at 2320 yesterday, the US Geological Survey said.

Political & Civil Unrest



DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

London, Sep 27 -- Ambassador William Swing, the representative of the UN secretary-general in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), is investigating the incident on Lake Albert Monday (Sep 24), in which UN peacekeepers seized an oil vessel belonging to Heritage Oil. During a rescue operation, UPDF (Uganda People's Defence Forces) clashed with a Congolese boat, in which one Ugandan soldier was injured, one Congolese soldier killed and another one wounded, according to the Ugandan army. Receiving an official protest note from Uganda's minister for regional co-operation, Isaac Musumba, yesterday, she insisted that the oil boat was on the Congolese side of the lake, allegations which Heritage Oil has denied.

INDIA

London, Oct 1 -- A press report, dated Sep 30, states: Explosions at four locations in Assam killed five people this evening. Militants of the banned ULFA were suspected to be behind the blasts in Tinsukia and Dibrugarh districts. The first blast occurred at Lal Bangla Tinali in Tinsukia around 1755 hrs. Of the 20 injured who were taken to Assam Medical College and Hospital in Dibrugarh, two were declared dead

on arrival and another died later. Investigators said the bomb was possibly strapped to a bicycle parked outside a shop. Another bomb, concealed in a motorcycle parked outside a cinema in nearby Doomdooma, exploded at around the same time, killing two and injuring at least 20. The third blast caused substantial damage to an Oil India Ltd pipeline in Dibrugarh district at around 1845 hrs. The final blast occurred near an Oil India Limited collecting station in Tinsukia district at around 2215 hrs.

IRAQ

London, Sep 28 -- Two Iraqi oil fields' guards were killed and three injured when an improvised bomb targeted a pipeline in Thee Qaar province in southern Iraq, Iraqi security source said today. The source said in a press release the explosion occurred close to oil pipelines west of Al-Naseriya city. (See issue of Sep 25.)

MYANMAR

London, Sep 26 -- A dusk-to-dawn curfew has been imposed in Myanmar. However, businesses, including ports, are reported to be functioning as usual, with some telecommunication restrictions. The curfew -- from 2100 to 0500, local time -- started yesterday and is expected to remain in effect until Nov 23. This may change if the current situation improves in the meantime. No casualties have been reported so far from the current protests, however riot police have arrested some protesting monks and students.

SRI LANKA

London, Sep 28 -- A press report, dated today, states: Naval attack craft waged a three-hour sea battle with 20 Tamil Tiger boats off the eastern coast of Sri Lanka today, sinking three of the rebels' vessels and killing one of their top naval commanders, the military said. The battle, which also killed one navy sailor, came as fighting between the two sides near the Tamil Tigers' de facto state in northern Sri Lanka has escalated in recent days, leaving more than 60 rebels dead, according to the military. The naval battle began about 2300 yesterday as 20 boats from the rebels' navy, known as the Sea Tigers, headed toward Pulmoddai, about 25 miles north of the eastern city of Trincomalee, a military official said. The rebel boats were apparently trying to stage a mass evacuation of rebel fighters who were trapped in nearby jungles after a government offensive earlier this year recaptured the east from the Tamil Tigers, the official said. Naval attack craft cut off the rebel boats, sparking a lengthy sea battle that led to the sinking of three rebel vessels, the official said. Military intelligence said it had intercepted rebel reports indicating that a top rebel officer, Lt-Col Nishan Than, was among those killed, the official said. One Sri Lankan sailor was also killed in the battle and another was injured, the official said. Fighting along the front lines separating government-controlled

territory and the rebels' ministate in the north has increased in recent days, with the military saying yesterday that 25 rebels, three civilians and one soldier had been killed in two days of fighting across the area. The casualties could not be independently confirmed, but the rebels said the military was exaggerating their death toll.

Labour Disputes



BRAZIL

London, Sep 27 -- After 29 days of strike action, Brazil's port agricultural inspectors have resumed normal working duties. The strike has resulted in disruption to many key Brazilian ports, especially those specialising in reefer cargo. The union representing the inspectors, ANFFA, said at the beginning of the strike that the inspectors were involved in a pay dispute with the country's department of agriculture. Latest reports have quoted ANFFA saying that both parties have resolved the dispute, with the inspectors and the Ministry of Agriculture and Foodstuffs agreeing on a pay rise. Santos, the biggest South American port, handling 2.3 million TEUs last year, was reported to be among the Brazilian ports thrown into chaos as cargo, especially reefer containers, were stacked up in port terminals awaiting inspection. Previous reports said that the port of Rio Grande already had 1.5 million tonnes of produce, mostly beef and tobacco, on the quayside awaiting export after only one week of the strike. Early on during the strike action, there was also said to be "serious problems" at the port of Itajai. It is usually after day three or four that problems start. Now we are into day six, it is hurting badly, and Santos is also beginning to be saturated with cargo waiting to be cleared. We can't take much more of this, one source commented at the time. The president of the San Paulo and Santos Ship-agents Association, Jose Eduardo Lopes, had earlier this week said that container terminals were in a chaotic state and running at more than 90% capacity.

ITALY

London, Oct 3 -- A press report, dated Oct 2, states: As of 1215 today, the Messina docks where cars board FS vessels have been occupied by 44 workers of the Garibaldi co-operative, which supplies cleaning and catering services on Bluvia ferries in the Strait of Messina. As a result of new contracts with other companies, many of the workers are at risk of losing their jobs. Passenger ro/ro *Villa*, which carries trains, and another vessel which carries trucks and cars, have been blockaded. The confederal unions have not joined the protest organised by the Or.Sa. autonomous union. Messina prefect Francesco Alecci yesterday

convened the parties involved -- the unions, RFI, the port authority, port healthcare and the Garibaldi co-operative -- in order to attempt a mediation. RFI promised to give an answer within ten days regarding the review of contracts, one of which, the catering contract, has already been assigned to Nettuno Multiservizi, which does not guarantee full-time contracts, nor the hiring of all the workers.

Leghorn, Oct 3 -- Due to the tug strike, the port of Leghorn is presently congested. Today, there are 10 vessels in the roads waiting to berth. Meetings with trade unions are being held and hopefully the situation should be resolved soon. -- Lloyd's Agents.

Leghorn, Oct 4 -- The tug strike is over and the situation concerning the port congestion is expected to improve in a couple of days. -- Lloyd's Agents.

NEW ZEALAND

London, Oct 1 -- The Maritime Union of New Zealand is to launch a two day strike at Ports of Auckland tomorrow at 0700 hrs over pay rates. The strike, which will involve around 250 workers, will affect cargo operations at the Axis Fergusson and Bledisloe terminals, as well as Ports of Auckland (POA) operations on the general cargo wharves. Third-party stevedoring operations at the general cargo wharves within the Auckland seaport, the inland ports, the Port of Onehunga and all other operations will continue as normal. Industrial action by the Maritime Union comes despite months of negotiation with POA. The Union says increases in productivity among port workers has been a major factor in boosting cargo volumes by 12.6 per cent but wages did not reflect this contribution.

London, Oct 2 -- A press report, dated today, states: In the first major industrial action on a New Zealand wharf since 2004, Ports of Auckland container staff are on strike for two days from 0700 today. The strike by about 265 of the 557 staff is expected to affect cargo worth NZ\$100 million. Both the Fergusson and Bledisloe container terminals are closed but non-container operations and the company's inland ports are not affected. The general wharves can handle a small amount of container traffic but 85% of the port's container capacity is out of action. Last-minute negotiations yesterday between the port and the Maritime Union of New Zealand failed to avert the strike. In negotiations that have been going on since April, the union is seeking a pay rise of up to 4.9% and allowances including a week's extra holiday. Ports of Auckland claims this will add 10-15% to its costs. It gave the workers a 3.25% pay rise, without their permission, but did not backdate the increase. Union advocate Dennis Carlisle said the port had lifted its offer yesterday to between 3.25 and 4.5% including some back pay, though not for the full amount of time. Ports of Auckland managing director Jens Madsen said the union had not been prepared to move from its position. The

strike is disrupting shipping lines and exporters and importers. Mr Madsen said one shipping line was speeding up its vessels to arrive earlier, other lines would delay their services, and one or two would skip Auckland. "There will be more ships in the harbour towards the end of the week, but we are quite certain that we can handle them efficiently with a minimum of delay. Importers Institute chief executive Daniel Silva said that with importers gearing up for Christmas, the strike had come at the worst possible time. "Two days is not going to kill anybody, but if it results in more strikes coming along it will become a big concern." The union is planning more strikes if an agreement cannot be reached. It has already issued a notice for a 3.25-hour stoppage, highlighting the port's 3.25% pay rise, from 1000 hrs next Tuesday (Oct 9), and is looking at two more short strikes in the next few weeks.

London, Oct 2 -- Three container vessels are waiting to be processed at the Ports of Auckland as dock workers continue their strike. The port is at a standstill as 250 staff enter the final day of a 48-hour strike over pay. Further industrial action is planned later in the month. The Ports of Auckland says one vessel has by-passed Auckland to avoid the strike and three others are waiting to off-load consumer goods and manufacturing products. Exporters are also affected with dairy and meat products waiting to be loaded. Dairy company Fonterra says that, at this stage, it does not anticipate any disruption in supply to customers, but is monitoring the situation. The Maritime Union is accusing the port company of undermining negotiations by sending individual letters to workers outlining its pay offer.

London, Oct 4 -- A press report, dated today, states: Freight carriers expect a hectic few days delivering a backlog of export goods to the Auckland waterfront after dock workers return this morning from their 48-hour strike. There is also uncertainty about how fast the 265 workers will return to normal work, given a ban by Ports of Auckland on their use of company car parks during the strike, which was to end at 0659 hrs. "There might be a bit of a snarl-up because of the company locking us out of its amenities and car parks," Maritime Union branch president Denis Carlisle warned late yesterday, but company spokeswoman Karen Bradshaw said parks at the two container terminals would be open from 0600 hrs, despite earlier notice to the union that a police trespass authority would cover the entire strike period. The port would also put on extra cargo straddle-carriers to minimise delays for trucks bringing export consignments to the waterfront. She praised the workers for strenuous efforts throughout the night before the strike to load a container ship for an early departure on Tuesday (Oct 2), and had "every faith" they would return to normal productivity this morning, but Chris Carr, of trucking firm Carr and

Haslett, expected it would take some time for the port and its workers to get back into full swing. Mr Carr said turnaround times for container traffic were generally very fast, although the threat of two "rolling" strikes in the next fortnight might make it desirable for the port company to delay plans to introduce a new truck booking system on October 15. He and fellow members of a port users group appointed by the Road Transport Forum were considering seeking a delay at a meeting with the company tomorrow. They did not share the company's optimism that strikes due to last for three hours and 15 minutes next Tuesday (Oct 9) and then eight days after that would have only minimal impact. Simon Tapper of Tapper Transport said his firm had a backlog of about 150 export containers at its Onehunga depot and he expected a "demon day" on the waterfront today. Mr Carlisle said union officials had taken advice from an undisclosed quarter yesterday over "a possible way through the impasse" in pay talks but it was too early to disclose details.

PERU

London, Oct 2 -- A press report, dated today, states: Peruvian workers at Southern Copper Corp, the world's fifth-largest producer of the metal, began a strike for higher wages, union officials said. Workers at Southern Copper's Ilo smelter and Toquepala and Cuajone mines staged their third strike this year after rejecting an 11.5% wage increase, officials at the three unions said today. Strikes have cut copper output in Peru, Chile and Mexico, helping spur a 28% price rally this year. Workers at three Southern Copper mines in Mexico have been on strike since Jul 30. Contract workers at Chile's Codelco, the world's biggest copper producer, ended a five-week walkout on Aug 1. Toquepala's More, Cuajone union spokesman Jorge Chavez and Ilo union leader Arnaldo Oviedo confirmed that strikes had begun at their sites. The unions account for 2,100 of Southern Copper's 2,500 workers.



ACCIDENT, SUGAR LAND REGIONAL AIRPORT, TEXAS, UNITED STATES

London, Oct 1 -- An aircraft skidded off a runway while landing yesterday. The runway at Sugar Land Regional Airport was temporarily closed when the aircraft landed at about 1430 hrs. Six people, including the pilot, were on the aircraft. No-one was injured.

London, Oct 2 -- Dassault Fan Jet Falcon N209CA skidded off the runway on landing at Sugar Land, Texas, at 1923, Sep 30. The six persons on board were not injured.

AIRCRAFT GROUNDED AT SAGA AIRPORT, KYUSHU, JAPAN

London, Oct 2 -- The cause of a 77-cm fracture in the fuselage of a China Airlines (CAL) Boeing 737-800 that was found after the aircraft landed in Japan Sep 20 remains unknown, aviation sources said today. According to data and information provided by CAL, the sources said, the fracture is suspected to be a symptom of corrosion but the cause of the corrosion remains a mystery. CAL maintenance workers discovered the hairline crack near the tail of the jet during a routine post-flight inspection Sep 20 at Saga Airport on the southern Japanese island of Kyushu. No anomalies were detected during the aircraft's flight from Taipei. The fracture was found about 30 minutes before the aircraft's scheduled departure for a return trip to Taipei. CAL, Taiwan's largest carrier, sent 10 maintenance technicians to Saga Sep 21, but the sources said repair work had not yet been started because Boeing Co has not yet come up with any repair or maintenance instructions.

AIRCRAFT GROUNDED, NEW ZEALAND

London, Sep 27 -- A press report, dated today, states: Air accident investigators say they have passed all the information they have on a faulty Air New Zealand aircraft to authorities in the United States. The Air New Zealand subsidiary, Eagle Air, cancelled 60 flights today after routine maintenance uncovered a crack in the landing gear in one of its aircraft. The Transport Accident Investigation Commission is investigating an emergency landing of a similar aircraft in Blenheim in June. The Civil Aviation Authority says the cracked component, called an actuator, is used to provide the drive to lower and raise the wheels on the aircraft. CAA says it will not know whether all five aircraft requiring replacement parts have the same problem until it receives a defect report.

London, Sep 27 -- A press report, dated today, states: Air New Zealand link carrier Eagle Air hopes to have all its Beechcraft 1900D aircraft back in the air tomorrow after 17 were grounded when a safety issue with the undercarriage was identified. About 540 passengers have had to make alternate travel plans as the company cancelled 36 flights today. After an inspection of the fleet, nine of the 17 aircraft were back operating yesterday with another two airborne today, airline spokeswoman Tracey Palmer said. The final six aircraft were awaiting replacement parts for an undercarriage component, which were due to arrive tomorrow from the United States. These aircraft were expected to return to service within 48 hours, Ms Palmer said. Customers who were affected by the cancellations were either rebooked on alternative services or transported by road. In June, an Eagle Air Beechcraft 1900D made a belly landing at Blenheim airport when its landing gear failed to come down. That landing was being investigated by

both the Transport Accident Investigation Commission and Eagle Air. Air New Zealand said the inspection was routine, and had nothing to do with the ongoing investigation into the June incident.

AIRCRAFT PUT BACK TO PRINCESS JULIANA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, NETHERLANDS ANTILLES

London, Oct 3 -- The police and Fire Department were informed of an emergency landing involving a Boeing 245 Convair that encountered engine problems just after takeoff at 0920, yesterday and had to return to Princess Juliana International Airport. Police spokesman Inspector Ricardo Henson said the aircraft belonging to Holsum Bread Company had encountered problems with the right engine, which caught on fire during takeoff. PJIA and Philipsburg fire fighters responded to the emergency call. According to Senior Fire Officer Marco Kaak, the airport fire fighters were able to control the situation without additional help. Once the aircraft landed safely at PJIA, fire fighters proceeded to extinguish the fire within a reasonable time, limiting further damage to the aircraft. Henson said PJIA security had informed police that no injuries had resulted from the fire. He said the exact cause of the fire had not yet been determined.

AIRCRAFT RETURNED TO PHILADELPHIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, UNITED STATES

London, Sep 30 -- A press report, dated Sep 29, states: A bird cracked the windshield of a Boeing 737 aircraft, slightly injuring the co-pilot and forcing the it to return to Philadelphia International Airport, shortly after takeoff today, an aviation official said. The co-pilot of AirTran Airways Flight 47 suffered minor facial cuts from broken glass, Federal Aviation Administration spokesman Jim Peters said. About 10 minutes after the Boeing 737 left Philadelphia International Airport with 143 people on a flight to Atlanta, the pilot radioed the control tower to say the aircraft was returning because the right windshield had cracked, Peters said. No one else on board was injured, airport spokeswoman Phyllis Van Istendal said.

London, Oct 2 -- Boeing 737-76N N149AT, operated by Air Trans Airways, struck a bird on departure from Philadelphia International Airport, Pennsylvania, at 1510, Sep 29, causing the windscreen to collapse. The aircraft returned safely to Philadelphia. One crew member suffered minor injuries.

CRASH INTO LAKE POWELL, BIG WATER AREA, UTAH, UNITED STATES

London, Oct 4 -- Robinsin R44 Astro N644BS crashed into Lake Powell near Big Water, Utah, at 1315, Oct 2. The aircraft sustained substantial damage. One of the two persons on board was seriously injured and the other suffered minor injuries.

CRASH, BETHEL AREA, ALASKA, UNITED STATES

London, Oct 2 -- Cessna R172K (Skyhawk) N758TG crashed on landing near Bethel, Alaska, at 0345, Sep 29. The aircraft sustained substantial damage. One of the three persons on board was seriously injured.

CRASH, BETHERSDEN, KENT, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Sep 30 -- A press report, dated today, states: One person has died and another was injured when a light aircraft crashed into a farm field in Kent. The aircraft came down in the Fridd Lane area, in Bethersden, near Ashford, just before 1500, BST, today. A Kent Police spokeswoman said one occupant suffered fatal injuries while a second had injuries which were "not believed to be serious at this time." Emergency services were at the scene today and the Air Accidents Investigation Branch was informed. No other people or property was involved, a police spokeswoman said.

CRASH, DEFIANCE, OHIO, UNITED STATES

London, Sep 27 -- A press report, dated today, states: A volunteer pilot for a charity that arranges free flights for patients who need to travel for medical treatment was killed yesterday when his single-engine Piper aircraft crashed in north-west Ohio. Paul Harris left Grace Lake, Ill, yesterday morning and was flying solo to Findlay to pick up a passenger for Angel Flight Central, an organisation that co-ordinates private volunteer pilots for health care and humanitarian flights. Harris was pronounced dead at the scene by Defiance County Coroner Paul Brose.

London, Sep 27 -- PA 32 Cherokee Six N8341G crashed under unknown circumstances at Defiance, Ohio, at 1435, Sep 26. The sole occupant was killed.

CRASH, KING SALMON AREA, ALASKA, UNITED STATES

London, Oct 2 -- Helio H295 N292BA crashed near King Salmon, Alaska, at 0001, Oct 1. The four persons on board were killed.

London, Oct 2 -- A press report, dated Oct 1, states: Four people were killed when a floatplane crashed near Katmai National Park and Preserve, federal aviation authorities said today. Three of the four victims were identified today. They included fishing clients Greg Brophy, 44, and Sean Brophy, 49, from Ontario, Canada; and guide Tom Beatty, 38, from Homer, National Park Service spokesman John Quinley said in a prepared statement. The pilot also was killed in the crash, but Quinley said the next-of-kin had not yet been notified. There is no indication on the cause of the crash. The plane, a Helio Courier H-295, was returning to Royal Wolf Lodge when it crashed into trees yesterday near Nonvianuk Lake, said National Transportation Safety Board investigator Clint Johnson. The pilot had contacted the lodge, saying he expected to return by 1600 hrs,

yesterday, Quinley said. When the plane had not landed 45 minutes after the appointed time, aircraft were sent from the lodge and found the plane six miles from the lodge. Lodge employees took a boat and then hiked to the site and confirmed there were no survivors, Quinley said. The plane, owned by Branham Adventures of Anchorage and leased to the lodge, crashed in tree-covered terrain about a quarter mile from the lake, Johnson said.

CRASH, KINSHASA AREA, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

London, Oct 4 -- An Antonov 26 aircraft has crashed on the outskirts of Kinshasa, the capital of the Democratic Republic of Congo, officials say. According to reports, the aircraft crashed into the Kingasani residential area near Ndili airport.

CRASH, KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE, UNITED STATES

London, Oct 1 -- A press report, dated today, states: A man suffered minor injuries yesterday after his small plane crashed just short of the runway at a Knoxville airport. Authorities say the crash happened at Sky Ranch Airport, and the plane ended up in the Tennessee River. The pilot, identified as Albertus Wolfkamp, was the only person in the plane. Witnesses said the crash was caused by engine failure.

CRASH, MAUI, HAWAII, UNITED STATES

London, Oct 3 -- A press report, dated Oct 2, states: The crash of a Hawaii Air Ambulance into a Kahului, Maui, car dealership last year that killed three people was probably caused by the failure of the pilot to execute an emergency procedure for a twin-engine aircraft when it loses power in one engine, according to a report by the National Transportation Safety Board. The report concluded that the Cessna 414A Chancellor (N5601C) lost power in its left engine for unknown reasons and a contributing factor in the crash was the pilot's "inadequate pilot training." Pilot Peter Miller reported the loss of power in one engine shortly before the aircraft crashed about half a mile from the approach end of the Maui airport runway. Killed in the Mar 8, 2006, crash were Miller, assistant chief flight nurse Brien Eisaman and Marlena Yomes, a mobile intensive care technician from Waianae. The three were on a mission to Maui to transport a critically-ill patient to Oahu when the aircraft crashed at 1913 hrs. Witnesses reported to NTSB investigators that just before the crash the aircraft's wings wobbled and it dropped straight down into the BMW car dealership before exploding and burning. According to the NTSB report last week, Miller's failure to maintain minimum controllable airspeed in keeping with published operating procedures after an engine failure led to a stall and subsequent roll at a low altitude.

CRASH, PHUKET AIRPORT, THAILAND

London, Oct 1 -- A press report, dated Sep 28, states: US lawyers have filed the first of several lawsuits against aircraft maker Boeing seeking compensation for victims of the recent Thai plane crash. More than 100 survivors and victims' relatives have given authority to two US lawyers to represent them to claim damages from Chicago-based Boeing, which took over plane maker McDonnell Douglas Corporation in 1997. The flight data recorders are due to arrive back in Thailand at the weekend, following analysis in the US to help determine the cause of the crash. The first lawsuit was filed on behalf of Thai victim Parinyawit Choosaeng who suffered burn injuries in the crash. The lawsuit demands that the court order the defendant to immediately release to the families all relevant evidence on the design and manufacturing records of the accident aircraft including maintenance records. According to one of the lawyers, the lawsuits must be filed shortly after the accident to preserve evidence.

CRASH, PITTSBURGH, NEW JERSEY, UNITED STATES

London, Sep 30 -- A press report, dated Sep 29, states: The pilot of a single-engine aircraft that was spraying pesticides today was unharmed when the aircraft crashed after its engine failed, authorities said. The pilot was the only person aboard the aircraft, which crashed at about 1715 hrs in a field on Almond Road, Pittsgrove, said Sgt. Edward Keebler of the state police barracks in Bridgeton. None of the pesticides aboard the aircraft have contaminated the surrounding area, state police spokesman Gerald Lewis said.

London, Oct 2 -- Grumman G-164A (Ag-Cat) N8761H made a forced landing in a field near Pittsgrove, New Jersey, at 2120, Sep 29. The one person on board was not injured.

CRASH, POSTVILLE AREA, LABRADOR, CANADA

London, Oct 4 -- A press report, dated Oct 3, states: A privately owned helicopter crashed in a remote, wooded area of northern Labrador, today killing the pilot, the only person on board. Officials had few details, but believe the Newfoundland Helicopters Ltd aircraft crashed and caught fire at 1045, local time. A military Cormorant helicopter arrived at the scene near Postville, about 180 km north-east of Goose Bay, shortly after noon. They discovered that there was a fire where the aircraft had crashed, but exact circumstances are still being investigated. RCMP Sergeant Wayne Newell said from St. John's. Sgt Newell said the body was retrieved from the site, but he did not reveal the pilot's identity since next of kin were being notified. He did not know where the helicopter began its trip or where it was heading. A police boat and police aircraft were headed to the crash site near the small community that is only

accessible by boat or air. Lieutenant Ryan Langille, spokesman for the rescue co-ordination centre, said the Cormorant had been diverted from an exercise to help.

CRASH, WATERLOO AREA, IOWA, UNITED STATES

London, Oct 1 -- A press report, dated Sep 30, states: An 83-year-old Cedar Falls man was injured last night when his aircraft crashed into a bean field about five miles north-east of Waterloo Airport. Donald Walker was cleared to land at Waterloo Airport, but then dropped off the air-traffic controller's radar at about 2030 hrs, according to a release by the Black Hawk County Sheriff's Office. Police found the man and his aircraft in a bean field near the 3200 block of West Mt. Vernon Road, according to the release. He was taken to Allen Hospital in Waterloo with serious injuries. Walker was the only person on board. The Federal Aviation Administration is involved in the investigation.

London, Oct 2 -- Beechcraft Bonanza B35 N55GW crashed near Waterloo, Iowa, at 0120, Sep 29. The aircraft sustained substantial damage. The one person on board was seriously injured.

CRASH, WHITFIELD AREA, ALABAMA, UNITED STATES

London, Oct 1 -- A press report, dated Sep 30, states: A single-engine aircraft (Piper PA-32R-301, N109PA) piloted by an Arkansas man broke apart in flight during a thunderstorm before crashing and killing the pilot in west Alabama on Sep 13, according to a preliminary report by the National Transportation Safety Board. Nathan Stallings, of Jonesboro, was the only occupant of the aircraft after he had flown its owner and his wife to Gulf Shores, AL, the report said. The aircraft had taken off from Jack Edwards Airport at Gulf Shores less than an hour before it crashed, the NTSB said, with Stallings planning to fly a return route to Jonesboro. The aircraft went down in a heavily wooded area south of Livingston, AL, south-west of Birmingham, and east of Meridian. According to the report, Stallings chose to return to Jonesboro despite an invitation to spend the night at the summer home of the aircraft's owners, to wait for better weather conditions. The report said an air-traffic controller who spoke with Stallings at about 1611 hrs told the pilot he was flying into some heavy weather, specifically a line of thunderstorms. Eight minutes later, Stallings requested a deviation left of course, which the controller approved, the report said. However, a follow-up radio transmission from the air-traffic controller to Stallings went unanswered at 1620 hrs, the report said, and no other transmissions from the aircraft were heard. Sumter County Coroner Terry Peeler said Stallings' body was found near the aircraft's wreckage, which was spread over a wide area. The aircraft's fuselage and wings were found 500 yards apart. A final report on the crash will not be issued until next year.

EMERGENCY LANDING, DUBAI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

London, Sep 27 -- One hundred and five Nigerians escaped injury on Sunday (Sep 23) when a China Southern aircraft on a flight from Beijing to Lagos made an emergency landing in Dubai. The Boeing 747 aircraft, which had 200 passengers on board, made the emergency landing when the crew discovered that it had developed a mechanical fault, about two hours after leaving Beijing. Some passengers reported thick smoke coming out from the engines. The airline's management in Nigeria said the fault in the aircraft was later rectified.

EMERGENCY LANDING, LAMBERT AIRPORT, ST. LOUIS, UNITED STATES

London, Sep 28 -- Emergency crews used foam to extinguish an engine fire on an American Airlines flight in St. Louis this afternoon. The aircraft was bound for Chicago. An American Airlines spokesman says Flight 1400 left Lambert Airport in St. Louis, bound for O'Hare International Airport in Chicago at 1312, today. After departing, a fire broke out in the left engine and the pilot turned the aircraft around. The aircraft was on the ground by 1344 hrs and emergency personnel used suppressing foam to extinguish the fire. There were 137 passengers and five crew members on board, according to the airline.

EMERGENCY LANDING, MEADVIEW AIRPORT, ARIZONA, UNITED STATES

London, Oct 1 -- Eurocopter EC 130 B4 N808MH made a forced landing at Meadview Airport, Arizona, at 2242, Sep 27, after striking an eagle. The aircraft sustained substantial damage. Four of the seven persons on board suffered minor injuries.

EMERGENCY LANDING, SNAKE ISLAND, VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA

London, Oct 2 -- A press report, dated today, states: Two people have escaped injury after their helicopter was forced to make an emergency landing on Snake Island off Victoria's south-east coast. The pilot of the Bell 407 chopper had tried to put the aircraft down on a beach on the island, about 200 km south-east of Melbourne, but landed in the water, Australian Maritime Safety Authority spokeswoman Tracey Jiggins said. A Helimed rescue helicopter from La Trobe, in West Gippsland, had been scrambled to the area and reported seeing the Bell's pilot and passenger walking around on the beach, she added.

EMERGENCY LANDING, TASHKENT, UZBEKISTAN

London, Oct 1 -- An El Al aircraft flying from Israel to Hong Kong was forced to land in the Uzbek capital of Tashkent, due to a technical problem in one of its engines. The 238 passengers on board the craft were transferred to a hotel and are awaiting the arrival of an alternative aircraft from Israel. Several

hours after the aircraft took-off from the Ben Gurion Airport last night, emergency lights indicating a problem in one of the engines went off in the cockpit. "The pilots noticed that the oil levels in the engine dropped, apparently due to a malfunction. The pilots shut down the engine and proceeded to Tashkent," said El Al deputy director-general Lior Yavor. Following the arrival in Tashkent the aircraft was immediately taken for repairs and El Al has sent a replacement aircraft that will deliver the passengers to Hong Kong. The plane will also be carrying technicians from Israel who will try to fix the problems.

EMERGENCY LANDING, TIMARU AIRPORT, NEW ZEALAND

London, Oct 2 -- A press report, dated today, states: An aircraft has landed safely at Timaru airport after an engine fire forced the pilot to make an emergency landing. The Jetstream 32 aircraft, with 20 people on board, was diverted from Oamaru to Timaru airport after the pilot reported the fire. Southern police communications Inspector Stuart Leighton said emergency services responded and the aircraft landed without incident.

London, Oct 4 -- A press report, dated today, states: An Air New Zealand link flight was forced to make an emergency landing at Richard Pearce Airport in Timaru yesterday morning. The flight from Oamaru to Christchurch was diverted after a warning light on the flight-deck indicated an engine problem. An Air New Zealand spokesperson said the Jetstream 32 aircraft was diverted to Timaru as a precautionary measure. It is understood that the pilot activated the aircraft's fire extinguishing system. Emergency services were called to the airport about 0740 hrs. The aircraft, with 20 people on board, landed safely. Firefighters went over the aircraft, but found no sign of a fire.

EMERGENCY LANDING, VILNIUS AIRPORT, LITHUANIA

London, Sep 29 -- A press report, dated Sep 28, states: Scandinavian Airlines will begin flying turboprop aircraft grounded last month. The first Q-400 aircraft will fly Thursday (Oct 4), according to the airline. It said it had increased inspections and replaced any rusted or corroded landing gear parts on all 27 of its turboprops.

London, Oct 4 -- A press report, dated Oct 3, states: SAS airline said today it would seek compensation from aircraft manufacturer Bombardier for costs and lost revenue after faulty landing gear on its DHC-8-Q400 aircraft forced SAS to ground its DHC-8 fleet for three weeks. SAS would seek "Swedish kronor 500 million (\$77 million) in compensation" in negotiations to be undertaken with the Canadian company, SAS spokesman Bertil Ternert said. The airline also announced in a statement that it would be gradually returning the aircraft to the skies as of tomorrow "following an extensive inspection programme and parts replacement." "The aircraft that are now being returned to traffic have undergone extensive test flights and

have received the necessary airworthiness certificates from the authorities," it said. SAS grounded its entire fleet of 27 DHC-8-Q400 aircraft on Sep 12 after the landing gear on two such aircraft collapsed within one week. The first crash-landing took place on Sep 9 in Aalborg, north-western Denmark, and the second on Sep 12 in Vilnius, Lithuania. No one was seriously injured in the accidents. Inspections later uncovered that the insides of the landing gear bolts on SAS' entire DHC-8 fleet were corroded. The DHC-8-Q400 aircraft represent around 15% of SAS' fleet and are used for short-haul flights in Scandinavia and northern and central Europe. Cancellations and delays have plagued the airline since the grounding three weeks ago.

GROUNDING OF SEA KING HELICOPTERS, AUSTRALIA

London, Oct 3 -- A press report, dated today, states: The Australian Navy has again grounded its Sea King helicopters after one was forced to make a controlled landing due to a mechanical fault. The Sea King was forced to land at the Navy's Nowra base last Thursday (Sep 27) due to a fault in the aircraft's tail rotor control. The crew became aware of the fault shortly after take off and landed the helicopter almost immediately. The helicopter was on a routine maintenance test flight. Australian fleet commander Rear Admiral Nigel Coates today said all Sea King flying operations would be temporarily suspended while the incident was investigated. Rear Admiral Coates said the move was precautionary and part of the normal airworthiness process.

INCIDENT AT INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA, UNITED STATES

London, Sep 28 -- A press report, dated Sep 27, states: Indianapolis Airport officials have said that a plane had to abort take-off this afternoon at Indianapolis International Airport due to an engine problem. The plane, a Delta MD-80, aborted take-off from Indianapolis when its left engine failed. The flight, Delta 1253, was carrying 132 passengers and five crew members and was headed to Atlanta, then on to New Orleans. The airport fire department hosed down the engine and passengers were seen evacuating from the rear of the plane. No injuries were reported amongst the passengers, who reported feeling a bump and then smelling burnt rubber. Some passengers were re-routed immediately onto other flights, while others may have to stay in Indianapolis overnight.

INCIDENT AT KANSAI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, OSAKA, JAPAN

London, Oct 4 -- A press report, dated today, states: The Kansai International Airport in Osaka, Japan temporarily closed its runway on Thursday (Oct 4) to clear the strip of metal fragments from aircraft equipment. The airport's spokeswoman, Junko Matsutani, said the runway was closed after mechanics found a damage in the tail skid of a

domestic aircraft that landed on the airport. The tail skid is the equipment that keeps an aircraft from making a pratfall. A Japan Airlines Boeing 737 coming from Haneda airport in Tokyo is believed to have hit part of its rear end on the runway upon landing. Nobody was injured in the incident. Airport officials are investigating the real cause of the damage, which was discovered during inspection after all passengers and crew left the aircraft.

INCIDENT AT MIDWAY INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, CHICAGO, UNITED STATES

London, Oct 3 -- A press report, dated Oct 2, states: A 14-second delay in deploying the maximum braking capabilities of a Southwest Airlines Boeing 737 (N471WN) caused the aircraft to overshoot its landing and crash through a blast fence at Midway Airport two years ago, killing a 6-year-old boy, federal safety investigators concluded today. However, the aircraft's pilots made a poor decision to land at Midway in violation of a Southwest policy that required them to use the worst-case scenario when calculating runway stopping distances in poor weather conditions, the National Transportation Safety Board found. The pilots told investigators they were not aware of the policy. Even so, NTSB member Steven Chealander said: Ignorance of the law is not an excuse for breaking the law. The decision to land was what allowed that chain of events to occur. The NTSB, in its final report on the deadly Dec 8, 2005, crash, determined that Southwest Airlines Flight 1248 would have been able to come to a complete stop on the runway if pilots had applied maximum reverse thrust immediately after the aircraft touched down. Instead, there was a 14-second delay and the maximum setting was not used. The NTSB said the pilot was distracted because he was using the aircraft's automatic brakes for the first time, in keeping with a new policy at Southwest. However, even if the thrust reversers had been used properly, the crew still made a bad decision to land on a snowy, slick runway at Midway with a moderate tailwind behind the aircraft, Chealander said. After receiving mixed reports from other pilots on runway conditions, the pilots calculated their landing distance based on braking action being fair, not poor. Had they chosen the worst-case scenario, they would have expected to have only 40 feet of runway left after stopping, instead of 560. Southwest policy requires pilots to calculate stopping distance based on the worst reported conditions. The crew also would have been required to divert to another airport if tailwinds exceeded five knots, which was the case with the eight-knot tailwinds on the day of the incident. However, the accident flight crew was not aware of that rule, the NTSB said. Neither were the pilots of three other Southwest aircraft that landed at Midway before the crash. NTSB human performance expert Katherine Lemos blamed poor training at Southwest, which has since revamped

its training and cockpit manuals to make its guidelines clearer. Another mistake was that the crew figured incorrectly that the braking assistance provided by the aircraft's thrust reversers had not been factored into the onboard computer's estimates of how much runway the aircraft needed to stop. The crew's confusion on this point was attributed to conflicting information in the flight manual and differences between Boeing 737 models. NTSB member Kitty Higgins said the pilots "were concerned about safely landing and getting people there safely, but there was a lot working against them."

INCIDENT AT WEST JORDAN, UTAH, UNITED STATES

London, Oct 3 -- A press report, dated today, states: A passenger plane caught fire at Airport 2 in West Jordan. Around 1130 hrs, the single-engine airplane was taxiing out from the parking ramp at Airport 2 when it caught fire. The pilot, who was the lone occupant, recently had made repairs to the plane. The plane was going down to runway 1-6 and taking off to the south and was parked in the run-up area. The pilot smelled smoke. It was coming from the passenger compartment, and that's where investigators think the fire started. The pilot made it out OK. He parked the plane close to the end of the runway and got out. West Jordan Battalion Chief Roger Broome said, "I think the pilot did exactly what we would hope he would do. It was away from structures. It was away from other planes. It was away from the runway, so there was no other interference with any other aircraft." The plane suffered \$50,000 to \$60,000 in damage.

INCIDENT, CHHATRAPATI SHIVAJI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, INDIA

London, Oct 3 -- A press report, dated today, states: At least 120 passengers on-board an Air India flight from Kozhikode to Mumbai had a miraculous escape after the aircraft suffered a tyre-burst when it landed at the Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport today. "Air-India flight number IC 596 coming to Mumbai from Kozhikode touched down around 1130 hrs and soon after, one of its tyres burst," a spokesperson for airlines said, adding that all the passengers have been safely deplaned."

INCIDENT, FUKUOKA AIRPORT, JAPAN

London, Sep 30 -- A press report, dated today, states: An Amakusa Airline flight aborted a takeoff at Fukuoka Airport yesterday after its starboard engine cut out, apparently due to a fuel leak, while the Bombardier DHC-8 Q100 aircraft was accelerating down the runway. The aircraft was travelling about 100 kph when the pilot noticed the starboard engine had failed, and made an emergency stop. None of the 15 passengers and crew members onboard Flight AMX 102 bound for Amakusa Airport, Kumamoto Prefecture, were injured in the incident about 0845 hrs. The aircraft then taxied to an apron, where it was checked while firefighting personnel looked on, the airline

company and airport officials said. A small amount of fuel had leaked from the engine on the starboard wing, which apparently caused the engine to cut out. The company uses the aircraft on three routes between Amakusa and Fukuoka, Kumamoto and Matsuyama. It canceled all of the aircraft's flights and will investigate the cause of the incident.

MID-AIR COLLISION, ZION, ILLINOIS, UNITED STATES

London, Oct 1 -- A press report, dated Sep 30, states: More than seven years after the aircraft crash that killed Chicago radio personality Bob Collins and two other people, a federal judge ruled late Friday (Sep 28) that Collins was only 5% at fault for the crash, leaving the Federal Aviation Administration and the air traffic controller mostly at fault. Due to federal immunity from lawsuits, though, the most Collins' widow, Christine, and the other victims' families can share is the \$1 million insurance policy of Midwest Air Traffic Control Services, said Christine Collins' attorney Bob Clifford. Clifford finished making his arguments in front of US District Judge John Darrah in February. In a 49-page written opinion issued on Friday, Darrah explained why he thought Collins, a veteran pilot, was largely blameless for his wing clipping the tail of a student pilot's aircraft on Feb 8, 2000. Collins' aircraft crashed onto the roof of Midwestern Medical Centre in Zion, injuring people there and killing him and his passenger, Herman Luscher. Student pilot Sharon Hock's aircraft crashed into the street, killing her. The air traffic controller -- who had gone seven hours without a break, in violation of FAA rules -- "failed to safely separate Collins' Zlin aircraft (Zlin Z242L N5ZA) and Hock's Cessna aircraft ((Cessna 172P N99063))." Darrah wrote. "When the controller realised he was unaware of the two aircrafts' positions, he failed to issue a safety alert and order Collins and Hock to abort their landings, when he had the opportunity to do so." Darrah was also bothered that the FAA never put a "TARDIS" electronic air control system in at the Waukegan Airport, even though it was eligible and one had been installed at Meigs Field. "Contrary to FAA-stated criteria, the decision on whether or not to install a TARDIS at a particular location was primarily due to 'Congressional Interest' from local politicians who wanted a TARDIS installed in their district/state or after an accident at a facility," Darrah wrote. Still, the federal government is protected from lawsuits. Collins' few errors included not telling the FAA of his diabetes and "failing to accurately identify his position," Darrah wrote.

PERTH AREA, WESTERN AUSTRALIA

London, Sep 28 -- An aircraft has crashed in Western Australia seriously injuring a passenger, police say. The light aircraft crashed in the Pingelly Narrogin area, south-east of Perth, at about 1630 WST, today. "We understand the pilot has not been injured, however,

the passenger who was travelling inside the light plane has sustained serious injuries," police said. A helicopter is on its way to the crash site to take the passenger to hospital. Police later said the aircraft was a two-seater with two men on board. It crashed 25km north of Narrogin.

Port Conditions



AUSTRALIA

Sydney, Oct 2 -- The current berthing/delay situation at Newcastle, NSW, is: three vessels are currently alongside, with 39 vessels at anchor, waiting to berth. The delay in berthing for vessels arriving today is predicted at 15-17 days. For vessels arriving in one week, a delay of 10-15 days in berthing is predicted. A 13-14 day delay in berthing is predicted for vessels arriving in two weeks time. The current berthing/delay situation for vessels arriving at Abbot Point within the next two weeks is one to three days. The current berthing/delay situation for vessels arriving at Hay Point and Dalrymple Bay today is between seven and 25 days. For vessels arriving in one week, a delay of seven to 25 days in berthing is predicted. A six to 20 day delay in berthing is predicted for vessels arriving in two weeks time. The delay in berthing for vessels arriving at Gladstone today is predicted at seven to 10 days. For vessels arriving in one week, a delay of five to ten days in berthing is predicted. A six to ten day delay in berthing is predicted for vessels arriving in two weeks time. The delay in berthing for vessels arriving at Dampier within the next two weeks is predicted at two to three days. The delay in berthing for vessels arriving at Port Walcott today is predicted at nine to 10 days. For vessels arriving in one week, a delay of six to seven days in berthing is predicted. A six to seven day delay in berthing is predicted for vessels arriving in two weeks time. The delay in berthing for vessels arriving at Port Hedland today is predicted at two to five days. For vessels arriving in one week, a delay of two to three days in berthing is predicted. A two to three day delay in berthing is predicted for vessels arriving in two weeks time. -- Oceania Maritime Services Pty. Ltd.

GERMANY

London, Sep 28 -- Kiel Canal Authorities have announced that both small lock chambers at Kiel-Holtenau are out of service due to technical problems. The big lock chambers that were also out of service earlier today are now back in normal operation. Delays can be expected, however, due to prevailing strong easterly winds and high water level.

INDIA

Karachi, Sep 28 -- There is container congestion at Kolkata Dock System of

India and, as a result, Kolkata dock authorities and the container lines, both mainline and feeder operators, are at loggerheads over the congestion problem. Local media reported that, as a consequence, the traffic manager of KDS has verbally ordered evacuation of the imported containers straight from the vessel's hook point to any container freight station located outside the dock. No more stacking of containers will be allowed in the yards within the dock, the shipping lines and their agents have been told. It said there were more than 5,000 TEU in KDS against its normal space for 3,500 TCUs. However, the Association of Shipping Interests in Calcutta (ASIC), the body of shipping lines and their agents, whose members are equally concerned at the problem of congestion at KDS, are not prepared to accept the verbal instruction from the traffic manager in regard to evacuation of boxes straight from the ship's hook point to CFS located outside the dock and want a written order. Meanwhile, the Kolkata Port Trust has requested the Railway Board to immediately start services between KDS and Tughlakabad ICD near Delhi, to evacuate the north Indian-bound containers imported through KDS as a means of easing the congestion. -- Correspondent.

Karachi, Sep 29 -- Numbers of vessels are waiting both at Visakhapatnam port and the two ports at Kakinada, old anchorage port as well as the deepwater port, due to intermittent heavy rains caused by the depression in the Bay of Bengal for the past one week or so. According to media, more than 20 vessels are waiting at Visakhapatnam port and similar situation at the anchorage port at Kakinada. Five vessels are waiting at the deepwater port at Kakinada. At both Visakhapatnam and Kakinada, fertiliser unloading has been affected badly due to the adverse weather conditions. It said that some of the vessels have been diverted from Paradip port as well as Kakinada to Visakhapatnam port. -- Correspondent.

London, Oct 1 -- Several vessels are waiting both at Visakhapatnam port and the two ports at Kakinada (the old anchorage port as well as the deepwater port) due to intermittent heavy rains caused by the depression in the Bay of Bengal for the past week. According to sources, more than 20 vessels are waiting at the Visakhapatnam port and similar is the situation at the anchorage port at Kakinada. Five vessels are waiting at the deepwater port at Kakinada. At both Visakhapatnam and Kakinada, fertiliser unloading has been affected badly due to the adverse weather conditions. Port sources have said that some of the vessels have been diverted from Paradip port as well as Kakinada to Visakhapatnam port. "A fertiliser ship has been diverted to Vizag from Kakinada, as there is no crane there to handle the vessel," the sources have said. Sources, it could take a week or so to clear the congestion. At Kakinada anchorage port, from where rice is being exported on a large scale for the

past few years, there is the problem of steel barge shortage. In the event of heavy rains, it is particularly difficult for the port to handle rice. It is expected that it may take 10 days or so to clear the congestion at Kakinada.

ITALY

Genoa, Oct 1 -- Current berthing delays: Genoa: There are no vessels waiting for berths. La Spezia: There are no vessels waiting for berths. Savona: There are no vessels waiting for normal berths. One vessel is waiting for a special berth. -- Lloyd's Agents.

KENYA

London, Sep 28 -- A press report, dated today, states: Hopes of easing the container congestion at Mombasa have been temporarily dented, while the Kenya Ports Authority (KPA) and Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) try to sort out red tape and bureaucratic differences. As a result of the impasse importers face additional surcharges levied by shipping lines because vessels in port cannot be cleared more quickly. A vessel delay surcharge of \$200 for TEU for southbound containers and \$100 per TEU for northbound boxes will apply from Oct 1. The problem has arisen from a decision by the KPA to contract two container freight stations (container depots) outside the port to handle excess cargo awaiting clearance to importers. The KRA however says that all its conditions be met before the boxes can leave the Mombasa Container Terminal, even though the two depots are run by the KPA. The KPA is maintaining that all it is doing is moving containers around within its own terminals to ease congestion within the port itself and that it (the KPA) still retains possession of the imported cargo, which in effect remains custom-bonded. It says that the demand by the Revenue Authority for fresh guarantees is tantamount to punishing importers unnecessarily. The KRA, which is clearly not recognising the two depots as being part of the port itself, is insisting that cash bonds be posted before containers are allowed to leave the port and states that these will not be cancelled until all clearance procedures have been completed. The port authority is also complaining over the KRA's refusal to agree to a 24-hour operation aimed at hastening the clearing of containers from the port. The port's chief operations officer, Capt Twalib Khamis said that although the port had begun a 24-hour, seven-day programme, some government departments were not playing their part. "We still have no verification at night and delivery of transit cargo is not allowed at night. We believe that once these issues are resolved, the congestion will be reduced and the port performance will improve," he said. Khamis said that the delivery of cargo from the port by rail and road was not matching the rapid inflow of containers and this has created congestion of containers in the yard and affected port performance. The port of Mombasa is experiencing a 30% increase in container volumes.

PHILIPPINES

London, Sep 28 -- A press report, dated today, states: The Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) and shipping lines here have been incurring about P6 million in income losses weekly due to a continuing strike staged by port workers since Sep 9. The port workers belonging to the Associated Labour Union-Trade Union Congress of the Philippines (ALU-TUCP) staged the strike after the winning bidder for cargo handling services refused to take in all of them. Engineer Raul Mercedo, PPA Dumaguete officer-in-charge, said the agency alone has incurred losses of about P420,000 in potential weekly revenues from charges, such as usage and wharfage fees, and the 10% share from cargo handling. Mercedo said shipping companies also indicated losses in the form of unrealised income because of the strike. He said Sulpicio Lines has lost P2 million weekly while Superferry of the Aboitiz Transport System has been losing about P1.6 million weekly. George and Peter Lines and Cokaliong Shipping Lines registered P800,000 and P700,000, respectively, in weekly losses. Aleson Shipping Lines also incurred P300,000 in weekly losses. Mercedo said these losses represent only the unrealised income from payment for cargo shipped out from Dumaguete and do not include losses incurred by businessmen affected by the strike. Sopriano Sabanal, vice president of the 175-member union, said they were forced to strike because Prudential Customs Brokerage Services Inc. (PCBSI), the winning bidder for port cargo handling at the Dumaguete port refused to absorb all the union members. The company did not respect the collective bargaining agreement (CBA) between the workers and their former employer, the Cipres Stevedoring and Arrastre Inc. (CISAD), he said. But Mercedo said the CBA between CISAI, which is no longer operating, and the union expired in 2004. PCBSI legal counsel Joel Obar said that it is a management prerogative to decide who among the port workers it would absorb. Obar maintained that it would be unfair to bind his client to an agreement in which it did not have any participation. Mercedo also said the PPA had taken over cargo handling services in Dumaguete City since September 2002 due to a strike by the workers against their former employer. He said the PPA is authorised by law to take over cargo handling services in case of a strike, lockout or any work stoppage when these become prejudicial to the economy. With the takeover, the PPA-Dumaguete became the employer of the workers, Mercedo said.

London, Oct 1 -- The Philippine Ports Authority has vowed to restore Dumaguete port operations this week and put an end to the three-week port workers' strike. Raul Santos, Visayas PPA port manager, made the assurance on Friday (Sep 28) during a forum attended by businessmen from the Negros Oriental Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Santos' assurance came after the PPA received a copy of a

Port Conditions

decision of the Regional Trial Court denying the petition for a temporary restraining order filed by the striking workers to stop the Prudential Customs Brokerage Inc. (PCBI) from taking over the port management.

UNITED STATES

London, Sep 27 -- The US Coast Guard Sector New Orleans issued a

Marine Safety Bulletin stating that, beginning in October 2007 and extending through August 2008, the Lower Mississippi River periodically will be closed to navigation at the Huey P. Long Bridge, Mile marker 106.2 above Head of Passes, to allow for heavy lift work associated with the widening of the bridge. The closures, occurring once or twice a week, will last either six or twelve hours each,

depending upon the nature of that day's lift. At other times, transits through the area are to be at a slow bell, creating minimum wake. The Coast Guard will regularly publish a two-week closure schedule so that mariners may make appropriate plans.

Port Delays

Information received from BIMCO, Denmark and the Indian Ports Association received Oct 9 -10

Country/Port	Date of report	No. of vessels waiting and/or days delay
Azerbaijan		
Apsheron	05-Oct-2007	Oil products: Dubendi terminal: 3 vessels berthed, of which 1 empty and waiting, 2 discharging (1 fuel oil, 1 crude oil).
Baku	05-Oct-2007	Oil products: Bay of Baku: no vessels; AzerTrans terminal: no vessels; Nobel avenue: 1 vessel berthed, discharging crude oil; Sangachal district: no vessels.
Egypt		
Adabiya	08-Oct-2007	Two vessels berthed (loading/discharging), both general cargo
Alexandria	08-Oct-2007	Thirty-eight vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 31 general cargo, 2 bulkers, 3 containers, 2 passenger vessels; 14 vessels at outer anchorage.
Damietta	08-Oct-2007	Thirty-seven vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 28 general cargo, 3 bulk carriers, 6 container vessels; 18 vessels at outer anchorage, 2 at inner anchorage.
Dekheila	08-Oct-2007	Ten vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 4 general cargo, 5 tankers, 1 container vessel; 8 vessels at outer anchorage.
Port Said	08-Oct-2007	Five vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 2 general cargo, 3 containers.
Suez	08-Oct-2007	Eight vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 4 general cargo, 4 passenger vessels; 2 tugs, 3 vessels dry-docked.
Suez Canal	08-Oct-2007	Twenty-nine vessels transiting Northbound, 25 Southbound.
Estonia		
Tallinn	08-Oct-2007	Paljassaare (formerly Kopli): One oil products vessel discharging at berth; no vessels anchored; 1 vessel due, with 4 days berthing delay expected.
India		
Kolkata	08-Oct-2007	8 vessels operating at berth of which 3 vessels loading (Containers-2, General Cargo), 5 vessels discharging (Containers-3, Machinery, Edible Oil); 1 vessel working at midstream to discharge Pulses; 1 vessel waiting at anchorage to discharge; 2 vessels under repair; 2 vessels under dry docked; 1 vessel under arrest; 2 vessels waiting to sail, 1 vessel waiting to shifting, 1 vessel waiting for MHC berth; 2 vessels due (Containers, Others).
Haldia	08-Oct-2007	10 vessels operating at berth of which 3 vessels loading (Iron Ore-2, Thermal Coal), 7 vessels discharging (POL, Coking Coal-3, Met Coke, Soya, Steel); 9 vessels awaiting berth at anchorage (3 to discharge, 6 to load), 8 vessels waiting at anchorage (7 to load, 1 to discharge); 4 vessels due (Lamn, A. Coal, Iron Ore, Containers).
Paradip	08-Oct-2007	11 vessels operating at berth of which 5 vessels loading (Iron Ore-2, Chrome Contrate-2, Thermal Coal), 6 vessels discharging (Coking Coal-2, Project Cargo, Lime Stone, Sulpher, Pig Iron); 20 vessels awaiting berth at anchorage (9 to discharge, 11 to load), 1 vessel waiting at anchorage to discharge; 24 vessels due.
Visakhapatnam	08-Oct-2007	18 vessels operating at berth of which 7 vessels loading (Iron Ore-3, GGBF, Thermal Coal, Product-3), 10 vessels discharging (Coking Coal, Steme Coal, Product, Peas, DAP, C. Soda, Pet Coke, Timber, Rock Phosphate, M. Ore); 38 vessels not ready to work and waiting at anchorage (22 to discharge, 16 to load); 50 vessels due (Iron Ore-17, Steel Mill Scale, Thermal Coal, M. Ore, Product-3, MAP, Rock Phosphate, Coking Coal-9, General Cargo, Styrene, Containers-2, Alumina, Timber, Met Coke, Steel Plates, A. Coal, Lime Stone, Crude-5, Product).

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Chennai	08-Oct-2007	19 vessels operating at berth of which 7 vessels loading (L. Oil, Granite Block, M. Scale, IOL, Molas, Iron Ore, Furance Oil), 8 vessels discharging (Project , Project Cargo/steel Plate, C P Oil, Urea, Met Coke, Steam Coal, SKO, Logs), 4 vessels loading and discharging Containers; 3 vessels not ready to work and waiting at anchorage to load; 1 vessel under arrest; 5 vessels due (Sugar, Containers-3, General Cargo).
Tuticorin	08-Oct-2007	12 vessels operating at berth of which 6 vessels loading (Construction Materials-2, Sugar-2, Ilminite, G. Sand), 6 vessels discharging (Logs, R. Cashew-2, MOP, Thermal Coal, Rock Phosphate); 5 vessels awaiting berth at anchorage (1 to load, 4 to discharge), 2 vessels not ready to work and waiting at anchorage (1 to load 1 to discharge), 3 vessels waiting berth at anchorage bunkering.
Cochin	08-Oct-2007	3 vessels operating at berth of which 1 vessel loading POL, 1 vessel discharging Crude, 1 vessel loading and discharging Containers; 14 vessels due (Crude-2, Containers-7, POL, Sulphur, Dry Bulk-2, Cruise).
New Mangalore	08-Oct-2007	10 vessels operating at berth of which 4 vessels loading (Iron Ore Fines-3, POL Product), 6 vessels discharging (Fertiliser-2, Containers, Iron Ore Fines, LPG, POL Crude); 3 vessels awaiting berth at anchorage to discharge), 10 vessels waiting berth at anchorage (2 to discharge, 8 to load); 13 vessels due (Coal, Fertiliser-2, Iron Ore Fines, Phosphate Acid, Lime Stone, Sun Flower Oil, Granite Stone).
Mormugao	08-Oct-2007	4 vessels operating at berth of which 2 vessels loading (Iron Ore Fines-2, Steel Slabs), 1 vessel discharging Phosphoric Acid; 5 vessels working at midstream loading Iron Ore; 4 vessel under dry docked; 10 vessels due (Coking Coal-2, Met Coke-2, Iron Ore-6).
Mumbai	08-Oct-2007	14 vessels operating at berth of which 5 vessels loading (Transformer/Reactor/Bagged Sugar-2, POL-3), 8 vessel discharging (R. Oil/Lubricant Oil, Sulphur in Bulk, Steel Pipes/Coils/Vehicles-3, POL-3), 1 vessel loading and discharging Containers/ General/ Wood Pulp; 1 vessel working at midstream and discharging POL; 5 vessels awaiting order at anchorage to discharge; 21 vessels under repairs/dry docked; 12 vessels under arrest; 1 vessel under laid up (Berths not required for cargo operations); 38 vessels due (Containers-3, Oil-3, Fertilizer Raw Material, General Cargo-31).
J.N.P.T.	08-Oct-2007	6 vessels operating at berth of which 1 vessel discharging Edible Oil, 5 vessels loading and discharging Containers; 8 vessels awaiting berth at anchorage to load and discharge; 2 Containers vessels due.
Kandla	08-Oct-2007	19 vessels operating at berth of which 9 vessels loading (Agriculture Product-2, Cement, Block, Rice, Product Cargo, POL), 9 vessels discharging (Timber Logs-3, Fertilizer, Sulphur, Product Cargo, Vegetable Oil, Chemical), 1 vessel loading and discharging; 1 vessel working at midstream discharging Timber Logs; 5 vessels awaiting berth at anchorage (3 to discharge, 2 to load), 11 vessels not ready to work and waiting at anchorage (6 to discharge, 5 to load); 2 vessels under repairs.
Ennore	08-Oct-2007	1 vessel working at Inner anchorage loading Iron Ore; 4 vessels due (MV Good Season (Coal), MV Apj Sridevi (Coal), MV Tamil Anna (Coal), MT Monte Casino (POL).
Israel		
Ashdod	07-Oct-2007	No labour problems. Eleven vessels discharging at berth (4 general cargo, 7 bulkers), 8 loading/discharging at berth (6 containers, 2 car carriers); 10 general cargo vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge, 6 vessels waiting at anchorage to load/discharge (2 bulkers, 4 containers); 18 vessels due, with 2-3 days delay expected.
Eilat	07-Oct-2007	No labour problems. Two general cargo vessels discharging at berth; 1 general cargo vessel waiting at anchorage to discharge; 1 vessel due, with no delays expected.
Haifa	07-Oct-2007	No labour problems. Six vessels discharging at berth (4 general cargo, 2 bulkers), 3 container vessels loading/discharging at berth; 1 general cargo vessel waiting at anchor to discharge, 5 vessels waiting at anchor to load/discharge (3 bulkers, 2 containers); 4 vessels under repairs/dry-docked; 17 vessels due, with 2-3 days delay expected.
Kazakhstan		
Aktau	05-Oct-2007	Oil products: 2 vessels berthed, both loading crude oil; 3 vessels in roads, all to load unknown cargoes; 1 vessel due 6/10 to load unknown cargo.
Slovenia		
Koper	08-Oct-2007	Port working normally. Twelve vessels berthed of which 3 loading sawn timber, 1 discharging general cargo, 4 discharging bulk cargo, 1 loading bulk cargo, 1 discharging/ loading containers, 1 tanker discharging liquid cargo, 1 passenger vessel; 1 vessel waiting at anchorage to load sawn timber; 20 vessels due over the next 2 days of which 5 to discharge/load containers, 3 to load general cargo/sawn timber, 2 to load bulk cargo, 4 to discharge bulk cargo, 3 tankers to discharge liquid cargo, 2 car carriers to discharge/load vehicles, 1 car carrier to discharge vehicles.

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Port Conditions

Spain		
Bilbao	08-Oct-2007	Twenty-eight vessels operating (5 tankers, 23 other vessels), of which 6 loading, 14 discharging, 8 loading/discharging.
Turkmenistan		
Aladja	05-Oct-2007	Oil products: 1 vessel berthed, completed loading crude oil.
Okarem	05-Oct-2007	Oil products: 1 vessel berthed, loading crude oil.
Turkmenbashi	05-Oct-2007	Oil products: 4 vessels berthed, both loading, of which 2 completed loading fuel oil, 2 loading (1 gasoline, 1 kerosene); 10 vessels in roads, all to load, of which 7 fuel oil, 1 gasoil, 1 crude oil, 1 unknown cargo.

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