

CasualtyWeek

August 13 2004

Pollution down in British waters as new controls take effect

MARINE discharges in British waters have fallen by a sixth as better prevention measures and environmental management begin to take effect.

The country's oil and gas producing sector is still its main source of marine discharges, but this is due to strong industry reporting practices and has fallen by 14% since 2002.

The Maritime and Coastguard Agency reported 1,575 reported discharge incidents last year, of which 585 were separate discharges from vessels and offshore oil and gas installations. There was an overall reduction of 16.8% in total incidents reported and 64 fewer discharges from oil and gas installations on the UK Continental Shelf.

In 2002, there were 702 separate discharges from vessels and installations including 452 from oil and gas operations.

"We are pleased with these results, which emphasise MCA's cleaner seas banner," said Toby Stone, head of MCA's counter pollution and response branch. "This survey confirms efforts at preventing pollution of our seas are being realised."

Last year, 88% of the discharges were mineral oils, 8% chemicals, 1% vegetable and animal oils and the rest other substances.

In total, 75% of all discharges were reported in open seas, 19% in ports and harbours and 6% across the remaining marine environment.

Around 26 discharges were attributed to vessel casualties, including 12 fishing vessels, six pleasure craft, five general cargo vessels and one tanker.

During the year there were six beach pollution incidents in Kent, the Isle of Wight and Guernsey, all associated with the break up of the tanker Prestige, which sank 260 km west of Vigo, Spain on November 19, 2002.

In Britain there were 21 discharges of more than two tonnes reported, including 15 attributed to offshore oil and gas installations.

The largest chemical spill was 150 tonnes of sodium chloride brine on December 7 near the Douglas oil and gas platform in the Irish Sea after an offshore support vessel accidentally severed a bunkering hose. The largest oil discharge was on cargo vessel RMS Mulheim (1999-built, 1,846 dwt), which ran aground on rocks at Gamper Bay, Cornwall. The fuel tank was ruptured causing a 75 tonne diesel spill.

By volume the majority of discharges were from the oil and gas industry, mostly through failure of equipment such as measuring tools and leaks from hoses, pipelines and flowlines.

The second largest oil spill of 36 tonnes came from a split in a T piece at the Beatrice Bravo platform in the outer Moray Firth. The largest discharge from a floating production system was 28 tonnes of cement accidentally spilled from a vent line because of human error on the Schiehallion ship.

The UK Offshore Operators Association, which represents oil and gas companies working in the North Sea welcomed the MCA report.

"The reduction, by 16.8%, in reported discharges reflects the continuing effort being made by all that use the sea to minimise the impact on the environment," said Steve Harris, communications director with the association.

"The fact that in 2003 there were 64 fewer reported discharges from oil and gas installations, and that the volume of discharge also declined, shows that this industry in particular is working hard on these issues. "We have a very rigorous reporting regime in place, which can lead to an exaggerated impression of the impact that the industry has.

"However, advanced environmental management techniques have been developed over the years that ensure good practice is in place across the industry and good results can be achieved."

Martyn Wingrove
Lloyd's List Editorial

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

Vessel	Type	Flag	Class	GT	DWT	Bit	Casualty
<i>AFROS I</i>	product tanker	GRC	—	999	1,805	1969	Struck submerged object off Eleusis Aug 1. Experienced water ingress into engine-room, rendering main engine and generators inoperable. Tug, Coast Guard vessels and a second tanker proceeded. Transhipment completed Aug 2.
<i>CLIPPER ODYSSEY</i>	passenger	BHS	NK	5218	938	1989	Grounded in 54 00 24 N 166 06 W, 31 Jul 2004. Passengers and non-essential crew taken off and transferred to Dutch Harbour. Fuel tank and grey water tank punctured. Refloated and proceeding to Dutch Harbour under own power. Arrived Aug 1.
<i>EAGLE MEMPHIS</i>	crude oil tanker	SGP	LR	53,483	104,499	1987	In collision with tug Mr. Craig on the Mississippi River, near Algiers Point, Jul 29. Sustained a 15-foot hole in one fuel tank, above the waterline. Anchored at Mile Marker 90.1. Expected to enter port Jul 30.
<i>ELBE</i>	yacht	NLD	—	905	—	1959	Holed in side and sank in Wilton Harbour, Schiedam, Jul 30 after being struck by heavylift Fairpartner. Refloated and redelivered to owners Jul 31. Towed to Vlaardingen for repairs, which under way Aug 4.
<i>GORDON C. LEITCH</i>	bulker	CAN	LR	19,160	28,824	1968	Grounded at entrance to South Shore Canal, in lat 45 24 30N, long 73 43 23W, Aug 3, due engine failure. Sustained damage to No 1 port ballast tank. Took on water. Reported Aug 4 refloated. At Ste Catherine Lock for repairs.
<i>HIZIR REIS III</i>	ferry	TUR	NV	395	34	1997	Struck unknown object off Bandirma Aug 1. Took on water. All 400 passengers safely evacuated. 30-cm hole on bottom.
<i>MARINCHRIS</i>	bulker	CYP	AB	38,180	71,761	1993	Grounded off Pylos Aug 3. Hole 1.5m long by 10 cm wide in bottom midships. Slight leakage. Diver's inspection under way. Tug proceeding. LOF signed. Refloated Aug 5 and in Pylos Bay, awaiting inspection.
<i>NAVION STAVANGER</i>	crude oil tanker	BHS	NV	80,691	148,729	2003	Reported Jul 29 in dry dock at Blohm & Voss, Hamburg, for repairs to bottom damage. Damage believed sustained at Tranmere in January. Repairs ETC 10-12 days.
<i>PLEIONE</i>	bulker	BHS	NK	36,559	70189	1996	Struck by bulk <i>Jacaranda</i> Aug 4 while moored at Cristobal. Water ingress in hold. Flooded in No 2 hold and No 2 water ballast tank. Stable at Cristobal Aug 5.
<i>SONJA DORIS</i>	trawler	DNK	—	413	—	1972	Had fire on board off Esbjerg Aug 3. Towed into Esbjerg same day after fire burned out.
<i>SOUTHERN MOANA</i>	general	ATG	GL	4,410	4,900	2000	Grounded on reef at entrance to Futuna harbour Jul 28. Tug <i>Dretia</i> proceeding to assist. Still aground 31 Jul. LOF signed.
<i>TORM MARY</i>	product tanker	DIS	NV	30,058	46,634	2002	Struck by tank barge <i>Buffalo 405</i> Aug 2 while taking on fuel in the Neches River, off Port Arthur. Hull breached. River closed to traffic. Oil clean-up in progress. River re-opened Aug 4.
<i>VISTA MARINER</i>	product tanker	TUV	—	676	1,147	1980	Sank off Riau Islands, Indonesia, Jul 25. Cargo reported leaking Aug 5.

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The following reports are reprinted from Lloyd's List



AFROS I (Greece)

London, Aug 2 — Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: The Ministry of Mercantile Marine was advised at 1850, Aug 1, that the stern of product tanker *Afros I* had struck a wreck one nautical miles south-east of Eleusis, while returning to Hellenic Petroleum, Aspropyrgos, after supplying bunkers to a vessel. As a result, the vessel experienced an ingress of water into the engine-room. The main engine and generators were rendered inoperable, and the vessel was left under command, with no power. Slight bilge water pollution was caused. The pollution was combated by booms placed around the vessel and antipollution materials were deployed. At the time, the vessel was laden with 720 tons of fuel oil and 8800 litres of diesel oil. Tug *Megalochari VI*, Coast Guard patrol craft and tanker *Afros*, belonging to the same operators as *Afros I*, proceeded to the scene. Vessels from a private antipollution company were expected to arrive on scene, and a decision was to be taken whether the fuel oil cargo should be transhipped to *Afros*.

London, Aug 2 — Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: The transhipment of 720 tons of fuel from product tanker *Afros I* was completed successfully today. Next to the vessel remain patrol boats of the Coast Guard, tug *Ag. Eleni*, and tug *Argo*, antipollution craft *No. 416* of the Coast Guard, antipollution craft *Aktaia 12* of Environmental Protection Engineering and two dive boats. Refloating efforts are proceeding and thereafter temporary repairs will be performed in order for the vessel to be safely towed to a shipyard for permanent repairs.

ALAMOA (Brazil)

Santos, Aug 2 — Chem.tank *Alamo* has discharged chemical products at Barnabe Island Terminal, Santos, and, after that, was shifted to Valongo, where it is berthed now. As informed by its agents, vessel has main engine problems, which will be repaired at Rio de Janeiro, where it will be towed on Aug 4 or 5. — Lloyd's Agents.

ALGONTARIO (Canada)

Thunder Bay, Aug 4 — Bulk *Algontario* is presently undergoing dry-dock repairs at Pascol Engineering. Repairs are expected to be complete late Aug. — Lloyd's Agents.

AMER THAMES (Panama)

Mumbai, Jul 27 — Chemical/oil carrier *Amer Thames* arrived Alang Jul 8 to be broken up. — Lloyd's Agents.

ANDREW J. BARBERI (USA)

London, Aug 4 — A press report, dated today, states: Ferry *Andrew J.Barberi*: A Staten Island Ferry assistant captain

pleaded guilty today to manslaughter and lying to the Coast Guard about his medical history before the crash that killed 11 commuters, injured dozens more and exposed systemic problems with the vessel's operations. Richard Smith entering his plea under an agreement reached with prosecutors. Smith acknowledged that his misconduct and inattention to duty caused the deaths last October. Smith also admitted that he had taken Tramadol, a back pain drug, and Tylenol PM - two drugs with side effects that can include drowsiness. The two were among five drugs he was taking for conditions including high blood pressure in the month before the accident; both were in his system at the time of the crash. "You were negligent in the same way, for example, that someone who drives a car while intoxicated is negligent," US District Court Judge Edward Korman said. The manslaughter counts are part of a separate federal code dealing with maritime law. Smith could face up to 10 years in prison on each count, although his plea agreement was expected to provide him with a more lenient sentence. Smith, 55, appearing haggard and drawn, said he didn't acknowledge his health problems because he was afraid of losing his job. He had lied on an August 2000 application for his licence, where word of his high blood pressure and use of prescription drugs could have led to a rejection. The guilty plea followed a 10-month investigation into the Staten Island ferry crash.

ANNA ODEN (Sweden)

Gothenburg, Aug 2 — Ro/ro *Anna Oden* departed Cityvarvet yard Jul 30. Intended to load and be back in schedule, morning, Jul 31. — Westax Marine Services AB.

London, Aug 3 — Ro/ro *Anna Oden* sailed Gothenburg, Jul 31.

ARCTIC CIRCLE (U.S.A.)

See *Arctic Sun No.1*.

ARCTIC SUN NO.1

Freeport, Bahamas, Aug 4 — Deck barge *Arctic Sun No.1*, 180-foot long, while under tow of tug *Arctic Circle*, from Freeport to Nassau, Bahamas, capsized last night. The cargo of about 2,000 tons of rock/sand products was lost. The barge is still afloat although upside down and re-secured by the tug and being towed, capsized, to sheltered waters near the Berry Islands for salvage efforts. — Lloyd's Agents.

ARTEMIS (Netherlands)

London, Aug 2 — Following received from Coastguard Dover MRCC, timed 0716, UTC: General cargo *Artemis* (2545 gt, built 2004) Kalipeda for Seville, cargo 3,449 tonnes steel scrap, has blown exhaust gasket in lat 50 52.8N, long 01 02.7E, at 0715, UTC, Aug 2. Vessel has been instructed to proceed to Boulogne for repairs and can only make four knots. Coastguard tug requested to standby vessel and escort it to Boulogne. (Note — *Artemis* sailed Klaipeda 1500, Jul 29.)

Dunkirk, Aug 4 — General cargo *Artemis* was taken to Boulogne Aug 2 for repairs and sailed in the evening, same day. The vessel came back to Boulogne Aug 3 in the afternoon because of the persistent turbo problem. The vessel had some difficulties increasing power. A new turbo-charger was ordered in from the Netherlands and arrived this morning. At present an engineer is on board and the vessel is under repair. Vessel expected to depart this evening bound Seville. — Lloyd's Agents.

AUKRA (Norway)

London, Aug 2 — Following received from Sandnes, dated today: Ro/ro *Aukra* completed repairs and returned to normal service Jul 30 (not as before reported).

BLUE STAR ITHAKI (Greece)

London, Jul 30 — Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: Following successful repairs to the hull damage, passenger ro/ro *Blue Star Ithaki* was permitted to sail from Syros Jul 29.

BROSSIS

London, Jul 30 — A press report, dated Jul 29, states: A fire on fishing *Brossis* left at least three people dead, three missing and 12 injured in the southern Philippines, officials said today. Navy spokesman Capt Geronimo Malabanan said a cooking gas tank exploded on the vessel yesterday along the marine-rich Tubbatata Reef. Two coast guard and navy vessels were dispatched to the area, about 600 km south-west of Manila, and were expected to arrive with survivors and bodies in the nearby port of Puerto Princesa on Palawan island later today. The vessel had 26 men on board, Malabanan said.

BUFFALO 405 (U.S.A.)

London, Aug 2 — A press report, dated today, states: Product tanker *Torm Mary* (30058 gt, built 2002) spilled about 33-thousand gallons of fuel oil into the Neches River today after tank barge *Buffalo 405* (1619 gt, built 2003) breached the vessel's hull during fueling. Jimmy Suydam, a spokesman for the Texas General Land Office said it appears the spill happened today shortly after midnight at the Sun Anchorage on the Orange County side of the river near Nederland. That's between Beaumont and Port Arthur. The fuel barge was owned by Houston-based Buffalo Marine Service. Buffalo vice president Chuck King says *Torm Mary* was being refueled when the tow vessel pushed the barge into the vessel. No injuries were reported, and King says booms were deployed within seven minutes. But he says some of the thick fuel oil apparently has reached the river shore across from Nederland.

London, Aug 2 — Following received from Coast Guard New Orleans, timed 1350, UTC: Tank barge *Buffalo 405* was in contact with product tanker *Torm Mary* off Port Arthur today. Damage to both vessels is unknown but 27,000 gallons of oil has been spilt.

Houston, Aug 2 — A collision between refueling tank barge *Buffalo 405* and product tanker *Torm Mary* on a south-east Texas river spilled more than 30,000 gallons of fuel oil early today and halted shipping traffic, the US Coast Guard said. The Neches River was closed near its mouth, where it empties into Sabine Lake, which feeds into the Gulf of Mexico. The barge owned by Buffalo Marine Services was pulling alongside *Torm Mary* at Sun Anchorage on the Neches when it rammed into its hull, ripping a five-foot long gash in the tanker, Texas General Land Office spokesman Jim Suydam said. It was not yet known when the river would re-open to traffic, he said. "We'll have a better idea when we get more of the oil cleaned up," said US Coast Guard Chief Warrant Officer Adam. One inbound vessel carrying oil and five oil barges were among the vessels affected by the closure, according to Wine. *Torm Mary* was carrying Eurograde gasoline, although its destination was not immediately known. Emergency equipment was deployed and booms were laid out to prevent the spill from drifting, Suydam said. "We've got it contained and we are working to skim it off," he added. Suydam said the barge owners would face a fine for the accident, although the amount would not be determined until the spill was cleaned up. — Reuters.

London, Aug 3 — Following received from Coast Guard Port Arthur, dated Aug 2: The section of the Neches River from Buoy 42, just north of DuPont plant and the Naval Reserve Fleet, to the Veteran's Bridge remains closed as oil spill clean up operations continue through the night. The spill occurred at approximately 0020 today when a barge (tank barge *Buffalo 405*) struck and pierced the starboard fuel tank of product tanker *Torm Mary*. *Torm Mary* was at the Sun Anchorage for a routine refuelling operation. Crews on scene transferred the oil in the fuel tank to an undamaged tank and deployed booms to contain the spill. By 0500 hrs responders had deployed more than 3,500 feet of boom to trap oil along the riverside. At 1800 hrs, more than 12,000 feet of boom had been deployed. Nine oil-skimmers and three vacuum trucks were also collecting oil. Precautionary booming is being deployed to environmentally sensitive areas such as Bessie Heights Marsh. There have been no reports of the oil affecting wildlife in the area. The Coast Guard is investigating the cause of the incident.

London, Aug 3 — The US Coast Guard has closed the Sabine Channel from Sun Anchorage down to the Fina Dock, due to an oil/gas spill from a vessel (product tanker *Torm Mary*) anchored in the lower Sun Anchorage. The current has spread the spilled product to below the Atofina Docks. There is currently no indication of how long the clean-up operation will take. News on the likely re-opening of the Sabine-Neches Waterway will be given as soon as possible. This will not, however, affect vessels transiting to/from Port Arthur including Premcor-Port Arthur.

Houston, Aug 3 — The Neches River in southeast Texas remained closed to shipping traffic today as efforts to clean up a 30,000 gallon oil spill continued, the US Coast Guard said. About 150 workers and nine skimmer boats were working to clean up the fuel oil that leaked out of the Danish-flagged product tanker *Torm Mary* at Sun Anchorage early yesterday after a refuelling tank barge *Buffalo 405* owned by Buffalo Marine Services rammed it, ripping a five-foot gash in the ship. Ten ships and 20 barges were backed up awaiting the river's reopening, according to Lt. Ian Bird. "We do not have a definitive time" for the reopening, Bird said. A spokeswoman at ExxonMobil's 360,000 barrel-per-day refinery in Beaumont, which lies upstream from the accident site, said operations at the refinery were not affected by the traffic halt. — Reuters.

London, Aug 4 — A press report, dated today, states: Beaumont's ship channel remains closed for a third day today as cleanup continues on an fuel oil spill. That's after tank barge *Buffalo 405* punctured the starboard fuel tank of the product tanker *Torm Mary* during refueling near Nederland Monday (Aug 2). That's just downstream from Beaumont. No injuries were reported, but the Neches River's closed to shipping from Sabine Lake to Beaumont. The river serves as Beaumont's ship channel to the Gulf. The Coast Guard says more than 175 people are working to clean up about 30-thousand gallons of the gummy fuel oil spilled into the river. Crews have skimmed and siphoned almost 14-thousand gallons of oil and water from the river so far and moved it to a nearby Unocal tank farm. The Coast Guard estimates initial cleanup costs to be 700-thousand dollars. That'll be fronted by the Federal Pollution Fund and repaid by those liable for the spill.

London, Aug 4 — Tank barge *Buffalo 405* and product tanker *Torm Mary*: The clean-up of the recent oil spill in the Sabine-Neches Waterway is taking longer than expected and the Coast Guard is reported to have called in additional resources to assist in the operation. One vessel has been permitted to proceed to Fina, however the US Coast Guard (USCG) has advised that no more vessel traffic will be allowed until further notice. USCG-COTP Port Arthur was due to perform a "fly-over" of the affected area, and surrounding wetlands, at 0700, local time, today, to assess if the clean-up efforts will allow a full or partial re-opening of the waterway.

London, Aug 5 — A press report, dated Aug 4, states: The Neches River was reopened to ship traffic today, more than two days after an oil spill shut the waterway that links the ports of Beaumont, Port Arthur and Orange to the Gulf of Mexico. A Danish ship (product tanker *Torm Mary*) spilled about 25,200 gallons of fuel oil into the river about 0100 Monday after a barge tank (barge *Buffalo 405*) punched a hole in the ship's hull during refuelling near Nederland, between Beaumont and Port

Arthur. Just before noon today, the blocked section of channel was reopened to one-way ship traffic, although vessels will be kept to slow speed to minimise the impact of continuing cleaning operations. "The opening of the Neches River to coordinated traffic is a major milestone in the cleanup and recovery process," said Capt. Sharon Richey, commanding officer of Marine Safety Office Port Arthur and Captain of the Port. "We conducted an overflight of the river and it showed us the bulk of the recoverable oil has been removed from the channel." At midday today, seven outbound ships, six inbound ships and 70 barges were lined up, awaiting permission to pass. More than 29,600 gallons of an oil-water mixture was recovered by cleaning crews. The recovered oil is being taken to a nearby holding tank for recycling.

CANADIAN TRANSFER (Canada)

London, Aug 4 — Bulk *Canadian Transfer* (11120 gt, built 1944), while downbound in the Saqinaw River channel, Michigan, ran aground near Zilwaukee at 0900, Aug 2. No apparent damage.

CAPE AFRICA (Taiwan)

Cape Town, Aug 3 — Bulk *Cape Africa* is presently still in Cape Town undergoing repairs which are expected to be completed Aug 6. We understand that the vessel will thereafter proceed to drydock in the Gulf. — Lloyd's Agents.

CAPENSIS (South Africa)

Durban, Jul 30 — Fishing *Capensis* is still under repair at Port Elizabeth, and has also been placed under arrest. — Lloyd's Agents.

CLARE (NIS)

London, Jul 29 — Following received from Coastguard Shetland MRSC, timed 2005, UTC: At 1715, UTC, ro/ro *Clare* (5617 gt, built 1972), Lerwick to Aberdeen, with 16 40-foot trailers on board, had port engine crankshaft explosion and engine shut down in lat 60 09.53N, long 01 08.27W. Vessel is proceeding to Aberdeen on starboard engine only. Estimated time of arrival at Aberdeen 1500, UTC, Jul 30. Anchor-handling tug *Anglian Earl*, at anchor off Fair Isle, is available but not tasked.

Aberdeen, Aug 2 — Ro/ro *Clare* arrived Aberdeen Jul 30 and sailed Jul 31 for Frederikshavn for repairs. — Lloyd's Agents.

Aalborg, Aug 3 — Ro/ro *Clare* arrived Frederikshavn 1100, Aug 2 for repairs which have already started. — Lloyd's Agents.

CLIPPER ODYSSEY (Bahamas)

London, Aug 1 — Following received from Coast Guard San Francisco, timed 0625, UTC: Passenger *Clipper Odyssey* (5218 gt, built 1989) is aground in lat 54 00.24N, long 166 06W. Passengers are at lifeboats stations. Coast Guard are trying to find vessels to assist, and also sending aircraft to the area. .

London, Aug 1 — Following received from Coast Guard Juneau, timed 0635, UTC: All non-essential persons on board

passenger *Clipper Odyssey*, which had 198 passenger and crew onboard, have left the vessel and have been taken to nearby fishing vessels by the *Clipper Odyssey* tenders. The vessel is aground in lat 54 00 24N, long 166 06W.

London, Aug 1 — Following received from Coast Guard San Francisco, timed 1240, UTC: Passenger *Clipper Odyssey* has been refloated off rocks and is now proceeding under own power to Dutch Harbour accompanied by two tugs. The 153 persons evacuated from the vessel have been transferred to Dutch Harbour by fishing vessels. Owners of the vessel are arranging for another vessel to pick up the passengers and their luggage etc at Dutch Harbour. Damage to vessel not known at this time. An aircraft is to overfly the area to look for any pollution.

London, Aug 1 — A press report, dated today, states: Passenger *Clipper Odyssey* refloated with the tide early today after going hard aground on rocks at Akutan Pass, forcing 153 people to abandon ship and spilling an undetermined amount of fuel, the U.S. Coast Guard said. There were no reports of injuries. The accident at about 2115 yesterday punctured holes in both a 5,800-gallon diesel fuel tank on the port side and in a grey water tank, the Coast Guard said. An undetermined amount of fuel spilled, said Lt. Asheley Bodkin. Good Samaritan vessels in the area carried 122 passengers and 31 crew members from the cruise ship to safety at Unalaska at Dutch Harbour, Bodkin said. Thirty-five crew members, two pilots and two Coast Guard personnel worked on the boat to determine its stability. *Clipper Odyssey* was headed for Unalaska, about a 40 mile trip, under its own power, said Petty Officer Douglas Green. The Coast Guard sent cutters, a helicopter and an airplane to the scene. Fishing boats and a freighter assisted in the rescue, Bodkin said. The ship had been headed west along the Aleutian chain although its destination was not immediately known.

London, Aug 2 — Following received from the operators of passenger *Clipper Odyssey*, dated St. Louis Aug 1: While travelling in 70-foot-deep waters off the coast of Unalaska Island, 20 miles outside Dutch Harbour, at approximately 2115, local time, Jul 31, *Clipper Odyssey* struck a previously unknown, uncharted rock. The ship was moving at five to six knots at the time of the incident and was carrying 126 passengers, 70 crew members, and two certified Alaskan pilots. No injuries were sustained by anyone onboard. All passengers and 31 non-essential crew were safely transported to Dutch Harbour by three nearby local vessels who answered the ship's call for assistance. Damage to the ship was minimal. A freshwater tank, a grey-water tank (shower-drain water), and the port side fuel tank were damaged. The vessel's master, Captain Frank Allica, immediately contacted the Coast Guard, and cooperated fully in their investigation. After floating free of the submerged rock at high tide and cleared

to sail by the Coast Guard, the ship made its way to Dutch Harbour under its own power. Marine engineers are now in Alaska onboard to further assess the damage. Preliminary reports indicate that environmental impact is minimal. The damaged fuel tank was carrying approximately 5,000 gallons, about 20% of its capacity, of marine gas oil. Reports this morning from the Coast Guard indicate that there is no fuel remaining at the site. A third-party oil-spill-response team was dispatched from Seattle to ensure that there is no environmental impact. *Clipper* CEO David Drier said, "We plan for the ship to be repaired in Alaska, and we are very hopeful that it will be ready for our Aug 16 itinerary departing from Port Rupert, BC." *Clipper Odyssey* was completing a 12-day cruise from Nome to Homer and had nearly finished the seventh day of the voyage. *Clipper* has cancelled its scheduled Aug 4 departure of Alaska's Glaciers, Fjords, and Wildlife.

London, Aug 2 — A press report, dated today, states: Passenger *Clipper Odyssey* arrived Dutch Harbour at about 0730 yesterday. Two divers were checking the ship yesterday afternoon for underwater damage. The ship's passengers were being put up at a local hotel and were trying to arrange for flights out of the area, Chief Warrant Officer Roddy Corr, with the Coast Guard on Unalaska Island, said. Between 60 and 70 passengers found accommodations in guest rooms at the Grand Aleutian Hotel and another 50 were put up in bunkhouses usually used for employees. The ship's crew spent the night back on the ship, said Tom Enlow, general manager of the hotel. Corr said the ship would not be allowed to leave Dutch Harbour until a damage survey was completed and temporary repairs made. The ship would likely go to Kodiak or Ketchikan for permanent repairs.

CMA CGM AEGEAN (Liberia)

Piraeus, Jul 29 — C.c. *CMA CGM Aegean* arrived Syros Jul 25 from Piraeus. — Lloyd's Agents.

Piraeus, Jul 30 — C.c. *CMA CGM Aegean* remains in Neorion Shipyard, Syros. Reportedly main repair will commence as soon as the ordered rudder post arrives in Greece. The vessel is expected to complete repairs at the end of September. — Lloyd's Agents.

CMA CGM KALAMATA (Greece)

London, Jul 30 — C.c. *CMA CGM Kalamata* arrived Le Havre Jul 27 from Marsaxlokk. It subsequently arrived Rotterdam Jul 28 and sailed Jul 29 for Hamburg.

CORYO NO.302 (South Korea)

See *Suk Jeong No.505*.

CSCL QINGDAO (Malta)

Busan, Aug 2 — Permanent repairs to c.c. *CSCL Qingdao* were completed on Jul 31, and the vessel sailed from Ulsan bound for Lianyungang, China at 2200 hrs, the same day. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

DAESHIN (South Korea)

See *Suk Jeong No.505*.

DONA ELVIRA (Panama)

Monrovia, Aug 5 — Ro/ro *Dona Elvira* is still in port at Monrovia. The vessel's master claims that the owner's previous plan to load the vessel for Lagos has been changed. The agents are presently canvassing for cargo to load for the Liberian ports of Greenville and Harper. — Lloyd's Agents.

DONG HUA MEN (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

Durban, Jul 29 — General cargo *Dong Hua Men* is presently undergoing repairs at Dormac Ship Repair. The vessel is expected to sail Aug 2. — Lloyd's Agents.

DUNIYA JUKHAV

London, Jul 30 — Ore/oil *Duniya Jukhav* anchored off Alang Jul 27.

EAGLE MEMPHIS (Singapore)

London, Jul 30 — A press report, dated Jul 29, states: Crude oil tanker *Eagle Memphis* (53483 gt, built 1987) and tug *Mr. Craig* (129 gt, built 1981) collided on the Mississippi River this afternoon, leaving a 13-foot hole in one of the tanker's fuel tanks. The Coast Guard says nobody was hurt. Both vessels were heading upriver when the 55-foot *Mr. Craig* and the 774-foot *Eagle Memphis* collided. Coast Guard Petty Officer Kyle Niemi says about 50 barrels of heavy fuel oil spilled from the fuel tank, which was toward the rear on the vessel's starboard side. The accident occurred just south of Algiers Point, a tricky and congested bend across the Mississippi River from the French Quarter. The area was closed to river traffic for about two hours after the 1330, local time, accident. (Note — *Eagle Memphis* was last reported sailing Convent Jul 26.)

London, Jul 30 — Following received from Coast Guard New Orleans, timed 0645, UTC: Crude oil tanker *Eagle Memphis*, loaded with oil, and tug *Mr. Craig* were in collision at Mile Marker 93 on the Mississippi River yesterday afternoon. *Eagle Memphis* sustained a gash of approximately 15 feet by one foot near the stern above the waterline to a fuel tank. Approximately 50 barrels of fuel oil were spilled, the remaining oil was drained out to prevent further spillage. Early estimates put the damage at about \$150,000. The vessel is currently at a restricted anchorage at Mile Marker 90.1, and is expected to proceed into port tomorrow to unload. Drug tests have been conducted. Further details about *Mr. Craig* are unknown.

EASTERN NAVIGATOR (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Aug 2 — Following received from Coast Guard Miami, timed 1425, UTC: General cargo *Eastern Navigator* (3186 gt, built 1991) reported piston problems in its main engine off Miami over the weekend (Jul 31/Aug 1.) The vessel was taken in tow by two tugs and towed to Miami. Vessel remains in port.

London, Aug 5 — General cargo

Eastern Navigator arrived Port Everglades Jul 31 and sailed Aug 3 for Veracruz.

EL SHADDAI (Nigeria)

Monrovia, Jul 27 — Passenger ro/ro *El Shaddai* left Monrovia Jul 20 for Apapa-Lagos. — Lloyd's Agents.

ELBE (Netherlands)

London, Jul 31 — Preserved, museum tug *Elbe* (905 gt, built 1959), which was moored in the Wilton harbour, Schiedam, sank at its moorings yesterday after general cargo *Fairpartner* (15069 gt, built 2004) broke its moorings while they were testing its main engine. *Fairpartner* struck *Elbe* at 1245, local time, with its bulbous bow after which the tug sank immediately.

Rotterdam, Jul 31 — Tug *Elbe* was redelivered to owners earlier this afternoon, after having been refloated by a combination of pumping, while being held stable by two sheerlegs. Salvage crews worked through the night installing pumps, slings and a large patch on the tug's hull, prior to the refloating operation. A salvage vessel and team will remain on site, monitoring the situation and carrying out preservation works on various machineries. — SMIT Salvage BV.

London, Aug 1 — Tug *Elbe*, owned by the Stichting Maritieme Collectie Rijnmond, was struck on Jul 30 by general cargo *Fairpartner*, when *Fairpartner* broke its moorings, while testing its engines. The distance between the two moored vessels was about 75 metres. The bulbous bow of *Fairpartner* made a hole in the side of *Elbe* through which water poured into the engine-room of the tug and it partly sank. There were no persons on board of the tug. Immediately tugs of the towing company Kooren came to assist, including salvage vessels and they prevented it from complete sinking. *Fairpartner* is at Wilton Harbour, Schiedam, to have two deck cranes fitted by Huisman Itrec. The tug has been in possession of the Stichting Maritieme Collectie Rijnmond (part of the Harbour Museum Rotterdam) for two years and in that time it has been rebuilt into a museum vessel. Soon after the collision the tug was lifted by the floating sheerlegs *Matador* and *Taklift 3*. A patch of 3.5 by 3.5 metres was fitted to cover up the hole and prevent water entering the vessel. When and where the damaged tug will be repaired is not known yet.

London, Aug 4 — Tug *Elbe* has been towed by tug *Taktow 1* from the Wilton Harbour, place of the accident, to Vlaardingen. There it went into dry dock No.2 of the HVO shipyard for hull repairs.

FAIAL (Portugal)

Ponta Delgada, Aug 3 — general cargo *Faial*: As far as we understand locally the vessel has been released and sold to a new owner but dates and names were not disclosed here. Also understand that the vessel is now under the necessary arrangements at Ponta Delgada in order to be delivered to her new owners. — Lloyd's Agents.

FAIRPARTNER (Netherlands)

See *Elbe*.

FENIX (Panama)

London, Aug 5 — Bulk/c.c. *Fenix* arrived Newcastle Aug 2.

FERRY DIAMOND (Japan)

Moji, Aug 2 — Passenger ro/ro *Ferry Diamond* only sustained slight local paint scores on its hull. Therefore, no repairs were necessary and the vessel is engaged in its normal service. — Lloyd's Agents.

FJORDVEIEN (Norway)

London, Aug 3 — Information received from Sandnes, dated today, states: Ferry *Fjordveien* (3368 gt, built 2001), Kvitsoy for Skudeneshavn, experienced engine stop outside Skudeneshavn at 1315, local time, Aug 2. The weather was good in the area and there was no injuries to the 180 passengers. After about two hours a tug arrived and towed the ferry to Skudeneshavn. The ferry completed temporary repairs and was back in normally service from Skudeneshavn at 1820, local time.

FOS (Panama)

Bucharest, Aug 4 — Chem tank *Fos* is still in the same position as on the date of our latest report, there being no developments in the court case. — Lloyd's Agents.

GHAZI (Panama)

Karachi, Aug 2 — South Asia Ship Management (Pvt) Ltd, the Karachi-based agent of c.c. *Ghazi* said *Ghazi*, arrived in the afternoon of Jul 30 and discharging cargo at Port Rashid. Earlier it reportedly lost radio contact due bad weather. — Lloyd's List Correspondent

GLOBAL WINNER (Panama)

London, Aug 5 — Following received from Singapore Port Operations, timed 0630, UTC: Bulk *Global Winner* is reportedly still at anchorage within Singapore port limits.

GODEWIND (Antigua & Barbuda)

Kiel, Aug 4 — C.c. *Godewind* is still under repair at Husum for unknown time period. — Lloyd's Agents.

GORDON C.LEITCH (Canada)

London, Aug 3 — Bulk *Gordon C.Leitch* (19160 gt, built 1968), cargo wheat, ran aground at buoy A-2, at the western entrance to the South Shore Canal, St. Lawrence Seaway, in lat 45 24.30N, long 73 43.23W at 0705, today. The vessel sustained damage to the No.1 port ballast tank and took on water.

London, Aug 3 — Following received from St. Lawrence Seaway VTS, Montreal, timed 2000, UTC: Bulk *Gordon C.Leitch*, cargo Canadian grain, had engine failure, due to engine being overloaded, and grounded in the St. Lawrence Seaway this morning. Port side tank damaged and taking water, no pollution. Vessel is still aground with tugs due on scene at 1800, today. The vessel has been inspected and, after being refloated, is permitted to proceed downbound.

London, Aug 4 — Following received from St. Lawrence Seaway VTS, Montreal, timed 0730, UTC: Bulk *Gordon C. Leitch* has been refloated. Vessel is now alongside the wall at Ste Catherine Lock for repairs.

Troy, Michigan, Aug 4 — Bulk *Gordon C. Leitch*: Late yesterday tugs *Ocean Jupiter* and *Ocean Intrepide* were en route to St. Nicholas Island, just above Cote St. Catherine Lock, to assist *Gordon C. Leitch*, which was aground. It was bound for Quebec City with wheat from Thunder Bay. The vessel was refloated at 2200, yesterday, and towed to Cote Ste. Catherine wharf for inspection. — Great Lakes & Seaway Shipping.

Troy, Michigan, Aug 5 — Tugs *Ocean Intrepide* and *Ocean Jupiter* successfully refloated stranded bulk *Gordon C. Leitch* Tuesday night (Aug 3). The vessel ran aground earlier in the day just above the Cote St. Catherine lock. After inspection, it was found to have a two-foot gash in its hull. Temporary repairs were underway yesterday and the vessel got underway at 2045, yesterday. Its destination is still Quebec City where it will unload its cargo of wheat. — Great Lakes & Seaway Shipping.

GOTLAND (Sweden)

Gothenburg, Aug 4 — Passenger ro/ro *Gotland* (29746 gt, built 2003) experienced a severe problem with the main engines on Aug 3 and was forced to stop the engines during transfer from Visby to Nynashamn. The engines just stopped said the passengers and remained so for three and a half hours. A total of 1,103 passengers were on board at the time of the incident. Problems were with the cooling system and were repaired at sea. Later the same evening another major problem/incident occurred when the ferry let out some tons of oil-mixed water directly into the port basin of Visby. — Westax Marine Services AB.

HAMBLEDON (U.K.)

Hull, Aug 4 — Vessel *Hambledon* is still laid up at Alexandra Dock, Grimsby, situation unchanged. — Lloyd's Agents.

HIZIR REIS III (Turkey)

London, Aug 2 — A press report, dated Aug 1, states: Ferry *Hizir Reis III* (not *Hiriz Reis III* as before reported, 395 gt, built 1997) took on water after hitting an unknown object in the Marmara Sea today, but all its 400 passengers were safely evacuated, officials said. The accident occurred some 10 nautical miles off Bandirma, where it was heading from Istanbul, the operator of the service said, in a statement carried by Anatolia news agency. The head of the Istanbul-based company, Ahmet Paksoy, told the agency that a vessel summoned from Bandirma evacuated the 400 passengers. Nobody was hurt in the incident. The ferry was damaged in two places and there was a hole of 30 cm on its bottom side, officials said.

HORIZON (Malta)

London, Aug 2 — C.c. *Horizon* is still aground with lightering of containers in

progress. When safe to do so an effort to refloat the vessel will be made, hopefully within the next few days. It is understood the vessel grounded as a result of pilot error, as originally reported, and not due to engine failure as erroneously reported in issue of Jul 30.

Montreal, Aug 2 — The owners of c.c. *Horizon* put a lightering contract in hand, which began Jul 31. Containers are being removed from the deck and landed ashore in Sorel. We understand that a refloating attempt could be made Aug 3. — Lloyd's Agents.

Troy, Michigan, Aug 4 — The grounded c.c. *Horizon* has offloaded some containers to try and lighten it so the six tugs can refloat the vessel. As of 0700, Aug 3, tugs were unsuccessful in refloating the vessel. — Great Lakes & Seaway Shipping.

London, Aug 4 — C.c. *Horizon* remains aground. Cargo lightering is in progress and a refloating attempt is due to take place today or tomorrow.

HUMBER ARM (Bermuda)

Rome, Aug 4 — General cargo *Humber Arm*: Discharging in Civitavecchia commenced on June 14 and completed on June 18. On the same date she departed from Civitavecchia and she was towed to a shipyard in Castellamere di Stabia, Naples, for repairs. No repairs were carried out in Setubal or in Civitavecchia. — Lloyd's Agents.

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

London, Aug 3 — A press report, dated Aug 2, states: The Mississippi River reopened partially for business this afternoon after a runaway barge sank near the MacArthur Bridge. Fifteen barges hauling grain destined for New Orleans broke loose from tug *J. Andrew Eckstein* (580 gt, built 1977) late yesterday. The tug's wires holding the barges broke, and the tug's pilot called for help. Some of the barges struck the Poplar Street Bridge about 2230 hrs, and others hit the MacArthur Bridge before they were rounded up. Neither of the bridges sustained structural damage, highway officials said. Five tugs helped round up all but one of the barges. That one sank about 200 feet north of the MacArthur Bridge on the Missouri side of the river. The Coast Guard closed two miles of the river this morning south from the Eads Bridge until officials made sure the route was safe, said Lt. Bill Clark of the Coast Guard Marine Safety Office in St. Louis. The stretch re-opened for northbound traffic late today, but authorities were allowing only one tow at a time in that area. One of the barges also struck the Material Sales Co., a riverside business on the Missouri side of the river. No one was hurt. The Coast Guard hopes to begin removing the sunken barge this week.

London, Aug 4 — A press report, dated Aug 3, states: A two-mile section of the Mississippi River reopens to southbound traffic today in Saint Louis. The Coast Guard says the river now is passable in both directions, after a runaway barge hit a downtown bridge and sank Sunday night. Lieutenant Bill Clark with the Coast Guard says barge

operators are experiencing slight delays due to the submerged barge. Fifteen barges carrying grain headed to New Orleans broke away from a towboat (tug *J. Andrew Eckstein*) Sunday night. Some of them hit two bridges, but officials say the bridges remained structurally sound. There were no injuries, and the bridges were not shut down.

London, Aug 5 — A press report, dated Aug 4, states: High waters and rain are slowing emergency repairs to the gates of the one of the busiest lock chambers on the Mississippi River, and a sunken barge isn't making matters any easier, Army Corps of Engineers officials said. Corps members began working on the gates of Locks 27 in the Chain of Rocks Canal on Jul 26 after bolts that help the gates swing open and shut began breaking off, said Alan Dooley, spokesman for the Army Corps of Engineers' St. Louis District. Rain to the north and a high river level are making the lock difficult to drain for repairs, possibly delaying completion by as much as a week, Dooley said. Officials had originally hoped to finish by Aug 8. About 700 barges waited to get through a smaller, nearby lock this morning with an average waiting time of about 54 hours, Dooley said. He said the 51-year-old, 1,200 foot-long lock chamber now under repair moves 60% of the nation's grain exports each year. "There is no good time to do this," Dooley said of the repairs. Complicating matters, a runaway barge is still submerged on the Missouri side of the river making navigation somewhat precarious, Dooley said. Preparation work was underway today to remove the barge from the river, said Coast Guard Lt. Bill Clark. He said the Okie Moore Diving and Salvage Co. is hoping to have the barge out of the river within seven to 10 days. "They don't need these two at the same time," Dooley said of the sunken barge and lock repairs. The barge was one of 15 that broke away from tug *J. Andrew Eckstein*.

JACARANDA (Panama)

See *Pleione*.

JACO CARRIER (NIS)

See "United Kingdom" under "Pollution."

JENS MUNK (DIS)

London, Jul 30 — Following received from Cape Town MRCC, timed 0952, UTC: General cargo *Jens Munk* is still in Mossel Bay.

London, Aug 4 — Following received from Cape Town MRCC, timed 1246, UTC: General cargo *Jens Munk* is still in Mossel Bay.

KIRAN PACIFIC (Turkey)

Hamburg, Jul 30 — Bulk *Kiran Pacific* is still in dock at Blohm & Voss, Hamburg. Repairs are expected to be completed on Aug 6. — Lloyd's Agents.

KTC 115 (Canada)

London, Jul 30 — Following received from Coast Guard Cleveland, timed 1441, UTC: Tank barge *KTC 115* is still aground. A refloating attempt is due to take place today.

London, Jul 31— A press report, dated Jul 30, states: Traffic on the St. Lawrence Seaway is flowing normally again. Tank barge *KTC 115* that ran aground Tuesday (Jul 27) was emptied and towed out to deeper waters. The barge is now en route to Ontario for inspections.

LASS MARS (Germany)

London, Aug 5 — General cargo *Lass Mars* sailed King's Lynn 1822, Jul 30.

MAERSK FLENSBURG (U.K.)

London, Jul 31 — C.c. *Maersk Flensburg* arrived Bremerhaven roads 1530, Jul 29 and berthed at 0350, Jul 30.

London, Aug 4 — C.c. *Maersk Flensburg* sailed Bremerhaven 1440, Aug 2 for Dunkirk.

MAERSK MISSOURI (U.S.A.)

London, Aug 2 — Following received from Coast Guard Miami, timed 1435, UTC: C.c. *Maersk Missouri* (50698 gt, built 1998) ran aground in the Wando River at about 1800, local time, Jul 30. Vessel refloated one hour later. Subsequent inspections revealed no damage and vessel proceeded Jul 31.

MARINCHRIS (Cyprus)

London, Aug 3 — Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: Bulk *Marinchriss* (38180 gt, built 1993), Japan for Italy, loaded with 42,066 tonnes coal, grounded on the rocky islets of Pylos at the entrance to Navarino Bay at 0005, today. On board were 25 crew members who are good in health. There was no pollution and divers are expected to arrive to perform underwater inspection. Pylos Port authority is performing an investigation. (Note — *Marinchriss* sailed Wakamatsu Jul 4 for Taranto.)

London, Aug 3 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 0725, UTC: Bulk *Marinchriss* grounded at 0001, local time, today. Vessel is still aground. Vessel reports slight leakage through a hole 1.5 metres long 10 cm wide in bottom amidships. Diver inspection in progress. Tug *Karapiperis 12* is proceeding from Piraeus and due on scene late this afternoon.

Piraeus, Aug 3 — Bulk *Marinchriss* stranded at the south end of rocky Pylos island, located at the entrance of Navarino Bay, at 0001, today. The vessel was loaded with a consignment of coal. All crew members were reportedly healthy and secure. No pollution was reported. The vessel remains aground, awaiting tug assistance. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Aug 3 — Salvage services are being rendered to bulk *Marinchriss* under Lloyd's Open Form by Stavros Karapiperis Consultants today. Tugs *Karapiperis 12* and *Karapiperis 18* are proceeding.

London, Aug 4 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 0725, UTC: Bulk *Marinchriss* is still aground.

London, Aug 5 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 0655, UTC: Bulk *Marinchriss*: Salvage effort are in hand now.

Piraeus, Aug 5 — Bulk *Marinchriss*: Our salvage tug *Megas Alexandros* proceeded from its Piraeus salvage station to assist *Marinchriss*, loaded with 42,066 tonnes of coal, which was stranded off Pylos at the entrance of Navarino Bay. The tug arrived at the scene yesterday morning while our salvage team, headed by our senior salvage master, proceeded by road from Piraeus overnight. At about noon yesterday we presented our salvage plan for approval to local authorities; however, we understand the owners have engaged port tugs from Piraeus. — Tsavlis Salvage (International) Ltd.

London, Aug 5 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 1110, UTC: Bulk *Marinchriss* refloated at about 0800, UTC, today. Vessel is currently in Pylos Bay, waiting an inspection.

MOHAWK II (Norway)

Zeebrugge, Aug 3 — Training vessel *Mohawk II* is presently alongside shipyard Scheldepoort. Repairs are effected by volunteers. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

MORNING EXPRESS (Panama)

Busan, Aug 2 — Permanent repairs to product tanker *Morning Express* were completed Jul 28 and the vessel sailed Ulsan for Fujairah 1600 same day. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

MR. CRAIG (U.S.A.)

See *Eagle Memphis*.

NAVION STAVANGER (Bahamas)

Hamburg, Jul 30 — A local press report, dated Jul 29, states: "Crude oil tanker *Navion Stavanger* (80691 gt, built 2003) is in dry dock, Dock Elbe 17, at Blohm & Voss, Hamburg, with bottom damage. The vessel arrived at Blohm & Voss early morning Jul 28. The repairs, including general overhaul work, are expected to be completed in 10 to 12 days." Blohm & Voss confirmed that information. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Jul 30 — Following received from the operators of crude oil tanker *Navion Stavanger*, dated today: *Navion Stavanger* is believed to have sustained bottom damage at Tranmere in January. (Note — *Navion Stavanger* arrived Liverpool Jan 2 and sailed Jan 3.)

NAZEK T. (North Korea)

Bucharest, Aug 4 — General cargo *Nazek T.* is still lying in the same position, with no developments in its situation. — Lloyd's Agents.

NCC MEKKA (NIS)

Rio de Janeiro, Aug 3 — Chemical/oil carrier *NCC Mekka* sailed Rio de Janeiro Jul 30 for Dubai. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Aug 4 — Following received from the operators of chemical/oil carrier *NCC Mekka*, dated today: *NCC Mekka* is sailing towards Dubai but a final decision regarding which repairyard will repair the vessel has not yet been made.

NISSOS THASSOS (Greece)

London, Jul 29 — Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: Ferry

Nissos Thassos, 626 gt, (built 1970) sustained port main engine damage while sailing from Prino to Kavala, this afternoon. Following the incident vessel arrived at Kavala under one engine. Departure was prohibited pending inspection of the repairs.

NO LIMIT

Maassluis, Aug 4 — Unknown *No Limit* is still under repair with no date of completion known. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

NO.11 HAE UN (South Korea)

Busan, Jul 28 — Permanent repairs to non specific tanker *No.11 Hae Un* were completed on Jul 31 and the vessel has returned to normal coastal service. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

NORDICA (Cyprus)

London, Jul 31 — General cargo *Nordica* left Gibraltar 1312, Jul 29 for Nouakchott.

OLYMPIC GALAXY (Greece)

Colombo, Jul 30 — Understand that bulk *Olympic Galaxy* will be berthing early today. — Lloyd's Agents.

Colombo, Jul 30 — Bulk *Olympic Galaxy* was confirmed as fit to berth at Prima Jetty by the Class Surveyor and this was accepted by the Sri Lanka Ports Authority. The vessel heaved anchor at 0917 today, the Pilot boarded the vessel at 0927 hrs and it arrived alongside the Prima Jetty and berthed at 1200 hrs. Draught survey was carried out and discharge commenced at 1350 hrs from holds 3 and 5. — Lloyd's Agents.

Colombo, Aug 5 — Bulk *Olympic Galaxy* completed discharge of cargo at 1800, Aug 4 and sailed at approximately 0955, Aug 5 for Singapore. — Lloyd's Agents.

ORANJE NASSAU (Netherlands)

Maassluis, Jul 30 — Trawler *Oranje Nassau* is still at Ymuiden. Repairs are not yet completed. Prospects are repairs will be completed at the end of next week. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

ORCHID SEA (South Korea)

London, Aug 3 — Bulk *Orchid Sea* arrived Nakhodka Jul 21, from China, sailed Jul 23, arrived Chanshu Jul 27 and sailed Jul 29 for Dalian.

PANAGIA KRIMNIOTISSA (Greece)

See "Piraeus Area, Greece" under "Pollution."

PATRAIKOS II (Cyprus)

See "Sierra Leone" under "Piracy."

PECHORA RIVER (Malta)

London, Aug 5 — Product tanker *Pechora River* arrived Tallinn Aug 2.

PETIMATA OT RMS (Bulgaria)

London, Aug 5 — Bulk *Petimata OT RMS* which passed Skaw Jul 27, subsequently passed Dover Strait Jul 28, Kalundborg for Santos.

PLEIONE (Bahamas)

London, Aug 5 — Understood bulk *Pleione* (36559 gt, built 1996), while

moored at Cristobal outer anchorage was struck by bulk *Jacaranda* (38364 gt, built 1999) yesterday. As a result *Pleione* has had ingress of water in a hold. (Note — *Pleione* and *Jacaranda* both sailed New Orleans Jul 30.)

London, Aug 5 — Following received from the London agents of bulk *Pleione*, timed 1205, UTC: *Pleione*, New Orleans for Japan, cargo corn, was struck by bulk *Jacaranda* at 1900, local time, Aug 4. Vessel is flooded in No.2 hold and No.2 water ballast tank. Vessel is still at Cristobal outer anchorage and has been stable for the last six hours.

PRINCESS OF THE PACIFIC (Philippines)

Manila, Aug 4 — Ro/ro *Princess of the Pacific* was refloated Aug 1 and taken to Cebu to discharge cargo, where it arrived Aug 3. Understand the vessel was severely damaged and has been declared a CTL. — Lloyd's Agents.

RANIA KATERINA (Greece)

See "Piraeus Area, Greece" under "Pollution."

SEA BREATH (Cambodia)

London, Aug 4 — A press report, dated Aug 3, states: The Shanghai Salvage Bureau said yesterday it successfully demolished a ship (general cargo *Sea Breath*) that sank at the mouth of the Yangtze River on Apr 21 after a collision with a Cyprus ship (bulk *Pontomedon*). The wreck had posed great danger to shipping in the waters, officials said. It took only several seconds for the explosion to complete while preparation work took several months.

SETIA JAYA (Singapore)

London, Jul 30 — A press report, dated Jul 29, states: At least six crewmembers were killed when the engine-room of chemical/oil carrier *Setia Jaya* exploded last Saturday (Jul 24) some 300 miles south of Galle harbour, sources said. The vessel was sailing from Jaipur to the Maldives at the time of the explosion. The victims have been identified as Malaysian, Chinese and Singaporean nationals. Sri Lankan authorities said that fifteen other crewmembers were rescued by another vessel. *Setia Jaya* is expected to be towed into Galle harbour soon.

London, Jul 30 — A press report, dated today, states: Chemical/oil carrier *Setia Jaya* was towed into Sri Lankan territorial waters yesterday under the Sri Lankan Ports Authority (SLPA) supervision, Ports Ministry sources said. The sources confirmed that four bodies of the crew of the vessel were also brought to Galle yesterday. The vessel has been towed to Sri Lankan territorial waters and anchored outside the Galle Port. Sri Lankan Merchant shipping division received permission from the Singaporean Merchant Shipping authorities yesterday to board the tanker to conduct a preliminary assessment. A team of Fire Brigade officials and the Government Analyst are scheduled to inspect the tanker today to decide on the possibility of towing it into the Galle Port. The

assessment is to determine whether it is safe to tow the vessel close to the Galle port. The ship's agents sought SLPA assistance to salvage the tanker and recover five bodies left in the vessel. An investigation into the explosion will be carried out when the tanker is towed near the Galle port, sources said.

Colombo, Jul 30 — Chemical/oil carrier *Setia Jaya*: According to information received, accident had occurred 220 miles off Galle. The vessel is being towed towards Galle by tug *Sable Cape*. As of yesterday it was 12 nautical miles off Galle. Also yesterday four dead bodies were removed from the vessel. Today a team of fire experts will board the vessel. Two more bodies are believed to be in the engine-room. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Jul 30 — A press report, dated today, states: Chemical/oil carrier *Setia Jaya* that went missing in the Indian Ocean last Thursday (Jul 22) was located about 20 hours later. The vessel had apparently caught fire while it was in Sri Lankan waters. Its distress calls were picked up by crude oil tanker *British Pride*, sailing about 200 nautical miles away. The British-registered vessel saved 15 of the 21 crew. The bodies of five others were recovered. One of the crew is still missing. The Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore was alerted that *Setia Jaya* was missing by the ship's agent, Samta Ship Management, last Thursday. The MPA then asked the Indian Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre in Bangalore to look out for the vessel. The ship had left Male Jul 17 and had been expected to arrive in Singapore last Friday (Jul 23). The vessel had activated its emergency radio beacon at about 1400 hrs that day, and the signal was picked up by the Indian centre. According to the MPA, the 15 crew who survived were dropped off by *British Pride* at a port in the Lombok Strait, Indonesia. Samta, the vessel's agent, has made arrangements to help them return to their homes. No details were released as to who among the 14 Chinese nationals, four Myanmar nationals and three Indonesians on board the ship had survived. An ocean-going tug was hired to tow *Setia Jaya* to Sri Lanka. It arrived there this Wednesday. It is understood the ship owner is arranging for some of the survivors to come to Singapore to help the authorities investigate what happened. The extent of damage to the ship and how the fire started is unclear.

Colombo, Aug 3 — After recovery of two more bodies chemical/oil carrier *Setia Jaya* has shift 25 nautical miles off Galle awaiting hull and machinery surveyor to attend on board. — Lloyd's Agents.

Colombo, Aug 5 — The hull and machinery surveyors from Singapore boarded chemical/oil carrier *Setia Jaya* Aug 3 and departed Colombo on Aug 4. The vessel is at the same position. Tug/supply *Mahanuwara* has taken over the tow from tug *Sable Cape*. — Lloyd's Agents.

SHOTOKU MARU (Japan)

Moji, Aug 2 — Repairs to product tanker *Shotoku Maru* were completed on Jul 30 and the vessel returned to normal trading the same day. — Lloyd's Agents.

SIR MICHAEL (Honduras)

St. Vincent, Cape Verde, Aug 2 — Anchor handling tug *Sir Michael* is still under arrest with no prospects for its release. — Lloyd's Agents.

SONJA DORIS (Denmark)

London, Aug 4 — Following received from Aarhus RCC, timed 1100, UTC: Trawler *Sonja Doris* (413 gt, built 1972), four persons on board, had a fire on board off Esbjerg yesterday. Coast Guard waited until fire burned out before towing vessel to Esbjerg, arriving at 1720, UTC, yesterday.

SOUTHERN MOANA (Antigua & Barbuda)

Wellington, Jul 29 — General cargo *Southern Moana* (4410 gt, built 2000), on voyage 101, encountered problems while attempting to enter Futuna at dawn yesterday, and has grounded on the reef at the entrance to the harbour. Tug *Dretia* from the nearest port is enroute to assist the vessel to get clear of the reef and is likely to tow it to the nearest repair facility. It is certain *Southern Moana* will not resume service for some time, so a replacement vessel is currently being located to load for voyage 102. Receivals for voyage 102, which normally would have been from Jul 28 to 30, will be delayed until the dates of the replacement vessel are found. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Jul 31 — Understand general cargo *Southern Moana* is still aground. Lloyd's Open Form 2000, with SCOPIC, signed with United Salvage.

SOUTHGATE (Liberia)

London, Jul 31 — Bulk *Southgate* arrived Aviles Jul 29.

SOYO MARU (Japan)

Kobe, Jul 30 — During trial fishing research *Soyo Maru* sustained a fouled propeller in a rope, 322 deg, 175 miles from Ono Lighthouse, in Kanazawa at 0711, local time, Jul 26. The crew stopped the engine and waited for a tug. The vessel was towed at 0752, Jul 27 and anchored off Kanazawa at 0820, Jul 28. After removal of the rope by divers, *Soyo Maru* proceeded to Yamatotai at 1405, same day. — Lloyd's Agents.

STENA LYNX III (Bahamas)

Liverpool, Aug 3 — Passenger ro/ro *Stena Lynx III* sailed Liverpool Jul 27. — Lloyd's Agents.

STRADA GIGANTE (Italy)

London, Jul 31 — Ro/ro *Strada Gigante* left Hamburg Jul 29 for Mersin.

SUK JEONG NO.505 (South Korea)

Busan, Aug 2 — General cargo *Suk Jeong No.505* is still lying moored at Mokpo breakwater. Barge *Coryo No.302* and tug *Daeshin* are still under arrest at Mokpo. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

THOR TRAVELLER (Thailand)

London, Aug 4 — Bulk *Thor Traveller* arrived Singapore 1630, Jul 31.

TIRELESS (Marshall Islands)

Chittagong, Aug 3 — Chem.tank *Tireless* sailed Aug 1 for Singapore. — Lloyd's Agents.

TMM OAXACA (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Aug 1 — A press report, dated Jul 30, states: A Maltese fishing company is seeking compensation from the owner of a foreign vessel (? c.c. *TMM Oaxaca*) as it claimed that the vessel damaged its nets full of tuna. Melita Tuna Ltd. filed a writ of summons in the Civil Court requesting a compensation of Euro 3.5 million after the foreign vessel collided into its trawlers full of tuna. The company director Salvu Ellul said that on Jul 17 (? Jul 15) the trawlers were transporting nets full of tuna handed over by a French fishing company when the vessel ran into the trawlers with the consequence that most of the tuna were killed. Magistrate Jacqueline Padovani Grima ruled there was enough evidence for the indictment of the owner of the vessel. (Note — *TMM Oaxaca* sailed Valletta Jul 23.)

TORM MARY (DIS)

See *Buffalo 405*

URSULA LEONHARDT (Malta)

Brest, Aug 5 — Understand that no decision has yet been taken regarding repairs to general cargo *Ursula Leonhardt*. Reportedly surveys are still being carried out to the machinery of the vessel as well as to the cargo on board, NPK fertilisers. Depending on the final decision of the shipowners, it is not excluded that the cargo will be transhipped. — Lloyd's Agents.

VALIA (Greece)

London, Aug 2 — Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: Product tanker *Valia* (ex *Panagia Tinou* (497 gt, built 1944), Piraeus for Iraklion, with fuel oil and gas oil, was reported not under command five nautical miles north of Kimolos at 1130, Aug 1, due to engine damage. The Ministry notified nearby vessels to assist, and also notified the Coast Guard station at Milos. A tug from Hania proceeded to the area. Tug *Achilleas* took the vessel in tow for Keratsini early Aug 2, in order to carry out repairs.

VASSILIOS II (Greece)

London, Jul 29 — Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: Following temporary repairs to chem.tank *Vassilios II* which struck one of the banks of the Corinth Canal on Jul 27, and following survey by Hellenic Register, was permitted to sail from Corinth yesterday for Amfilochia to discharge and thereafter proceed to Perama in order to perform permanent repairs.

VISTA MARINER (Tuvalu)

London, Aug 5 — A press report, dated today, states: A vessel (product tanker

Vista Mariner, ex *Nautica TG.Pelepas*, 676 gt, built 1980) carrying 200 tonnes of oil waste which sank last week off Indonesia's Riau islands has begun to spill its cargo, threatening fishing grounds, officials said today. The ship went down on Jul 25 as it tried to dock at a town in the Karimun region of the island chain close to Singapore, but the extent of the pollution was not known, said environment ministry spokesman Sudaryono. Indonesian Environment Minister Nabeli Makarim said he had deployed a team to the area to inspect the damage and was consulting with his Singaporean counterpart over compensation, according to the Detikcom online news service. Lieutenant Colonel Bambang Wahyudi, a navy commander in Karimun, said the ship had sunk with some of its oil containers open. "About two nautical miles off the shore, the sea was blackened by oil waste. Until now, fishermen there could not catch fish because of the oil spill," Detikcom quoted him as saying.

London, Aug 5 — Following received from Singapore Port Operations, timed 0850, UTC: The vessel that sank off the Riau Islands was Tuvalu product tanker *Vista Mariner*.

**SIERRA LEONE**

London, Aug 2 — Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: During the early hours of Aug 2, 10 armed pirates launched an attack on general cargo *Patraikos II* (13998 gt, built 1979) while the vessel was 10 nautical miles from Freetown, Sierra Leone. On board were 24 crew. From the attack the Greek Chief Engineer and another three crewmembers were injured. The pirates stole money and other items from the vessel. The injured were transported ashore to a hospital and the vessel anchored in Freetown port. (Note — *Patraikos II* sailed Durban Jul 16 for Conakry.)

**AMER THAMES (Panama)**

See under "Marine."

ANYA (Netherlands Antilles)

Cape Town, Aug 2 — Diamond mining vessel *Any*a under arrest at Luderitz, Namibia: No bids were received at the auction held in Cape Town on Jul 28. It is understood further attempts to sell the vessel will be made in the future. — Lloyd's Agents.

ARDEAL (Romania)

Khulna, Aug 1 — General cargo *Ardeal* is still under attachment at Mongla. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

AUKUREN**(St. Vincent & Grenadines)**

Oslo, Aug 3 — Cement *Aukuren* is still in port. — Lloyd's Agents.

CAPBRETON 1**(St. Vincent & Grenadines)**

London, Jul 31 — A press report, dated today, states: The charterer of vessel *Capbreton 1*, 4015 gt, built 1983) in which 10 foreign nationals were allegedly caught, dealing in illegal oil bunkering to the tune of N21 million, Mrs. Nkasi Comfort Onyung, a Nigerian, has been arrested and arraigned before a Federal High Court, Lagos. Prosecuting on behalf of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Mrs. Pat Ajoku had earlier presented the 10 foreign nationals who include six Ivoriens, two Beninoise, and two Togolese before the court for trial on an alleged criminal case of illegally dealing in crude oil within the Nigerian territorial waters. All the accused had since pleaded not guilty. Following the arrest of the charterer, the prosecution amended the former charge to include the charterer as the 11th accused person. According to the prosecution, on or about Jul 17, 2003 at off the coast of Forcados, within the Nigerian territorial waters, all the accused conspired with other persons still at large and dealt with 6,500 tonnes of crude oil valued at about N21 million in *Capbreton* without lawful authority. All pleaded not guilty. Meanwhile, Chief Emefo Etudo, the leading defence lawyer to the 10 foreign nationals, had filed an application seeking for transfer of the case from the present trial judge, Justice Mohammed Shuaibu on the allegation of bias, against the 10 other accused. The application which was yet to be argued stated that it was necessary to send the case file to the Chief Judge for re-assignment to another judge of the Federal High Court, noting that the court allowed the charterer to exclusively address the court for about 30 minutes unrecorded touching the subject-matter of the case. A nine-paragraph affidavit in support of the motion, sworn to by one Timilehin Akindeju, averred that the other 10 foreign nationals accused were not given opportunity to refute what the charterer said. The treatment of the 10 other accused who were ordered to be remanded in prison custody as against the charterer who the court remanded in police custody "is a clear case of special interest by a judicial officer in a case before him; a conduct which is inimical to the due administration of justice and amounts to the bias of the said presiding judge".

CAPENSIS (South Africa)

See under "Marine."

CORYO NO.302 (South Korea)

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

DAESHIN (South Korea)

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

DAMANIA -1 (India)

Mumbai, Jul 30 — Ferry *Damania-1* is still alongside dock at NP Dock, Mumbai, under arrest by order of the High Court. — Lloyd's Agents.

DUIVELAND (Netherlands)

Maassluis, Aug 4 — General cargo *Duiveland* was released on or about Jul 29. It is still in Ridderkerk. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

ENDEAVOR II (Greece)

Karachi, Jul 30 — Crude oil tanker *Endeavor II*, is still under arrest at Karachi. — Lloyd's Agents.

Karachi, Aug 2 — Crude oil tanker *Endeavor II* is still under arrest at Karachi Port and is awaiting a judgement order, according to Karachi Port Authority and the counsel for the vessel's owners. The court has been closed for the last two months for annual holidays and is expected to open on Aug 9. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

HALIA (Isle of Man)

London, Jul 30 — The Madagascar government last week detained product tanker *Halia* (28277 gt, built 1993) headed for Mauritius, casting an immediate and lengthy shadow over its heavily import-dependent neighbour and sparking a flurry of diplomatic manoeuvring in a bid to resolve the situation. *Halia* managed by Shell International was detained in the Madagascar port of Toamasina last Tuesday (Jul 27) on its way to Mauritius with a cargo of 24,000 tonnes of fuel oil. A spokesman for Galana Petroleum, which operates a refinery at Toamasina and which was responsible for the shipment, said that the company had not been given a reason for the Malagasy government's decision to requisition the cargo. At the same time, reports from the region suggested the move related to government charges that Galana had left Madagascar dangerously short of fuel and that it had not repatriated the proceeds of its Mauritius contract to Madagascar. Galana hotly denies the reports, arguing that it has repatriated the funds and that fuel stocks in Madagascar are currently double the legal requirement. The consequences of the disagreement for Mauritius are stark, however. The smaller island imports 75% of its primary energy requirement and is faced by the immediate prospect of energy shortages if supplies remain cut off. Meanwhile, a London-based spokeswoman for Shell confirmed this afternoon that there had been no change in the ship's status. "It is still in dock," she said, adding that "it is a matter for the government (of Madagascar) and the carrier to resolve." Galana Madagascar produces 200,000 tonnes of fuel oil per year, 30,000 tonnes of which for consumption on the island with the remainder going to export. Its parent company, Galana Petroleum, is based in Mauritius.

KAWKAB (Egypt)

Venice, Aug 3 — General cargo *Kawkab* is still in port and at present there are no prospects of departure. No particulars have been changed so far. — Lloyd's Agents.

LION OF OLYMPIA (Greece)

Valencia, Aug 5 — General cargo *Lion of Olympia* is still under arrest at Sagunto. The reasons for the arrest are as yet unknown. — Lloyd's Agents.

NAIME S. (Comoros)

Limassol, Jul 31 — General cargo *Naime S.* is still under arrest at Limassol. — Lloyd's Agents.

OSTWIND (Antigua & Barbuda)

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

PILGRIM 3 (Cambodia)

London, Aug 4 — C.c. *Pilgrim 3*, Kavkaz for Tuzla, loaded, passed Istanbul 1730, Jul 27.

REINE (Panama)

Freeport, Bahamas, Aug 4 — Due to a technical hitch in the purchasing process ro/ro *Reine* remains in Freeport. It is fully manned and awaiting developments, probably to be dry-docked for inspection and re-classification/flag purposes. — Lloyd's Agents.

REMBRANDT (Bahamas)

Gibraltar, Aug 5 — Passenger *Rembrandt* is currently in Cammell Laird shiprepair yard where they are carrying out a six month conversion to a conference centre/museum. Understand that the vessel will revert to its original name of *Rotterdam* and that this is being arranged by the Rotterdam Authority. — Lloyd's Agents.

SAINT RAPHAEL II (Greece)

Piraeus, Aug 2 — Non specific tanker *Saint Raphael II* is still under arrest and is set for auction on Sep 9 at Perama, with a reserve price of US\$ 50,000. — Lloyd's Agents.

SHAMROCK (French Southern Territories)

London, Jul 30 — A press report, dated today, states: Officials are trying to find a replacement to carry cargo in and out of Portland Harbour because of a financial dispute that has left ro/ro *Shamrock* anchored. Local officials and lawyers have been seeking permission to unload cargo needed by businesses throughout the region. Jotul North America has 11 containers full of imported wood stoves and stove parts on *Shamrock*. And the parts are needed to maintain production at a plant that employs 20 people in Portland. Many of the containers on board are refrigerated and contain perishables such as frozen fish and shrimp. Thirteen containers are filled with frozen snow crabs from Newfoundland that are ultimately bound for Asia. White Rock Distilleries in Lewiston has several containers of bottled Scotch and other liquor, and large tanks of alcohol from England that it plans to process

into various brands of vodka. The company has planned for delays but supplies are straining as the dispute drags on, said Harold Jones, the company's shipping manager. As frustration mounts among customers who could not get their cargo, city officials are concerned that businesses could stop shipping goods through the port and instead truck the containers to some other port. City officials and private carriers who own the containers are trying to ensure the survival of Portland's cargo business by negotiating with the operators of a New York-based barge that could replace *Shamrock* as soon as this weekend. "The bottom line here is that we've got a lot of jobs at risk," said Jeff Monroe, city director of ports and transportation, referring to the longshoremen and others who work at the cargo terminals in Portland and other ports. "We've got to make sure our shippers and our customers are satisfied." John Hudson, ship's agent for the company that operates *Shamrock*, SPM Container Line, said he's hopeful the ship will return to its regular service in the next few days. Aside from the cost to SPM and all the other companies involved, *Shamrock's* 13 crew members also remain stuck on board the ship.

SIR MICHAEL (Honduras)

See under "Marine."

STRILBAS (Norway)

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

TAI PING QUAN (China)

London, Aug 3 — General cargo *Tai Ping Quan* remains at Western Anchorage No.1, Hong Kong, under arrest.

THALASOPOROS (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

Limassol, Jul 31 — Tug *Thalasoporos* is still under arrest at Limassol. — Lloyd's Agents.

THETIS (Malta)

Port Said, Aug 4 — General cargo *Thetis* remains under arrest at the Great Bitter Lakes. — Lloyd's Agents.

VOYAGER (Netherlands Antilles)

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

YONGTONG (Panama)

London, Aug 3 — Chemical/oil carrier *Yongtong* remains at Kau Yi Chau Dangerous Goods Anchorage, Hong Kong, under arrest.

**ATH AREA, BELGIUM**

Brussels, Jul 30 — Several people were killed and about 100 injured by an explosion on a gas pipeline in southern

Belgium, regional civil protection agency spokesman Benoit Hachez said today. "There are about 100 injuries, including some deaths, though we don't know the exact number," Hachez said. "Emergency services were repairing a gas leak at the scene when the explosion happened," he said. Federal police said the blast occurred today in the industrial zone of Ghislenghien near the town of Ath, some 25 miles south-west of Brussels. "There must have been a problem in the gas pipe," police spokeswoman Els Cleemput said. "Part of the factory has exploded." — Reuters.

London, Jul 30 — A press report, dated today, states: A huge gas explosion in Belgium has killed at least 14 people and injured 200, many of them with serious burns. The blast, at an industrial park about 30km south-west of Brussels, sent flames shooting into the air, and was felt over a wide area. A fire service spokesman, at the scene near the town of Ath, said the site of the explosion looked like a war zone. Emergency services are treating the blast as a major incident and troops are helping with the disaster response. A nearby motorway was closed and local residents were advised to stay indoors with their windows closed. A spokesman for the Belgian health ministry confirmed the high number of casualties. Some of the dead are reported to have been killed as they went to investigate a leak in the pipeline carrying gas from the port of Zeebrugge on the Belgian coast to France. Firefighters and policemen are among the casualties. A fire service spokesman said that bodies and debris from the blast were scattered hundreds of metres around the disaster site at the Ghislenghien industrial park. "There were bodies in parking lots, in the fields; burnt out cars in an area half a kilometre wide," he said. Army units have been called in to help co-ordinate the disaster response and military helicopters have helped ferry victims to hospitals and specialist burn units. France has also sent medical support and a helicopter. Christian Otto, a spokesman for Fluxys, which runs the country's gas pipelines, said the blast completely destroyed buildings in the immediate area. He said the company had stopped pumping gas along the line and had taken measures to keep supplying customers. Acting provincial governor Guy Petit said local people were no longer at risk. "This was a leak of gas for residential use - it is not a dangerous chemical," he said.

BAYJI AREA, IRAQ

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



Pollution

MWEENISH ISLAND, REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

London, Aug 4 — A press report, dated today, states: The Irish Coastguard is

investigating reports of an oil spill near Mweenish island off the coast of Co Galway. Local residents had reported the incident to the coastguard, which sent a helicopter to photograph the scene today. The oil is believed to have leaked from a nearby wreck. The extent of the spill is unknown, but pollution control equipment has been sent to the scene.

NEDERLAND AREA, NECHES RIVER, TEXAS, UNITED STATES

See *Buffalo* 405

ONONDAGA LAKE, SYRACUSE, NEW YORK, UNITED STATES

London, July 30 — A press report, dated today, states: Honeywell International may have to pay as much as \$2.3 billion over 17 years to clean up waste it dumped into Onondaga Lake over several decades. The state Department of Environmental Conservation says in a letter to be sent to Honeywell today that it will provide the company with a road map for cleaning the lake — including at least eight cleanup options. Honeywell merged with Allied Chemical in 1999, and became responsible for pollution from an Allied plant in Solvay that closed in 1986. The state claims the company dumped 165-thousand pounds of mercury into the lake between 1946 and 1970. Onondaga Lake is on the federal Superfund list of toxic waste sites, and fishing is banned due to the mercury contamination. Honeywell will submit their cleanup proposal to the state by Sept 1.

PIRAEUS AREA, GREECE

London, Jul 29 — Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: During the morning of Jul 28, while passenger ro/ro *Panagia Krimniotissa* (9021 gt, built 1973) was taking bunkers at the Elefthera Quay at Keratsini, Piraeus from product tanker *Rania Katerina* (726 gt), call sign SW8893, pollution of 200m² gas oil was caused. The pollution was later cleaned up by a private company.

RIAU ISLANDS AREA, INDONESIA

See *Vista Mariner* under "Marine."

UNITED KINGDOM

Aalborg, Jul 28 — General cargo *Jaco Carrier* arrived Aalborg Jul 23 from Eastham and sailed Jul 27 for Eastham. — Lloyd's Agents.



CHINA

London, Jul 28 — A press report, dated today, states: Floods have killed 439 people and caused economic losses of 21.95 billion yuan (US\$2.65 billion) across China this summer, the Civil Affairs Ministry said yesterday. More than 78 million people have been affected, 275,000 houses destroyed and

over 5.16 million hectares of farmland damaged, the ministry said. Since late last month, incessant heavy rains have led to severe mountain torrents, mudflows and landslides in several regions. "The flood situation is grave, especially in Hunan, Henan, Hubei and Yunnan provinces and Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region," said Wang Zhenyao, director of the ministry's Disaster Relief Department. He described this year's floods as the worst in decades. Natural disasters including floods, drought, wind, hail, earthquakes, blizzards, extreme temperatures, landslides and mudflows have killed 659 people this year. The economic loss from the calamities was estimated at 39.26 billion yuan. As a result, more than 1.2 million people had been relocated, the ministry said.

HUNGARY

London, Aug 3 — A press report, dated today, states: Flooding caused by several days of heavy rain has collapsed houses and forced dozens of people to leave homes in eastern Hungary, officials said today. About 85 residents from six villages were evacuated after the Hernad river overflowed its banks, said Peter Szabo, area director of emergency services. Three houses have collapsed, while another 128 are threatened, he said. The army sent two helicopters to the area to help transport sandbags for makeshift barrages, Szabo said. The floodwaters were expected to subside by tomorrow.

HURRICANE "ALEX"

London, Aug 2 — A press report, dated today, states: The first named storm of the Atlantic hurricane season developed off the South Carolina coast yesterday as forecasters predicted Tropical Storm "Alex" would make landfall in North Carolina later this week. "Alex's" centre was about 110 miles south-southeast of Charleston, S.C., early today. It was nearly stationary, though its winds were blowing up to 40 mph, forecasters said. The tropical storm's centre was expected to reach the Carolina coast early tomorrow. The National Hurricane Centre extended the tropical storm warning from Cape Hatteras, N.C., to the South Santee River, north of Charleston. A tropical storm watch was extended from Cape Hatteras to Oregon Inlet, N.C., and remained in effect from the South Santee River to Edisto Beach. "Alex" started as a tropical depression Saturday (Jul 31). It churned toward South Carolina on Sunday at about 7 mph before becoming stationary and gathering strength, forecasters said. Although the storm was close to shore and conditions were expected to worsen, "Alex" had little impact Sunday: Winds in Charleston and Myrtle Beach rarely gusted above 15 mph and Myrtle Beach had only .08 inches of rain.

London, Aug 2 — A press report, dated today, states: The first named storm of the Atlantic hurricane season developed off the South Carolina coast yesterday as forecasters predicted Tropical Storm "Alex" would make landfall in North Carolina. "Alex's" centre was about 90

miles south-southeast of Charleston, SC, at 2200, EST. Winds were blowing up to 40 mph, forecasters said. The National Hurricane Centre extended the tropical storm warning from Cape Hatteras, NC, to the South Santee River, north of Charleston.

London, Aug 2 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: Tropical storm "Alex" centre located near lat 31.4N, long 79.5W at 0900, UTC, today. Position accurate within 30 nautical miles. Maximum sustained winds 35 knots with gusts to 45 knots. Forecast position near lat 32.2N, long 79.0W at 1800, UTC, today. Maximum winds 40 knots, gusts 50 knots. Forecast position lat 33.4N, long 77.3W at 0600, Aug 3. Maximum winds 50 knots, gusts 60 knots.

Miami, Aug 2 — Tropical Storm "Alex", set to turn into a hurricane within hours, threatened to hit the coast of North Carolina with high winds and storm surges sometime tomorrow, forecasters said today. A hurricane warning was issued by the National Hurricane Centre. "Alex" was moving slowly north-northeast at around six mph on a course that would take its centre near the North Carolina Outer Banks islands during tomorrow, the hurricane center said. The storm, carrying maximum winds of around 60 mph, was about 150 miles south-southwest of Wilmington, North Carolina at 1700 hrs, near lat 32.1N, long 78.5W, the center said. The storm was expected to turn into a hurricane during the next 24 hours. The forecast path for the storm showed it travelling on a course parallel with the southeast part of the coast of Northern Carolina. Up to three inches or more of rain could fall on coastal areas, as well as storm surges of up to four feet in the Pamlico Sound, the sea between the mainland and the Outer Banks chain of islands. — Reuters.

London, Aug 3 — Following received from the Meteorological Office: Hurricane "Alex": All warnings are discontinued south of Cape Fear, North Carolina. A hurricane warning remains in effect from Cape Lookout to Oregon Inlet, NC, including the Pamlico Sound. This means that hurricane conditions are expected within the warning area during the next 24 hours. Preparations to protect life and property should be rushed to completion. A tropical storm warning is in effect from north of Oregon Inlet to the North Carolina/Virginia border, including the Albemarle Sound. A tropical storm warning remains in effect from Cape Fear to Cape Lookout, NC. Hurricane centre located near lat 33.5N, long 76.9W, at 0900, UTC, Aug 3. Position accurate to within 15 nautical miles. Present movement towards the northeast, or 045 deg, at nine knots. Diameter of eye 15 nautical miles. Maximum sustained winds 70 knots with gusts to 85 knots. Radius of 64-knot winds nil north-west quadrant, 20 nautical miles elsewhere. Radius of 50-knot winds 20 nautical miles north-west quadrant, 30 nautical miles elsewhere. Radius of 34-knot winds 40 nautical miles north-west quadrant, 50

nautical miles south-west quadrant, 75 nautical miles north-east quadrant and 90 nautical miles south-east quadrant. Radius of 12-foot seas 100 nautical miles west semicircle, 120 nautical miles elsewhere. Forecast for 1800, UTC: Position lat 34.6N, long 75.6W. Maximum sustained winds 75 knots with gusts to 90 knots. Radius of 64-knot winds nil north-west quadrant, 20 nautical miles elsewhere. Radius of 50-knot winds 20 nautical miles north-west quadrant, 30 nautical miles elsewhere. Radius of 34-knot winds 40 nautical miles north-west quadrant, 50 nautical miles south-west quadrant, 80 nautical miles north-east quadrant and 90 nautical miles south-east quadrant. Forecast for 0600, UTC, Aug 4: Position lat 36.3N, long 72.6W. Maximum sustained winds 75 knots with gusts to 90 knots. Radius of 64-knot winds nil north-west quadrant, 20 nautical miles elsewhere. Radius of 50-knot winds 30 nautical miles west semicircle, 40 nautical miles elsewhere. Radius of 34-knot winds 60 nautical miles west semicircle, 90 nautical miles elsewhere.

London, Aug 3 — A press report, dated today, states: Hurricane "Alex" strengthened, with sustained winds reaching 100 mph today as it tracked along the coast of North Carolina, but most of the storm-hardened residents of the Outer Banks didn't even bother to board up their windows. Motel parking lots and the campground at Oregon Inlet were still full this morning. The storm built to hurricane strength early in the day and by late morning the sustained wind around its eye — which remained off the coast — had increased to nearly 100 mph, with higher gusts, the National Hurricane Centre said. On shore, up to six inches of rain was possible in some areas, the National Weather Service said. The hurricane centre said little additional strengthening was expected. As the forecast track would keep the storm's centre just off the low-lying Outer Banks islands, "Alex" did not raise the same level of concern as have previous storms that made direct hits on the resort area and stayed over land for extended periods. The state left evacuation orders up to local authorities; officials in the two counties most likely to be affected, Dare and Hyde, had not ordered any as of late morning. A hurricane warning was in effect along the Outer Banks from Cape Lookout to Oregon Inlet, and tropical storm warnings extended north to the Virginia state line and south of Cape Lookout to Surf City. The hurricane was expected to gradually turn towards the north-east.

Raleigh, N.C., Aug 3 — Hurricane "Alex" flooded hundreds of homes and cars, sent water swilling along roads and cut power to thousands of people today as it roared past the Outer Banks, an island chain off North Carolina that is a popular vacation spot. "Alex", with maximum winds of 100 mph, pounded parts of the Outer Banks with winds of more than 75 mph and heavy seas as it churned through the Atlantic Ocean. The storm was rated at Category 2 on a scale of 1-5

that forecasters use to measure hurricanes and took a course parallel to the 100-mile island chain, with its core just offshore, before heading out to sea by this afternoon, the National Hurricane Centre in Miami said. There were no fatalities or known major injuries from the storm, state officials said. Electricity was out on all of Ocracoke Island and portions of Hatteras Island. Officials in Dare County said that on Hatteras Island some 3,000 customers were without power by mid-afternoon. Power had been restored to 4,000 users there. The storm left Ocracoke Island's only highway covered with water and sand in numerous places, Davenport said. To the north on Hatteras Island, Hatteras village was also hit as were the villages of Buxton and Frisco. "We are hearing of vehicles that were flooded, some homes that received water and some roofs that blew off," Dare County spokeswoman Dorothy Toolan said. "But until we get assessment teams out it is difficult to guess the damage." The storm moved swiftly out to sea and by 1700 hrs it was about 65 miles northeast of Cape Hatteras, at lat 35.8N, long 75.6W, the center said. The storm was moving northeast at about 17 mph. — Reuters.

London, Aug 4 — A press report, dated today, states: Hurricane "Alex", stronger than expected but sparing the North Carolina coast a direct hit, brought plenty of wind, rain and flooding to the Outer Banks, cutting power to thousands and flooding Hatteras Island's only link to the mainland. Now the communities of North Carolina's barrier islands must clean up after the storm brushed the coast yesterday. Wind reached 100 mph, sending trash bins and debris floating along flooded Highway 12. Today, water still covered about a 50-foot section of the highway south of Oregon Inlet. "Alex" grew to hurricane strength, 74 mph, early yesterday; by midday the sustained wind around its eye had revved up to about 100 mph, with higher gusts, the National Hurricane Centre said. However, the eye just barely passed by Cape Hatteras, leaving the east side of the hurricane, where the strongest wind and heaviest rain are located, out at sea. By late this morning, "Alex" was centred about 400 miles east-north-east of Cape Hatteras with its top sustained wind speed down to about 85 mph, according to the hurricane centre. It was moving at about 20 mph toward the east-northeast, on a track likely to keep it south of Nova Scotia and Newfoundland on its way into the north Atlantic. No injuries had been reported by yesterday evening, Gov. Mike Easley said. The National Guard was sent to help along some parts of the coast, and public ferry service between Ocracoke and Hatteras was cancelled. Damage assessment teams started work today on Hatteras Island. Ocracoke Island was under a state of emergency yesterday night with a curfew in place until dawn, a sheriff's department spokeswoman said. Dorothy Toolan, a spokeswoman for Dare County, said the worst flooding - in

Buxton, Frisco and Hatteras, was only temporary. At the peak of power outages a total of 10,000 customers were without electricity, including 6,800 customers on Hatteras Island and all 2,100 customers on Ocracoke Island. By evening, power had returned to many parts of the islands and motel parking lots remained full, indicating that the storm had chased off few tourists.

London, Aug 5 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today, states: Hurricane "Alex" is hurricane centre located near lat 40.0N, long 61.5W at 0900, UTC, today. Position accurate within 20 nautical miles. Present movement toward the east-northeast or 65 degrees at 25 knots. Maximum sustained winds 105 knots with gusts to 130 knots. Forecast position lat 42N, long 56.2W at 1800, UTC, today. Forecast position lat 45.0N, long 46.5W, at 0600, UTC, Aug 6, maximum winds 75 knots, gusts 90 knots.

HURRICANE "DARBY"

London, Jul 30 — Following received from the Meteorological Office: Hurricane "Darby": Hurricane centre located near lat 18.6N, long 130.8W, at 0900, UTC, Jul 30. Position accurate to within 40 nautical miles. Present movement towards the west-north-west, or 285 deg, at 11 knots. Maximum sustained winds 65 knots with gusts to 80 knots. Radius of 64-knot winds 20 nautical miles. Radius of 50-knot winds 40 nautical miles south-west quadrant, 60 nautical miles elsewhere. Radius of 34-knot winds 50 nautical miles south-west quadrant, 100 nautical miles elsewhere. Radius of 12-foot seas 150 nautical miles south-west quadrant, 200 nautical miles south-east quadrant, 300 nautical miles elsewhere. Forecast for 1800, UTC: Position lat 19.0N, long 132.6W. Maximum sustained winds 50 knots with gusts to 60 knots. Radius of 50-knot winds 40 nautical miles south-west quadrant, 60 nautical miles elsewhere. Radius of 34-knot winds 50 nautical miles south-west quadrant, 100 nautical miles elsewhere. Forecast for 0600, UTC, Jul 31: Position lat 19.3N, long 135.0W. Maximum sustained winds 40 knots with gusts to 50 knots. Radius of 34-knot winds 50 nautical miles south-west quadrant, 100 nautical miles elsewhere.

MISSISSIPPI RIVER, UNITED STATES

See *J. Andrew Eckstein* under "Marine."

NEW ZEALAND

London, Aug 4 — A press report, dated today, states: The cost of repairing flood damage in the rural part of Eastern Bay of Plenty alone is estimated at NZ\$45 million (£15.8m). On-going loss of production and income are included in the latest figures given to the Cabinet by the region's disaster recovery centre. Also cited are loss of grazing and feed supplements, livestock evacuation, damage to farm buildings, fencing, water supplies, access tracks and culverts, and disrupted milking and

milk pick-up. Between 10,000 and 12,000ha of agricultural land was flooded when up to 450mm of rain fell over a 48-hour period on Jul 17 and 18. The Eastern Bay's disaster recovery office is surveying farms and businesses to get a better overall picture of the consequences. Of 450 farms affected - most on the Rangitaiki Plains - about 111 were expected to take months to recover and 186 would require re-grassing and significant pasture restoration, spokeswoman Donna Young said yesterday. The total pasture area needing to be replaced was 3000 to 4000ha. She said 6000 stock had been evacuated and it could be up to nine months before they were able to return to their farms. Fonterra's Edgecumbe dairy factory was operational and expected to start milk processing next week. It was not known yet what effect the floodwaters would have on the kiwifruit, berry and market flower crops in the area. Some damage had occurred at 14 horticultural properties covering 30ha. Donna Young said forestry had also felt the impact, with the closure of State Highway 35 forcing logging trucks to travel an additional 120 to 130km through Gisborne to Kawerau. About 2000 people who used Opotiki and Whakatane as their main centres were cut off from their usual services. Transit said that a cracked section of the highway northeast of Opotiki was open again during daylight after an assessment of landslips. But the long-term stability of that part of the road was a concern, said Transit engineer Daya Govender.

NORTH KOREA

Seoul, Aug 2 — Torrential rain has devastated swathes of North Korea, forcing more than 1,000 families from their homes, destroying crops and severely damaging railway lines, the official KCNA news agency said today. KCNA said this July, the rainy season on the divided Korean peninsula, downpours had flooded or washed away at least 250,000 acres of fields and many buildings, including homes for more than 1,000 families. "It is hard to expect any harvest from the fields washed away or silted," the agency said. "Harvest in many fields is expected to drop 30 percent." Rains since early July have caused widespread damage, cutting off rail services in many areas of the center and south and washing away roads, KCNA said in its rare report on a natural disaster. It did not mention casualties or deaths. Officials at South Korea's Red Cross and the Unification Ministry said they were seeking further information and the North had not yet asked for help. — Reuters.

London, Aug 2 — A press report, dated today, states: Reports from North Korea say heavy rains and floods have caused widespread destruction in the country. The country's official news agency says there has been severe damage to crops and farmland. Transport and communications links have also been cut. Hundreds of people are reported to have been left homeless after the unusually heavy monsoon rains.

SOUTH ASIA

London, Jul 28 — A press report, dated today, states: Deaths from monsoon rains across South Asia reached 1,238 today as Bangladesh remained awash in the worst floods in six years, and waterborne diseases began taking their toll. Diarrhoea caused by drinking dirty water has killed 46 people and afflicted about 80,000 this month, according to the government's Health Directorate. Relief workers warned that the situation could worsen as rivers around Bangladesh's inundated capital, Dhaka, continued to swell. The annual monsoon flooding, fed by melting snow and torrential rains, has left millions across South Asia marooned or homeless. At least 731 people have died in India, 102 in Nepal and five in Pakistan, according to reports from officials. The Bangladesh government said today that 400 people had died since June in the worst floods since 1998. They have engulfed two-thirds of the country, affecting more than 25 million people. Up to 1.3 million displaced people huddled in about 4,000 flood shelters. Villagers have pitched tents on highways or mud embankments with their families and cattle. "The situation in Dhaka and central Bangladesh will not improve until next week," the Flood Forecast and Warning Centre said today. Deaths are caused by drowning, landslides, house collapses, lightning, diseases and poisonous snakes that slither through the water and bite people wading through the water to reach higher ground. In India's north-eastern state of Assam, almost entirely covered by water, the government asked the Red Cross and other relief groups to provide anti-venom for snakebite victims as well as rehydration salts for diarrhoea sufferers. "Along with disease and its prevention, we are battling snakebites," said Bumidhar Barman, the health minister of Assam, where another 45 deaths were reported today. "Snakes, swept by the flood waters from rivers and marches, seem to be lurking around in large numbers, keeping the marooned people on tenterhooks." Some 12 million people are affected in Assam, where floods have caused \$1.08 billion in damage, said the state's Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi. In Dhaka, a city of 10 million people, shanty towns in low-lying areas, residential neighbourhoods and parts of the central business district have been inundated.

London, Jul 30 — A press report, dated Jul 29, states: Bangladesh's government says the nation's devastating floods have caused nearly \$7bn worth of damage. The number of dead is now around 500 and there are fears that unusually high tides over the coming days will stop the rivers receding. The flood water rose again in parts of the capital, Dhaka, today as heavy rain fell on the city. Across the country, millions remain homeless or stranded, camping out on tiny islands formed by raised roads. The water is getting dirtier in Dhaka and an estimated 500,000 cubic metres of untreated sewage is escaping into the water every day. That is then being mixed with industrial waste from

factories that is normally carried away by the rivers. Doctors are now warning of an epidemic of diarrhoea. At a city hospital today, patients were being treated in extra temporary wards set up in sheds. The disaster management minister, Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf, has said the country has enough food and medical supplies for now but will need international help to rebuild roads, bridges and schools. Flood forecasters are warning that the rivers may not recede for the next few days. The full moon will cause unusually high tides in the Bay of Bengal, stopping the flow of water to the sea.

London, Aug 2 — A press report, dated today, states: Emergency medical teams in India and Bangladesh are battling to contain the spread of disease, as South Asia's worst floods in 15 years recede. Nearly 5,000 medical teams have fanned out across Bangladesh in a bid to save thousands of people taken ill after drinking polluted water. Doctors at Dhaka's International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research say they have treated more than 7,000 people for dehydration, vomiting and malnutrition since the flooding began in early July. The floods have killed more than 1,350 people across South Asia, about 660 of them in Bangladesh and the rest in the neighbouring Indian states of Assam and Bihar.

London, Aug 3 — A press report, dated today, states: At least 21 people have been killed in torrential rains which destroyed mud homes and washed away 50,000 hectares of farmland in the western Indian state of Gujarat, police said today. "It has been raining for four days and this has created havoc in southern Gujarat. We have reports of 21 deaths in the last 24 hours," said a police spokesman in Gujarat's commercial capital Ahmedabad. The bodies of two adults and three children were found after a mud house caved in Monday in Halasa village in the state's Anand district, he added. "Another woman died Tuesday when a mud wall collapsed on her in Gujarat's Bharuch district," said the police spokesman. The driving rain also caused road accidents. In one incident, a van carrying four people was swept away by the rain-fed Karjan river in Bharuch district. "Eleven people died in rainfall-related disasters since the beginning of the downpour Saturday in Gujarat's Surat, Narmada and Valsad districts," said the spokesman. The local meteorological department has forecast more monsoon rain for the region overnight today and tomorrow. According to state administrative officials, at least 50,000 hectares of paddy and non-paddy fields have been submerged or washed away in the torrential rains. "Farmers will face a problem as they cannot expect any harvest from the fields washed away and silted," added the official.

London, Aug 4 — A press report, dated today, states: The death toll from monsoon rains in India has climbed to nearly 850 as flooding that has caused devastation across wide swathes of South Asia wreaked havoc in western parts of the country, officials said.

Soldiers using boats and helicopters plucked some 50,000 people to safety after waters up to three metres deep submerged roads and flooded dwellings in southern Gujarat state, worst hit by the rains. At least 1,600 people have died in India, Bangladesh and Nepal in flooding that has submerged parts of the region since July 10. Weather forecasters said more heavy precipitation was on its way in the region which had been facing drought, threatening economic growth in the agriculture-dependent country of more than 1 billion. The western state of Gujarat has been hard hit. "The death toll for this monsoon season which began around two weeks ago has hit 151 in Gujarat," said an official of the state flood control room. In India, the death toll now totals at least 849 while the figure rose to 628 in Bangladesh, although the country's official BSS news agency said unconfirmed reports put the toll at 800. Nepal has said at least 123 people have died in floods and landslides across the country. The army and air force were called into airlift people in low-lying areas in at least three villages of southern Gujarat. "The army and the air force have rescued 50,000 people over the last 48 hours" in the city of Surat and other parts of southern Gujarat the state relief commissioner said. Rains caused transport chaos in Gujarat and in neighbouring Maharashtra state, home to India's financial hub, Bombay, forcing cancellation of trains and flights and inundating streets. Traffic halted on the New Delhi to Bombay highway which travels through Gujarat as landslides blocked the route. Rains also created havoc in the northern state of Punjab, flooding roads and houses. A flood alert was sounded in parts of adjacent Haryana state and troops were dispatched to help in flood-hit areas. In neighbouring Bangladesh, relief workers from the World Health Organisation and other bodies forecast a "severe" health situation, "likely to claim the lives of thousands unless urgent precautions were taken," the official news agency BSS said.

TROPICAL STORM "DARBY"

See "Hurricane 'Darby'".

TROPICAL STORM "MERANTI"

London, Aug 5 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: Tropical storm "Meranti" near lat 26.2N, long 166.0E at 0600, UTC, today. Movement for the past six hours 10 degrees at 10 knots. Maximum sustained winds 55 knots, gusts 70 knots. Radius of 50 knot winds 15 nautical miles north-east quadrant, 15 nautical miles south-east quadrant, 15 nautical miles south-west quadrant 15 nautical miles north-west quadrant. Forecast position lat 27.9N, long 166.5E at 1800, UTC, today. Maximum sustained winds 65 knots, gusts 80 knots. Forecast position lat 29.1N, long 167.2E, at 0600, UTC, Aug 6.

TYPHOON "NAMTHEUN"

London, Jul 29 — A press report, dated today, states: A powerful typhoon

was heading toward Honshu early today, the Japan Meteorological Agency said, warning of high waves in Pacific coastal regions and heavy rain in the Kanto region. Typhoon "Namtheun", the season's 10th, is likely to come close to the southern Izu Islands shortly after noon today and move westward across waters off the Tokai region through tomorrow, the agency said.

London, Jul 30 — Following received from the Meteorological Office: Typhoon "Namtheun" near lat 31.6N, long 137.8E, at 0001, UTC, Jul 30. Movement past six hours 285 deg at four knots. Position accurate to within 40 nautical miles, based on centre located by satellite. Maximum sustained winds 75 knots with gusts to 90 knots. Radius of 64-knot winds 35 nautical miles. Radius of 50-knot winds 40 nautical miles north-east quadrant, 60 nautical miles elsewhere. Radius of 34-knot winds 140 nautical miles south semicircle, 160 nautical miles elsewhere. Forecast for 1200, UTC: Position lat 31.6N, long 136.6E. Maximum sustained winds 70 knots with gusts to 85 knots. Radius of 64-knot winds 30 nautical miles. Radius of 50-knot winds 60 nautical miles. Radius of 34-knot winds 140 nautical miles west semicircle, 160 nautical miles elsewhere. Forecast for 0001, UTC, Jul 31: Position lat 31.7N, long 134.7E. Maximum sustained winds 70 knots with gusts to 85 knots. Radius of 64-knot winds 30 nautical miles. Radius of 50-knot winds 60 nautical miles. Radius of 34-knot winds 160 nautical miles south-east quadrant, 140 nautical miles elsewhere.

London, Aug 1 — A press report, dated today, states: Typhoon "Namtheun" hit western Japan yesterday afternoon and the Japan Meteorological Agency warned of heavy rain, strong wind and high waves in a wide area of the Pacific coast. Typhoon "Namtheun" landed in Kochi Prefecture shortly after 1600 hrs and in the evening night was moving north-west at a speed of 25 kph, the agency said. Six people were injured by strong winds or other causes in Kyoto, Hyogo, Okayama and Hiroshima prefectures. A total of 155 flights, mainly those departing from and arriving in Shikoku, were grounded with about 14,000 people affected. As of 1900 hrs, the typhoon had an atmospheric pressure of 990 hectopascals and packed winds of up to 90 kph near its eye. At 1800 today, the storm zone is expected to encompass areas whose center will be 130 km north-north-west of Hagi, Yamaguchi Prefecture, the agency said. As much as 900 mm of rain fell in parts of southern Japan. In the 24 hours from 2100 yesterday, up to 500 mm of rain could fall in Tokushima and Kochi prefectures in Shikoku and 300 mm in the southern Kinki region.

London, Aug 2 — A press report, dated Aug 1, states: A tropical storm that battered southern and western Japan headed toward the Korean Peninsula today, losing steam as it moved north but threatening continued heavy rains. "Namtheun", downgraded yesterday from a typhoon, had sustained winds of

up to 65 kph, the Meteorological Agency said. The storm was located in the Sea of Japan, about 190 km off Hagi, Yamaguchi Prefecture, as of 1800 hrs., today. Although the storm had mostly passed through Japan, the agency warned of more heavy rain, flooding and landslides through tomorrow.

London, Aug 4 — A press report, dated today, states: Typhoon "Namtheum" lost strength while approaching Sakhalin Island yesterday. It will be raining there with strong wind. However, there will be no expected torrential rains and gale-force wind, an official at the Maritime Territory hydrometeorocentre has said. The typhoon only brushed along the eastern coast of Maritime Territory without bringing long-awaited rains. It is currently shifting in a north-easterly direction into the sea and away from the mainland.

UNITED STATES

London, Jul 30 — A press report, dated Jul 29, states: At least two people died as thunderstorms delivered more than a foot of rain in parts of north Texas, flooding homes, knocking out power and washing out a bridge south of Dallas. A man's body and two vehicles were found late today in a flooded creek downstream from a collapsed bridge in the Ellis County town of Ovilla. Fire and rescue crews continued searching the creek, and County Judge Chad Adams said they expected to find more dead. Adams said the bridge was swept out as the severe storms moved through the Dallas-Fort Worth area early today. Some parts of the region received more than 13 inches of rain from the storms, which began last night. In the south Dallas suburb of Lancaster, city officials declared a local disaster to help get state and federal relief after flooding damaged as many as 200 homes. With creeks still swollen and soil soaked, residents across the region braced for the possibility of scattered showers. "If we get any precipitation, it's going to aggravate all of the water problems that are going on," said Gary Woodall, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service. In Dallas, at least one death was caused by the weather last night when a motorist in a pickup truck knocked over a utility pole. Live wires fell on the truck and electrocuted the man, authorities said. An estimated 45,000 north Texas customers were without electricity at the peak of the storms, said utility spokeswoman Eliza Anderson, but most power had been restored by late today. Lancaster officials evacuated several neighbourhoods and estimated there were about 20 high-water rescues, some by boat. Lancaster's police station also flooded and a leaking roof collapsed the ceiling of the 911 call centre. Calls were rerouted temporarily. Jerry Johns, president of the Southwestern Insurance Information Service, said preliminary estimates for damages covered by homeowners policies totaled \$17-20 million in north Texas.

London, Aug 2 — A press report, dated Aug 1, states: Torrential rain delayed flights at Philadelphia International

Airport today and caused flash flooding that forced some residents to flee their apartments. There were no immediate reports of injuries as the sudden downpours moved across south-eastern Pennsylvania. In the flood-prone Philadelphia suburb of Upper Darby, more than 10 feet of water filled the basement and part of the first floor of four apartment buildings, leading officials to evacuate residents, Mayor Paula Brown said. Rescuers in Lower Merion used boats to help motorists from submerged cars, WCAU-TV reported. Airlines at Philadelphia International Airport experienced weather-related delays of about an hour this morning, airport spokesman Mark Pesce said. Four inches of rain was reported at Birdsboro in Berks County, and about 1.6 inches fell in Philadelphia, said Roy Miller, a National Weather Service meteorologist in Mount Holly, N.J. In addition to the rain in the Philadelphia area, some parts of central Pennsylvania reported 3 to 4 inches of rain overnight, with minor flooding along creeks and rivers, according to the weather service in State College. The storms had lost much of their punch by the time they moved eastward into New Jersey.

London, Aug 2 — A press report, dated Aug 1, states: Officials say the damage to roads and bridges from Thursday's (Jul 29) floods in Greenville County is close to \$6 million. Greenville County Emergency Management director Scott Wendelken says that should be high enough to get federal assistance. The damage to private homes and land could be more. Wendelken says inspectors have found 140 homes damaged by the floods. Forecasters say as much as eight inches of rain fell in just a few hours Thursday, most of it concentrated at the headwaters of the Reedy River. On Friday the Army Corps of Engineers began looking into the flooding to see if the area should be declared a disaster scene, something that would open up the door for federal help. The storm also knocked out power for more than 6100 Duke Power customers.



AEGEAN SEA

London, Aug 4 — A press report, dated today, states: An earthquake with a magnitude of 5.4, shook Turkey's Aegean coast today shaking residents and tourists in their sleep but causing no injuries or serious damage. The quake which was centred in the bay of Gokova rocked the seaside resort towns of Marmaris, Bodrum, Didim, Fethiye and Datca in the Mugla province, the Kandilli Observatory said. The quake also shook the Greek island of Kos. The Athens Geodynamic Institute said it registered a higher preliminary magnitude of 5.7 and the epicentre was in the Aegean seabed. Many residents

and tourists, who were woken from sleep, rushed into the streets in panic.

London, Aug 4 — A press report, dated today, states: At least seven people were injured jumping out windows or from balconies after a moderate earthquake struck Turkey's Aegean coast today, an official said. No damage was reported in the region. The 5.4-magnitude quake hit at 0601 and sent foreign tourists and residents into the streets in panic. Seven people were hospitalized with injuries ranging from dislocated shoulders to broken legs after they jumped from windows or balconies in the resort towns of Bodrum and Marmaris, Bodrum Gov. Osman Eksi said.

ALASKA

London, Jul 31 — A light earthquake occurred at 0122, UTC, Jul 29. The magnitude 4.2 event has been located in Kenai Peninsula, Alaska, lat 59.861N, long 151.509W. The hypocentral depth was estimated to be 68 km.

London, Aug 2 — A report, dated Aug 1, states: A moderate earthquake occurred at 1327, UTC, Aug 1. The magnitude 5.5 event has been located in southern Alaska in lat 59.350N, long 153.631W, depth 140 km.

ALEUTIAN ISLANDS

London, Aug 1 — A report, dated Jul 31, states: A light earthquake occurred at 1831, UTC, Jul 31. The magnitude 4.8 event has been located in the Andreanof Islands, Aleutian Islands, Alaska, lat 52.385N, long 179.055W, depth 239 km.

ANDAMAN ISLANDS

London, Jul 31 — A moderate earthquake occurred at 0144, UTC, Jul 29. The magnitude 5.9 event has been located in the Andaman Islands, India region, lat 12.419N, long 94.994E, depth 10 km.

London, Jul 31 — A moderate earthquake occurred at 0201, UTC, Jul 29. The magnitude 5.3 event has been located in the Andaman Islands, India region, lat 12.271N, long 94.739E, depth 10 km.

London, Jul 31 — A moderate earthquake occurred at 0215, UTC, Jul 29. The magnitude 5 event has been located in the Andaman Islands, India region, lat 11.849N, long 94.736E, depth 10 km.

London, Jul 31 — A moderate earthquake occurred at 0218, UTC, Jul 29. The magnitude 5.1 event has been located in the Andaman Islands, India region, lat 12.349N, long 95.047E, depth 10 km.

London, Jul 31 — A moderate earthquake occurred at 1320, UTC, Jul 29. The magnitude 5.6 event has been located in the Andaman Islands, India region, lat 12.408N, long 95.022E, depth 10 km.

London, Jul 31 — A light earthquake occurred at 1615, UTC, Jul 29. The magnitude 4.8 event has been located in the Andaman Islands, India region, lat 12.193N, long 94.844E, depth 10 km.

CELEBES SEA

London, Jul 31 — A light earthquake occurred at 0405, UTC, Jul 29. The

magnitude 4.9 event has been located in the Celebes Sea in lat 02.948N, long 124.591E. The hypocentral depth was estimated to be 276 km.

CHILE

London, Jul 31 — A light earthquake occurred at 1944, UTC, Jul 29. The magnitude 4.6 event has been located near the coast of central Chile in lat 30.838S, long 71.372W, depth 46 km.

CHINA

London, Jul 31 — A moderate earthquake occurred at 2222, UTC, Jul 28. The magnitude 5.1 event has been located in western Xizang, lat 30.619N, long 83.609E. The hypocentral depth was estimated to be 49 km.

COAST OF PERU

London, Jul 31 — A moderate earthquake occurred at 1000, UTC, Jul 29. The magnitude 5.4 event has been located off the coast of Peru in lat 11.017S, long 78.042W, depth 53 km.

FIJI

London, Jul 29 — A report, dated Jul 27, states: A light earthquake occurred at 0003, UTC, Jul 27. The magnitude 4.7 event has been located south of Fiji in lat 22.068S, long 179.635W, depth 595 km.

London, Jul 29 — A report, dated Jul 27, states: A light earthquake occurred at 1417, UTC, Jul 27. The magnitude 4.8 event has been located in the Fiji region in lat 18.146S, long 177.144W, depth 414 km.

GREECE

London, Jul 31 — A light earthquake occurred at 0535, UTC, Jul 29. The magnitude 4.7 event has been located in the Dodecanese Islands, Greece, lat 36.016N, long 28.090E. The hypocentral depth was estimated to be 103 km.

London, Aug 5 — A report, dated Aug 4, states: A moderate earthquake occurred at 0301, UTC, Aug 4. The magnitude 5.5 event has been located in the Dodecanese Islands, Greece, lat 36.917N, long 27.759E, depth 10 km.

INDONESIA

London, Jul 29 — A report, dated Jul 28, states: A strong earthquake occurred at 0356, UTC, . The magnitude 6.6 event has been located near the north coast of Papua, Indonesia, lat 00.484S, long 133.039E, depth 14 km.

London, Jul 29 — A report, dated Jul 28, states: A strong earthquake occurred at 0401, UTC, . The magnitude 5.4 event has been located near the north coast of Papua, Indonesia, lat 00.356S, long 132.772E, depth 14 km.

London, Jul 29 — A report, dated Jul 28, states: A moderate earthquake occurred at 0926, UTC. The magnitude 5.0 event has been located near the north coast of Papua, Indonesia, lat 00.443S, long 132.772E, depth 10 km.

London, Jul 29 — A report, dated Jul 28, states: A light earthquake occurred at 1318, UTC, Jul 28. The magnitude 4.9 event has been located near the north coast of Papua, Indonesia, lat 00.455S, long 133.052E, depth 10 km.

London, Jul 31 — A light earthquake occurred at 0019, UTC, Jul 29. The magnitude 4.6 event has been located in Sunda Strait, Indonesia in lat 05.587S, long 105.122E, depth 100 km.

London, Aug 3 — A report, dated Aug 2, states: A moderate earthquake occurred at 0236, UTC, Aug 2. The magnitude 5.6 event has been located in southern Sumatra, Indonesia, lat 05.469S, long 102.587E, depth 41 km.

JAPAN

London, Jul 28 — A press report, dated today, states: An earthquake registering an estimated magnitude of 4.8 on the Richter scale hit eastern Hokkaido yesterday afternoon, the Japan Meteorological Agency said. There were no immediate reports of damage and no tidal wave warnings were issued.

London, Jul 29 — A report, dated Jul 27, states: A light earthquake occurred at 0844, UTC, Jul 27. The magnitude 4.6 event has been located in the Hokkaido, Japan region, lat 42.871N, long 145.276E, depth 84 km.

London, Jul 31 — A light earthquake occurred at 0408, UTC, Jul 29. The magnitude 4.7 event has been located in the Hokkaido, Japan region, lat 42.420N, long 142.921E, depth 48 km.

London, Jul 31 — A light earthquake occurred at 0624, UTC, Jul 29. The magnitude 4.7 event has been located in the Izu Islands, Japan, lat 32.715N, long 137.818E. The hypocentral depth was estimated to be 357 km.

London, Aug 1 — A report, dated Jul 30, states: A light earthquake occurred at 1544, UTC, Jul 30. The magnitude 4.8 event has been located near the east coast of Honshu, Japan, lat 34.066N, long 140.197E. The hypocentral depth was estimated to be 87 km

KERMADEC ISLANDS

London, Jul 31 — A moderate earthquake occurred at 2313, UTC, Jul 28. The magnitude 5.0 event has been located south of Kermadec Islands in lat 33.862S, long 179.003W. The hypocentral depth was estimated to be 153 km.

PACIFIC ANTARCTIC RIDGE

London, Aug 3 — A report, dated Aug 1, states: A strong earthquake occurred at 1903, UTC, Aug 1. The magnitude 6.1 event has been located near the Pacific Antarctic Ridge in lat 63.480S, long 166.737W, depth km.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

London, Jul 29 — A report, dated Jul 27, states: A moderate earthquake occurred at 0106, UTC, Jul 27. The magnitude 5.4 event has been located in the Admiralty Islands region, Papua New Guinea, lat 02.987S, long 147.516E, depth 30 km.

London, Jul 31 — A light earthquake occurred at 1837, UTC, Jul 29. The magnitude 4.7 event has been located in the New Ireland region, Papua New Guinea, lat 04.410S, long 153.641E, depth 96 km.

London, Jul 31 — A moderate earthquake occurred at 2221, UTC, Jul 29. The magnitude 5.7 event has been

located in New Guinea, Papua New Guinea, in lat 04.086S, long 143.108E, depth 85 km.

PHILIPPINES

London, Jul 31 — A moderate earthquake occurred at 1856, UTC, Jul 29. The magnitude 5.0 event has been located in the Babuyan Islands region, Philippines, lat 19.986N, long 122.215E, depth 10 km.

QUEEN CHARLOTTE ISLANDS

London, Aug 1 — A report, dated Jul 31, states: A light earthquake occurred at 0035, UTC, Jul 31. The magnitude 4.5 event has been located in the Queen Charlotte Islands region in lat 52.680N, long 132.060W, depth 20 km.

RUSSIA

London, Jul 29 — A report, dated Jul 26, states: A light earthquake occurred at 1615, UTC, Jul 26. The magnitude 4.3 event has been located in Primorye, Russia, lat 42.811N, long 134.015E, depth 453 km.

London, Jul 29 — A press report, dated today, states: An earthquake measuring three to four points on the Richter scale rocked Sakhalin Island yesterday night. The Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk seismological station told Itar-Tass today the epicentre of the earthquake was located in the Dolinsk district, 32 kilometres north off Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk. The earth tremors were felt in almost a dozen settlements located near the main Sakhalin city. According to the main civil defence and emergencies directorate of the Sakhalin region, there have been no casualties or damage.

London, Jul 31 — A light earthquake occurred at 0321, UTC, Jul 29. The magnitude 4.6 event has been located in Kamchatka Peninsula, Russia, lat 55.543N, long 160.026E. The hypocentral depth was estimated to be 197 km.

SOLOMON ISLANDS

London, Jul 29 — A report, dated Jul 28, states: A moderate earthquake occurred at 1023, UTC, Jul 28. The magnitude 5.7 event has been located in the Solomon Islands in lat 10.260S, long 161.138E, depth 58 km.

SOUTH SANDWICH ISLANDS

London, Aug 1 — A report, dated Jul 30, states: A moderate earthquake occurred at 1214, UTC, Jul 30. The magnitude 5.5 event has been located in the South Sandwich Islands Region in lat 57.182S, long 25.755W. The hypocentral depth was estimated to be 38 km.

TURKEY

London, Jul 30 — A press report, dated today, states: A moderate earthquake, followed by several strong aftershocks, levelled homes in eastern Turkey today, officials said. At least six people were injured after jumping out of windows or off balconies in panic. The quake, with a preliminary magnitude of 4.6, was centred near the town of Dogubeyazit, a remote, mountainous area bordering Iran. It occurred at 1014

hrs, the Istanbul-based Kandilli Observatory said. Local official Nurullah Cakir told the Anatolia news agency that the tremors flattened mud-brick homes in some villages near Dogubeyazit, but there were no immediate reports of any deaths.

London, Aug 1 — A report, dated Jul 30, states: A light earthquake occurred at 0714, UTC, Jul 30. The magnitude 4.7 event has been located in eastern Turkey in lat 39.811N, long 43.797E, depth 5 km.

UNITED STATES

London, Aug 1 — A report, dated Jul 31, states: A light earthquake occurred at 1444, UTC, Jul 31. The magnitude 4.7 event has been located off the coast of Oregon in lat 43.399N, long 126.827W, depth 10 km.

London, Aug 2 — A report, dated Aug 1, states: A light earthquake occurred at 0650, UTC, Aug 1. The magnitude 4.4 event has been located in New Mexico in lat 36.889N, long 104.918W, depth 5 km.

VANUATU

London, Jul 31 — A light earthquake occurred at 0413, UTC, Jul 29. The magnitude 4.8 event has been located in Vanuatu in lat 14.883S, long 166.844E, depth 55 km.



MOUNT KERINCI, INDONESIA

London, Aug 4 — A press report, dated today, states: Indonesian national park officials say they have banned hikers from tackling one of the country's popular mountains following an increase in volcanic activity on the peak. Agung Nugrono, a spokesman for Sumatra island's Kerincia Seblat National Park, which includes Mount Kerinci, says the ban has been issued to halt a traditional influx of crowds ahead of a national holiday. Indonesia's National Day is on August 17. Increasing volcanic activities have been recorded in Kerinci since June, with the volcano sporadically emitting smoke and noxious sulphur fumes that have even reached areas around the foot of the mountain.



AFGHANISTAN

Kabul, Jul 28 — The Medecins sans Frontieres aid group is to pull out of Afghanistan after more than 20 years due to security concerns and lack of progress in an investigation into the killing of five staff, a spokeswoman said today. Its decision will come as a blow to

the Afghan authorities, who rely heavily on the United Nations and other aid organisations for humanitarian assistance. The aid group's withdrawal is also another bad signal about the deteriorating security situation, despite the presence of around 20,000 U.S.-led troops in Afghanistan and a landmark presidential election due in just over two months. An MSF statement slammed the U.S. military's Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRT), dozens of which operate around the country, as "the co-optation of humanitarian aid by the coalition for political and military motives". Aid organisations in Afghanistan have long complained that the PRTs, which are used to gather intelligence as well as rebuild schools and wells, blurred the line between humanitarian and military work, and thus endangered aid workers. More than 20 aid workers have been killed already this year in the country, well above the 13 killed in 2003. Aid groups, including the United Nations, are already limited to operating in relatively safe areas. Three foreign MSF staff, from Belgium, Norway and Holland, and two Afghan workers were killed in June on a remote road in the northwestern province of Badghis, which until then had been considered a relatively safe area. Up to that point MSF had been operating in 13 provinces with 80 international volunteers and 1,400 Afghan staff, but its operations thereafter were severely curtailed. Before the killings in June it had been operating in 13 provinces with 80 international volunteers and 1,400 Afghan staff, but its operations were severely curtailed. — Reuters.

London, Jul 29 — A press report, dated today, states: Six Afghans, including two local United Nations staff registering voters for upcoming elections, have been killed in a bomb blast inside a mosque in central Afghanistan, according to officials. The attack came as Nobel prize-winning aid agency Medecins Sans Frontieres announced its withdrawal from Afghanistan, almost two months after five of its workers were killed, because of deteriorating security in the run-up to the October polls. The two UN staff were registering voters in the mosque in Ghazni province when the bomb exploded, the US-led coalition said in a statement. At least two other UN staff were injured in the explosion and were airlifted to hospital at the Bagram airbase outside Kabul, the statement said. The UN staff were Afghan nationals, UN spokesman David Singh said. The United Nations Assistance Mission Afghanistan "personnel were performing voter registration inside the mosque when the improvised explosive device exploded," the coalition statement said. The other four dead were local residents.

Khost, Aug 2 — Afghan forces backed by American soldiers and attack helicopters clashed with around 50 suspected Taliban fighters near the Pakistani border today, and the U.S. military said the militants suffered "heavy losses". In one of the biggest recent battles between Afghan and

allied U.S. forces and Islamic militants opposed to the government in Kabul, at least two Afghan soldiers and two suspected Taliban fighters were killed, a local commander said. Separately, an Afghan soldier was killed last night when suspected Taliban militants opened fire from a motorcycle on a car being used for voter registration in the southern province of Helmand, officials said. The fighting south of Khost, in the district of Gurbuz a few kilometres from the Pakistan border, started at 0200 hrs and continued for several hours. "A B-1 bomber, two A-10 Thunderbolt II aircraft and four AH-1 Cobra helicopters provided air support," said U.S. Major Rick Peat in an emailed response to questions about the clash. "The militants retreated in panic and were pursued by the attack aircraft," he said. Afghan forces backed by A-10 "tank buster" aircraft clashed with around 50 militants again four to five hours later. "Again, the militants retreated after incurring heavy losses," Peat said. "One Khost Provincial Force (soldier) died and three were wounded in this second engagement." However, General Khialbaz Sherzai, commander of the Afghan army's 25th Division in Khost, told Reuters a total of two Afghan soldiers were killed and two wounded, while two Taliban militants were also killed and one captured. He said the captured fighter appeared to be a foreigner, possibly of Arab extraction. Sherzai said his forces saw dozens of wounded militants crossing into Pakistan, where members of Afghanistan's ousted Taliban as well as foreign militants with links to al Qaeda are said to be active. — Reuters.

London, Aug 4 — A press report, dated today, states: Afghan troops backed by American warplanes killed as many as 70 militants in a day-long battle near the Pakistani border, military officials said yesterday, in one of the bloodiest clashes since the fall of the Taleban. No more than two Afghan soldiers were reported dead in the fighting, confirming the militants' vulnerability to American air power while raising fresh suspicions that they are using Pakistan as a base for operations. An Afghan commander claimed that Arab and Chechen radio messages crackled back and forth during the battle, suggesting al-Qaeda fighters were involved. The battle began at 0200 hrs on Monday (Aug 2), when dozens of militants armed with rockets, mortars and machine guns assailed a border post in Khost province, a former al-Qaeda stronghold about 200km south of Kabul. The US military said it sent a B-1 bomber, an A-10 ground-attack aircraft and helicopter gunships to their aid and flew in Afghan reinforcements, eventually forcing the assailants to flee in panic. Pilots flying over the area after dawn reported seeing 40 to 50 bodies on the battlefield near the mountainous Pakistani border. Several wrecked vehicles were also spotted. General Nawab, an Afghan commander who uses just one name, put the rebel toll at 60 to 70, saying the militants had dragged away many dead and injured as they retreated into Pakistan. The

bodies of only 10 dead militants were recovered from the scene, he said. The US military said one of more than 100 Afghan soldiers involved in the fighting was killed and three others injured. But another Afghan commander, Khial Baz, said two of his men were fatally wounded. No US ground troops were involved.

ALGERIA

Algiers, Aug 1 — Three people were killed by a bomb blast in Algeria today in an attack bearing the hallmarks of Islamist rebels, state radio said. The victims, all Algerians, belonged to a private security firm working for a power company installing high-voltage lines in the mountainous region of Jijel, about 350 kms east of the capital Algiers, local journalists said. The explosion, in the small town of Ziama Mansouria, 40 kms from Jijel, blew up the car they were travelling in near the power company's working site. A fourth passenger was seriously wounded, the radio said. No one claimed responsibility for the attack. — Reuters.

COLOMBIA

Bogota, Jul 27 — Colombian Marxist rebels today freed a Roman Catholic bishop they kidnapped during the weekend, releasing him without a message they had planned to send to the government, the bishop said. The rebels, known by their Spanish initials ELN, told Vacca they taken him to give him a message for the government. But President Alvaro Uribe ordered troops to hunt for the bishop in the mountainous area northeast of the capital Bogota, breaking guerrilla communications. So they let him go. "The person who was supposed to hand over the message (to me) wasn't able to get to the place where they took me," Vacca said. — Reuters.

Bogota, Jul 28 — Colombian far-right paramilitaries said today they wanted peace in an unprecedented appearance in the country's Congress that leftist legislators said lent respectability to men wanted for massacres and drug running. The three leaders of the outlawed United Self-Defense Forces of Colombia, or AUC, told a congressional hearing on their negotiations with the government that they should not serve jail time as part of any peace settlement. Prominent leftist congressmen stayed away from the speeches by men they call criminals. Salvatore Mancuso, AUC military commander, told Congress he took up arms because government forces failed to protect his life and property. "The reward for our sacrifice for our country, for having freed half the country from the guerrillas and preventing another Cuba or the old Nicaragua establishing itself on the nation's soil, cannot be to send us to prison," said Mancuso, a burly rancher, wearing a suit and tie instead of his customary combat fatigues. The United States, which is a strong supporter of Uribe but says it is skeptical about the talks, wants to extradite Mancuso and other far-right warlords, for trafficking cocaine.

Ambassador William Wood has said the AUC is more interested in "narcoterrorism" than peace. The AUC leaders arrived in bullet-proof vans with a heavy police escort after flying in to Bogota's military airport. The government gave them permission to leave the rural area in northern Colombia where they are conducting peace talks for 48 hours without fear of arrest. The invitation to address the body came from a group of congressmen. — Reuters.

London, Aug 3 — A press report, dated today, states: A bomb exploded in a parked car as three police vehicles drove by this morning, killing seven police officers and wounding eight. Police were responding to reports of a guerrilla attack in the town of Andinapolis, about 160 miles southwest of the capital, when the attack occurred, National Police spokesman Sgt. Alberto Cantillo said. Cantillo said he suspects rebels from Colombia's largest rebel group, the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC, were behind the bombing.

Bogota, Aug 3 — One of two far-right Colombian militias told by President Alvaro Uribe to stop fighting each other or be kicked out of peace talks said it has declared a cease-fire. The Centauros Block announced it "declares a unilateral cease-fire" in its war with the rival Peasant Self-Defense Forces of Casanare in a communique late yesterday, hours after Uribe's ultimatum. The 3,000 fighters of the Centauros Block are members of the United Self-Defense Forces of Colombia, a 20,000-strong outlaw group known by the Spanish initials AUC which began formal peace talks with the government in July. The Peasant Self-Defense Forces of Casanare, which like the Centauros Block has about 3,000 fighters, is not involved in the main negotiations but has separate, less advanced talks with the government. — Reuters.

GEORGIA

Tbilisi, Jul 30 — Georgia and its breakaway province of South Ossetia exchanged fire today, and both accused the other of targeting civilian areas including the residential quarters of the regional capital Tskhinvali. Tension in the small region on the Russian border has grown recently since Georgia's President Mikhail Saakashvili made restoring central authority over all Georgia a priority. But the South Ossetia region is resisting efforts to end its 12-year-old self-proclaimed independence. South Ossetian leader Eduard Kokoity told Russia's Interfax news agency that Georgian troops shelled Tskhinvali and several pro-separatist villages populated by ethnic Ossetians with guns and mortars for two hours. He said that after the shelling, which went on into the early hours of today, Georgian forces tried to enter Tskhinvali, but were stopped by local militia. Russia's Itar-Tass news agency quoted a top South Ossetian official as saying two people were wounded in Tskhinvali. Georgian officials denied they had targeted

civilians and Chief of Staff of the Georgian army Givi Iokuridze told Reuters in Tbilisi that South Ossetians were the first to open fire on pro-Tbilisi villages populated by ethnic Georgians. "Ossetians twice shelled the villages of Kehvi and Tamarasheni," he said. Kokoity told Interfax the shelling of Tskhinvali was the beginning of a major Georgian onslaught. But Iokuridze played down the incident, saying the shooting had ended. — Reuters.

INDIA

Srinagar, Jul 28 — Two separatist militants and five Indian soldiers were killed in a night-long gunbattle inside a hotel on Kashmir's famous Dal lake, police said today. Six Indian soldiers were wounded in the exchange of fire after two or three militants launched a suicide attack and fired at Hotel Leeward in Srinagar late yesterday night. The hotel was occupied by soldiers who are in Kashmir to stamp out a 15-year-old revolt by Muslim insurgents against New Delhi's rule. A militant group called Al-Mansurian telephoned newspaper offices late yesterday night saying three of its members had launched the attack to rebut a claim by authorities that a powerful guerrilla group had been wiped out from Srinagar. — Reuters.

Srinagar, Aug 5 — Muslim militants stormed an Indian army camp in Kashmir's main city, killing eight soldiers, just hours before Indian and Pakistani defence officials were to discuss the region's fragile peace process. Yesterday night's attack on the heavily guarded camp in an upscale residential district of Srinagar came just as the soldiers were sitting down to dinner, police said. One militant was killed inside the compound after exchanging sporadic fire with soldiers through the night. The whereabouts of the other rebels was not known. "They lobbed grenades and fired with automatic weapons. It was a suicide attack," a police officer said. Seven soldiers were wounded. Top Indian and Pakistani defence officials were to open talks today to end a 20-year conflict on the Siachen glacier in a far corner of Kashmir that has killed thousands of soldiers. The talks are part of a process to tackle all outstanding issues including over who should control Kashmir. But guerrillas fighting Indian rule in Muslim-majority Kashmir have dismissed the peace process, saying New Delhi was never going to give up its claim to the Himalayan region. The Al-Mansurian militant group called newspaper offices in Srinagar saying two of its members had carried out the latest attack on the soldiers. — Reuters.

IRAQ

London, Jul 29 — A press report, dated today, states: Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf has called the reported killing of two Pakistanis held hostage in Iraq a crime against humanity. An Arab television station said a videotape from a group calling itself the Islamic Army in Iraq showed

the men's dead bodies. The militants had threatened to execute the pair unless their Kuwaiti employers left Iraq. The two, Azad Hussein Khan and Sajjad Naeem, an engineer and driver, were reported missing in Iraq last Friday (Jul 23). In another videotape, militants were shown holding a Somali hostage. On the tape, broadcast by al-Jazeera today, militants belonging to al-Qaeda suspect Abu Musab al-Zarqawi's Tawhid and Jihad group threatened to behead the Somali truck driver unless his Kuwaiti employers pulled out of Iraq.

Baghdad, Jul 29 — Kidnappers holding seven foreign drivers hostage in Iraq threatened to "slaughter" one of them tomorrow if there was no answer to their demands, showing an Indian with a gun to his head to make their point. In a videotape given to international news organisations today, the guerrillas did not say which hostage among three Indians, three Kenyans and one Egyptian they were threatening to kill by 1900 hrs (1500, UTC), tomorrow. The seven truck drivers work for the Kuwait and Gulf Link Transport company. The kidnappers have demanded the firm stop doing business in Iraq. In a statement addressed to the kidnappers, the firm appealed for more time for talks. The company said the drivers had no political affiliation and their governments were not part of the U.S.-led coalition. "We urge you ... to spare the hostages' lives and to hold on and give the negotiations a chance. We are willing as a company to do anything, anything at all, to assure the safety of these drivers and their return to Kuwait to see their families." India's embassy in Baghdad also appealed for their release. The seven drivers are being held by a little-known group calling itself the "Black Banners" brigade of the Islamic Secret Army. It had previously extended a deadline to execute the men. The speaker on the videotape said Cairo was ignoring the fate of the Egyptian trucker, but had done everything to free a senior diplomat who was seized last Friday (Jul 23) and later released. Another group, calling itself the Death Squad of Iraqi Resistance, said it had captured four Jordanians to pressure their employer to quit Iraq. Video footage of the Jordanian hostages was sent to Arabic television channels. The latest kidnappings came hours after two Pakistani Muslims, a driver and engineer seized last week, were killed by their captors, who had demanded their employer withdraw. — Reuters.

Baghdad, Jul 30 — At least nine Iraqis were killed and 16 others injured in fierce clashes between U.S. forces and gunmen overnight in Falluja, west of Baghdad, a doctor said today. Ahmed Abdullah, a doctor at Falluja general hospital, said some of the wounded were in a serious condition after the fighting, which residents said lasted several hours and destroyed houses and factory buildings in the east of the city. Another hospital doctor said 10 people had died in the fighting, which largely took place in an industrial area. A U.S.

military spokesman said yesterday Iraqi security forces and U.S. marines had clashed with insurgents and had called in an air strike on a target in eastern Falluja. He said insurgents had attacked a U.S. position with mortars, rocket-propelled grenades, machineguns and small arms. U.S. forces responded with tank and artillery fire. — Reuters

London, Aug 1 — The BBC reports today: Bombs have gone off near four churches in Baghdad and one in the northern city of Mosul, police said. The first occurred outside an Armenian church in central Baghdad. The next hour saw three more churches hit, in what looks to be orchestrated attack. At least two people are reported killed and more than 20 injured. A blast was reported around the same time later in Mosul, where a police station was bombed earlier in the day. Witnesses said a car bomb detonated outside an Armenian church as an evening service was getting under way. It blew out stained glass windows and scattered pieces of hot metal across the street. The wreckage of at least three burned out cars was left in its wake. Ten minutes later, as the emergency services raced to the scene, a second blast went off outside a Syrian Catholic church some 400 metres from the first church. An ambulance driver said two people had been killed. At around the same time, a suspected car bomb went off outside a church in the northern city of Mosul. Until now there has been no significant attacks on Iraq's Christian minority, although they were becoming increasingly concerned about the possibility of violence. Many Christians run Iraq's alcohol shops, which have been subjected to recent attacks. Earlier on Sunday, at least five people were killed and some 50 injured when a car bomb went off near a police station in Mosul.

London, Aug 3 — A press report, dated Aug 2, states: Footage of what appears to be a Turkish hostage in Iraq being shot dead has appeared on the internet. The videotape shows a group of masked men standing over a figure, who is then shot in the head three times. The man identified himself as Murat Yuce, an employee of Turkish company Bilimtur. The company has confirmed it had an employee by that name. It is not clear when or where he was kidnapped, or when the apparent killing took place. Following the tape's release, a Turkish lorry drivers' association announced it had stopped the transport of cargo to US forces in Iraq.

London, Aug 3 — A press report, dated today, states: Militants in Iraq have attacked a key oil pipeline between the northern Iraqi city of Kirkuk and the port of Ceyhan in Turkey. It's not clear how much oil exports have been affected as a result of the bomb attack. The explosion was caused by an improvised device placed next to the pipeline near the northern town of Bayji, a US military official said. Firemen are struggling to bring fires caused by the explosion under control. A security official at the state-run Northern Oil Company played down the

effects of the attack. He told the AP news agency that the pipeline had not been affected by the blaze. The attack came as oil prices in Europe reached a 14-year high amid fears about the security of supplies. London Brent Crude was selling at well over \$40 a barrel.

Baghdad, Aug 3 — Insurgents launched a wave of attacks in Iraq, killing six Iraqi national guardsmen in a suicide car bombing and four U.S. soldiers in separate incidents in Baghdad and the volatile west of the country. A roadside bomb today also killed a local police chief in the capital. The suicide car bomb blast at a checkpoint outside the town of Baquba wounded six other Iraqi guardsmen, said National Guard Lieutenant Mohamed al-Dulaimi at the scene. The U.S. military said two American soldiers were killed in a roadside bomb blast overnight on Baghdad's western outskirts and two U.S. marines were killed in action in the violent Anbar province in the country's west. The four deaths raise to 681 the number of American troops killed in action since the war to oust Saddam Hussein. Early today, a roadside bomb in Baghdad's upscale Mansour district killed the head of a local police station and wounded three of his bodyguards, police said. In other developments, talks to free seven foreign truck drivers threatened with execution have stalled since yesterday, mediators said. The three Indians, three Kenyans and an Egyptian were seized last month. A tribal sheik trying to win their release said today he was waiting to hear from the kidnappers, who have demanded their Kuwaiti employer leave Iraq and compensate families who suffered in U.S. air strikes on the rebellious city of Falluja. Al Jazeera television said yesterday a Somali held by militants linked to Zarqawi would be freed after his Kuwaiti employer agreed to halt operations in Iraq. However, there has been no word on his fate since. — Reuters.

London, Aug 4 — A press report, dated today, states: At least 12 Iraqis were killed and 26 wounded today in clashes between Iraqi police and insurgents in Mosul, hospital sources said. "The hospital received 12 bodies including two women and 26 injured, most of them civilians," said doctor Wael Sheet of Mosul's Medical City hospital. Violent clashes broke out between insurgents and police at around midday south-west of Mosul on the city's west bank.

Washington, Aug 4 — The U.S.-led military coalition in Iraq vowed not to make any more concessions to kidnappers after the Philippines withdrew its troops to release a hostage, the United States said today. In an effort to present a united front against a wave of kidnappings, the United States issued a policy statement that it said was supported by the coalition hoping to send a message to hostage-takers they would not win their demands. "We understand that conceding to terrorists will only endanger all members of the

multinational force, as well as other countries who are contributing to Iraqi reconstruction and humanitarian assistance," the statement said. Today, a released captive said Iraqi gunmen had freed four Jordanian hostages in a raid and Al Jazeera television said two Turkish drivers because their firm agreed to stop working in Iraq. The statement "is one of the ways we can discourage the practice, by making it clear to the people who are taking hostages that they are not going to gain anything by doing so," State Department spokesman Richard Boucher told reporters. Italy has been threatened by a military group claiming links to al Qaeda that has demanded Rome withdraw troops from Iraq by Aug 15 or face attacks. Italy has around 2,700 troops in Iraq. "The situation was, is, and will remain very serious," a security source said in Rome following a high-level meeting to review security. — Reuters.

London, Aug 5 — A press report, dated today, states: A car bomb exploded outside a police station south of Baghdad today, killing at least five people and wounding 21, Iraq's Health Ministry said. The blast occurred in the town of Mahawil, 53 miles south of the capital, said Dr. Ali al-Soudani. It was the latest in a spate of bombings to target police as part of insurgents' bid to undermine Iraq's progress since an interim government took power in the end of June.

ISRAEL

Tulkarm, West Bank, Jul 29 — Israeli soldiers shot dead a Palestinian in a West Bank village today, witnesses said, and the Israeli military said two Palestinians were killed in Gaza, apparently by their own bomb. Israeli military sources said gunmen had opened fire on the soldiers as they mounted an arrest raid in the village of El Ar and in the ensuing battle the patrol shot one of the gunmen, who the military said belonged to the militant Islamic Jihad group. In the Gaza Strip, Israeli military sources said two Palestinians died near a Jewish settlement when an explosive device or belt in their possession apparently went off prematurely. — Reuters.

London, Aug 2 — A press report, dated Jul 31, states: An Israeli helicopter missile strike has destroyed a Palestinian-owned metal workshop in Gaza City. Palestinian medics said two bystanders were injured when at least one missile hit the building yesterday evening, creating a fireball. The Israeli military said the workshop, which was reportedly empty at the time of the strike, was used to build bombs for the Hamas militant organisation. Palestinian officials said it was a factory used for civilian purposes. The building in the city's eastern Zeitoun district was owned by the family a young woman who blew herself up in a suicide bombing earlier this year.

London, Aug 3 — A press report, dated today, states: An explosion today in a Gaza Strip area where the Israeli army is operating killed at least two people and wounded several others,

Palestinian witnesses said. It was unclear what caused the explosion in the area of Rafah, but the Israeli army has been conducting an extensive operation in the Gaza-Egypt border area since before dawn. Witnesses said at least two people were killed and several others were wounded in the explosion that shook the Rafah refugee camp. Among the wounded was a cameraman for Reuters TV, witnesses said.

NEPAL

London, Jul 29 — A press report, dated today, states: At least 24 people were wounded Wednesday (Jul 28) in a bomb blast in Nepal's western city of Nepalgunj, The Kathmandu Post newspaper reported today. The bomb blast occurred in the busiest marketplace of Nepalgunj, the largest city in western Nepal, some 600km west of Kathmandu. The anti-government guerrillas planted the bomb targeting police personnel, but the victims were innocent children and poor street vendors, the independent English daily quoted a local police officer as saying.

London, Aug 2 — A press report, dated today, states: Three soldiers were killed in Nepal yesterday when a land mine, laid by Maoist rebels, exploded, while government forces killed four rebels in an operation Saturday (Jul 31), media reports and the government said today. Yesterday, a vehicle carrying the soldiers hit the land mine in Palpa district, about 200 kilometres southwest of Kathmandu, reports said. In addition to the three dead, one soldier was injured. The soldiers were reportedly on their way to patrol a telecom tower in the district.

PAKISTAN

Islamabad, Jul 30 — A top al Qaeda operative, one of the world's most wanted men with a \$25 million price on his head, was in custody in Pakistan today for his suspected role in the 1998 bombings of two US embassies in East Africa. Ahmed Khalfan Ghailani was arrested along with 13 others after a 14-hour gunbattle with security forces at the weekend in the city of Gujarat, about 175 kms southeast of Islamabad, Pakistan Interior Minister Faisal Saleh Hayat said. Ghailani is probably the most senior al Qaeda operative caught in Pakistan since the arrest in March 2003 of Khalid Sheikh Mohammed. Ghailani, who is in his early 30s, was indicted in New York in 1998 for the synchronised blasts that blew up the U.S. embassies in Nairobi and Tanzania, killing 224 people. Hayat said Pakistani security forces had been acting on a tip-off when they raided a suspected militant hideout in Gujarat. One policeman was slightly wounded in the gunbattle, he added. Hayat said Ghailani, his Uzbek wife and up to eight other foreigners, including two South Africans, were among those arrested. Those held included four men, three women and five children, Pakistan's Nation newspaper said today. Pakistan had not yet received a request from the United States for Ghailani's extradition, Hayat said.ave

also been involved in fierce clashes with Pakistani troops this year. — Reuters.

London, Aug 2 — A press report, dated today, states: Gunmen ambushed a military vehicle in southern Pakistan's Baluchistan Province yesterday, killing six people including five soldiers, officials in the provincial capital Quetta said. The unidentified gunmen, riding motorcycles, ambushed the vehicle near Khuzadar city, about 340 kilometers south-east of Quetta, and managed to escape, according to the officials.

RUSSIA

Nazran, Russia, Jul 28 — Russian troops blockaded a Chechen town today and fired heavily into a house holding a group of rebels, killing some, local sources said. Local residents said the streets of Argun, about 10 km east of the capital Grozny, were deserted and all roads out of the town had been blocked. The army command in Chechnya said six rebels had been killed in the town, local news agencies reported. The storm came on the same day President Vladimir Putin told his security forces to do more to end the Chechen war, which has dragged on for a decade with no clear end in sight. — Reuters.

THAILAND

London, Aug 3 — A press report, dated today, states: Three Thai soldiers have been injured in a roadside bomb attack, in the southern province of Yala. The soldiers were waiting to escort teachers to schools, when the blast occurred. It is the latest in a series of attacks targeting security officials in the Muslim-majority south. Teachers at government-run secular schools have also been targeted in the separatist related violence. Thousands of teachers have gone on strike in the south citing security concerns. The government has promised to step up protection.

UGANDA

Kampala, Jul 28 — Ugandan troops killed more than 30 Lords Resistance Army (LRA) rebels in an attack in southern Sudan that may also have killed the leader of the cult-like group, the army said today. Army spokesman Shaban Bantariza said it was not yet clear whether self-proclaimed mystic and LRA chief Joseph Kony was among the dead after this afternoon's raid east of Juba. Bantariza said Ugandan troops also captured 29 people including four of Kony's wives and several children who are thought to be Kony's in the raid, which he said the raid near Biriniang village was launched with the support of Sudan's government, but without its troops' direct involvement. — Reuters.

YEMEN

London, Aug 5 — A press report, dated today, states: About 42 people were killed and 80 wounded in 24 hours as army forces battled their way through a stronghold of a rebel Muslim preacher in the northwest of Yemen, military sources said. Army forces launched a fresh offensive late Tuesday (Aug 3) on the mountainous Maran district of

Saada province where Hussein Badr Eddin al-Huthi and thousands of his supporters are besieged, they said. The dead and wounded were on both sides, they added. The army crossed the al-Sharaf mountain before advancing half-way across al-Hikmi mountain, the highest peak in the Maran area and a key stronghold of Huthi and his followers. The military sources said the army expected an early end to the rebellion after the advances made by the army in the new offensive. The clashes between the army and Huthi's supporters, estimated to number as many as 3,000 armed men, have left at least 340 people dead since June 18 but the full toll could be higher as the army has given few details of its own casualties.

Kidnappings



RUSSIA

Prague, Aug 3 — A small Czech aid organisation is struggling to collect money to pay a \$1 million ransom for one of its workers kidnapped near turbulent Chechnya region early in June, Czech news agency CTK reported today. Miriam Jevikova, a Slovak from the Prague-based Organisation for Aid for Refugees (OPU), went missing in June after failing to show up for a meeting with a friend. The OPU said it had received four phone calls demanding the ransom, but that it could not identify the kidnappers. "Nobody introduced himself, nobody threatened. He simply said he wanted a million dollars for Miriam," CTK quoted OPU's head Martin Rozumek as saying. Jevikova, 28, was part of a three-member delegation visiting the Caucasus area, but stayed behind when her colleagues returned to Prague. She was last in contact with her employer on Jun 1. — Reuters.

Labour Disputes



FIJI

London, Aug 4 — A press report, dated today, states: Air Fiji's daily local and regional flights have been rescheduled because of the strike last week by some of its engineers, airline Commercial manager Shaenaz Voss said yesterday. Ms Voss said flights had not been affected but flight times had been rescheduled to accommodate the four aircrafts in operation. "We only have seven aeroplanes and only four are servicing customers at the moment but we are coping well," she said. Ms Voss said the airline could not disclose how much it had lost financially because of the strike. Fiji Islands Council of Trade

Unions general secretary Attar Singh said they were still awaiting word from Transport Minister Josefa Vosanibola on their next meeting. He said Mr Vosanibola needed to seek legal advice on the strike issue before meeting union representatives. He said company engineers were still on strike but had moved their picket site to opposite the road leading to Bau landing.

INDIA

Visakhapatnam, Jul 30 — The loading and unloading operations at the port here have been seriously affected with the cargo handling workers going on strike from Sunday evening (Jul 25) in protest against the policy of the port trust in giving free hand to the private operator in hiring labour for the newly constructed berths in the inner harbour, East Quay eight and nine. Mr. V.V.Rama Rao, President of the AITUC "led workers" union, said various categories of workers, including DLB labour, were supporting the strike. "We are not against the construction and operation of the berths by the private operator. But hiring labour from outside, ignoring the Dock Labour Board, will lead to exploitation of labour. The regular workers would be badly affected. We have made our stance clear to the port trust management, but no decision has been taken so far, forcing us to take the extreme step," he explained. There has been no comment from the port officials on the strike or how they propose to resolve it. According to trade sources, only the oil tankers involving no labour were being handled at the port. — Lloyd's Agents.

ISRAEL

London, Aug 2 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Talks aimed at ending the nation's seaports strike have failed, now approaching three weeks since sanctions at the nation's three major ports have brought commerce to an almost total halt. Dozens of vessels wait to be unloaded at the Ports of Eilat, Haifa, and Ashdod; with manufacturers association officials pleading for a settlement, pointing out the sanctions are costing the economy NIS 250 million daily. (See issue of Jul 30.)

London, Aug 5 — A press report, dated today, states: An interim agreement was signed Thursday morning ending a 22-day strike at the country's ports. The deal was the result of 11 hours of marathon talks between the Finance Ministry and the Histadrut labour federation and were overseen by Judge Steve Adler, president of the National Labour Court. Under the interim deal, the implementation of a law that privatises the country's ports will be frozen for four months, during which time, the sides will discuss the employment and pension rights of port workers. The treasury will deposit NIS 150 million in guarantees in a special fund to ensure the continuation of these negotiations. The state also undertook not to bypass the ports using private lands owned by Israel Shipyards. Under the interim deal, no structural changes will be implemented at the ports.

Histadrut chairman Amir Peretz told Israel Radio today that the port workers will do all they can to make up for the severe backlog at the ports. Work was expected to resume at the ports within hours of the deal being signed. Peretz also said he hoped that a permanent agreement on the issue will be finalized before the 120 days are up. Port workers agreed to maintain industrial quiet during the interim period. Marine Haulage Users Association chair Eyal Melamud said yesterday that since the start of the job action, 131 vessels carrying NIS 5 billion in goods headed for Israeli destinations have been redirected to ports in Egypt, Cyprus and Greece.

NEW CALEDONIA

Noumea, Aug 2 — Since Saturday Jul 31, Noumea container terminal has been locked again by pickets of striking dockers and there is no possibility for anybody to enter inside the terminal. The airport and oil terminals are also locked by striking pickets. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Aug 2 — A press report, dated today, states: A strike over a commercial dispute called by New Caledonia's union representing the ethnic Kanaks crippled the French Pacific territory's port and cut off fuel and other supplies over the weekend. The action also covers garbage collection and the crucial mining sector. Airlines were seriously affected on Saturday (Jul 31) but resumed normal service after the air force took charge of international air traffic. The strike followed a dispute between two companies, one of them led by a former union leader. It erupted into a crippling action because the initial group of strikers were expelled by government forces. The government has since set up a crisis cell and named two personalities to mediate between the disputing parties, deeming the issue did not justify the blockage of the territory.

Noumea, Aug 5 — The strike at Noumea terminal ended at 1600 hrs, yesterday, after an agreement was reached/signed with all parties. — Lloyd's Agents.

NORWAY

London, Aug 3 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Norwegian oil-workers' union and employer representatives failed to resolve a conflict that is delaying drilling of production and exploration wells when they met a mediator on Friday (Jul 30), the employers' organisation said. The OFS labour union and the Norwegian Shipowners' Association met a government-appointed mediator to comply with a legal obligation to attempt new talks after four weeks of conflict. Both sides said earlier last week they did not expect any solution to the strike, which has shut down three rigs owned by Transocean Inc, the world's largest offshore driller. "The state mediator found that the parties are as far from each other as they were when the conflict began," said Ketil Lenning, who heads the talks on behalf of the employers, in an e-mailed

statement. 'The economic loss for the rig industry and society is considerable.' About 175 Transocean workers halted work on Jul 2 after talks with employers broke down over salaries and social benefits. A week later, OFS stepped up the strike, causing 27 members to cease work at Odfjell ASA's Deepsea Delta platform, which is undergoing maintenance at a yard in western Norway. Of Transocean's rigs, the Polar Pioneer and the Transocean Searcher completed shutdown procedures Thursday, while Transocean Leader was set to close on Friday, according to OFS. The OFS union wants all rig-workers in Norway to be employed by a domestic company, ensuring they get the same salaries and social benefits regardless of nationality. It is seeking to bar the use of cheaper labour from other countries and protect Norwegian jobs, union leader Terje Nustad has said.

SOUTH KOREA

London, Jul 30 — LG Caltex Corp. has announced that 654 of the 1,095 unionised workers at its plant at Yosu, Korea's second-largest oil terminal, are currently on strike. About 20% of the striking union members returned to work yesterday to meet an extended back-to-work deadline granted by management. According to an LG-Caltex spokesman, the company expects 120 more to return before Aug 2, the 15th day of the strike. Company rules stipulate "severe" punishment for employees absent from work for more than 15 days without a legitimate reason. With the help of retirees and non-union engineers, LG Caltex is operating the Yosu plant at 90% capacity to refine about 600,000 barrels of oil despite the strike.

Seoul, Aug 2 — South Korea moved today to crack down on a 16-day strike by workers at LG-Caltex Oil Corp., with a court ordering the arrest of five union leaders, as strikers faced dismissal if they did not return to work later this week. Striking union workers at South Korea's second-biggest oil refiner refused to bow to the new deadline for them to return to work by Friday Jul 30). Ahn Chang-ho, deputy chief for public security at the state prosecution office, said prosecutors might seek more warrants to arrest striking workers if the illegal union action dragged on or turned violent, after a district court issued arrest warrants for five union chiefs. The union reiterated calls for fresh talks with management to resolve the standoff over wages at the 50:50 joint venture between South Korea's LG Group and ChevronTexaco Corp. LG-Caltex could not immediately give estimates of losses from the strike, which had initially crippled operations at its 650,000 barrel-per-day refinery and forced it to cancel contracts on some oil products exports. — Reuters.

THAILAND

See under "Political & Civil Unrest."

UNITED KINGDOM

London, Jul 30 — A press report, dated today, states: Staff at job centres

and benefits offices are preparing to hold a second day of strikes. Public and Commercial Services Union members are protesting over a 2003 pay deal and a staff performance-judging system the union calls "divisive". The union and bosses have clashed over how many took part on day one. The PCS said 90% of staff were absent, while the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) said the "unjustified" strike saw 30% walk out. The union said the strike was "solidly supported" with offices closed across England, Wales and Scotland. The government countered that it had contingency plans in place to keep services running.

Awards & Settlements



MEDICAL MALPRACTICE, UNITED STATES

London, Aug 5 — A press report, dated Aug 4, states: A California woman has been awarded \$1 million in damages to settle a malpractice lawsuit against a fertility specialist who accidentally implanted her with the wrong embryos, then hid the mistake until her baby was 10 months old, her lawyer said. The embryos Susan Buchweitz received at a San Francisco clinic were intended for a married couple who underwent in-vitro fertilization the same day using the husband's sperm and a different egg donor. The couple is now seeking custody of the three-year-old son Buchweitz has raised since birth. The settlement, made public yesterday, arose from allegations that both the infertility doctor, Steven L. Katz, and Imam El-Danasouri, the scientist who incubated the embryos and allegedly provided the wrong ones, knew of the mix-up within minutes of Buchweitz's June 15, 2000, in-vitro fertilization procedure. According to court papers, they concluded it would be better to let nature take its course rather than disclose the error, possibly causing the patient to end the pregnancy. Several experts summoned by Katz's defense in pretrial testimony agreed with that decision. The couple who provided the embryos also underwent an in-vitro procedure using the same set, and the wife gave birth to a child 10 days after Buchweitz did, making her son and the couple's daughter siblings. Katz's attorney, Robert Slattery, said today that his client figured that at age 47 and after two years of trying unsuccessfully to get pregnant, Buchweitz faced long odds with her in-vitro procedure. He worried that if he told her about the switched embryos, he would have to tell the married couple, too, thereby setting the scenario for a custody skirmish. "The dilemma he had was that if he told somebody, he had to tell everybody, and somebody would be harmed as a result of it," Slattery said. Buchweitz learned about the switched embryos in December 2001 after the Medical Board of California, acting on

an anonymous complaint from a former worker at Katz's clinic, contacted her and said there had been a mistake with her in-vitro procedure. In response to her panicked call, Katz and El-Danasouri went to her home and revealed what had happened. They also notified the couple, who are unnamed in court papers and filed their own fraud-and-negligence case against Katz and El-Danasouri. The couple, meanwhile, is seeking permanent custody of Buchweitz's son. A family court judge has granted Buchweitz temporary custody of the little boy and the husband, as the biological father, twice-weekly custody. The issue of how the couple and Buchweitz will divide his care in the future is scheduled to be decided in October, Hersh said.

OVERCHARGING FOR DRUGS, UNITED STATES

London, Aug 1 — A press report, dated Jul 31, states: Schering-Plough Corp. agreed to pay \$346 million in fines and damages to settle charges that it overcharged for drugs sold through Medicaid, the government's health program for the poor, the company announced yesterday. The pharmaceutical company said it would also plead guilty to a federal criminal charge concerning a payment to a managed care customer. Federal law requires drug makers to give their lowest prices to Medicaid, but a group of whistle-blowers accused the company of giving some private health care providers better deals on its drugs by offering them kickbacks. Federal prosecutors in Philadelphia began investigating the allegations in 1999 as part of a broad inquiry into pharmaceutical marketing practices. The Kenilworth, N.J.-based company said that as part of the settlement it would pay a criminal fine of \$52.5 million and civil damages of \$293 million. Some of those damages, though, will be offset by credit the company will receive for \$53.6 million in Medicaid rebates that it has previously paid. "We are pleased that we are now putting this matter from the past behind us," said Schering-Plough senior vice president Brent Saunders. The criminal charge stemmed from a \$1.8 million kickback Schering-Plough offered to a health maintenance organization that was threatening to drop its drug Claritin because of its high cost. The company offered to pay a false "data fee" amounting to 2% of the annual gross sales of Schering drugs to the HMO. Federal investigations in Philadelphia, Boston and Washington have resulted in subpoenas to nearly every big drug maker. Bayer has paid \$257 million and GlaxoSmithKline has paid \$86.7 million to settle similar allegations. Prosecutors in Boston and Washington are also investigating whether Schering-Plough paid physicians to prescribe its drugs, and whether it reported inflated wholesale prices to the Medicare program that led government health officials to pay more than necessary for its drugs. Over the last two years, the company has set aside

\$500 million to pay fines expected in those cases and the Philadelphia inquiry.

PATENT INFRINGEMENT, UNITED STATES

London, Aug 1 — A press report, dated Jul 31, states: An Orange County jury awarded \$43.5 million in damages to a Rancho Santa Margarita-based company that claimed industry giant U.S. Surgical Corp. infringed on its patent for a device used in laparoscopic operations. The federal jury ruled Tuesday (Jul 27) that U.S. Surgical, a division of Tyco International Ltd, willfully violated the patent of Applied Medical Services. The finding allows Judge Cormac Carney to triple the damages and award attorney fees, actions which he is scheduled to consider at a Sep 20 hearing. Applied argued that U.S. Surgical violated its patent on a sealing mechanism for a trocar, a tube that surgeons insert in patients to handle instruments during laparoscopic surgeries. U.S. Surgical, based in Norwalk, Conn, has discontinued using the disputed version of the product. The case is the second of three related federal lawsuits that Applied filed against U.S. Surgical. A federal court in Virginia awarded \$15 million for patent infringement in 1997, and a judge added an additional \$5 million. A third lawsuit, involving U.S. Surgical's latest version of its trocars, is scheduled for a hearing before Carney in March.

RENEGING ON INSURANCE POLICIES, UNITED STATES

London, Jul 30 — A press report, dated Jul 29, states: Four insurance companies have agreed to pay \$14 million to settle a national class action suit that accused the insurers of renegeing on a promise to pay partial refunds of premiums to a class of about 900 employers if their workers filed a low number of workers' compensation claims. Lead plaintiffs attorneys Joseph F. Roda and Eric L. Keepers of Roda & Nast in Lancaster said the case, Highland Tank and Manufacturing Co. v. Bankers Standard Insurance Co., was the first national class action ever certified in the Lancaster County Court of Common Pleas, and only the second national class in an insurance bad-faith case to be certified by a Pennsylvania trial judge. Roda said the case was about to go to trial before Lancaster County, Pa., Judge Louis J. Farina when the proposed settlement was struck with all four defendants — Bankers Standard Insurance Co.; Pacific Employers Insurance Co.; ACE P&C and ACE American Insurance Co. In the suit, Highland represented a class of employers who originally purchased workers' compensation policies in the late 1990s from CIGNA Corp. The suit said the policies were provided by two CIGNA subsidiaries — Bankers Standard and CIGNA Property and Casualty Insurance Co. — and were sold as "guaranteed cost retention dividend" policies. According to the suit, the policies offered employers the prospect of partial premium refunds in

payments called "dividends," depending on an insured's loss ratio during the policy year. The suit said CIGNA "emphasised the dividends in marketing the policies" by giving each insured a document called a "net cost exhibit," which correlated specific loss ratios with specific dividends for that insured. Under the policies, the loss ratios and dividends were to be calculated 15 months after the policy period ended. As a result, the suit said, the policies "contemplated a total relationship of 27 months between CIGNA and its insured: 12 months for the policy year and 15 additional months for the loss ratio/dividend calculation." But in late 1998, the suit said, CIGNA sold the policies while they were still in effect to ACE Ltd. as part of a \$3.45 billion sale of CIGNA's property and casualty business. ACE has since filed suit against CIGNA alleging that the sale price was "inflated." But Roda contends in the class action suit that ACE took out its anger against CIGNA on the policyholders by refusing to honor the promises made in the policies. Soon after the sale, the suit said, ACE announced that it would not renew any of the workers' compensation retention dividend policies and that it would not be paying out any dividends — regardless of loss ratios. Roda said ACE attempted to justify its decision on the grounds that the CIGNA division through which the policies were handled was not "profitable." In the suit, Roda flatly refuted ACE's alleged justification. The suit alleged that the "real reason" for ACE's refusal to pay the dividends was that it "never intended to pay dividends in the first place, because it saw the non-payment of those dividends as a convenient way to 'recapture' part of the inflated purchase price that it paid CIGNA. In an alternative theory of ACE's motive, the suit alleged that ACE "decided not to pay the dividends after it discovered what it has alleged to be fraud on the part of CIGNA, for which ACE Ltd. has now sued CIGNA Corporation and CIGNA Holdings." ACE filed suit against CIGNA in U.S. District Court in New York, seeking \$218 million in damages. The federal suit alleges that CIGNA breached its purchase agreement with ACE by withholding \$49 million due to ACE under a tax-sharing agreement among CIGNA and its subsidiaries, and that it failed to represent the true financial condition of the CIGNA companies that ACE had acquired. In the Lancaster County suit, the ACE defendants were represented by attorney Paul R. Koepff of O'Melveny & Myers in New York, with attorney Robert M. Frankhouser of Hartman Underhill & Brubaker in Lancaster acting as local counsel. Roda said the dividends that ACE refused to pay ran from the last quarter of 1999 through the first quarter of 2002. He said ACE had estimated that the unpaid dividends totaled about \$14 million — roughly the same amount that ACE has now agreed to pay in the settlement.

SWIMMING POOL ACCIDENT, AUSTRALIA

London, Aug 5 — A press report, dated today, states: A girl who became quadriplegic after diving into the shallow end of a pool at a swimming carnival is to receive more than A\$5 million after an out-of-court settlement reached in Melbourne today. Supreme Court judge Justice Robert Redlich formally approved the settlement of A\$5,448,000 plus a vehicle to cater for the needs of Laura Brown, now 16. Laura was 12 when she became a quadriplegic after diving into 90cm of water after the starting blocks were placed at the wrong end of the pool at a swimming club carnival on November 11, 2000. She had sued the Lara Swimming Club, south-west of Melbourne, for damages.

TOXIC SPILLAGE, UNITED STATES

London, Jul 30 — A press report, dated today, states: An Illinois company accused of spilling a toxic solvent into the ground around its Lisle plant for more than 20 years has agreed to pay as much as \$2 million to provide safe drinking water to 154 families living nearby. The settlement requires Lockformer Co. to bear the cost of extending municipal water mains to homes in two unincorporated subdivisions where groundwater was tainted by the solvent trichloroethylene, say Illinois and DuPage County officials who filed a 2001 civil lawsuit in DuPage County against the company. The chemical, also known as TCE, has been detected in the private wells of about half of those homes in the nearby Suburban Estates and Woodridge Estates subdivisions, officials say. The lawsuit, and others filed on behalf of residents living near the plant, contended that between 1970 and 1992, the TCE repeatedly spilled into the ground from Lockformer's 500-gallon rooftop tank. The settlement is the latest in a series of payments Lockformer and its parent companies have agreed to make in recent years to neighbors as a result of the TCE contamination. Last year, the companies agreed to pay \$18.5 million to neighbours to compensate them for the pollution. About 100 other homes near the plant began receiving municipal water earlier this year as a result of a 2002 court order. But attorneys and neighbours say the most recent settlement won't solve their problems — and say it's unclear when the residents might even see the promised new water supply. Lockformer has filed for bankruptcy protection, although a judge in that case has approved the company's reorganisation plan, which includes money for the settlement. A U.S. District Court judge in Chicago overseeing a federal class-action lawsuit by about 1,400 families living near the plant, however, still must sign off on the agreement.

VIOLATION OF ACCOUNTING PRINCIPLES, UNITED STATES

London, Aug 5 — A press report, dated Aug 4, states: Drug giant Bristol-Myers Squibb Co. is paying \$150 million to

settle federal regulators' charges that it manipulated its inventory of medicines in a fraudulent scheme to inflate earnings and meet Wall Street targets, the Securities and Exchange Commission announced today. Bristol-Myers agreed in its settlement with the SEC to pay a \$100 million civil fine and an additional \$50 million, both of which will go into a fund for shareholders, who recently won \$300 million from the company in a class-action lawsuit. Bristol-Myers neither admitted nor denied wrongdoing in the accord but did agree to abide by a permanent injunction against future violations. It was one of the largest SEC penalties in recent years for alleged accounting violations against a viable company that continues to operate. The \$150 million Bristol-Myers is paying dwarfs the \$10 million fine levied on Xerox Corp. in 2002, which was the largest ever at the time, to resolve allegations of accounting fraud. New York-based Bristol-Myers faces a related criminal investigation by the Justice Department. The company's largest division, the U.S. Medicines Group, is headquartered in New Jersey. The SEC sued Bristol-Myers in federal court in Newark, N.J., alleging that the company sold excessive quantities of drugs to wholesalers and improperly booked revenue from \$1.5 billion of those sales to its two biggest wholesalers. The maker of Excedrin, Plavix and Pravachol disclosed in March 2003 that it had overstated revenue for 1999-2001 by \$2.5 billion as a result of the discounts to wholesalers. Bristol-Myers covered the wholesalers' carrying costs and guaranteed them a return on investment until they sold the products, the SEC said in the suit. In booking the \$1.5 billion in revenue at the point of shipment, the company violated generally accepted accounting principles, the regulators said. They also accused Bristol-Myers of using so-called "cookie-jar" reserves in a drive to meet its internal sales and earnings targets as well as Wall Street analysts' earnings forecasts. The SEC maintains that the use of such reserves, overstating income in some quarters and understating it in others, gives investors an inaccurate picture of a company's financial performance. Bristol-Myers also agreed in the settlement to appoint an independent adviser to monitor its accounting practices, financial reporting and internal controls. "Bristol-Myers' earnings-management scheme distorted the true performance of the company and its medicines business on a massive scale and caused significant harm to the company" and its shareholders, SEC enforcement director Stephen Cutler said in a statement. "As our investigation continues we will be focusing on, among other things, those individuals responsible for the company's failures." The SEC, the Justice Department and the U.S. attorney's office in New Jersey have been investigating a Bristol-Myers program that offered wholesalers huge discounts to buy more

prescription medicines than they could sell. A federal grand jury convened in Newark early this year to pursue a criminal investigation. The company said today that it continues to cooperate with that inquiry. Regarding the settlement with the SEC, Bristol-Myers said in a statement that it has co-operated fully with the agency and "is pleased to have resolved this matter." "The company has implemented a series of internal controls and procedures designed to ensure that its financial reporting processes meet the highest standards of integrity and professionalism," it said. The inventory manipulation, known as "channel stuffing," is not illegal, but some industry observers have called the level at Bristol-Myers excessive. It occurred during a period when the company was trying to keep pace with rivals posting double-digit growth in profits. Some industry experts have questioned whether key Bristol-Myers managers benefited financially through bigger bonuses based on company sales levels.

London, Aug 5 — A press report, dated Aug 3, states: Halliburton Co. will pay \$7.5 million to settle charges that it failed to disclose a 1998 accounting change at a time when U.S. Vice President Dick Cheney headed the company, authorities said today. The U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission did not charge Cheney, but brought charges against the Houston-based oil services company, former Chief Financial Officer Gary Morris and former Controller Robert Muchmore. The SEC said its action focused on Halliburton's failure to disclose a 1998 change in accounting practices that caused its profit statement for that year and 1999 to be misleading. Halliburton and Muchmore have agreed to a settlement, with Muchmore paying a penalty of \$50,000 and the company a penalty of \$7.5 million. Both did not admit or deny wrongdoing, as is customary in SEC settlement agreements. The enforcement action against Morris is unsettled and has been filed in U.S. District Court in Houston, the SEC said. Halliburton last year agreed to pay \$6 million to settle class-action lawsuits over accounting practices involving cost overruns on construction projects. The accounting practices led to an SEC probe, which was disclosed by the company in 2002. Cheney served as CEO of Halliburton from 1995 to 2000. Halliburton said in a statement that it is adjusting its second-quarter results to account for the settlement. Cheney "provided sworn testimony and co-operated willingly and fully in the investigation conducted by the commission's career staff," the SEC said. The vice president's spokesman referred calls seeking comment to a Washington law firm, which was not immediately available. The SEC launched an informal investigation of Halliburton in late May 2002 and issued a request in June of that year for documents related to cost overruns on construction projects. The company turned over thousands of documents.

VIOLATION OF ELECTRONIC FUND TRANSFER ACT, UNITED STATES

London, Aug 5 — A press report, dated today, states: PayPal Inc., a subsidiary of eBay Inc., is notifying customers that they may be eligible to share in a \$9.25 million settlement. Millions of online shoppers who used PayPal between October 1999 and January 2004 may be entitled to a payment from the class-action settlement. PayPal has agreed to pay \$9.25 million to settle a class action lawsuit over allegations it violated the federal Electronic Fund Transfer Act by restricting users' access to their accounts. The company denies any wrongdoing. PayPal acts as a middleman for payments in online shopping. Instead of sending personal checks or credit card information to sellers over the Internet, buyers provide PayPal with their credit card information. PayPal then issues payments to sellers. PayPal customers who think they may be entitled to cash from the settlement fund can file claims at PayPal Claims. All claims must be filed by Oct 23, 2004.

VIOLATION OF RECORD-KEEPING REQUIREMENTS, UNITED STATES

London, Aug 5 — A press report, dated Aug 3, states: Fidelity Investments' brokerage unit today agreed to pay \$2 million in fines to settle accusations that several employees at its branches altered documents, the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission said. Fidelity Brokerage Service LLC settled the long-running investigation with the SEC and the New York Stock Exchange without admitting or denying the regulators' findings and will pay a \$1 million fine to each. The SEC said Fidelity Brokerage, which has more than 3.4 million clients, violated the SEC's record-keeping requirements and "failed reasonably to supervise employees" between January 2001 and July 2002. Broker-dealers must keep accurate records on customer accounts, including details on when a customer order was received and how it was executed. A NYSE spokeswoman said the fine is among the largest ever levied by the stock exchange. The SEC said managers working in offices primarily in the Western U.S. pressured branch office employees to have perfect internal audits and encouraged them to review certain documents. "As a consequence, in connection with certain inspections, a number of branch office employees altered or destroyed certain documents," the SEC said, adding "At least 62 employees had engaged in some form of this conduct in at least 21 branch offices, primarily in its western region." Fidelity spokeswoman Anne Crowley said the company acted immediately to correct the problem and alerted regulators. She also said the matter was unrelated to the improper trading scandal that has dogged the \$7.6 trillion industry for nearly a year. Crowley also said that the company's internal investigation revealed that no Fidelity clients were harmed and that customer orders were executed according to their instructions.

VITAMIN DEFICIENCY IN BABY FOOD, ISRAEL

Jerusalem, Jul 31 — A German babyfood firm will pay tens of millions of dollars in damages to Israeli families whose babies died or fell ill last year from consuming its soy-based baby formula, says Israeli television. Two Israeli infants died last November and 15 more developed serious health problems, including permanent brain damage, as a result of consuming the kosher product made by the German firm Humana GmbH and sold locally by Israel's Remedia. Humana GmbH will pay a settlement of between shekels 70 million and 100 million (£8 million to 12.15 million) to 17 Israeli families whose babies were affected by the formula in a deal signed on Friday by its representatives and the families' attorneys, Israel's Channel 2 said. "The Humana company in Germany has signed an extensive and comprehensive deal with us that explains the entire issue of the compensations to the affected families," Remedia owner Moshe Miller told the television station. The deaths of the infants caused a nationwide scare in Israel for months, leading Remedia to recall the product before redistributing it again weeks later after modifying its formula. Humana GmbH, part of the Humana Milchunion, later acknowledged the product had a B-1 vitamin deficiency, which can lead to beriberi, a disease that damages the heart and nervous system. — Reuters.

Railway Accidents



BALATON, MINNESOTA, UNITED STATES

London, Jul 30 — A press report, dated today, states: It may be months before investigators know what caused a train to derail in Balaton, Minnesota. But they're focusing on four areas: speed, the track line, rail cars and the engineer. The Dakota, Minnesota and Eastern Railroad train was on its way from Huron, South Dakota, to a stop in Tracy, Minnesota, when it jumped the tracks on Tuesday (Jul 27). The company says the track was installed only a month ago and has had rail cars on it every day since then. The DM&E says the train was travelling the speed limit of 30 miles-per-hour when the accident happened. Twelve to 14 cars derailed and five of them spilled ethanol and soybean oil. It forced the evacuation of about 100 people.

BEATTYVILLE AREA, KENTUCKY, UNITED STATES

London, Aug 2 — A press report, dated today, states: About 20 cars of a freight train derailed in a rural area of north-east Kentucky early Saturday (Jul 31), hitting a natural gas line and forcing about 45 people to evacuate, state police said. No one was hurt when the CSX train cars left the tracks between South

Shore and Beattyville, adjacent to U.S. 23, shortly after midnight, said Rebekah Wright, a state police dispatcher at the Ashland post. Residents were evacuated from the area immediately after the accident because officials smelled gas leaking, Trooper Chris Yavorcik said. The evacuation order lasted only two hours. Residents were allowed to return home around 0830, EDT, state police said. Columbia Gas of Kentucky was still trying to fix a ruptured natural gas line late Saturday afternoon. CSX spokeswoman Jane Covington said company officials were on the scene investigating. She said they did not know yet what caused the cars to derail. The train was carrying steel slabs from Columbus to Cincinnati. State police closed U.S. 23 in the south Portsmouth area and the Carl Perkins bridge at 0600, but both were re-opened within four hours, Yavorcik said. Beattyville is a small town between South Shore and South Portsmouth in Greenup County.

HARARE, ZIMBABWE

London, Aug 4 — A press report, dated today, states: Two commuter trains have crashed at the main station in Zimbabwe's capital Harare, injuring 70 people, according to Deputy Transport Minister Andrew Langa. Mr Langa said it appeared human error was to blame for the accident. There were no immediate reports of any deaths. A witness saw at least four carriages lying on their side at Harare Station. "Two commuter trains using the same track as they approached the railway station collided into each other," Mr Langa said at the scene. "The one which was behind did not slow down for the one in front. At this stage we are attributing this to human error," he said. "At the moment we have no reports of deaths."

HILLSBORO AREA, NORTH DAKOTA, UNITED STATES

London, Aug 2 — A press report, dated today, states: Thirteen cars of a train carrying sugar derailed north of Hillsboro, authorities said. No one was hurt. Traill County Sheriff Mike Crocker said the Burlington Northern Santa Fe derailment happened about 2245 on Saturday night (Jul 31). Crews still were cleaning up the site today, he said. "It's out in the field," Crocker said. "It's off the road, so it's not creating any traffic problems." BNSF spokesman Gus Melonas said the track was re-opened early today. The derailed cars were on the rear of the 96-car train en route from Grand Forks to Minneapolis-St. Paul, he said. The cause of the derailment was under investigation. "Clean-up will continue throughout the week," Melonas said.

MANDWA AREA, MADHYA PRADESH, INDIA

London, Aug 3 — A press report, dated today, states: About half a dozen passengers were injured and rail traffic between Mumbai and northern parts of the country was disrupted after 14 coaches of Patna-Kurla Janata Express

derailed near Mandwa station, about 40 kms from Khandwa in Madhya Pradesh, early today, Central Railway sources said. The mishap took place between Mandwa and Chandni stations under Khandwa-Bhusawal division of Central Railway around 0100 hrs due to suspected fault in the tracks, the sources said. About half a dozen passengers, who sustained minor injuries, have been given first aid, they said. The rail traffic between Mumbai and northern India has been paralysed due to the derailment and both up and down trains, numbering over 18, were diverted via Nagpur-Bhusawal and Itarsi, they said. Senior railway officials have reached the site and a special relief train was operated to take the passengers of Patna-Kurla Janata Express to Bhusawal station. An inquiry has been ordered into the accident and Commissioner (Rail Safety) of the Central Railways would carry out the investigation. Efforts are on for resumption of rail traffic on one of the track as soon as possible, sources added.

MARTINSVILLE, INDIANA, UNITED STATES

London, Aug 4 — A press report, dated Aug 3, states: Crews this evening were working to contain a flammable-liquid spill caused by a train derailment near Indiana 67 in the Martinsville area, police and a state environmental official said. About eight cars of a cargo train carrying ethyl alcohol derailed this afternoon. No injuries were reported. One 30,000-gallon tank was leaking about 10 gallons of ethyl alcohol per minute after the derailment, an Indiana Department of Environmental Management spokeswoman said. She didn't say whether the tank had been full. Because the site of the derailment isn't populated, no evacuation was ordered, she said. The IDEM spokeswoman said that although the White River is near the derailment site, the spill's potential impact on the river was low. Information on what caused the derailment wasn't immediately available.

Robberies & Thefts



FUNDS FROM BANK, SINGAPORE

London, Aug 4 — A press report, dated today, states: A senior executive of US banking giant Citibank in Singapore has been charged with stealing S\$4.8 million from the bank over seven years, local media said yesterday. The Straits Times newspaper said William Ng Wee Lip, 38, faces 104 counts under the Computer Misuse Act for allegedly transferring the money from the bank's accounts to his own and those of at least three other people. He is alleged to have stolen the money between May 1996 and August last year in what the paper described as the biggest known case of theft under the law. The

defendant had been remanded in custody after appearing in court on Friday (Jul 30).

Computer Systems



FLIGHTS GROUNDED, UNITED STATES

London, Aug 2 — A press report, dated today, states: A computer glitch grounded American Airlines and US Airways flights from coast to coast yesterday morning, causing delays that lasted all day. A computer-company official said human error was the likely cause of the problem, which involved departure preparations such as flight scheduling, catering services and baggage processing. American had its aircrafts back up after two hours, while US Airways flights were grounded for about three.

Miscellaneous



INFESTATION OF LOCUSTS, NORTH AND WEST AFRICA

London, Aug 3 — A press report, dated Aug 2, states: The government of The Gambia has declared a state of emergency ahead of an imminent locust invasion. Vast swarms of locusts have already arrived in neighbouring countries. The government has established a \$1.5m emergency plan and has urged people to be on the alert for locusts. Last week the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) appealed for \$83m to help tackle what they describe as the worst occurrence for 15 years in north and west Africa. "In the next couple of weeks, the situation will probably return pretty much to normal in north-west Africa, but it will get worse in west Africa," FAO spokesman Keith Cressman told AP news agency. This year's swarms are especially big due to prolonged periods of heavy rain last year. The insect swarms have already affected over 6.5m hectares of farmland in north-western Africa and the Sahel region. Measures to control the spread of locusts appear to have had some success there but, the UN says, heavy seasonal rains in the Sahel region have increased the danger that locust numbers will continue to rise in west Africa.

Nouakchott, Aug 4 — A massive locust swarm swept into the Mauritanian capital Nouakchott today, devouring trees, bushes and parts of the city's main soccer pitch, residents said. Residents in Nouakchott compared the arrival of the swarm to the locust invasion of 1987-89, which was the worst in 30 years and sparked fears of

famine. That plague took \$300 million and operations in 28 states to contain. France has said it is sending a team of experts from agronomical research centre CIRAD to Mauritania, Senegal, Mali and Niger — all former French colonies — to assess the scale of the latest invasion. European donors have contributed two million euros (\$2.4 million) to supplement an emergency fund run by the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO). — Reuters.

OUTBREAK OF "BIRD FLU"

London, Aug 3 — A press report, dated today, states: Vietnam has just detected one more bird flu outbreak in the southern city of Can Tho. All of 600 affected chicken in a farm in the city's Phong Dien district have been killed, according to local newspaper Vietnam Agriculture today. Earlier, bird flu hit four other districts, affecting more than 6,000 fowls. Now, poultry in the districts are closely monitored. The disease has hit 11 southern localities, including Can Tho and 10 provinces of Long An, Bac Lieu, Hau Giang, Tra Vinh, Dong Thap, Vinh Long, Tien Giang, Ba Ria Vung Tau, Kien Giang and Ben Tre, either killing or leading to the forced killing of nearly 63,000 poultry since late June. As of Aug 2, seven out of the 11 localities were eligible for declaring the end of bird flu as no new outbreaks have been detected for 21 days, said the paper. The national anti-bird flu steering committee has just launched an anti-bird flu month in August, aiming to comprehensively deal with outbreaks, and eventually to ensure the localities free of bird flu in September. However, the Department of Animal Health admitted that the risk of the disease's relapse is high mainly due to potential disease sources, transport of non-quarantined live fowls and smuggling of poultry via borders. Bird flu killed 17 percent of Vietnam's poultry population, and claimed 16 human lives during its outbreak in December 2003. A total of 43.2 million fowls nationwide either died or were culled, causing the local poultry industry to suffer direct losses of 1.3 trillion Vietnamese dong (US\$82.8 million). (See issue of Jul 30.)

London, Aug 3 — A press report, dated today, states: Six provinces in Thailand that have been considered as bird flu control zones will be removed from the list by the end of the week, said the livestock department. The six provinces, namely Ayutthaya, Pathum Thani, Sukhothai, Uttaradit Mukdahan and Phitsanulok will be declared free of the disease after no new infection cases were found there for 21 consecutive days, Yukol Limlamthong, head of the department was quoted by today's The Nation newspaper as saying. Yukol said 11 location in five other province will also be declared free of the epidemic this week. During the second round of bird flu outbreak, 65 spots in 23 provinces of Thailand have been hit by the fatal disease. Relevant authorities have reacted effectively in coping with reemergence of bird flu, said Yukol, adding that more provinces will be

gradually removed from the infection list in the future. More than 160,000 birds have been culled or died after new round of bird flu rekindled the country on Jul 6. Most poultry farms in Thailand were heavily hit by the bird flu crisis breaking out at the beginning of this year. An estimated total of some 50-60 million birds were culled during the epidemic outbreak, which caused no less than US\$880 million loss to the kingdom's poultry industry.

London, Aug 4 — A press report, dated today, states: The World Bank says it has extended a five million US dollar emergency loan to Vietnam to help the government bring the latest outbreaks of bird flu under control. The credit will fund a project aimed at strengthening disease surveillance and diagnostic capacities, improving the infrastructure of the poultry sector and raising public awareness about the risks caused by the disease. Sixteen people died in the communist nation earlier this year after contracting the lethal H-5-N-1 strain of avian influenza from infected birds. In Thailand laboratory tests have confirmed almost daily new cases of deadly avian influenza in poultry since July 6, Yukol Limlamthong, director general of Thailand's Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives' Livestock Development Department, told reporters yesterday. He said scientists have at least 38 cases from 18 of Thailand's 76 provinces pending final confirmation that the samples contained the hazardous H5N1 strain of bird flu.

Fires & Explosions



COPPER SMELTER, CHILE

London, Aug 5 — Following received today from LaSalle, Quebec, dateline Toronto, Jul 30: Norandia Inc. yesterday announced that a fire took place on Jul 27 in the concentrate dryer bag house at the Altonorte copper smelter in Chile. There were no injuries. Norandia estimates it will take between 30 and 40 days to complete repairs. The smelter continues to operate at reduced capacity. The production impact is expected to be less than 30,000 tonners of copper concentrate.

FOREST, RUSSIA

London, Aug 2 — A press report, dated today, states: The area of forest fires has shrunk six times in Russia for the last week, a source in the Russian Emergencies Ministry told Itar-Tass today. Eighty-six forest fires on the area totalling more than 7,500 hectares were registered. The fire area reached 42,000 hectares last week. Meanwhile, the difficult situation has emerged in the Khanty-Mansi autonomous area. An emergency was announced in the Berezovsky, Kondinsky and Beloyarsky districts. Large fires were also

registered in the Chita region where fires engulfed 5,600 hectares of forests. About 1,000 people, seven aircraft and helicopters are putting out fires.

FOREST, SPAIN

Madrid, Jul 30 — Hundreds of firefighters managed to control a forest fire that has destroyed huge areas of woodland since it started three days ago in the southern Spanish region of Andalusia, officials said today. The blaze has destroyed 26,500 hectares of woodland and pasture in the provinces of Seville and Huelva and firemen are still in the area in case of fresh outbreaks, a spokeswoman for the fire service Infoca said. An elderly couple died trying to escape the flames in their car on the first day of the fire and many farmers have been ruined by the loss of their grazing. More than 1,000 people have been evacuated from their homes. "The fire has been under control since 0800 hrs, (0600, UTC) this morning," the spokeswoman said. Newspaper El Pais said the outbreak was the worst in the region since 199. Regional government officials said the blaze looked as if it was deliberately started. Government figures show 42,000 hectares have been destroyed by fire this summer in Spain up to mid-July, 10,000 more than last year but below the average for the last decade which is 76,000 hectares a year. — Reuters.

GAS DISTRIBUTION STATION, YAKUTSK AREA, RUSSIA

London, Aug 5 — A press report, dated today, states: Fire at a gas-distribution station near Yakutsk has claimed the life of one person, knocked out gas supplies in the entire city of Yakutsk, and produced an electricity blackout in some parts of the city as well as in the central districts of this East-Siberian territory. The explosion occurred at a station located in the Khatyng-Yuryah area of countryside lands at around 1500 yesterday. A torch of flames 25 metres high burst into the skies. An hour and a half later, the second explosion occurred. As the area affected by the fire kept growing, the flames reached the height of 150 metres. It was only by nighttime that firefighters managed to extinguish it. A gas leak was the most possible cause of the accident, sources said. An assistant electrician was killed. A firefighter was seriously injured during the job to extinguish the flames. In the meantime, sources at the regional power producer Yakutskenergo said that the accident had compelled the authorities to sharply reduce the supplies of gas to the Yakutsk thermal power plant. As a result, electricity went out in some parts of Yakutsk and in some of Yakutia's central areas. The power plant has temporarily changed over to liquid fuel, the sources said.

MANUFACTURING PLANT, CALDWELL, IDAHO, UNITED STATES

London, Jul 30 — A press report, dated Jul 28, states: Fire experts say a blaze at a Caldwell manufacturing plant caused nearly one million dollars

worth of damage. Custom Manufacturing Incorporated makes fiberglass parts for recreational vehicles. Firefighters were called to the plant early yesterday morning to battle a fire. Investigators say the fire may have started when static electricity created a spark that ignited flammable liquid on the floor. The Caldwell Fire Marshal says the building did not have a sprinkler system.

OFFSHORE OIL TERMINAL, MATOSINHOS, PORTUGAL

London, Aug 1 — A press report, dated Jul 31, states: A fire at an offshore oil terminal in northern Portugal was brought under control tonight, a spokeswoman for the firefighters said. The fire, which broke out hours earlier following two explosions in pipelines as workers transferred oil from a ship in Matosinhos, was contained after the pipeline was cut off on both sides, reducing the risk the fire might expand, national fire service spokeswoman Alcina Coutinho said. Seven firefighters were treated for minor burns, smoke-inhalation or other injuries. Beaches near Matosinhos, about 20 kilometres north of Oporto, were evacuated as a precaution. In all, about 180 firefighters from 12 divisions and backed up by 51 firefighting trucks and other vehicles were deployed to curtail the blaze. Firefighters kept the flames from travelling the 1.5 kilometres through the pipeline to the Petrogal refinery on shore. "This is a very serious situation which could get worse if the fire spreads to other pipelines," Matosinhos Mayor Narciso Miranda told Lisbon radio TSF earlier this evening. Manuel Moreira, civil governor of Porto, told TSF radio the Petrogal refinery did not know what caused the accident. "I am going to ask the government for a rigorous inquiry on what happened," he said. The director of Matosinhos Petrogal refinery, Jose Roque, said it would not shut down despite damage to the pipeline that supplies all of northern Portugal. "The refinery will not be closed," he said in a telephone interview. "The supply of refined products to the north of the country passes through these pipelines and they will have to be shut down. But we at the refinery have enough stock to keep supplying this area of the country for several weeks with no problems." The Matosinhos plant produces 4.8 million tonnes of refined oil a year, said the state-controlled energy company Galpenergia which controls it.

PREMISES, HOUSTON, TEXAS, UNITED STATES

London, Aug 3 — A press report, dated Aug 2, states: A \$5 million River Oaks home went up in flames in a two-alarm fire yesterday night, firefighters told News2Houston. Firefighters were called to the home in the 3600 block of Willowick around 2230 hrs when an eroded telephone pole snapped, broke some electrical lines and fell onto the home. Investigators said a backup generator came on due to the power failure. They believe heat from the generator might have ignited nearby

items. "There was pretty heavy damage on the second floor of the home ... and we have moderate smoke damage to the entire house," Houston Fire Department District Chief Gary Taylor said. "It was a garage apartment-type playroom on the back of this house here and the fire was up on the second floor." No injuries were reported.

PREMISES, TRONDHEIM, NORWAY

London, Aug 2 — A press report, dated Jul 30, states: In the early hours of this morning the Trondheim fire brigade managed to bring under control a fire which has destroyed two buildings in the city's old section. No one was hurt in the fire, but the material damage is considerable. The fire, which started around midnight, destroyed two of the old frame buildings in Soendre gate, and damaged a third. The buildings date from around 1800, and were on the city's list of houses "worthy of preservation". No one lived in the three buildings which were about to be totally renovated. A neighbouring building had to be evacuated, but no one was hurt. The cause of the fire is not yet known.

REFINERY, TEXAS CITY, TEXAS, UNITED STATES

London, Aug 4 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: A fire late yesterday at Marathon Ashland Petroleum's 72,000-barrels-a-day Texas City, Texas, refinery had no impact on production. It broke out and was contained within the administrative building at the facility, said Company Spokesman Chuck Rice today. "There were no injuries associated with the fire; no one was at work at the time. And it was never a threat to any units at the refinery," Rice said. While it was unclear when the fire began, MAP's on site fire personnel noticed smoke coming from the building around 2230, yesterday. Together they fought the blaze and brought it under control. The cause of the fire is under investigation and the company is in the process of constructing temporary buildings for the 40 employees displaced by the fire.

RIDING SCHOOL, LESCHERAINES, SAVOY REGION, FRANCE

London, Aug 5 — A press report, dated today, states: Seven teenagers perished when a fire swept through a riding school in the Savoy region of south-east France overnight, local police said. Two adults were reported missing and a young woman was critically injured and taken to hospital. The victims were all aged 13 to 15. The riding school, a kilometre outside the village of Lescheraines, consisted of two buildings and a ring, whose roof collapsed in the blaze. The alarm was raised around 0330 hrs. The fire broke out in a one-storey building with a loft above. One teenager escaped by jumping out of a first-floor window. Firemen extinguished the blaze by 0630 hrs and were combing through the smouldering ruins looking for bodies. The Minister for Youth and Sports Jean-Francois Lamour was due to visit the scene of the tragedy later today, his office said.

SHOPPING CENTRE, ASUNCION, PARAGUAY

London, Aug 2 — A press report, dated today, states: An exploding gas canister in a food department may have fuelled a fire that killed up to 340 people in a crowded supermarket in Paraguay's worst disaster in more than half a century. Hundreds more were injured, many with serious burns, after the blaze swept through the multi-level Ycua Bolanos supermarket on the outskirts of the capital, Asuncion, while it was crowded with Sunday shoppers. The heat of the blaze caused one floor to collapse, crushing dozens of cars in the car park as flames engulfed the motorists inside, police said. Badly burned bodies, some with twisted limbs, were whisked away as black billows of smoke rose overhead. Rescuers led away dozens of children found near the store's toy department. The government confirmed 256 deaths, but Interior Minister Orlando Fiorotto said officials were still counting bodies. Paraguay's Channel 9 reported that 340 bodies had been recovered and that hundreds were injured, citing reports by rescue workers and police. Authorities said they had detained two owners of the supermarket for questioning amid local media reports that some survivors claimed they were unable to open doors as they tried to flee. A statement released by the management vehemently denied that any doors were shuttered soon after the fire in order to prevent theft.

Asuncion, Aug 2 — Survivors of a supermarket blaze in Paraguay that killed at least 364 people found exit doors locked and in one case welded shut as they desperately tried to flee the inferno, police and witnesses said today. "There are several witnesses who saw how they shut the doors to the supermarket and we also confirmed that the emergency exit was welded," Paraguayan Police Chief Humberto Nunez told Reuters. Firefighters had found the main doors shut, he added. Three owners of the Ycua Bolanos supermarket and three security guards were in police custody. Main shareholder Juan Pio Paiva said no orders were given to lock the doors. Prosecutors probing allegations guards locked exit doors to keep shoppers from fleeing without paying for their groceries asked the courts to keep the supermarket president, his son and four guards in custody pending further investigation. Officials said the fire was caused by a gas explosion near the food court. Witnesses told of an explosion, the flames' rapid spread and suffocating smoke overtaking those who ran to the exits or a parking lot beneath the market. Several charred corpses were found in burned cars. The Ministry of Health reported 256 people hospitalized, 70 of them in intensive care. — Reuters.

London, Aug 4 — A press report, dated Aug 3, states: Authorities today filed manslaughter charges against an owner of a Paraguayan supermarket which caught fire, killing at least 464 people, local media reported. The indictment in Paraguay's worst disaster in decades

came after investigators said a security guard told them that when Sunday's (Aug 1) fire broke out, the doors were ordered locked to prevent looting. Supermarket owner Juan Pio Paiva denied that the doors had been deliberately locked and said the building met safety codes. Channel 13 television reported that a judge had charged Pio Paiva with involuntary manslaughter and ordered him imprisoned while the investigation moved forward. Earlier today, the death toll soared as the attorney general's office said 464 had been killed, up from the 325 reported earlier. Officials also said 409 people remained hospitalised. Dozens of families were still searching for lost loved ones as investigators questioned the store's two owners, a manager and four security guards over whether the doors had been ordered locked to stop people from leaving without paying — allegedly trapping shoppers inside. The blaze broke out during lunch hour at the three-story supermarket in a suburb of Asuncion, the capital. Flames quickly spread through the Ycua Bolanos supermarket, food court and parking garage, causing a floor to collapse. Officials say they were checking reports an exploding gas canister could have started the flames. Prosecutor Edgar Sanchez, who is leading the investigation, said a security guard told authorities that at the outset of the fire he received orders over a radio to lock the doors to prevent theft. Sanchez said the guard "didn't know" who gave the order. "He couldn't identify the voice that spoke to him over the radio," the prosecutor said. In addition to Pio Paiva's arrest, authorities have also taken into custody for questioning his son who is a co-owner, a business associate and four security guards. Officials said they were trying to piece together survivor claims that locked doors might have impeded or slowed shoppers trying to escape.

WILDFIRES, CANADA

London, Jul 30 — A press report, dated Jul 29, states: Fire crews from across Canada and Alaska are heading to British Columbia to help battle the biggest wildfire so far this year. The Lonesome Lake fire, burning in and around Tweedsmuir Park about 320 kilometres northwest of Vancouver, grew again overnight yesterday and stood at 140 square kilometres by this morning. The fire has forced officials to put about 60 residents on evacuation alert. Another 1,300 people in the Nimpo Lake area of the Interior were also on alert from the 25-square-kilometre Klinaklini Valley fire. That fire "has been behaving itself" and hasn't grown in size, Nancy Argyle, a fire information officer, said. Fire officials said today 220 personnel are on their way from Ontario, Alberta, Alaska, and other parts of the United States. She said 62 firefighters will come to British Columbia from Ontario and another 100 from the midwestern United States. One air tanker group from Alberta will come, along with 60 firefighters expected to arrive later this

week from Alaska and Saskatchewan. The province already has 945 people working on the firelines, 500 of its own staff and 445 contract firefighters. In total, 384 fires were burning in the province today, a slight increase, though firefighters had also put out several. Only five fires were causing the Forest Service serious concern and only two of those - the Lonesome Lake fire and the Klinaklini Valley fire - were threatening people or property. The forecast today was for continuing hot, dry weather, although there is a 30 per cent chance of thundershowers in some parts of the southern Interior during the weekend.

London, Aug 2 — A press report, dated Aug 1, states: A wildfire ripped through the forested area surrounding the University of British Columbia early this morning. Forty firefighters, eight trucks and three helicopters responded to the blaze, which scorched four square kilometres on the cliffs overlooking Wreck Beach, a popular bonfire and party spot. Officials said the fire was likely sparked by people, rather than natural causes such as lightning. The blaze was another example of the effects of a drought and soaring temperatures that have settled over the province in recent weeks. There were 342 wildfires burning in B.C.'s tinder-dry interior today and hundreds of firefighters from Eastern Canada and the United States arrived over the weekend to help put them out. Information officer Steve Bachup said Sunday that crews continued to make progress on the province's largest fire at Lonesome Lake, which has promoted the evacuation of dozens of people and consumed a pioneer lodge. The 180-square-kilometre blaze has slowed its advance toward homes near Charlotte Lake by the southern tip of Tweedsmuir Provincial Park. A change in wind direction caused the southern part of the fire to expand aggressively yesterday, although crews managed to save a large lodge by surrounding it with a sprinkler system. Meanwhile, an evacuation alert remained in effect for residents of the Klinaklini Valley because of a 25-square-kilometre blaze that crews have kept under control for the past five days.

WILDFIRES, UNITED STATES

London, Aug 1 — A press report, dated today, states: A wildfire that destroyed two homes and threatened dozens of others appears to be the work of an arsonist, who has set 10 other fires in central Washington in the last two months, authorities said yesterday. A state of emergency was declared in Kittitas County as a wind-swept blaze forced the evacuation of dozens of homes in the Cascade foothills. Helicopters dropped water and aircraft distributed retardant to prevent the fire's spread. The blaze destroyed two homes and a shop as it raced across 300 acres. None of the previous 10 arsons in Kittitas County damaged buildings. About 100 homes remained evacuated yesterday. By evening, the fire was holding at about 600 acres. Fire officials did not have a containment estimate. The fire began Friday (Jul 30), near

Interstate 90 between Cle Elum and Ellensburg. Some of the homes firefighters were able to save had flames lapping at the front door. High winds posed a threat as firefighters hoped to channel the fire away from nearby timber. Most of the recent arsons have been set in the afternoon, in areas with plenty of fuel, such as dry grass or timber, and near homes and highway access. The sheriff's department offered a \$10,000 reward for information in the case. In southwestern Utah, a pair of lightning-caused fires, fanned by hot winds and low humidity, consumed a combined total of nearly 38,000 acres. The fires were in a part of Dixie National Forest, where prescribed burns had been planned, but firefighters started working to suppress the larger blaze Saturday after it came within a mile of the farming community of Enterprise. Backfires stopped its advance, fire information officer Maggie Dowd said. Occupants of eight homes evacuated voluntarily, although fire officials said no structures were threatened. Meanwhile, in Nucla, Colo., a wildfire burned 3,800 acres near the Utah state line Saturday. Several hundred head of cattle and several trailers and structures were threatened.

London, Aug 1 — A press report, dated today, states: Crews today continue to fight a fast-growing wildfire in Montrose County. The Campbell fire has now burned 3,800 acres. The fire is burning 14 miles north-west of Nucla on the Uncompahgre Plateau, near the Utah boarder. Firefighters say today's priority will be to protect structures in the area. Nearly 110 firefighters are expected to be working on the fire today. Several air tankers and three helicopters will be helping ground crews from the air. A wildfire in southwest Colorado spread rapidly to more than 1,350 acres of pine trees, yesterday, and threatened hundreds of cattle and at least seven buildings. Fast-moving flames and steep terrain made it too dangerous Saturday to try to save the cattle, said Carson Berlund, spokesman for the Rocky Mountain Area Coordination Center. The blaze, north-east of Nucla, flared up Friday afternoon (Jul 30) and caught ranchers by surprise, he said. Officials had not determined the cause of the blaze, Berlund said. Lightning has been spotted in the area for the past several days, he said. Seven air tankers and three helicopters dropped fire retardant on the blaze, mostly in an effort to save buildings, said Maggie McCaffrey, spokeswoman for the Montrose Interagency Fire Dispatch. More than 100 firefighters are expected to be at the fire today. The fire was only a half-mile south-east of buildings that include ranch homes, he said. The fire is headed in the direction of the homes, Berlund said. Temperatures in the 90s, as is expected today, will only make it more difficult to contain the fire, Berlund said.



5N-BDZ

London, Aug 2 — A press report, dated today, states: The American national who piloted Pan-African Airline's Bell 412, 5N-BDZ, which crashed into the Atlantic Ocean last Monday night (Jul 26), had been disengaged from service and was due to leave the country the same day for the US. Public Affairs Office of the US Consulate General in Lagos confirmed that an American national was on board the helicopter. Mr Storm Jackson said an American was on board but that only Pan African Airline could reveal who piloted the aircraft. "It was an unfortunate incident. We grieve for the family and will make sure that those he left behind will be well cared for," Jackson said at the weekend. An airline official said that an investigation was still going on. The pilot was reported to have been the last American captain in the employment of the airline since it was acquired by Air Log. "He was the last American operation manager in the airline, based in Escravos," a source said. — Lloyd's Agents.

5Y-QQQ

London, Aug 2 — Boeing 767, 5Y-QQQ, operated by East African Safari Air, experienced a fire in the port engine shortly after take-off from Rome Jul 28. The flight crew extinguished the fire after the second fire bottle was discharged. The aircraft return to Rome and landed uneventfully.

London, Aug 4 — A press report, dated today, states: An Air Malta aircraft made an emergency landing at Rome's Fiumicino airport early yesterday morning after a technical hitch in its air-conditioning system. Flight KM4101, carrying 179 passengers and six crew between Corfu and Manchester, was cut short as the aircraft landed safely in Rome at about 0230 hrs. The aircraft, an Airbus A320, left Corfu at 2340 hrs, on one of the scheduled flights the airline operates from the Greek island to the UK. According to Italian news agencies there was a smell of something burning coming from rows 22 and 23 of the aircraft an hour into the flight. The captain immediately contacted the Rome air traffic control tower asking for authorisation to land. Teams of rescuers, firemen and medical specialists were on duty at the airport as a precautionary measure. The aircraft landed safely in Rome and the passengers disembarked through the normal exits. A relief aircraft and crew were dispatched to Rome to transport the passengers to Manchester and minimise the inconvenience caused by the diversion. In Rome, the passengers were provided with all the necessary assistance. The passengers were flown to Manchester at 0630 hrs on the

replacement Airbus. In addition, Air Malta's engineering staff were also sent to Rome and the aircraft, which is not one of the newly acquired jets, was subsequently certified clear to fly by both British Airways' and Air Malta's engineers.

AIRCRAFT GROUNDED AT BANGKOK INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, THAILAND

London, Aug 2 — A press report, dated today, states: A United Airlines flight preparing to take off for Tokyo from Bangkok's international airport today experienced engine trouble on the runway and evacuated hundreds of passengers, leaving about 20 people with minor injuries. An airport official was quoted by AP as saying the flight was scheduled to take off from Bangkok at 0740 hrs before the captain reported unspecified engine problems and ordered the aircraft's 348 passengers and 17 crew members to evacuate.

London, Aug 3 — A press report, dated today, states: More than 300 passengers aboard United Airlines flight UA838 to Tokyo scrambled off the aircraft yesterday after the flight was abruptly aborted during take-off from Don Muang airport. Minor injuries were reported among the passengers, mostly incurred during the evacuation process, witnesses said. An engine failed on the Boeing 747-400 during lift-off about 0715 hrs. The aircraft eventually came to a halt on the tarmac and cabin crew evacuated the plane as a precaution against fire. United Airlines later issued a statement saying the plane also had a tyre blowout during the take-off, which was aborted after a bird was sucked into one of the engines. "For the safety of passengers and crew members, the pilot activated an immediate evacuation. Evacuation slides were deployed and all passengers and crew members were deplaned safely in minutes," the statement said. United Airlines said there were 346 passengers, two pilots and 15 flight attendants on board the flight. Four minor injuries were reported and they were immediately treated by a medical team at the airport. Two people were sent to a local hospital for further medical treatment. All passengers were put up at a local hotel yesterday night. The airline prepared another plane to resume the flight today.

AIRCRAFT PUT BACK TO NAGOYA, JAPAN

London, Jul 30 — A press report, dated today, states: An Air China Boeing 737, bound for Chongqing via Shanghai, returned to Nagoya airport yesterday after experiencing trouble with a flap shortly after take-off, airport officials said. Nobody was hurt in the landing, which took place around 1510 hrs.

AIRCRAFT PUTS BACK TO MELBOURNE, VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA

London, Aug 5 — A press report, dated today, states: An Adelaide-bound Qantas airliner returned to Melbourne Airport after reports of an odour at the

back of the aircraft. A Qantas spokesman said the pilot decided to turn back shortly after taking off from Melbourne Airport at 0740 hrs, today. "Very soon after take-off there were reports of an odour in the rear of the aircraft," he said. "The pilot made a decision to return to Melbourne Airport and the aircraft landed without incident." Passengers were transferred to another plane and left Melbourne shortly after 1000 hrs. Qantas is investigating the cause of the odour.

AIRCRAFT STRUCK BY LIGHTNING, LONDON (HEATHROW) AIRPORT, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Aug 5 — A press report, dated today, states: An Iran Air Boeing 747 aircraft stricken by strong lightning at London (Heathrow) Airport headed home yesterday after being repaired. An Iran Air official said here that the aircraft left Heathrow at 1600, local time, with 260 passengers on board. He noted that it was under close inspection in the past 22 hours and its damaged generator was replaced with a new one. The aircraft with 350 passengers on board was ready to fly to Tehran on Tuesday (Aug 3) when it was struck by a strong lightning minutes before take-off causing serious damage to its generator. It was learned that several other planes at Heathrow were also damaged by the lightning which was of an unprecedented magnitude and led to the cancellation of some 15 other flights from Heathrow on the same day.

B-18803

See N296AA.

C-FCBX

London, Aug 3 — Privately operated Piper PA-28-140 (Cherokee Cruiser), C-FCBX, crashed into a wheat field while on final approach to the owner's farm strip at Creelman, eight nautical miles south-east, Saskatchewan, at 2000, CST, Aug 1. The pilot was fatally injured and the aircraft sustained substantial damage. TSB investigators have deployed to the site.

CRASH INTO SEA OFF STOCKHOLM ARCHIPELAGO, SWEDEN

Gothenburg, Aug 4 — A helicopter reportedly crashed "against the sea surface" and sank outside Dalaroe Bridge - Stockholm archipelago tonight. On board were three adults and two children. Two of the passengers were injured. Witnesses raised the alarm around 1940 hrs. Twenty minutes later all persons were rescued from the sunken wreck. — Westax Marine Services AB

CRASH INTO SEA OFF TIMARU, NEW ZEALAND

London, Jul 30 — A press report, dated today, states: A pilot forced to ditch his plane in the sea north of Timaru was safe and well last night. The 40-year-old Ashburton man escaped with minor injuries after crash-landing the light plane a short distance off the coast of Clandeboye, near

Temuka, some time before 1900 hrs, police said. He was the only person aboard. The man managed to make his way to shore and call emergency services. The cause and exact location of the crash were unknown, but the plane was believed to have hit the sea 200 to 300 metres offshore. Ken Mitchell, spokesman for Airways NZ, said the details were sketchy because the man was flying in unmonitored airspace at the time. He did not know whether the aircraft was a twin- or single-engine Cessna but air accident investigators had been advised.

CRASH, AMMARSFJAEILL, SWEDEN

Gothenburg, Aug 4 — Three persons were injured when a helicopter crashed today towards the mountain side at Ammarsfjaell, in northern Sweden, and 20 kms from the Norwegian border. The helicopter belongs to Rescue Squad, based at Arjeplog, in northern Sweden/Lapland. The pilot picked up four persons for a taxi-flight and took off - but suddenly the helicopter lost manoeuvrability and crashed. Another ambulance helicopter brought the pilot and two older passengers to hospital. — Westax Marine Services AB.

CRASH, BRISBANE, QUEENSLAND, AUSTRALIA

London, Jul 30 — A press report, dated today, states: Two men are in hospital after their helicopter slipped off a helipad and into the Brisbane River in the inner city this morning. Police say the crash happened near a helipad behind the Queensland Government executive building, which houses ministerial offices. The Queensland Ambulance Service says the 32-year-old pilot suffered head injuries and his 29-year-old co-pilot has minor injuries. The helicopter is resting on its roof and partly in the water. Queensland Ambulance Service spokeswoman Jo Lawler says the men were taken to the Royal Brisbane Hospital. "It appears that the front part of the cabin has been significantly crushed and they were very lucky to escape," she said. A witness to the crash says he could not see what caused the accident. Kim Lang was at Brisbane's South Bank and described what happened. "I saw the helicopter coming in to land, I had my back turned, it landed and two people got out and he's prepared to take off again," he said. "When he got one, two foot off the ground, just hovering, it almost like reversed its polarities and flipped in the air and he's ended up half in the water."

CRASH, FENGNING COUNTY, HEBEI PROVINCE, CHINA

London, Aug 4 — A press report, dated today, states: An aircraft crash killed four people in northern Hebei Province, the Beijing Times reported yesterday. The pilot survived and was still undergoing treatment in Zhangjiakou City as of Monday (Aug 2), the newspaper said. The Yun-5 light aircraft crashed after hitting a high-tension wire in a mountain in Fengning County last Friday (Jul 30). It was carrying two crew members and three

anti-drug police officers on duty.
CRASH, FOX LAKE, ILLINOIS, UNITED STATES
See N91381.

CRASH, GOILALA REGION, PAPUA NEW GUINEA

London, Aug 2 — A press report, dated today, states: Papua New Guinea (PNG) authorities have confirmed the death of an Australian pilot, whose aircraft was reported missing last week. The PNG female first officer also died in the crash and only one passenger was found alive. The Airlines PNG Twin Otter aircraft crashed in the rugged Goilala region, 50 nautical miles south of Port Moresby. The pilot's body and the first officer's remains have been recovered but the airline's management has not released their names at the request of their family members. Airline managing director Simon Wild says the load master survived but has been critically injured with a broken leg. Mr Wild says Nati Ario was found alive, after three days in the completely wrecked aircraft and is in hospital. He says the aircraft was transporting store goods when it was reported missing soon after take-off from Port Moresby. It was heading to the Onogo airstrip in PNG's Goilala region. Mr Wild says the pilot had flown with the airline for only three years but had extensive knowledge of the country.

CRASH, MADISON AREA, WISCONSIN, UNITED STATES

London, Aug 2 — A press report, dated Aug 1, states: A single-engine airplane crashed today on Madison's east side as it tried to make an emergency landing at the Dane County Regional Airport, killing one person. The two-seat plane was travelling from the Experimental Aircraft Association's annual convention in Oshkosh, Madison Fire Department public information officer Bernadette Galvez said. She did not know where the plane was heading. The pilot of the Lancair aircraft reported having engine problems about 10 miles southeast of Madison and tried to land at the airport but crashed about one mile east of the airport about 1850 hrs, Federal Aviation Administration spokesman Tony Molinaro said. The fire department put out a fire at the site when it arrived, Galvez said. Debris was spread along two city blocks, she said, with the majority on a strip of land between a street and a car dealership parking lot. No cars were damaged and no one on the ground was injured. The FAA planned to further investigate the crash, and the debris was taken to a military hangar, Galvez said.

CRASH, MADISON, WISCONSIN, UNITED STATES

See N98SN.

CRASH, OLD BUCKENHAM AIRFIELD, NORFOLK, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Aug 2 — A press report, dated today, states: An aircraft belonging to the actor Martin Shaw has crashed as it tried to take off from a Norfolk airfield.

The 1940s Stearman biplane, which was being leased by the Old Buckenham Airfield, overturned in a field at about 1645 BST, yesterday. The pilot managed to pull the passenger to safety before the aircraft caught fire. Both were treated at the scene by paramedics for minor injuries. Norfolk Police are investigating the incident, said a spokesman.

CRASH, OLYMPIC NATIONAL PARK, WASHINGTON, UNITED STATES

London, Aug 4 — A press report, dated today, states: One person was killed and two survived an aircraft crash near Hurricane Ridge in Olympic National Park, the Federal Aviation Administration said this morning. The conditions of the survivors was not immediately known, but one of them was able to call 911 this morning to summon rescuers, park officials said. FAA spokesman Mike Fergus said the Cessna 182 was registered to a Port Angeles man, but the people on board were not immediately identified. The aircraft took off at 2145, yesterday, from Port Angeles on a flight to Boeing Field in Seattle. Park spokeswoman Barb Maynes said campers at the Heart o' the Hills campground, about 5 miles south of Port Angeles, reported hearing an aircraft crash at about 2200. A search was begun, but it was hampered by darkness and poor weather, she said. The aircraft's wreckage was spotted shortly after the 911 call was received at 0615. About 20 rescuers were hiking to the crash site this morning, Maynes said.

CRASH, RIVER NIGER, NIGERIA

See 5N-BDZ.

CRASH, SELFRIDGE AIR BASE, MICHIGAN, UNITED STATES

See N103MH.

EMERGENCY LANDING, SURGUT, RUSSIA

London, Aug 2 — A press report, dated Jul 31, states: A passenger Tu-154 aircraft with 164 passengers and 10 crew members on board made an emergency landing at Surgut. Nobody was hurt, a source of the Russian Emergencies Ministry's Volga-Ural regional centre said. The airliner left Surgut for Mineralnye Vody at about 0630, Moscow time, today. Ten minutes after the takeoff, one of its engines malfunctioned. The crew asked for an emergency landing, and the aircraft landed safely after flying for two and a half hours for the fuel to run out, the officer on duty said. The Tu-154 landed in Surgut airport at 0930, Moscow time. Teams of rescuers, firemen and medical specialists were on duty in the airport. The incident causes are being investigated now. The passengers most likely will be conveyed by another aircraft to Mineralnye Vody.

FLIGHTS GROUNDED, UNITED STATES

See under "Computer Systems."

HELICOPTER MISSING ON FLIGHT FROM BARIO TO BA KELALAN, MALAYSIA

London, Jul 30 — A press report, dated today, states: All seven people on board the Bell 206 Hornbill Skyways helicopter, which crashed at Mount Murud Jul 12, have been confirmed dead. The search and rescue team found in the helicopter six bodies, two of them mutilated, and also discovered body parts scattered around a 200 metre radius from the wreckage. Five of the bodies were flown to the Miri Hospital mortuary at about 1920 yesterday for post-mortems to be conducted. Efforts are being made to retrieve the scattered body parts as soon as possible. Sarawak Deputy Chief Minister Tan Sri Dr George Chan Hong Nam said at the Bario operation centre that he felt extremely sad that there were no survivors. Dr Chan said 28 Search and Rescue (SAR) personnel, including from the police, Fire and Rescue Department, Department of Civil Aviation (DCA), were still at the crash site to complete their investigations on the possible cause of the crash. "The DCA will conduct further investigations once all the bodies have been airlifted," he said, adding that Fire and Rescue personnel would prepare a landing pad near the crash site for Nuri helicopters.

N103MH

London, Aug 3 — Robinson R22 Alpha, N103MH, crashed at Selfridge Air Base, Michigan, at 1330, Jul 28. The aircraft was destroyed. The one person on board was killed. (See "Crash, Selfridge Air Base, Michigan, United States" in issue of Jul 30.)

N2269D

London, Aug 1 — A press report, dated Jul 31, states: A Montana family was on board a Cessna 170, which crashed shortly after 1800, Jul 30, about 70 miles south-west of Anchorage. The single-engine aircraft apparently stalled as it approached a landing strip near the Kustatan River, on the west side of Cook Inlet, Alaska State Troopers said. There were no survivors, said troopers, who recovered the bodies Friday night (Jul 30). Troopers identified the dead as Broadview, Mont., residents Joleen Dyess, 38, her husband William Christopher Dyess, and her daughter Taryn Pitsch. Also killed in the crash was Christopher Copple, a private pilot from Kenai. Copple borrowed the Cessna from a friend in Kenai, for the 30-mile flight across Cook Inlet to the Kustatan River. Fishing gear was found on board the wrecked aircraft. The Cessna was about a half mile from a landing strip, near the river, when it stalled then went down on dry tundra, troopers said. The aircraft was destroyed on impact, according to the Federal Aviation Administration. The National Transportation Safety Board is investigating the accident, the FAA said.

London, Aug 3 — Cessna 170B, N2269D, crashed near the Kustatan River, Kenai, Alaska, at 0250, Jul 31. The four persons on board were killed.

N2566W

London, Aug 3 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: A helicopter crashed around 1000, today in Miami-Dade County, injuring two people. The Robinson R22 went down west of Tamiami Airport in the Everglades National Park. The area is south-west of 146th Street and east of 247th Avenue. "It was a Robinson training helicopter ... supposedly it's a pilot with student," said Eric Baum of Miami-Dade County Fire Rescue. It's not clear how the accident happened. Despite the severity of the crash, both people on board are expected to recover fully.

London, Aug 4 — Robinson R22 Beta, N2566W, crashed near Tamiami Airport, Miami, Florida, at 1400, Aug 2, while on a local flight from Miami. The aircraft was destroyed. The two persons on board were seriously injured.

N296AA

London, Aug 4 — McDonnell Douglas MD-82, N296AA, operated by American Airlines Inc, while parked overnight at Seattle-Tacoma International Airport, was struck in the vertical stabiliser by taxiing Airbus A320, B-18803, operated by China Airlines, at 0855, Aug 4.

N3159W

London, Aug 3 — Air Tractor AT-400, N3159W, crashed near Clayton, Louisiana, at 1400, Jul 31. The aircraft was destroyed. The one person on board was seriously injured.

N4230R

London, Aug 3 — A press report, dated Aug 2, states: A small private Piper aircraft crashed on takeoff today from an airport belonging to the College of the Ozarks, killing all five people aboard, a college spokeswoman said. The Piper plunged about 50 ft into a ravine between the runway and a highway, breaking apart and catching fire, said Camille Howell, the spokeswoman. Howell said the aircraft did not belong to anyone associated with the college. The victims were not immediately identified. The aircraft, arriving from Texas, landed Saturday (Jul 31) at M. Graham Clark Airport in Point Lookout, about 60 miles south of Springfield. It was returning to the Fort Worth area today, authorities said. Both the National Transportation Safety Board and the FAA were sending investigators to the scene in southwest Missouri.

London, Aug 3 — Piper PA-32-300 (Cherokee Six), N4230R, crashed near Point Lookout, Missouri, at 1451, Aug 2, while on a flight from Point Lookout to Cleburn, Texas. The aircraft was destroyed. The five persons on board were killed.

N601BV

London, Aug 3 — A press report, dated today, states: A small aircraft crashed into a house bordering a golf course in suburban Austin and burst into flames today, killing the six people aboard. Three people inside the luxury two-storey home escaped unharmed. The identities of the victims, four adults and two children, were not immediately

known, Texas Department of Public Safety spokeswoman Tela Mange said. The house, which backs up to a golf course, is less than two miles from Lakeway Airpark, a privately owned airport created by residents of the Austin suburb. There were conflicting reports on whether the twin-engined aircraft crashed while trying to land or had trouble gaining altitude after take-off. It was also unclear where the flight originated or was headed. Five bodies were recovered from the wreckage. Crews worked hours after the noon crash to get the sixth from the burning home, Mange said. The impact of the crash left the aircraft in "very small pieces," she said. "It was apparent when we got here there were no survivors," said Warren Hassinger, a spokesman with Austin-Travis County Emergency Management Services. Three people inside the home escaped. The aircraft hit a three-to-four-foot retaining wall, then plowed into the back patio and home.

London, Aug 4 — Aerostar 601P, N601BV, crashed near Austin, Texas, at 1705, Aug 3, while on a flight from Lakeway Airport, Austin, to Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. The aircraft was destroyed. The six persons on board were killed.

N70P

London, Aug 2 — A press report, dated today, states: An aircraft crashed near the Whidbey Island town of Langley yesterday, killing the pilot, the Federal Aviation Administration said. There was no one else on board, said Cynthia Emery, a duty officer at the FAA's regional office in Renton. It was not immediately known what caused the unidentified aircraft to crash about 30 miles north of Seattle around 1030 hrs, Emery said. The FAA also did not know where the aircraft had taken off or where it was headed, Emery said.

London, Aug 3 — Wittman W10, N70P, crashed near Langley, Washington, at 1730, Aug 1. The aircraft was destroyed. The one person on board was killed.

N7892B

London, Aug 3 — Bell 47G-2, N7892B, crashed near La Porte, Texas, at 0001, Aug 1, while on a local flight from La Porte. The aircraft was destroyed. One of the three persons on board was seriously injured and the other two suffered minor injuries.

N91381

London, Jul 29 — Mooney M-20J (Mooney 201), N91381, crashed near Fox Lake, Illinois, at 1930, Jul 27, while on a flight from Palwaukee, IL. The aircraft was destroyed. The two persons on board were killed and one person on the ground was seriously injured.

N970SP

London, Aug 3 — Cessna 172S (Skyhawk SP), N970SP, crashed near Florence, Alabama, at 2121, Aug 1. The one person on board was killed.

N98SN

London, Aug 3 — Lancair Legacy, N98SN, crashed near Madison, Wisconsin, at 2350, Aug 1. The aircraft was destroyed. The one person on board was killed.



COMBINATION TV/VCRS, UNITED STATES

Washington, DC, Jul 30 — The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission announces the recall of 500,000 Panasonic, Quasar, RCA, and JCPenney Combination TV/VCRs in voluntary cooperation with Matsushita Electric Corporation of America, Secaucus, New Jersey. Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed. The TV/VCR cabinets can break when lifted by the ventilation holes in the top rear of the cabinet, permitting the TV/VCR to fall and injure hands and feet. About 10 incidents have been reported in which the TV/VCR cabinet broke at the ventilation holes when lifted or carried, resulting in the TV/VCR dropping to the floor. Minor cuts and bruises have been reported in four incidents. The recalled combination TV/VCRs are gray/black and have these brandnames: Panasonic, Quasar, RCA, or JCPenney. The cabinets have ventilation holes in the top rear of the cabinet. Only the 13" and 20" Combination TV/VCR sets manufactured between January 1, 1995, and December 30, 1995, are recalled. These sets can be identified by the model number which appears on the front and rear of the cabinet. The following model numbers are included in this recall: Panasonic: 13-inch models: PV-M1325, PV-M1345, PVM1365AD, AG-513B. 20-inch models: PV-M2025, PV-M2035, PV-M2045, PV-M2065, AG-520B. Quasar: 13-inch model: VV-1305 20-inch models: VV-2005T, VV-2005, VV-2025. Thomson: (RCA) 13-inch models: T13015BC, T13018BC 20-inch models: T20015BC, T20018BC, T20020BC. JCPenney: 20-inch model: 685-0879. Sold at retail stores nation-wide from January 1995 through December 1996 for between \$300 and \$490, depending on the model. Manufactured in USA. Consumers should contact Panasonic, Quasar, RCA, and JCPenney to receive a free retrofit kit to cover the ventilation holes and prevent lifting from this area. — Consumer Product Safety Commission.

CONTAMINATED BEEF, UNITED STATES

London, Aug 5 — A press report, dated Aug 4, states: A meat processing plant has recalled 497,000 pounds of beef feared contaminated with E. coli bacteria and distributed to Sam's Club stores in 10 states. The three products, ground sirloin patties, 80 percent lean beef patties and 90 percent lean fresh

ground beef all were processed at the Nebraska plant on Jun 21 and sent to stores in Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Louisiana, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Utah and Wisconsin. Health officials said four Minnesota residents and one Wisconsin resident became ill in July after eating sirloin patties contaminated with a harmful strain of E. coli. Officials said the implicated meat was being pulled from all Sam's Club stores. They also said some of the meat may have been sold by other retailers. The processing plant in Columbus, in eastern Nebraska, is run by Oklahoma-based Carneco Foods and has been the source of two other meat recalls since 1997.

CORNFLOUR, NEW ZEALAND

London, Jul 28 — A press report, dated today, states: The country's largest grocery distributor said today it will seek to recoup the costs of recalling cornflour products containing high levels of lead. The Foodstuffs cooperative, which covers New World, Four Square, Pak'N Save, Write Price and On the Spot supermarkets and mini-marts, said its accountant was adding up the cost of pulling its house-brand maize cornflour off the shelves. A total of four products have been recalled in New Zealand since last week, when corn imported from China and milled in New Zealand was found to have been contaminated with lead. Foodstuffs consists of three separate, regionally based, retailer-owned co-operative companies, together with their federation body Foodstuffs (NZ) Ltd. Chief executive of Foodstuffs (South Island) Ltd, Steve Anderson, said today the company wanted to recoup the cost of the recall there. "Costs such as advertising, costs for logistics and costs of getting consultants and PR agents," he told National Radio. "We'll be talking to the suppliers as soon as we get a figure." On Monday, Foodstuffs (South Island) Ltd recalled several batches of Pam's maize cornflour and a product for the food service sector, 5kg bags of Gilmour's maize cornflour, made by a Dunedin company, Murdoch Manufacturing. The cornflour was found to contain about 100 times the maximum allowed level of lead. Foodstuffs (Wellington) Ltd yesterday also issued a voluntary recall of Pam's maize cornflour after concerns batches containing the lead may have been distributed there after Nov 27 last year. The packets would have a "best by" date of December 2005 on them. Edmonds Fielder's cornflour 300g was recalled yesterday. Only cornflour with best before dates 30.09.05 and 01.10.05 was affected, Edmonds said in a statement. Edmonds received 32 tonnes of the affected cornflour and also used it for its White Wings product (sold in Australia), which has also been recalled. A baby product, Robinson's Step Up Egg Custard, made by Nutricia New Zealand, was recalled last week. The lead was detected in a fourth-quarter analysis by the New Zealand Food Safety Authority (NZFSA) of its 2003-2004 Total Diet Survey. The contaminated corn was processed last

October into 105.78 tonnes of cornflour, and mostly distributed as cornflour before Christmas, including 22.1 tonnes exported to Australia, and 25.1 tonnes exported to Fiji. The NZFSA said all the cornflour from the 6,000 tonne corn shipment from China, imported last September, had now been traced and every product with lead levels higher than the maximum permitted had been recalled. The question of how the contamination happened remains. An agent for the ship which brought the grain to New Zealand said he did not believe it was poisoned on the ship. But Mikaele Peti, of Barwil Agencies, said he did not know whether dirty equipment might have been used in China to load the grain. Green MP Sue Kedgley has criticised the NZFSA and said the lead contamination had shown it to be inadequate, poorly resourced, and ill-equipped to protect the safety of the food supply. Associate Health Minister Damien O'Connor said the authority was doing a good job formulating policies and systems to ensure food safety. "Indications at this point (are) that the contamination has occurred not from the corn itself but from some process of transportation, whether it be from the ship or a truck or whatever," he said.

London, July 29 — A press report, dated today, states: Food safety officials say bulk *Athena* (17429 gt, built 1995) that carried 6,000 tonnes of corn to New Zealand had previously carried lead in the same hold. "The most likely scenario is that the vessel was not properly cleaned after it unloaded the cargo of lead concentrate, or before it loaded the corn," said Food Safety Authority (NZFSA) director of imported and domestic foods, Tim Knox. *Athena* transported lead concentrate from Western Australia to Port Pirie in South Australia during June 2003, then in September was used to carry the corn from Dalian to Auckland. In between, it carried logs to Japan and Korea. Cornflour milled from the corn by Penford NZ Ltd was contaminated with lead, and some of it has been recalled this week, after products showed up in a five-yearly food residue survey earlier this month with high levels of lead. The contamination, on the outside of the grain, has been narrowed down to a small part of the shipment — the last few tonnes of grain which came out of the hold of *Athena*, which berthed at Auckland, on Sept 21 last year. The grain was the first milled about 10 days later. *Athena* is operated by the Island View Shipping company, South Africa's largest bulk shipping operator. One of the pool of ships operated by Island View with Lauritzen Bulklers, the ship was represented in New Zealand by Mikaele Peti, of Barwil Agencies. But Mr Knox said the NZFSA was having difficulty in pinning down exactly who owned the ship on its voyage to New Zealand. At this stage it appeared the ship had been chartered by a New Zealand company, and sub-chartered to another company to carry the corn. The shipment was arranged by Penford through an Australian broker, Hunter Grain. "It is standard practice for the

crew to clean down holds between shipments, and that the hold is usually inspected by an independent person before approval is given to load the next cargo," Mr Knox said. He had been told by Hunter Grain that the company had hired an independent surveyor to check the holds for cleanliness before the corn was loaded. But Mr Knox said he believed the companies involved had not deliberately contaminated the grain, and there was no provision in New Zealand law for anyone to be prosecuted for negligence.

DAIMLER CHRYSLER MOTOR VEHICLES, UNITED STATES

London, Aug 5 — A press report, dated today, states: DaimlerChrysler AG's Chrysler Group plans to recall 831,000 minivans that may have weak power steering hoses and could pose fire dangers, the company said yesterday. Owners of the 2002, 2003 and 2004 model year minivans with V-6 engines will receive letters informing them of the problem in September, said Chrysler spokesman Max Gates. The recall will apply to Dodge Caravans and Grand Caravans, and Chrysler's Voyager and Town & Country models. The problem in the minivans is that one of the hoses that carries power steering fluid may become weak with age and leak fluid, which could start a fire under the hood. Gates said replacement parts will be available in early September. The company also said it's recalling immediately 2,000 Dodge Rams from 2004 and with 4.7 litre engines.

HEATERS, UNITED STATES

London, Aug 3 — A press report, dated today, states: A Kansas company is recalling 1 million electric heaters after receiving two dozen reports of fires caused by overheating. Vornado Air Circulation Systems Inc. of Andover, Kan., is not aware of any injuries caused by the portable electric room heaters, the Consumer Product Safety Commission said today. A faulty electrical connection can make the indoor heater overheat and stop working, posing a fire hazard, the commission said. Standing about a foot tall and weighing about 6 pounds, the recalled product bears model numbers 180VH, VH, Intellitemp, EVH or DVH, located on the bottom of the heater. Retailers, distributors and the company's Web site sold the heaters nationwide from July 1991 through January 2004 for between \$50 and \$120.

KIA MOTOR VEHICLES, WORLDWIDE

London, Aug 3 — A press report, dated today, states: Korean car maker Kia has recalled about 27,000 Rio cars to fix a fuel line fault that could result in an engine fire. The company said there was a possibility that the fuel distribution rail might crack in some vehicles, resulting in a fuel leak. "While there have not been any reported cases in Australia, the worst case scenario is it may cause a fire in the engine compartment," the company said. Kia

said as the fuel distribution rail and the fuel hose would be replaced as a precaution. The vehicles affected included the Rio sedan and hatch models with both manual and automatic transmissions and manufactured between May 26, 2000, and March 26, 2004. Kia said an inspection and replacement program would start today and all owners would be contacted.

LIGHT BULBS, UNITED STATES

London, Aug 4 — A press report, dated today, states: OSRAM Sylvania is recalling 5.6 million light bulbs after receiving more than two dozen reports of cuts or burns caused by bulbs that broke during use. The Danvers, Mass., company, part of one of the world's largest lighting manufacturers, has received 119 reports of bulbs breaking, including the 29 injury reports, the Consumer Product Safety Commission said today. The 60-watt B10 Decor light bulb can detach from its base, cutting or burning consumers who try to touch it. An exposed filament can shock if touched while power is turned on. The clear bulbs, sold in packages of two or four, were labeled as "ceiling fan" and "double life." UPC bar codes on the back of the package end with 13323, 13329, 13333, 13442, 13445, 13454, 13565, 13650 or 13721. Home improvement centers, grocery, drug and discount department stores sold them from September 2002 to June 2004 for \$2 to \$4. The safety commission advises consumers to unplug light fixtures or to turn off the main circuit breaker before removing a broken bulb. Wearing gloves prevents cuts while removing the bulb.

SUZUKI MOTOR VEHICLES, JAPAN

London, Aug 5 — A press report, dated today, states: Suzuki Motor Corp said yesterday it will recall about 70,000 vehicles in six models manufactured between February 1997 and April 2000 for free repairs due to gearshift defects. The models subject to the recall are the Alto, Kei and Wagon R sold by Suzuki, and the Carol, Laputa and AZ-Wagon made by the company and sold by Mazda Motor Corp.

TOYOTA MOTOR VEHICLES, UNITED STATES

London, Jul 28 — A press report, dated Jul 27, states: Toyota Motor Co. is recalling 128,316 Camry sedans because side air bags may not inflate properly, the automaker said yesterday. Involved in the recall are Camry sedans from model years 2002-04 that have optional side air bags. The defect hasn't been blamed for deaths or injuries, Toyota spokeswoman Julie Alfonso said. A supplier discovered the problem. Dealers will inspect the bags free and replace them if necessary.

VOLVO MOTOR VEHICLES, UNITED STATES

London, Jul 29 — A press report, dated Jul 28, states: Volvo will recall more than 100,000 automobiles from the US market for controls and possible repairs after a number of car owners

complained that their gas tanks were leaking, the company said today. The Swedish car-making unit of Ford Motor decided to recall the cars after receiving complaints from 45 Volvo 850 Sedan owners that they had smelled gas inside their vehicles and had discovered leaks in their gas tanks, Volvo spokesman Peter Ganjbar said. In conditions of great heat, the gas eroded a hole in the gas tank, leaving a spot on the outside of the car, he said, insisting that the leak had not led to any accidents. The leak, according to Ganjbar, had probably come about due to huge climate changes from cold to hot. The problem has only occurred in 850 Sedans made between 1994 and 1997 and registered in 17 of the hottest states in the US. "Even in hot countries, in Australia or in Thailand, we haven't received any reports of similar occurrences," Ganjbar said, pointing out that the defective cars in the United States could easily be fixed by placing a rubber coating over the leak.



AUSTRALIA

London, Aug 4 — Vessel loading operations at Port Kembla Coal Terminal have ceased after a major breakdown this morning. At about 0530, local time, the Jetty Conveyor

(NC14) was damaged when the conveyor belt spilt in two during cargo loading operations. Present indications from the terminal are that it will take approximately 6 days to repair or replace the conveyor belt. Therefore, the earliest likely resumption of vessel loading is Aug 10. However, due to the relatively light vessel schedule, this will have no impact on the shipping schedule apart from the vessel currently being loaded, which has about 24 hours of cargo loading remaining.

Sydney, Aug 5 — Delays to Australia/US west coast services have not improved since labour shortages started hitting Los Angeles in early July. Ships are still leaving Los Angeles between one and three days late, with earlier ships now selectively skipping Australian arrival ports in order to maintain even this status quo. Sources among the vessel sharing agreement lines say that Australian port calls are being "mixed and matched" to maintain the optimum coverage, but the calls here are being further hit by off-schedule delays at the terminals. C.c. *Direct Kestrel* was due on Los Angeles on Aug 6, and c.c. *Kapitan Afanasyef* on Aug 9 - two, and three days late respectively. They are expected to remain two and three days late departing for Australia. Los Angeles is the only call in the Pacific southwest for services from Australia. — Lloyd's List Daily Commercial News.

PANAMA CANAL

Balboa, Aug 4 — Maintenance work at both Pedro Miguel and Gatun locks in

the Panama Canal commenced at 0001 hrs, today and is expected to complete at 2359 hrs, Aug 12. For unbooked Panamax and vessels with restrictions, delays are now running about 24 hours, and we anticipate this to increase sharply in the coming days. Vessels under 91 feet beam with no restrictions have little or no delay presently but also likely to increase by the end of the week. — Lloyd's Agents.

INDIA

See under "Labour Disputes."

ITALY

Genoa, Aug 3 — Genoa: No vessels waiting for berth. La Spezia: No vessels waiting for berth. Savona: No vessels waiting for normal berth. No vessels waiting for special berth. — Lloyd's Agents.

SOUTH KOREA

London, Jul 29 — It is reported that heavy congestion is expected at Incheon from Aug 1 as one of the lock-gates for vessels under 10,000 DWT will close for repairs for a period of 100-105 days. During this period, all vessels will pass through the other 50,000 ton lock-gate only. Lock-gate passing time will be given according to vessel ETAs for all general cargo vessels - except for ferries, container carriers and car carriers, which have berthing priority.

SYRIA

Lattakia, Jul 24 — Waiting time presently 24 hours at Lattakia and three days at Tartous. — Lloyd's Agents.

Port Delays

Country/Port	Date of report	No.of vessels waiting and/or days delay
Australia		
Abbot Point	02-Aug-2004	Coal: 1 vessel berthed, 1 anchored; 8 vessels due by 19/8; up to 1 day's delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Brisbane	02-Aug-2004	Coal: Fisherman Island coal berth: 2 vessels due by 20/8; no delays expected. (Aug 4): Grain: 1 vessel due 4/8 to load wheat; no delays expected.
Dalrymple Bay	02-Aug-2004	Coal: 3 vessels berthed, 18 anchored; 42 vessels due by 7/9; vessels berthing in order of cargo availability; up to 6 days delay subject to cargo availability and berth congestion can be expected, although vessels with other stems are experiencing longer berthing delays.
Dampier	02-Aug-2004	Iron ore: Parker Point: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 6 anchored; 5 vessels due by 4/8; 1-8 days delay expected due to berth congestion cargo availability; cargo shortages are evident, long delays are anticipated and vessels may berth out of turn; there may be a maintenance shutdown starting ca. 9/8 until 14/8: East Intercourse Island: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 8 anchored; 2 vessels due by 5/8; 1-9 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; shippers will always consider a shift to a lay-by berth for loaded vessels awaiting HW; cargo shortages are evident, delays are anticipated and vessels may berth out of turn.
Gladstone	02-Aug-2004	Coal: R.G. Tanna coal terminal: 2 vessels berthed, 12 anchored; 26 vessels due by 27/8; 1-9 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; shiploader No. 1 is shut down until approx. 2/8 for replacement of luffing winch. Barney Point: 1 vessel anchored; 5 vessels due by 28/8; up to 7 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability. (Aug 4) Grain: no vessels.
Hay Point	02-Aug-2004	Coal: 2 vessels loading, 5 anchored; 9 vessels due by 11/8; up to 6 days berthing delay expected subject to cargo availability and berth congestion. Berth No. 1 will be closed from 07.00 hrs. 10/8 to p.m. 12/8 for the installation of a new crane.

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Port Conditions

Newcastle	02-Aug-2004	Coal: Kooragang 4, 5 and 6: 2 vessels loading, 9 anchored; 17 vessels due by 12/8; Dykes 4+5: 2 vessels loading, 2 anchored; 8 vessels due by 11/8; 1-6 days delay expected prior to berthing due to planned maintenance at Kooragang terminal and heavy shipping schedule. (Aug 4) Grain: 3 vessels due by 10/8, all to load wheat; up to 1 day's delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Port Hedland	02-Aug-2004	Iron ore: BHP Iron Ore Pty. Ltd., Mt. Newman (Nelson Point), "A" berth: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 4 anchored; 3 vessels due by 11/8; up to 7 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; "B" berth: 3 vessels anchored; 2 vessels due by 9/8; 2-5 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; shiploader maintenance is underway until 00.01 hrs. 5/8; BHP Iron Ore Pty. Ltd., Goldsworthy (Finucane Island): 1 vessel berthed and loading; 2 vessels due by 6/8; 2 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; a 48 hour shiploader maintenance shutdown is expected to start ca. 4/8; Westyard "D" berth: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 4 anchored; 3 vessels due by 7/8; up to 7 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability. Due to heavy demand for product, acute cargo shortages are being experienced at wharf stockpiles. Vessels will continue to berth as product becomes available.
Port Kembla	02-Aug-2004	Coal: 1 vessel berthed; 8 vessels due by 15/9; CB1: 3 vessels due by 23/8; up to 7 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability. (Aug 4) Grain: berth vacant; 1 vessel by 7/8 to load wheat; up to 1 day's delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Port Walcott	02-Aug-2004	Iron ore: 2 vessels berthed and loading, 7 anchored; 18 vessels due by 19/8; up to 6 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; as a result of a heavy schedule for July and maintenance requirements, it is extremely likely that vessels will berth out of order. In the next few days there will only be one lump re-screening plant, which will mean not being able to load two lump vessels at the same time. Shippers advise that stores, air freight and crew baggage can no longer be delivered to vessels or taken off at berth. With immediate effect, all stores, airfreight and bags must be delivered/removed by launch.
Brazil		
Paranagua	03-Aug-2004	Thirteen vessels berthed of which 3 bulk sugar loaders, 4 fertiliser dischargers, 1 reefer loader, 1 pellets loader, 4 other loaders; 25 vessels waiting in roads of which 12 to load (2 pellets, 1 sugar, 1 reefer, 1 soya, 7 others), 13 to discharge fertiliser; 48 vessels due over the next 7 days.
Rio Grande	03-Aug-2004	Four vessels berthed of which 3 fertiliser dischargers, 1 potassium chloride discharger; 11 vessels waiting in roads; 51 vessels due over the next 10 days.
Santos	03-Aug-2004	Thirty-one vessels berthed of which 2 fertiliser loaders/dischargers, 4 full container loaders/dischargers, 2 bulk salt dischargers, 1 bulk fuel oil loader, 2 bulk wheat dischargers, 4 chemical products loaders/dischargers, 1 bulk pellets loaders, 1 reefer juice loader, 12 sugar loaders, 2 other loaders/dischargers; 26 vessels waiting in roads; 113 vessels due over the next 7 days.
Sao Sebastiao	03-Aug-2004	Four vessels berthed, 2 waiting in roads; 1 vessel due over the next 10 days.
Vitoria	03-Aug-2004	Ubu: 1 iron ore loader; 25 vessels waiting in roads; 13 vessels due over the next 7 days.
Bulgaria		
Bougas	02-Aug-2004	Nine vessels in port operating, of which 5 loading (3 coils, 1 wheat, 1 containers), 4 discharging (1 steel billets, 1 zinc/lead, 1 containers, 1 coal); 2 vessels waiting in roads, of which 1 to discharge iron ore, 1 empty; 11 vessels due of which 7 to load (1 steel sheets, 2 containers, 1 wheat, 1 coils, 1 sulphur, 1 debars), 4 to discharge (1 coal, 1 iron ore, 2 containers).
Chile		
Valparaiso	03-Aug-2004	Two vessels berthed, 6 berths vacant; 2 vessels anchored; 11 vessels due this week.
Colombia		
Buenaventura	03-Aug-2004	Shore crane operational. Seven vessels berthed (1 containers, 1 general cargo, 5 bulkers), 1 general cargo vessel anchored; 23 vessels due (17 containers, 2 general cargo, 1 bulker, 2 tankers, 1 PCC), with 1 day's delay expected for general cargo vessels.
Egypt		
Alexandria	03-Aug-2004	Twenty-five vessels berthed (loading/discharging) of which 16 general cargo, 1 containers, 1 bulker, 6 tankers, 1 reefer; 11 vessels at inner anchorage, 9 at outer anchorage.
Damietta	03-Aug-2004	Sixteen vessels berthed (loading/discharging) of which 10 general cargo, 2 bulkers, 4 containers; 2 vessels at outer anchorage, 1 at inner anchorage.
Suez Canal	03-Aug-2004	Six vessels berthed (loading/discharging) of which 2 general cargo, 1 reefer, 3 passenger vessels; 4 tugs.

Port Conditions

Israel		
Ashdod	03-Aug-2004	No labour problems. Nine general cargo vessels loading at berth, 15 vessels discharging at berth (11 general cargo, 4 bulkers), 4 vessels loading/discharging at berth (2 containers, 1 car carrier, 1 tanker); 10 vessels waiting at anchor to discharge (6 general cargo, 4 bulkers), 5 container vessels waiting at anchor to load/discharge; 1 vessel under repairs/dry-docked, 1 awaiting orders; 9 vessels due, with 2-3 days delay expected.
Haifa	03-Aug-2004	No labour problems. Six vessels discharging at berth (5 general cargo, 1 bulker), 9 vessels loading/discharging at berth (6 containers, 1 car carrier, 2 tankers); 10 vessels waiting at anchor to discharge (6 general cargo, 4 bulkers), 6 vessels waiting at anchor to load/discharge (4 containers, 1 tanker, 1 car carrier); 3 vessels under repairs/dry-docked, 1 awaiting orders; 14 vessels due, with 2-3 days delay expected.
Mozambique		
Maputo	30-Jul-2004	Twenty-four hour berthing/sailing. Some restrictions to berthing at certain badly-lit wharves. Vessels have to be geared for general cargo berths as no shore cranes available. The Port is working normally and is expected to remain so, hence vessels should berth on arrival, daylight, draught and weather permitting. No berthing delays envisaged. A shortage of equipment is being experienced (except at the Container terminal). Shed space is currently available. Safe draught for transiting the channel is 9.1 metres plus the tide of the day. Density of water varies from 1.015 to 1.018. Vessels with ramps on starboard side can berth with the ebbing tide. Should ramps be portside, vessels to berth with the flowing tide. Pilot launch is operational. Both tugs are operational. Leading lights are lit. One container gantry is operational, the second is still under repairs. Matola coal terminal is operational. Ressano Garcia, Goba and Limpopo railway lines are all operational. Four vessels are currently operating, of which 3 loading (1 sugar, 1 ferro chrome, 1 coal), 1 discharging rice; 2 vessels on stand-by; 21 vessels due by 7/8, of which 7 to load (1 sugar, 4 citrus, 1 ferro chrome, 1 aluminium), 7 to discharge (3 rice, 2 oil, 1 vehicles, 1 alumina), 7 to discharge/load (6 containers, 1 containers/steel plate).
Pakistan		
Karachi	03-Aug-2004	One MOL vessel loading at berth, 5 vessels discharging at berth (1 HSD, 1 lube oil, 1 DAP, 2 general cargo), 3 container vessels loading/discharging at berth; 2 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (1 crude oil, 1 palm oil); no vessel under repairs/dry-docked, 1 awaiting orders; 10 vessels due (5 containers, 3 general cargo, 1 crude oil, 1 chemicals), with no berthing delays expected
Poland		
Gdansk	02-Aug-2004	Four vessels loading at berth (1 coal, 3 general cargo), 3 discharging at berth (1 bulker, 1 general cargo, 1 grain); 7 vessels under repairs/dry-docked; no vessels waiting at anchorage, none waiting in roads; 17 vessels due.
Gdynia	02-Aug-2004	Two vessels loading at berth (1 general cargo, 1 coal), 5 discharging at berth (1 general cargo, 2 grain, 2 tankers); 15 vessels under repairs/dry-docked; 36 vessels due.
Russia		
Novorossiysk	02-Aug-2004	Thirteen vessels in port operating, of which 10 loading (1 bulk cement, 1 bulk NPK, 1 DRI, 1 scrap, 1 wheat, 1 coils/copper, 1 coils/lumber, 1 coils, 1 bulk urea, 1 UAN solution), 2 discharging bulk sugar, 1 discharging/loading containers; 3 vessels waiting in roads, of which 2 to load (1 scrap, 1 vehicles), 1 to discharge equipment; 52 vessels due of which 49 to load (5 bulk ammonium nitrate, 2 bulk urea, 2 pipes, 3 HBI, 4 aluminium, 7 coils, 2 DRI, 1 UAN solution, 1 bulk peas, 6 copper, 1 flowers, 1 pig-iron, 1 steel billets/coils, 1 cars, 1 zinc/lead, 1 bulk fertiliser, 2 wheat, 3 zinc, 1 bulk cement, 1 scrap, 1 slabs, 1 cellulose, 1 diesel oil), 7 to discharge (2 sugar, 1 wine, 1 equipment, 3 baggage). Oil terminal: 2 tankers berthed, both loading crude oil; 7 tankers in roads, all to load, of which 6 crude oil, 1 fuel oil; 8 tankers due, all to load crude oil.
Spain		
Sagunto	02-Aug-2004	Sixteen vessels in port operating of which 9 discharging (8 steel products, 1 timber), 2 loading (1 steel products, 1 bulk fertiliser), 5 Ro/Ros discharging/loading general cargo; no vessels outside commercial wharf; 3 days berthing delay expected.
Ukraine		
Ilichevsk	02-Aug-2004	Nine vessels in port operating, of which 6 loading (1 fuel oil, 4 steel products, 1 barley), 1 discharging ore, 2 loading/discharging containers; 3 vessels in roads, 2 to discharge steel products, 1 to load/discharge containers; 12 vessels due, of which 9 to load steel products, 3 to load/discharge containers.
Mariupol	02-Aug-2004	Ten vessels in port operating, of which 9 loading (3 steel, 2 coal, 1 equipment, 2 fire-clay, 1 coke), 1 discharging equipment; 6 vessels in roads, all to load, of which 1 ferrous metal, 1 fire-clay, 2 coal, 1 coke, 1 sulphur; 42 vessels due, of which 39 to load (14 steel, 1 pig-iron, 3 ferrous metals, 12 coal, 5 fire-clay, 1 coke, 1 ammonium saltpetre, 2 wheat), 1 to discharge zinc, 2 to discharge/load (1 containers/fire clay, 1 containers).

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Odessa	02-Aug-2004	Nine vessels in port operating, of which 6 loading metal, 3 discharging (1 sugar, 1 building materials, 1 meat); 3 vessels in roads, of which 2 to load (1 metal, 1 barley), 1 to discharge general cargo; 82 vessels due, of which 30 to load (20 metal, 1 scrap, 3 barley, 1 sunflower oil, 3 ferro alloy, 1 cars, 1 wood), 4 to discharge (2 metal, 1 wood, 1 ore), 48 to discharge/load containers.
United States		
Houston	03-Aug-2004	LDC Dreyfus terminal: 3-4 days delay.
Kalama, WA	03-Aug-2004	Kalama export terminal: 2 days delay.
New Orleans	03-Aug-2004	Mississippi River terminal berthing delays: Cenex-Harstates/Myrtle Grove: 1-2 days delay expected; Cargill-Westwego: 2 days delay expected; ADM/Ama: 2-3 days delay expected; Bunge/Destrehan: 1 day's delay expected; ADM/Destrehan: 2-3 days delay expected; ADM/Reserve: undergoing maintenance until September; Cargill/Reserve: 2 days delay expected; Peavey/Paulina: 2 days delay expected; Mississippi River mid-stream buoys - estimated berthing delays based on new vessel presented as load-ready and weather permitting: Mile 121.5 ADM (Gemini) - Destrehan: no delays; Mile 158.0 Cargill (K2) - Convent: 3 days delay expected; Mile 180.0 Cooper (America) - Darrow: no delays. Nine-day forecast for Carrolton Gauge/New Orleans: expected to remain at 4.7 ft. until 12/8. Mississippi River recommended draught restrictions: SW Pass to New Orleans (Mile 090.0) - 47 ft. for all vessels; New Orleans (Mile 090) to Baton Rouge (Mile 233.5) - 45 ft. for all vessels; Mississippi River Gulf outlet: 36 ft. bw.; vessels with draughts up to 47 ft. have been handled up to Mile 180 in the past, but are approved by pilots on a case by case basis, based on current river conditions.
Portland, Oreg	03-Aug-2004	Columbia Grain terminal: 2 days delay; CLD Irving terminal: 2 days delay; CLD, O Dock terminals: 1 day's delay.
Tacoma	03-Aug-2004	Temco terminal: 1 day's delay.
Yemen Aug 1		
Hodeidah	01-Aug-2004	All berths are vacant except No. 8; 1 rice vessel berthed, 1 wheat flour vessel anchored; expected waiting times: general cargo/containers/bagged cargoes: no delays; bulk cargoes: up to 2 days.

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