

November 26 2004

Row over CNAN tragedy heads for court

Chairman rejects claims of Bachar and Batna masters that the vessels were not seaworthy and that company ignored warnings

THE dispute between Algerian national shipping company CNAN and the independent officers' union, SNOM-MARR, over responsibilities for the series of accidents in which 17 seafarers lost their lives off the port of Algiers on November 13, is to go before the courts.

Outraged by the union's claim that the two CNAN vessels involved were the victims of their own chronic state of disrepair rather than the bad weather prevailing at the time, CNAN has said that it will be taking legal action against a number of SNOMMAR members for "disinformation and insult".

Notice

Dependents of seafarers who lost their lives have given notice in their turn, however, that they will be taking the company to court for "non-assistance to persons in danger".

Most of the dead and missing seafarers were aboard the 1978-built, 8,583 gt CNAN vessel, Bechar, which sank after running aground in difficult weather conditions.

A second CNAN vessel, the 1978-built, 12,829 gt Batna, also ran aground but without sustaining any casualties, while one seafarer died and a second captain was injured aboard the Turkish vessel, Wanda.

Other vessels broke their moorings but were able to make their way out to sea with port tug assistance.

Investigate

A commission of inquiry has been set up by the Algerian government to investigate the causes of the accidents and, according to CNAN chairman Ali Koudil, can be expected to announce its first conclusions next week. "No-one has the right today to judge anyone," he told the Algerian newspaper, L'Expression.

He nevertheless rejected the claims of the masters of the two CNAN ships that the Bechar and the Batna were not seaworthy and that the company had ignored repeated warnings about their state of disrepair.

He drew attention to the absence of the two masters from their ships at the time they grounded and claimed

that they had been responsible for "grave deficiencies and accidents at sea" in recent years.

He said that, once the commission had completed its inquiry into what happened on November 13, he would produce documents of a sensational nature which would call into question the allegations and the sincerity of the masters and other SNOMMAR members.

SNOMMAR spokesman Said Zermoune maintained the union's position, pointing out that, unlike the Bechar and the Batna, other ships off Algiers had been able to take shelter on June 13.

Impossible

He claimed that the low level of power generated by the engines of the Bechar had made it virtually impossible to control the ship in the conditions with or without its master. As for the absence of the master and chief engineer aboard the Batna, he said it was for the shipping administration to decide whether or not they had been at fault.

Andrew Spurrier
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
ANTINA	general	ATG	BV	2,292	2,783	1989	Cooling system problems in lat 49 01.9N, long 04 27.2W, Nov 13. Towed into Brest Nov 13. Repairs in progress, ETC Nov 23.
BATNA	bulker	DZA	—	12,829	20,586	1978	Ran aground in bad weather in Algiers roads Nov 13.
BECHAR	general	DZA	BV	8,583	11,941	1978	Sank near Algiers port Nov 13 after severe storm. One of the 18 crew members rescued.
EASTERN CHALLENGER	general	KOR	KR	3,959	6,562	1986	In collision with c.c. Rithi Bhum in 22 42.32N, long 116 21.18E, Nov 15 and sank as a result. Crew rescued.
JEUNGSEO NO.6	—	KOR	—	1,556	—	—	Sank 20 miles SW of Eocheong Is, off Gunsan, Nov 15. Crew lost.
LADY GRACE	general	VCT	—	478	713	1969	Sank in heavy weather between Barbados and Grenada Nov 12 after taking list, presumably due cargo shifting. Crew boarded lifeboat and were subsequently rescued.
LIAOHAI	—	CHN	—	—	—	—	Caught fire a few kilometres off Dalian Nov 16. Towed by salvors to safe area near harbour. Passengers and crew rescued. Firefighters continuing to fight fire.
MARINE OSAKA	general	KOR	KR	5,565	6,755	1983	Strong winds & high seas sent vessel into breakwater in Ishikari Bay Nov 13. Broken in two. Some oil leakage. Nine of the 16 crew survived.
PALMYRA	general	ATG	GL	5,780	8,224	1991	Had rudder problems about 280 nautical miles south-west of Adelaide Nov 10. Reported Nov 16 in tow, bound Melbourne, where ETA Nov 18.
VICUNA	chem/oil carrier	CHL	NV	11,636	17,465	1983	Had two explosions and resulting fire while loading methanol at Paranagua Nov 15. Broken apart. Sank with cargo on board alongside outer pier. 24 of the 28 crew rescued. Vessel's fuel leaked out Nov 15, heavy pollution.
WARSAW	bulker	MHL	BV	30,528	50,250	1976	Struck facility at Port Arthur Nov 12, causing extensive damage to facility.

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The following reports are reprinted from Lloyd's List



ALFONSO (Cyprus)

London, Nov 17 — Following received from Aarhus MRCC, timed 1304, UTC: Ref *Alfonso* (10338 gt, built 1978) grounded on a sandbank at Kerteminde Bight, in the Great Belt, in lat 55 27N, long 10 43E, at 0730, UTC, Nov 17. The vessel is still aground but no damage or pollution is reported. Tugs are proceeding to assist.

London, Nov 18 — Following received from Aarhus RCC, timed 0950, UTC: Ref *Alfonso* was refloated with the aid of tug *Asterix* at 1717, UTC, Nov 17, and is now proceeding for a safe anchorage nearby for inspection by divers.

ALGOWAY (Canada)

London, Nov 15 — Following received from Coast Guard Cleveland, timed 1500, UTC: Bulk *Algoway* (16186 gt, built 1972) went soft aground in northern Lake Michigan on Saturday night (Nov 13). Vessel unloaded some cargo and was able to refloat itself shortly afterwards. It sustained no damage and has proceeded on voyage.

AMISIA J. (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Nov 13 — Information received from Sandnes, dated today, states: General cargo *Amisia J.* (4450 gt, built 2000), Bremerhaven for Aalesund, had fire break out in the wheelhouse at 1000, local time, today, north-west of Buholmen near Stad, in stormy weather. The crew of 12 and two pilots extinguished the fire after about 30 minutes with only minor damage sustained. Vessel is now alongside quay in Aalesund back in normal service, and will sail for Maaloy Nov 14.

London, Nov 14 — Information received from Sandnes, dated today, states: General cargo *Amisia J.*, Aalesund for Maaloy, grounded in Aaramsundet south of Aalesund after engine blackout at 1506, local time, today. Ferry *Orsta* is in the area and will try to tow the vessel to a safe area. Only minor damage to bow section has occurred. Tugs are required and will arrive the area later today. No injuries to the crew of 12, or the two pilots on board. The weather is rough in the area.

London, Nov 15 — Information received from Sandnes, dated today, states: General cargo *Amisia J.* was refloated at 2050, local time, Nov 14 and towed to Aalesund by tug *Max Mammut*, where arrived at 0345, local time, today. Only minor damage to bow section.

London, Nov 17 — Information received from Sandnes, dated today, states: At 2000, local time, today, general cargo *Amisia J.* was moved from Aalesund to Langstein Shipyard for repairs.

AMORGOS (Greece)

London, Nov 13 — A press report, dated today, states: Members of the Taiwanese Coral Reef Society environmental group appealed yet again yesterday to government agencies not to let the effects of the general cargo *Amorgos* pollution incident go any further and see to it that the undersea wreckage is removed at the earliest possible date. Wreckage of *Amorgos*, that ran aground and sank off the coast of Kenting at the southernmost tip of Taiwan Jan 14, 2001, is now "a slaughter hell" for coral in an area of Lungkeng off Kenting, said Cheng Ming-hsiu, Society chairman and a researcher with Academia Sinica's Institute of Zoology. Since the vessel's sinking, its wreckage has continued to impair the growth of coral because of the sharp metal edges of the wreck, turning the area into a coral graveyard, Cheng claimed. He added that after a series of observations, it has been found that in a 2km by 500m coral reef area near Lungkeng, Kenting, the coral coverage rate has continued to drop. Contrary to previous speculation that the vessel's wreckage could become an undersea artificial fishery reef, he said, the vessel has disintegrated in the strong currents and its debris has continued to spread, posing increasing threats to the coral. The harmful debris will not disappear by itself and it cannot be "digested" by the sea, Cheng argued, adding that the only option is to have it removed before more coral, the ecological system and Taiwan's tourism resources are further compromised.

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

London, Nov 12 — A press report, dated Nov 11, states: City officials say they have settled about 25% of the personal injury claims filed in the wake of the fatal Oct 15, 2003, crash of ferry *Andrew J. Barberi*. As of yesterday, 50 claims out of the approximately 190 filed had been settled, according to the city comptrollers office. Actual settlement contracts for 45 of those claims have been drafted covering payouts of \$2.124 million to injured parties, officials said. Settlements range from \$1,500 to \$1.125 million, according to the city. None of the settlements involved cases of the 11 people killed in the accident in which the vessel struck a dock in Staten Island. Scores of people were hurt, with injuries ranging from bumps and bruises to amputations of limbs. Claims totaling more than \$3.2 billion were filed against the city in the weeks and months after the accident. In an effort to shield itself, the city in December, 2003, filed a special action in federal court. Under federal maritime law the city believes its total liability should be capped at \$14.2 million, the amount of the repaired vessel, plus a special tonnage assessment. However, lawyers for those injured believe the vessel should be valued at \$21 million. In any case, the more people who settle outside the federal action could allow a larger pot of cash for the remaining

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claimants to split. The issue of whether the city's liability can be drastically limited for the crash turns on whether the ferry management had "privity or knowledge" of the negligence that led to crash. The ferry pilot, Richard Smith, pleaded guilty in August to seaman's manslaughter charges, admitting he passed out at the wheel from fatigue and the effects of medication. The city's ferry director, Patrick Ryan, is also under indictment for manslaughter. He is accused by federal prosecutors of being negligent in not enforcing a rule that required two pilots in the ferry wheel house at all times. City officials contend Ryan did nothing wrong and are paying his legal fees. If Ryan is convicted, the city's effort to limit its liability could be ruined.

ANGLIAN EARL (Barbados)

Falmouth, Nov 15 — Anchor handling tug/supply *Anglian Earl* is still under repair at Kings Wharf. ETS Jan 2005. — Lloyd's Agents.

ANNERDIEP (Cyprus)

Oporto, Nov 11 — General cargo *Annerdiep* is still in the shipyard at Viana do Castelo, under repair. — Lloyd's Agents.

ANTINA (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Nov 13 — Following received from Corsen MRCC, timed 0900, UTC: General cargo *Antina* (2292 gt, built 1989) has cooling system problems in lat 49 01.9N, long 04 27.2 W. Tug *Abeille Flandre* is due on scene at 1200, to take vessel in tow to Brest. (Note — *Antina* was last reported sailing Inverkeithing Nov 9 for Pasajes.)

London, Nov 13 — Understood general cargo *Antina* is due at Brest about 1800, today, under tow of tug *Abeille Flandre*.

London, Nov 14 — Following received from Corsen MRCC, timed 0945, UTC: General cargo *Antina*, in tow of tug *Abeille Flandre*, arrived Brest at 2145, UTC, yesterday.

Brest, Nov 18 — General cargo *Antina* arrived Brest on Nov 13, in tow of tug *Abeille Flandre*, due to main engine problems. Repairs are now in process and are expected to be completed by Nov 23. — Lloyd's Agents.

ATLANTIK FRIGO (Croatia)

Rijeka, Nov 16 — Repairs to ref *Atlantik Frigo* at Trogir are in progress. Material damage is minor. The first results of an investigation confirm that the workers died in a confined space due to poisonous fumes which developed from the heating of insulating material. The heating was the result of the simultaneous works at the outer plates. — Lloyd's Agents.

ATLANTIS CHARM (Cyprus)

Piraeus, Nov 12 — Bulk/c.c. *Atlantis Charm* was safely towed into Las Palmas Nov 11. — Tsavlis Salvage (International) Ltd.

AUTO ATLAS (South Korea)

Bremen, Nov 18 — At 0130, today, while in the lock of the Nordschleuse (North Lock), vehicle *Auto Atlas* (52422

gt, built 1988) drifted against the lock wall and sustained a leak. The vessel has subsequently been moored at the Columbus Quay, (Bremerhaven). — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Auto Atlas* had earlier arrived Bremerhaven 1545, Nov 16.)

BARACHOIS (French Southern Territories)

London, Nov 15 — General cargo *Barachois*, which lost steering due fire near Three Rivers Nov 2, subsequently resumed voyage and passed Tarifa Nov 13, bound Port Said.

BATNA (Algeria)

See "Algeria" under "Weather & Navigation."

BBC CHINA (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Nov 13 — A press report, dated Nov 12, states: A salvage team is removing all movable items, panelling and fittings from wrecked general cargo *BBC China*, which ran aground on Oct 16 during rough weather, the vessel's joint response committee said today. The team finished recovering all major pollutants from the wreck on Wednesday (Nov 10), and is now focused on stripping the accommodation section of the vessel. The committee said in a statement it is expecting unfavourable weather this weekend, which will hinder the first phase of partially removing the wreck from the ocean. The oil skimmed from the engine-room was pumped into a seaslug, a floating device that stores oil. While the oil-pollution abatement vessel *Kuswag I* was towing the seaslug to Durban on Wednesday, the crew noticed the seaslug appeared to be leaking oil. A salvage team dispatched from Durban was sent to meet *Kuswag I* and was able to fix the leak. Another vessel towed the seaslug to Durban, while *Kuswag I* dealt with the oil spill. It was helped by a strong northeasterly wind that broke up the spilt oil. A pollution-monitoring aircraft flew over the area today and found no oil pollution. A decision on the fate of the wrecked vessel will be made at the end of November after an environmental-impact assessment by marine biologists and independent experts. The vessel's owners have declared it a "constructive total loss". It will not be possible to refloat it.

BECHAR (Algeria)

See "Algeria" under "Weather & Navigation."

BELLONA (Sweden)

Gothenburg, Nov 11 — Understand from City repairyard that product tanker *Bellona* is still in dock, but ETD Monday (Nov 15). The vessel had been awaiting spares from Denmark. DNV testing for final approval. — Westax Marine Services AB.

BUNGA MAS EMPAT (Malaysia)

See *Sumisei Maru No.2*.

CELTIC PIONEER (U.K.)

London, Nov 11 — General cargo *Celtic Pioneer*, detained Nov 7 and

arrested same day, was released from detention at 1000, Nov 10, and released from arrest at 1300 today. Vessel will depart Gibraltar this afternoon.

London, Nov 17 — General cargo *Celtic Pioneer*, Izmir for Hull, passed Cape Finisterre Nov 15.

CRISTOFORO COLOMBO (Belgium)

London, Nov 12 — A press report, dated Nov 11, states: The lifting of hopper dredger *Cristoforo Colombo* will start next week, announced Sakhalin Energy Co. Dredging is on, meanwhile, round the stranded vessel in the Kholmsk seaport. The vessel may get free even within next week if the weather is fine, a company spokesman said. Five vessels are damming off *Cristoforo Colombo* with ground removed from the sea bottom. When the circle dam is completed, water will be pumped in to exceed sea level by 75 centimetres. *Cristoforo Colombo* is expected to rise, and will be channelled away next to the dock for an overhaul, says David Greer, Phase 2 Project Director of Sakhalin-2. More than 800 tonnes of equipment and materials has been removed from the Belgian vessel to reduce its weight.

London, Nov 18 — A press report, dated Nov 17, states: A storm destroyed about 45 metres of the dam being built around hopper dredger *Cristoforo Colombo* in the port of Kholmsk, the Sakhalin region's emergency department reported today. A cyclone from the Sea of Japan hit the southern part of the island yesterday and caused a strong storm in the Tatar Strait, which separates the island from continental Russia. In Kholmsk, where the vessel ran aground on Sep 8, there were strong winds and waves of up to six metres. A spokesman for the department said experts had repaired the damaged part of the dam and were continuing construction around the vessel. The dam will become a makeshift dock. According to the experts' calculations, the dam around the vessel, made from soil from the sea floor, will act as a dock. Inside the dock, water will be 75 cm higher than sea level and the vessel will be able to float free from the rocks it hit. Five vessels will be involved in pulling *Cristoforo Colombo* free. The vessel was driven aground in Kholmsk by typhoon "Songda" on Sep 8. Its fuel tanks and the engine room were damaged and about 200 tonnes of fuel oil and diesel fuel leaked into the sea and onto the shore. A criminal case has been launched because of the environmental pollution. The vessel's master, Nicolas Verbraken, is out on \$100,000 bail but still in Sakhalin.

EASTERN CHALLENGER (South Korea)

London, Nov 16 — Following received from Hong Kong MRCC, timed 1620, UTC: General cargo *Eastern Challenger* (3959 gt, built 1986) was in collision with c.c. *Rithi Bhum* (21932 gt, built 2004) in lat 22 42.32N, long 116 21.18E, at 0330, local time, Nov 15. *Eastern Challenger* sank as a result. Its

crewmen were all safely rescued by *Rithi Bhum*, which arrived Hong Kong at 1600, local time, same day for inspection and possible temporary repairs.

EMERALD (Latvia)

Cadiz, Nov 17 — General cargo *Emerald* (2795 gt, built 1978) arrived Cadiz Nov 12 and is currently at the shipyards of IZAR Cadiz. The consignee informed that the vessel arrived under its own power and that its turbo-charger is being repaired. Vessel is expected to sail by next Monday, Nov 22. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Emerald* sailed Diliskelesi Oct 24, for Bristol, where it was originally due to arrive Nov 15. Revised ETA is now Nov 25.)

FEDERAL HUDSON (Hong Kong)

London, Nov 12 — Bulk *Federal Hudson* arrived Brisbane Nov 10 and sailed Nov 11 for Lucinda.

FEDERAL PESCADORES (Panama)

Miami, Nov 12 — Bulk *Federal Pescadores* was removed from its grounded position Oct 10 and since that date the vessel has made berth at Port Everglades and Port Canaveral in order to discharge all cargo. Due to bottom damages to the vessel's hull, it sailed to Tampa Bay Shipbuilding & Repair Company, Tampa, for permanent repairs. The vessel drydocked in Tampa Nov 2 and we understand that extensive damages were found to the hull. At this time we do not know the extent of damages as written estimates have not yet been provided. — Lloyd's Agents.

FLYING DOLPHIN XXIX (Greece)

London, Nov 15 — Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: The master of hydrofoil *Flying Dolphin XXIX* (130 gt, built 1993) advised the port authority of Aegina that while sailing from Piraeus to Aegina, damage had been sustained to the starboard main engine at 1400, Nov 13. Following the incident the hydrofoil continued the voyage on only the port main engine and arrived safely at Aegina where a survey was performed by the Marine Inspectorate. The survey confirmed that the crew had repaired the starboard main engine successfully and the vessel was permitted to continue normal scheduling.

FUKUSHO MARU (Japan)

See *Heung-A Bangkok*

GLOBAL FREIGHTER (Finland)

Turku, Nov 12 — Ro/ro *Global Freighter* is still in the Turku Repair Yard. — Lloyd's Agents.

GUANTANAMO BAY EXPRESS (U.S.A.)

London, Nov 12 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: The U.S. Coast Guard will oversee salvage operations on barge *Guantanamo Bay Express* (2530 gt, built 1983) that ran aground on the Mayport Jetties early this morning. *Guantanamo Bay Express*, which was being pulled by tug *Spence* while trying to leave the mouth of St.

Johns River at 0200 hrs ran aground on the north side of the jetties. The Coast Guard said it is not affecting marine traffic into or out of the river. Pac-Atlantic Marine Leasing LCC, owner of the barge, hired Titan Marine LLC to remove the barge. Plans were been finalised or approved by the Coast Guard late today, but salvage operations are anticipated to begin tomorrow. Coast Guard marine inspectors and environmental response teams have been at the scene to determine any damage and assess the situation. The barge is carrying general container cargo and some hazardous material. There are no reports of pollution. Commercial salvage engineers are taking precautions to prevent the release of hazardous materials from the barge. The incident is under investigation.

London, Nov 14 — Following received from the Marine Safety Office, Jacksonville, timed 1400, UTC: Understand barge *Guantanamo Bay Express* was refloated Nov 12, and is now in a dry dock at Jacksonville for inspection.

HARLAN (Panama)

See "Gibraltar" under "Port State Control."

HENRIETTE (NIS)

Haugesund, Nov 15 — General cargo *Henriette* arrived Haugesund Nov 9 from Holla and sailed same day for Aalborg. — Lloyd's Sub-agents. (See issue of Nov 11.)

HEUNG-A BANGKOK (South Korea)

London, Nov 12 — After the collision, c.c. *Heung-A Bangkok* arrived at Higashi-Harima, subsequently sailing Nov 10, for Osaka, where it arrived later that day. Vessel also departed from Osaka Nov 10, for Kobe, arriving later the same day. Vessel sailed Kobe Nov 11 for Shimizu. (See issue of Nov 9.)

Yokohama, Nov 15 — C.c. *Heung-A Bangkok*, Busan to Osaka, and fishing *Fukusho Maru*, engaged in fishing in the sea of Harima, were in collision 14,900 metres, 249 deg from Ezaki Lighthouse, Hyogo Prefecture, at 0430, local time, Nov 10. *Fukusho Maru* capsized and the skipper was found to have died. — Lloyd's Agents.

HOLIDAY (Bahamas)

London, Nov 17 — A press report, dated Nov 16, states: Passenger *Holiday* (46052 gt, built 1985) lost engine power and made contact with some pilings along the the Mobile River before dawn Saturday morning (Nov 13). Carnival Cruise Line officials said as the vessel made a turn to head back to its berth at the new cruise terminal, the vessel's starboard engine and bow thruster died. Despite being assisted by a tugboat, the vessel contacted bow-on with pilings. *Holiday* eventually regained power and slipped into its berth. The Coast Guard was notified and divers inspected the vessel below the waterline and found no damage. The vessel was cleared for a five-day

voyage that began Saturday afternoon. A Carnival spokesman in Miami said the vessel is operating normally and is following its itinerary. *Holiday* will return to Mobile on Thursday (Nov 18).

HOUSTON (Bahamas)

London, Nov 13 — General cargo *Houston* arrived Salalah Nov 2 and sailed Nov 3, subsequently arriving Kuwait Nov 8.

IBUKI (Antigua & Barbuda)

Honolulu, Nov 13 — Understand that the P&I Club of c.c. *Ibuki*, through local attorneys put up a \$2,000,000 bond, but the U.S. Coast Guard is still detaining the vessel. It is now reported that possible criminal charges may be levied, as some crew are reported to have false documents. U.S. Justice Dept. and Homeland Security are now investigating. The Charterer, NYK is making arrangements to offload the cargo and place it on board another ship. — Lloyd's Agents.

ILONA (Germany)

London, Nov 16 — Non specific tanker *Ilona* (2181 gt) (ex *Wiebe J*), 105 metres long and nine metres wide, in ballast bound for Terneuzen locks, went aground at about 0815, local time, Nov 16, near buoy 29 in the River Scheldt. While the tide was running out, the vessel was after a while lying dry, parallel along the dyke. Tugs *Leendert Muller*, *Multratug 12* and *Holland* and the communication vessel *Multrajet* were soon at the place of the stranding, but by then the tanker was so high out of the water that it was impossible to refloat it. Two salvage inspectors went on board to conduct an investigation. On the next incoming tide the vessel was refloated at about 1445, local time, with the help of tug *Multratug 2*. *Ilona* then sailed to Terneuzen where it did pass the lock. It was stated that the vessel had only minor damage.

JEUNGSEO NO.6 (South Korea)

Seoul, Nov 15 — A press report, dated today, states: The bodies of five crewmen who went missing after their sand-collecting vessel *Jeungseo No.6*, 1556 tonnes, went down off the country's south-western coast early this morning have been recovered thus far, local maritime police said. The accident took place at 0550 when high seas sank the vessel with its seven crewmen 20 miles south-west of Eocheong Island off Gunsan, 274 kilometres south of Seoul, according to the police. — Lloyd's Agents.

JUTLAND (Antigua & Barbuda)

Gothenburg, Nov 17 — General cargo *Jutland* (1495 gt, built 1978), Norrkoping for Rostock, grounded on a reef in the Baltic at 1845, Nov 16. The vessel was refloated this morning and is presently berthed at Oxelosund awaiting a diver's survey. — Westax Marine Services AB.

KEFALONIA (Greece)

London, Nov 15 — Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: On Nov 14, while passenger ro/ro *Kefalonia*

(3473 gt, built 1975) was disembarking passengers and vehicles at Samos Port, the vessel's port mooring line broke due to strong winds, and a bitt on the starboard side became detached from the deck. Following the incident, the vessel was not able to continue disembarking the passengers and anchored outside the port. After the weather conditions improved, the vessel returned to moor at the quay and the disembarkation of passengers and vehicles was successfully completed.

KEN EXPLORER (Liberia)

Piraeus, Nov 12 — Bulk *Ken Explorer* is still in the same position, being patched up and awaiting inspection of cargo by receivers of same. — Tsavlis Salvage (International) Ltd.

LA PROVIDENCE (Netherlands)

London, Nov 18 — General cargo *La Providence*, 73 metres long, built 1965, was lying at anchor north-east of the former ferry harbour of Perkpolder in the River Scheldt, Nov 16. The vessel was loaded with a cargo of gravel when a 300-metre long seagoing cargo vessel passed and a wave came over the forepart of the vessel, filling partly the fore hold at about 0345, local time, yesterday. Due to the incoming water, the cargo of gravel shifted to one side and the vessel listed. The master sent a message for help. Passing inland vessels came to assist the vessel and the wife and child of the master were taken on board another vessel. A tug came to assist and succeeded in pumping the water out of the hold. The vessel could then sail for the outer harbour of Hansweert. The river police are investigating.

LADY GRACE (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

Barbados, Nov 17 — General cargo *Lady Grace* (478 gt, built 1969) was rumoured, a couple of days ago, to have been rescued by the Coastguard here and towed in. A local newspaper, today, reported that it had sunk and that the Coastguard had rescued all but one of the crew. According to the newspaper, the vessel was underway from Barbados to Carriacou, Grenada, last Friday (Nov 12), with a cargo of cement in bags, when it encountered some localised heavy weather and started listing, presumed from the cargo shifting. *Lady Grace* reportedly sank at approximately 1730, local time (2130 UTC) and the crew were reported to have been in the water for seven hours before they were found by the Barbados Coastguard. They had a liferaft, which was reported to have been launched, but apparently the painter broke and presumed drifted away before any crew could board it. — Lloyd's Agents.

LEMONT TRADER (U.S.A.)

London, Nov 17 — Following received from Coast Guard Cleveland, timed 1530, UTC: Tug *Lemont Trader* (319 gt, built 1974) soft grounded at Mile 217, Illinois River, Nov 15. Vessel refloated safely with no damage.

LIAOHUI (China)

London, Nov 16 — A press report, dated today, states: Passengers on board "passenger vessel" *Liaohai*, had a lucky escape after fire engulfed it at sea today. A massive rescue mission involving 30 ships came to the aid of the stricken vessel after it caught fire a few kilometres off Dalian, Liaoning Province, in north-east China. "Among the rescued, 16 with slight injuries were hospitalised," said Zhang Zhixin of the Liaoning Maritime Salvage Administration (LMSA), which co-ordinated the rescue. *Liaohai*, carrying 283 passengers and 49 crew, was making its daily crossing of the Bohai Bay en route from Yantai and was nearing its destination when fire broke out. Salvage ships towed the stricken ship to a safe area near the harbour and firefighters were continuing to extinguish the blaze. Passengers were put up in a hotel in the city, Zhang said. The cause of the blaze, which started around lunch time, is unknown. An investigation has been launched.

London, Nov 17 — A press report, dated today, states: Unknown *Liaohui*, carrying more than 300 passengers and crew caught fire in north-east China yesterday, local officials said, adding that all those on board were thought to have escaped alive. The fire broke out around 1330, local time on the ship, which had sailed from Yantai city and was headed to Liaoning province's Dalian city, according to the Xinhua news agency. A total of 291 passengers and 49 crew members were rescued, a statement from the Liaoning province maritime affairs bureau said later. "At present no dead or missing people have been discovered. Rescue work is under way," said the statement. An official with the Liaoning maritime affairs office said authorities had not determined the total number of people on board the vessel at the time, but believed almost everyone, if not everyone, had been saved. "I don't rule out there could be more passengers, but even if there are, there won't be many more," said the official. Some of the people rescued were injured and were taken to hospitals for treatment, but they were not in serious condition, the statement said. The People's Daily website said 16 people were injured. The fire started in the front of the ship, which also carried 78 cars, and quickly spread, the reports said. Fishermen's boats and rescue boats responded quickly, arriving at the scene in time to transfer the ship's occupants onto their boats, Xinhua said. The vessel was very close to the port, almost at the spot where ships anchor, reports said. Nearly 30 boats were dispatched to the scene, rescuing victims and putting out the fire, the maritime bureau said. The cause of the blaze was not immediately known.

London, Nov 17 — A press report, dated today, states: Passenger vessel *Liaohui* belongs to Dalian Shipping Group Co Ltd and was carrying 291 passengers (283 with tickets) and 49 crew.

LISSOS (Greece)

London, Nov 15 — Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: On Nov 14, while making manoeuvres to berth at the port of Souda, due to strong winds, passenger ro/ro *Lissos* (13881 gt, built 1972) was in contact with the quay. As a result of the contact, the vessel sustained an indentation on the port side. Following a survey by the marine inspectorate the vessel was permitted to sail for Piraeus in order to carry out repairs. After repairs have been completed the vessel is required to be surveyed again prior to departure.

London, Nov 16 — Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: During the evening of Nov 15, passenger ro/ro *Lissos* was permitted to sail from Piraeus, following the repair of the damage, and survey by the marine inspectorate.

MARINE OSAKA (South Korea)

London, Nov 13 — A press report, dated today, states: Six crew members from general cargo *Marine Osaka* (5565 gt, built 1983) died after strong winds and high waves sent the vessel at anchor into a breakwater in a port in Ishikari Bay, Hokkaido, at 0155, today, local rescue authorities said. There were eight South Korean and eight Myanmar crew members on board *Marine Osaka* when the incident occurred. The vessel almost split in two. "Some crew members were thrown into the ocean after the accident. We rescued 15 members and are still searching for one missing crew member," a coast guard official said. Of the 15 rescued, six died at a nearby hospital, the official said. The cargo hold was empty at the time of the crash, the coast guard official said.

London, Nov 14 — A press report, dated today, states: General cargo *Marine Osaka* smashed against a breakwater in Ishikari Bay, Hokkaido, yesterday, killing six crew members with one missing. According to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, *Marine Osaka*, carrying eight Koreans and another eight crew members from Myanmar, was staying in Ishikari Port in northern Japan at around 0200, yesterday when a strong wind with a speed of 20 metres per second and high waves pulled the vessel's anchor and caused it to crash into the breakwater. The impact caused the vessel to break in half. The Japan Coast Guard mobilized choppers and patrol boats to rescue the crewmen. The ministry said the coast guard rescued eight crewmen from the water and seven from a cabin ladder, adding that they were transported to a nearby hospital by helicopter. However, four Koreans and two Myanmar crew members died shortly after their arrival at the hospital. The victims included South Korean captain Nam Bang-heon. The coast guard are searching for the missing crewmember. According to the officials, *Marine Osaka* had been anchored offshore at Ishikari Port since Friday night (Nov 12). The vessel left Tsuruga Port in Fukui Prefecture on Wednesday and was scheduled to head for South Korea after loading cargo at Ishikari.

London, Nov 14 — A press report, dated today, states: The Japan Coast Guard (JCG) is desperately trying to prevent a massive amount of fuel oil from leaking into the sea from general cargo *Marine Osaka* that rammed into a breakwater yesterday. The JCG's First Coast Guard Headquarters is examining how much of some 180 tons of fuel oil has already flowed into the sea while continuing the search for a 47-year-old first-class navigator of the vessel. Six crew members of the vessel died, one went missing and nine others were injured after the vessel was washed away by strong winds when it was moored outside a port in the Zenibako district of Otaru and rammed into the breakwater at 0155, yesterday.

London, Nov 17 — A press report, dated today, states: The body of a South Korean member of general cargo *Marine Osaka's* crew was found today on a beach in Ishikari, Hokkaido, four days after the vessel was involved in a fatal accident off Otaru, the Japan Coast Guard said. The body of first officer Choe Seong Hag, 47, was found at around 0710, about 7 kilometres north-east of the breakwater into which the South Korean-registered *Marine Osaka* ran early Saturday morning (Nov 13).

Yokohama, Nov 17 — General cargo *Marine Osaka* dragged anchor in strong wind off Ishikari New Port and ran aground onto breakwater at 0149, Nov 13. Although 15 out of 16 crew were rescued, six crew later died and two are in serious condition. *Marine Osaka* was broken in two, causing oil spill. — Lloyd's Agents.

MARITIME RIAL (Singapore)

London, Nov 16 — Bulk *Maritime Rial*, Santo Domingo for Constantza, passed Tarifa Nov 14.

MENOMINEE (NIS)

Montreal, Nov 12 — Bulk *Menominee* is undergoing full permanent repairs to its torn port side shell as a result of striking the wall at Beauharnois lock Nov 8. Repairs are being done in Montreal and it should be ready to depart Nov 25 to continue its scheduled voyage into the Great Lakes. Repairs are being done afloat and there was no need to discharge any cargo. — Lloyd's Agents.

Troy, Michigan, Nov 13 — Bulk *Menominee*, upbound for the ports of Toledo and Green Bay, sustained extensive damage after hitting the approach wall at Beauharnois prior to entering lock 3, and will undergo repairs that are now estimated to last at least another 10 days. *Menominee* was escorted back to Montreal where repairs have commenced. — Great Lakes & Seaway Shipping.

Troy, Michigan, Nov 17 — Repairs continue on damaged bulk *Menominee* at Montreal. According to Jack Hines, owner of Mount Royal Walsh Inc. ship repairs, the work is of a permanent, rather than temporary nature. *Menominee* damaged its starboard hull near the bow when it hit the wall at the Beauharnois Lock in the St. Lawrence

Seaway last week. Repairs are expected to take around 13 days. — Great Lakes & Seaway Shipping.

MERKUR BRIDGE (Liberia)

London, Nov 16 — Following received from Singapore Port Operations, timed 0950, UTC: C.c. *Merkur Bridge* (9597 gt, built 1993) was towed into Singapore this morning by tug *Britoil 44* following engine problems. Vessel is currently alongside Tango 2 container berth and is expected to move later today to Eastern Working Anchorage.

MILENA (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Nov 12 — Following received from Singapore Port Operations, timed 0230, UTC: C.c. *Milena* refloated yesterday, remains in the area of the grounding.

Singapore, Nov 12 — C.c. *Milena* is currently lying safely afloat at Raffles Anchorage, Singapore, in lat 01 11.51N, long 103 45.02E and has been handed back to the master/owners. All salvors personnel, vessels and resources were withdrawn upon handing back the vessel. — Semco Salvage & Marine Pte Ltd.

London, Nov 16 — Following received from Singapore Port Operations, timed 1000, UTC: C.c. *Milena* remains at Raffles Anchorage.

MISS SARAH (U.S.A.)

Portland, Oreg, Nov 12 — Fishing *Miss Sarah* is currently at Fred Wahl Marine Construction in Reedsport, Oregon. Repairs are nearly complete, they should be completed within one week. — Lloyd's Agents.

NO.1 DAE BU (Panama)

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

NORTHERN SEEKER (Norway)

Esbjerg, Nov 16 — At 1724, Nov 14, offshore safety *Northern Seeker* (1378 gt, built 1975), LLLKQ, Yumiden for "the German Sector", with oil rig equipment, experienced a fire onboard, in lat 55 47.5N, long 03 59.50E. A Mayday relay was sent by a German oil rig platform asking for assistance. Fishery Protection *Vestkysten* departed Thyboron and headed for the incident location. The fire was extinguished by *Northern Seeker's* crew and no-one was injured in the incident. The standby safety vessel *Esvagt Omega* escorted *Northern Seeker* to Esbjerg, due to manoeuvring problems onboard *Northern Seeker*. Local fire brigade boarded the vessel at 1850 hrs, to make sure fire was extinguished. The extent of damage is unknown so far. — Lloyd's Agents.

NYK SIRIUS (Panama)

London, Nov 18 — C.c. *NYK Sirius* arrived Southampton 2150, Nov 16, from Singapore.

OBAYATELNY (Russia)

London, Nov 16 — A press report, dated today, states: Ref *Obayatelny* (677 gt, built 1985), Shikotan Island of the Kurile Islands to Vladivostok, with a cargo of fish, was saved during a

storm in the Sea of Japan. Its main engine failed about 20 miles off the coast of the Primorye territory, the Vladivostok sea rescue coordinating centre said today. Despite the rough sea the tug *Gryf* managed to take the vessel in tow. At present the *Gryf* is leading it to Vladivostok, the vessels should arrive this afternoon.

PACIFIC SKY (U.K.)

London, Nov 14 — A press report, dated today, states: Passenger *Pacific Sky* has set sail from Brisbane more than 15 hours late after being delayed by a swarm of jellyfish. The vessel's engine became clogged with jellyfish yesterday afternoon, trapping the vessel at its Pinkenba port. The cruise liner recently broke down at sea and passengers have been affected by outbreaks of violent stomach bugs twice in the past six months. A company spokeswoman says one port of call will have to be dropped from the current seven-day trip up the Queensland coast. She says the company is determining compensation for the passengers. (See issue of Nov 8.)

London, Nov 14 — A press report, dated today, states: Passenger *Pacific Sky* had been due to begin a scheduled cruise off the Queensland coast yesterday afternoon, but could not budge after a swarm of jellyfish blocked a cool water intake. A P&O spokesman said the engines had automatically shut down, leaving the 46,000-tonne vessel stuck fast at its Brisbane River berth. The shutdown also triggered the automatic dumping of vast quantities of distilled water used by the ship's boilers, and a fresh supply had to be trucked in. "Unfortunately, because the ship can't manufacture its own distilled water while tied up, we had to tanker in 60 tonnes of water from the BP refinery," the spokesman said. Even after eight or nine tanker loads of water were delivered, the vessel's propulsion system took several hours to prepare for sailing. It eventually cast off at 0730, AEST, today. The spokesman said that because of the delay one of the ports of call on the trip, possibly Airlie Beach, would be dropped from the schedule. Earlier this month, *Pacific Sky* had to cut short a Pacific cruise and return to Brisbane due to engine trouble, which developed on the first of a 12-night cruise. That voyage also got off to a bad start with the vessel's 1485 passengers stranded in Brisbane for more than a day due to a faulty boiler valve and a damaged gearbox in the starboard engine.

PALMYRA (Antigua & Barbuda)

Sydney, Nov 12 — General cargo *Palmyra* (5780 gt, built 1991) was under tow in the Great Australian Bight yesterday. An Australian Maritime Safety Authority spokesman said the vessel had advised authorities of rudder problems about 2300, Nov 10. Tug assistance was sent out from Adelaide and as of midday, AEST, yesterday it was under tow about 280 nautical miles south-west of Adelaide, the spokesman said. Sea conditions are presently moderate. The vessel "is not

been listed as under threat”, he said. *Palmyra* left Kuwait Oct 21 and it was understood to be on its way to Melbourne. — Lloyd’s List Daily Commercial News.

London, Nov 16 — Reported general cargo *Palmyra* was taken in tow by firefighting tug *Keera*. Vessels are proceeding to Melbourne, where ETA Nov 18.

PARTNER (Russia)

Rijeka, Nov 18 — General cargo *Partner* sailed Sibenik, in tow of tug *Barracuda* Nov 17 for Cartagena, in order to discharge the cargo. — Lloyd’s Agents.

POINTE DU CORMORAN (French Southern Territories)

London, Nov 12 — Following received from Coastguard Holyhead MRSC, timed 1500, UTC: Chem.tank *Pointe du Cormoran* (3446 gt, built 1987), Eastham for Milford Haven, in ballast, was reported with damage to cylinder head in lat 52 45.5N, long 04 59.4W, at 0340, UTC. Vessel was taken in tow by tug *Afon Goch* at 1400, UTC, in order to move vessel clear of the coast and hold it in position until weather allows tow to continue southwards to Milford Haven.

London, Nov 13 — Following received from Coastguard Holyhead MRSC, timed 0927, UTC: Chem.tank *Pointe du Cormoran*, under tow of tug *Afon Goch*, is due at Milford Haven at 0700, Nov 14, subject to weather and tide.

London, Nov 14 — Following received from Coastguard Milford Haven MRSC, timed 1615, UTC: Chem.tank *Pointe du Cormoran*: Incident closed at 0618, UTC, this morning after vessel arrived in port at Milford Haven, in tow of tug *Afon Goch*.

POLAR TEXAS (U.S.A.)

See “Commencement Bay, Tacoma, United States” under “Pollution.”

PRESTIGE (Bahamas)

London, Nov 13 — A press report, dated Nov 12, states: The cost of pumping heavy oil out of the wreck of crude oil tanker *Prestige*, which sank off Spain’s northwestern coast nearly two years ago, has cost 100 million euros (130 million dollars), the government said in a report. Salvage operators pumped 13,600 tonnes of heavy fuel from the broken wreck of the tanker, lying at a depth of 4,000 metres, about 250 kilometres, off the north-east coast of Spain. In addition, a government spokesman said, more than 90,000 tonnes of fuel, tar and contaminated sand were removed from beaches in the northern provinces of Galicia and Cantabria. More than 2,000 tonnes of fuel remaining on the vessel would be neutralized by bacterial action, and presented no risk of leakage or contamination, according to a report to the cabinet. A technically bold operation to pump out the vessel, unprecedented at such a depth, was started in June this year. In the operation, carried out by Spain’s Repsol-YPF petroleum company, the oil was pumped into rigid balloons

attached to the wreck. When full, these were pulled up to a depth of 40 metres from where the contents were pumped into a moored tanker. The vessel was carrying 77,000 tonnes of oil when it broke up and sank in a storm on Nov 19, 2002, spilling 64,000 tons into the ocean and contaminating 2,600 kilometres of beaches in Spain and France.

London, Nov 18 — A press report, dated today, states: Two years after Spain’s worst environmental disaster, the sinking of the crude oil tanker *Prestige*, the country is still reeling from the costs to the environment caused by tens of thousands of tonnes of leaked oil. The financial cost has been no less great after an ambitious operation to pump out oil from the wreck and the clean-up after a spillage which polluted hundreds of beaches halfway up the western French coastline. Government spokeswoman Maria Teresa Fernandez de la Vega says the bill has topped an estimated one billion euros to date with more than 100 million euros placed into pumping out nearly 14,000 tonnes of fuel from the wreck. The Nov 19, 2002 disaster also crippled the fishing industry in largely rural Galicia and severely affected tourism, a mainstay for the local economy. The tanker still contains 700 tonnes of its cargo, but the government says this small amount presents neither risk of leakage or of contamination. Treatment of the hydrocarbons brought up from the wreck is scheduled to begin any day at a Galician refinery owned by Spanish oil company Repsol YPF. “The stuff is very poor quality (but) could be sold” to vessels which ply their trade up and down the Galician coast, according to Alberto del Corral, a company spokesman. Del Corral explains that first of all water mixed in with the oil extracted since it was pumped out would have to be eliminated and mixed with fresher supplies of fuel — a process which could take up to two months. Recycling 90,500 tonnes of fuel residue mixed in with sand from more than 1,000 beaches whose biodiversity was massively damaged in the disaster will also be a laborious process. Some 70,000 tonnes have been placed in waterproof ditches on the premises of Sogarisa, a company which reprocesses industrial waste in the Galician province of La Coruna. That process could last until the end of 2006. On the shoreline the clean-up operation continues apace in the worst-affected areas with some 40 workers deployed in that task by the ministry of the environment. In the weeks following the spillage thousands of volunteers had turned out to scrape up fuel residue from some 800 scarred beaches. Officially, tens of thousands of square metres (more than two million square feet) of coastline still bear traces of the fuel from the wreck, which sank nearly two years ago, six days after getting into difficulties battling high seas. Spain has also asked the International Oil Pollution Compensation fund to stump up some 514 million euros towards the clean-up cost and 120

million more for the pumping operation. Madrid has also demanded from the American Bureau of Shipping, which was responsible for certifying the vessel’s seaworthiness, for one billion dollars compensation.

RED FERN (U.K.)

London, Nov 16 — Following received from the managers of bulk *Red Fern*, dated today: Following the successful refloating operation, an underwater survey was carried out, revealing only minimal damage. Vessel is currently proceeding to its discharge port, Toyama.

REINE (Panama)

Freeport, Bahamas, Nov 17 — Ro/ro *Reine* (4987 gt, built 1974), (to be renamed *Sea Mermaid*) is aground off the north Cuban coast in the approximate position lat 22 11.6N, long 77 43.6W. The vessel, with a seven-man riding crew on board, was under tow of the tug *Sea Angelus* from Freeport, Bahamas to Las Calderas in the Dominican Republic when heavy weather was encountered in the Old Bahama Channel. In attempting to seek shelter and anchor on the Gt Bahama Bank, near Cay Lobos, the tug/tow encountered problems resulting in the tow-line parting. The ship then drifted to its present location. It is understood that the ship is sound and on sandy bottom. The tug *Sea Angelus* will attempt to recover the tow and pull the ship clear of the reefs at high tide today. The Bahamas salvage vessel *Victoria* is standing by in the near vicinity. — Lloyd’s Agents. (Note — *Reine* arrived at Freeport, Bahamas, on June 6, 2001, and was subsequently arrested and sold.)

RITHI BHUM (Germany)

See *Eastern Challenger*.
London, Nov 18 — At 1000, UTC, today, c.c. *Rithi Bhum* was reported lying at North Lamma Anchorage, Hong Kong, under arrest.

S. DURVILLE (Singapore)

Brisbane, Nov 15 — General cargo *S. Durville* is still in port at Brisbane. The ship’s agent reports that the vessel will depart “sometime before Christmas”. — Lloyd’s Agents.

SEABARONESS (Russia)

London, Nov 12 — A press report, dated today, states: The Volga-Don transport prosecutor’s office has instituted legal proceedings against the skipper of general cargo *Seabariness*, which rammed lock gates on the Volga-Don Canal on the night of Nov 1. Ship traffic has been completely halted on the canal, one of the country’s main water routes, since then. Prosecutor Andrei Voronin said the proceedings were instituted under Criminal Code Article 267 (damage of transport means and communications). The law prescribes a fine amounting to 700 minimum wages or up to four-year imprisonment for such a case. Investigators said that the accident occurred because of wrong use of the engine remote control system. The

damage is estimated at 50 million roubles. Losses of shipping companies due to the incident amount to tens of millions of dollars. Fifty-four vessels are anchored in the mouth of the Don, waiting for the repair to be completed, and 80 vessels are on the opposite side in the Tsimplyanskoye reservoir. The repair is going on according to schedule, and it is expected to be completed before Nov 23, the Azov-Don shipping department said. In this connection, the shipping period, which is to be closed precisely on Nov 23 in accordance with the Transport Ministry's directions, may be prolonged. (See issue of Nov 8.)

Novorossiysk, Nov 15 — At 0145 hrs, Nov 1, general cargo *Seabaroness* struck the Konstantinovskiy dock resulting in severe damages to the lock doors and the vessel. The incident followed the vessel not starting its engines astern but ahead. After being stopped, they tried again to start astern, but again went ahead, due to a malfunction of the engine control. The lock doors "therefore can not be recovered" and from that time all vessel movement was blocked. A week ago the water from the lock was "slacked" and the replacement of damaged parts commenced. As the situation is very important and "hundreds of fleet" are awaiting to transit from both sides, it is under Government control now. It is being reported that the lock apparently can be recovered to "slack the tension of vessels" from up river to down by the end of next week if all goes well. Otherwise the worst situation may be that the navigation may not be resumed. Analysing the situation we could conclude the following: The scheduled closure of the river and locks for winter is "22.10.04". However, with the agreement of the river control, the date may be moved to a later date, but at operators own risk. Therefore if some of owners decide to go upriver "for loading into mainland" and then intend to go back to sea "and will be blocked by real ice condition" it is the risk of the owners. Local sources are stating that it is planned to open the lock on Friday (Nov 19) this week. — Lloyd's Agents.

SOUTHERN HARRIER

Cape Town, Nov 18 — As at Nov 15, fishing *Southern Harrier* was still lying sunk at Berth 702, Cape Town. — Lloyd's Agents.

STARLITE PACIFIC

Manila, Nov 12 — Ro/ro ferry *Starlite Pacific* resumed operations between Batangas port and Calapan on Mindoro island on Nov 9. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

SUMISEI MARU NO.2 (Japan)

Yokohama, Nov 15 — General cargo *Sumisei Maru No.2* (498 gt, built) and c.c. *Bunga Mas Empat* (7998 gt, built 1996), proceeding in Kurushima Strait to Osaka, were in collision 1,375 metres, 78 deg from Kojima East Light Beacon, in Ehime Prefecture, at 0242, local time, Nov 6. *Bunga Mas Empat*

sustained denting damage about 20 cm long to bulwark in stern and breakage to hand rails. *Sumisei Maru No.2* sustained denting damage 62 cm in length to bow. No personal injury, oil spill or water ingress was involved. Both vessels could proceed under their own power. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Bunga Mas Empat* arrived Osaka Nov 6 and sailed Nov 7, subsequently arriving Kobe Nov 7 and sailing same day for Xingang.)

SUN (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Nov 15 — Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: General cargo *Sun* (1839 gt, built 1977), Ipswich for Iraklion and Euboea Is, encountered heavy weather on passage and as a result sustained wet cargo damage on Nov 9. (Note — *Sun*, Ipswich Oct 19 for Greece, subsequently passed Tarifa east Oct 29.)

SVEN OLTSMANN (Antigua & Barbuda)

Maassluis, Nov 12 — C.c. *Sven Oltmann*, in tow of tug *Fairplay 23*, arrived Hamburg at 1445, Nov 11. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

TASMAN SPIRIT (Malta)

Karachi, Nov 15 — Pakistan is likely to seek compensation of \$1 billion from Greece for oil spilt in Pakistan territories by crude oil tanker *Tasman Spirit*, in July last year, according to a local media report. It is reported that a decision was taken at a Cabinet meeting last month wherein Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz inquired about the latest position of the case of *Tasman Spirit's* oil spill around the beaches of Karachi. "The issue was under discussion with Greek authorities as well as the P&I Club to ensure reasonable level of compensation for polluting Pakistani waters," sources quoted an official of the Ministry of Port and Shipping as saying in the meeting. Sources said that the Prime Minister directed the concerned ministry that comprehensive preparation should be made in consultation with all concerned ministries and agencies and the matter be followed until its resolution. It was proposed that in order to avoid recurrence of oil spill in Pakistani waters in future, well thought out preventive as well as curative measures should be adopted by the authorities. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

THE BOSS (U.S.A.)

London, Nov 13 — A press report, dated Nov 12, states: Wrecked fishing vessel *The Boss* put up a lot of resistance to efforts to pull it out of Yaquina Bay and onto dry land, where it could be scrapped. The 80-foot commercial fishing boat ran aground on the south jetty of Yaquina Bay while heading to port in the early morning hours on Oct 7. Three people aboard were rescued by the Coast Guard without injury. Repeated pounding on the jetty rocks eventually punched a hole in the hull of the vessel, and it

ended up sinking next to the south jetty. For the next several weeks, the Coast Guard's Marine Safety Office headed up the effort to remove the vessel, which posed a hazard both to the environment and to other boats navigating the channel. From the first effort to tow *The Boss* further into the bay, until finally "landing" the boat on shore, the vessel resisted the salvage work. Divers went as far as cutting off the vessel's twin rudders and even setting up a system of rollers in the hope of making it easier to drag ashore, but still the boat fought back. And by this time, sand had settled into the hull, making the heavy, 50-plus-year-old boat even heavier. So the cabin was cut away, and other equipment on the deck was removed in an effort to lighten the load. Finally last week, about a month after running aground, *The Boss* gave up the fight, and it was pulled ashore alongside the South Jetty Road. But before a salvage company could begin cutting the vessel apart, it was discovered that still more work had to be done in the engine-room to remove any possibility of an environmental hazard. And they also had to dispose of a hold full of rotting tuna, which the crew of *The Boss* had been coming into port to offload on that ill-fated night. Finally, last week, Tom Winkler of Pack Rat Metal Recycling in Newport went to work on the remains. The steel hull is being cut apart, section by section, in pieces no larger than two-by-four-feet, Winkler said. Once that is done, these pieces are lifted into a container for shipment to Cherry City Metals in Salem. By the close of the month, said Winkler, the last signs of the vessel should be gone.

THOR R. (Denmark)

Esbjerg, Nov 16 — Trailing suction hopper dredge *Thor R* situation is being revised by owners and their insurance company, awaiting news regarding future plans for repairs. — Lloyd's Agents.

THRASYVOULOS V (Greece)

London, Nov 12 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Tugs from the United States and Canada were dispatched today to aid bulk *Thrasyvoulos V* (37094 gt, built 1984) that had been leaking fuel oil in the Pacific 150 miles west of Vancouver Island. Canadian officials ordered it to stop 100 miles from shore and wait for the tugs, which were expected to reach it by daybreak with experts who can assess and perhaps repair the damage. A U.S. Navy aircraft flew over the vessel but saw no sign of the spill, said Coast Guard spokesmen in both countries. It was not immediately known how much fuel was lost by the 783-foot bulk carrier, said John Millman of the Canadian Coast Guard. Fuel from the punctured tank had been transferred to a secure one and the leaking had stopped, he said. After the leak was stopped, the vessel reported "a relatively small hole in the hull a couple of feet above the waterline," the state Department of Ecology said in a memo to environmental groups. The

vessel's captain believes the damage may have occurred when the vessel refueled at its last port, Millman said. The spill involved light fuel, he said, not heavy bunker oil. The vessel was empty and there was no danger of it sinking, Millman said. It has a crew of 24 and was bound for Vancouver from Korea. The crew discovered the problem when they found the vessel "trying to burn water" that had displaced the leaking fuel, Thirkell said. More flights were planned today to try to spot the leaked fuel and determine whether it poses an environmental threat to the U.S. or Canadian coast, said Thirkell and U.S. Coast Guard spokesman Petty Officer Adam Eggers. A salvage tug was en route from Vancouver, and the rescue tug *Lauren Foss* stationed at Neah Bay, Wash., was headed to the vessel after a stop in Port Angeles, Wash., to pick up oil-spill boom, hull-patching equipment, repair experts and divers. *Lauren Foss* departed after nightfall today, Eggers said. Canada has jurisdiction at this stage. The U.S. Coast Guard is involved because the vessel will pass through U.S. waters on its way to Vancouver, Eggers said. *Thrasylvoulos V* has retained Burrard Clean, a British Columbia-based spill-response cooperative, the Ecology memo said. (Note — *Thrasylvoulos V* sailed Busan Oct 27 for Vancouver.)

London, Nov 12 — A press report, dated today, states: Bulk *Thrasylvoulos V* sprung a leak as it approached the Washington coast yesterday, prompting Canadian officials to order the vessel to stop for repairs at sea. Tug boats from the United States and Canada were dispatched to aid the vessel, which had been leaking fuel oil in the Pacific 150 miles west of Vancouver Island, authorities reported. "A relatively small hole a few feet above the waterline" caused the spill, but the volume wasn't known, said the Washington Ecology Department, which was notified of the situation about 0440 yesterday when the vessel was 190 miles off Cape Flattery, the northwest corner of the state. Fuel from the punctured tank was transferred to a secure one, and the leak was stopped, Ecology officials said. The spill involved light fuel, he noted, not heavy bunker oil. The vessel had about 8,000 gallons of fuel on board, the US Coast Guard said.

London, Nov 16 — Following received from managers of bulk *Thrasylvoulos V*, dated today: Onboard technicians successfully applied temporary patches to the vessel. The work was approved by the Canadian Coast Guard authorities and the vessel was then granted permission to proceed to Vancouver, where it arrived at 0335, "Nov 12". The vessel will effect permanent repairs at Vancouver and these will commence once works to clean/gas-free the vessel have been completed.

TORNES (Madeira)

London, Nov 15 — Following received from Rome MRCC, timed 1032, UTC: Bulk *Tornes* (6389 gt, built 1984)

experienced engine failure in lat 44 14N, long 13 21E, at about 1415, UTC, Nov 14. The vessel is being towed to Ancona by a tug, ETA 1400, UTC, today. (Note — *Tornes* sailed Venice Nov 13 for *Ciro Marina*.)

London, Nov 15 — Following received from Rome MRCC, timed 1630, UTC: Bulk *Tornes* was taken in tow by tug *San Ciriaco* about 0730, local time, today and arrived Ancona, where moored safely at pier at 1315, local time. (See issue of Nov 16.)

TRAKYA (Italy)

Genoa, Nov 12 — Ro/ro *Trakya* is still in port at Genoa. — Lloyd's Agents.

Genoa, Nov 15 — Ro/ro *Trakya* sailed Genoa at 0728, Nov 13, for Tunis. — Lloyd's Agents.

TROPIC BRILLIANCE (Liberia)

Port Said, Nov 11 — Crude oil tanker *Tropic Brilliance* is now detained by Suez Canal Authority at Km 61 for negotiations over the extra canal dues, tug hire expenses, etc, resulting from the grounding of the vessel. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Nov 12 — Following received from managers representative of crude oil tanker *Tropic Brilliance*, dated today: The vessel remains anchored at Km 61, in the Suez Canal. There was a meeting yesterday with the Suez Canal Authority and further discussions will take place today over when and to where the vessel can be moved.

London, Nov 12 — A press report, dated Nov 11, states: An investigation into the grounding of crude oil tanker *Tropic Brilliance* in the Suez Canal will take from 10-15 days, the head of the Federal Sea and River Transport Agency, Vyacheslav Ruksha, said at a news conference yesterday. Experts from the Suez Canal administration and representatives of the vessel's owner will take part in the investigation. The vessel ran aground while manoeuvring in the Suez Canal. It had a pilot on board. According to some experts, daily losses due to the halt in movements through the Suez Canal total \$7 million.

London, Nov 15 — Following received from managers' representatives of crude oil tanker *Tropic Brilliance*, dated today: *Tropic Brilliance* was taken in tow from Km 61, Suez Canal, to Port Said at 1400, local time, Nov 13, by two tugs. On arrival, the vessel anchored at a lightering station some two miles off Port Said. Arrangements are under way to tranship the vessel's cargo, which will be carried out in the next few days.

London, Nov 16 — Unicom of Cyprus, managers of crude oil tanker *Tropic Brilliance*, today report that lightering of the vessel will commence later today. *Tropic Brilliance* grounded in the Suez Canal on Nov 6 and was refloated three days later. Subsequently, the tanker was towed from a holding position to its current position, a designated lightering station some two miles off Port Said. A lightering tanker is now on-scene. On completion of preparations, the transhipment will

commence. With the ship-to-ship transfer of cargo completed, *Tropic Brilliance* will be towed to a repair yard in the Mediterranean, which has yet to be designated.

London, Nov 16 — Unicom of Cyprus, managers of crude oil tanker *Tropic Brilliance*, report that lightering operations are under way. Unicom Fleet Director Bob Thompson said: "The lightering vessel, crude oil tanker *Discovery*, is on-scene and lightering procedures have commenced. The ship-to-ship transfer is expected to take around 48 hours. This will include the transfer of just over 22,000 tonnes of cargo, offloaded earlier to barge *Karnak* and product tanker *Al Nabila 4*, in order to assist the refloating. The cause of the grounding will be investigated and it will be some time before a view on cause can be given. We are grateful to the Suez Canal Authority and all others involved in the prompt response to this incident and the achievement of a successful refloating. Following the ship-to-ship transfer, preparations will be made to ready *Tropic Brilliance* for a tow to a repair yard in the Mediterranean. The diving inspection revealed some damage to the vessel's forepeak, rudder and propeller. The selection of an appropriate repair yard will be made shortly."

Port Said, Nov 18 — Crude oil tanker *Tropic Brilliance* resumed its passage Nov 13, escorted by SCA tug *Adel Ezzat* to Port Said. Pilot Station awaiting instructions. — Lloyd's Agents.

VICUNA (Chile)

London, Nov 16 — A press report, dated today, states: Six sailors were missing following an explosion onboard chemical/oil carrier *Vicuna* (11636 gt, built 1983) at the southern Brazilian port of Paranagua, port superintendent Eduardo Requier said late yesterday. Requier denied reports that 31 people had died in the blast, but did say that two sailors were rescued "without serious wounds." The remaining 28 sailors aboard the Chilean-flagged tanker were safe and healthy, Requier said. Three consecutive explosions on the vessel were heard around 1930 hrs (2230, GMT), ripping the vessel into two, according to a local radio. The vessel was being loaded with fuel at the time. Amid widespread confusion firefighters, civil defence officials and army soldiers blocked access to the port. The cause of the blast is under investigation.

Santos, Nov 16 — Chemical/oil carrier *Vicuna* had an explosion during loading operation of methanol while berthed alongside Cattalini Pier, Paranagua, around 1930, local time, last night, there was a second explosion immediately after that. At the time of the casualty *Vicuna* had 11,000 tonnes of methanol on board and sank with around 50% of this cargo. Nine out of 28 crew members are missing. At 2300, local time, last night, a strong smell of gas could be smelt in all of the city. Port Authorities suspended all maritime traffic at Paranagua. — Lloyd's Agents.

Rosario, Nov 16 — Late yesterday afternoon, local time, while discharging methanol in Paranagua, chemical/oil carrier *Vicuna* had an explosion and caught fire at the Cattalini terminal of said port. The vessel sustained very serious damage. The cause of the accident is still unknown and is being investigated. The vessel had a Chilean crew of 28 people. In addition, at the time of the accident, two surveyors were on board the vessel. Four people are missing and search and rescue operations are ongoing. The remainder of those onboard the vessel were rescued and are safely ashore. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

Santos, Nov 16 — Chemical/oil carrier *Vicuna*: Due to the incident that happened last night at Cattalini terminal, harbor master (naval authority) decided to interdict the operations in the Cattalini terminal, inner and outer pier, and at Petrobras terminal, inner and outer pier. The banning is for undetermined period of time, until the naval authority consider the situation 100% safe to resume the operations. The Cattalini terminal should remain idle for some considerable period of time, since *Vicuna* broken apart and sunk alongside the outer pier, where the draught is 39ft BW. The inner pier has only 23ft BW. The main problem is now the Petrobras terminal, draughts outer pier draft is 38ft and inner pier 33ft, should remain temporarily idle until the situation is back to normal and safety conditions confirmed. Inspections should be also carried out in the terminal structure to verify if any damage has been sustained because of said accident. It also has been reported that no bunkers will be supplied for a while. — Lloyd's Agents.

Santos, Nov 16 — At 1943, Nov 15, a very strong explosion took place on board chemical/oil carrier *Vicuna*, while it was discharging 11,200 mt of methanol alongside at Cattalini's External pier. The explosion could be heard in a range of about 20 square km and in some areas of Paranagua it could felt shaking the earth, buildings and houses. For safety precautions the accesses to Cattalini Terminal were immediately blocked by police and fire brigade. According to the local radio stations, two tanks of the vessel exploded and it sank at the pier, while firemen and tug companies tried to extinguish the fire, which was not only on board but also on the sea, increasing the danger of further explosions, either at the neighbouring inflammable terminal, Petrobras, or at commercial quay. Four crew members are still missing, while the other 22 are hospitalised. Radio reports state that the flare-up, followed by combustion, caused death of at least four crew, who were working on deck. Rescue team worked last night but results were not known. The rescue team returned this morning, searching for the lost crew. Cattalini is already figuring out how much it will cost them. It seems that the Terminal will be interrupted for at least 90 days of the period to take away the shipwreck from the berth. The local

fire brigade continues working to put out the fire, which is still blazing in some parts of the vessel. After the fire is totally controlled and no further risk is indicated, authorities will first investigate the cause of the explosion. The port in general is working on normal basis. A technical superintendent and a senior surveyor reported to be missing. The reason for the explosion is not yet known. As a result of the blast, the vessel broke in two and sank. The port was closed because of bad weather and yesterday was a national holiday in Brazil. Part of superstructure remains above the waterline. Local port officials and rescue teams were, this morning, taking measures to minimise the risk of further explosions. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Nov 16 — A press report, dated today, states: Manoeuvres in the Petrobras, Cattalini and Fospar, Cargill Fertiliser Terminal, areas have been suspended after an onboard explosion and fire severely damaged chemical/oil carrier *Vicuna* and the Cattalini Terminal at Paranagua port yesterday. Local fire brigade and tugs are continuing their efforts to extinguish the blaze. The tanker's crew was taken ashore by a pilot boat. Four, however, are currently missing. Efforts are underway to prevent oil pollution from the engine-room. Cattalini Terminal has been severely damaged and looks likely to remain out-of-order for some time as part of its shore lines, hoses and manifolds were destroyed. The pier structure has not yet been inspected, but could have also sustained damage. The commercial quays are not affected.

London, Nov 17 — Following received from the managers of chemical/oil carrier *Vicuna*, dated Nov 15: Late this afternoon, Brazilian time, we received information from the agency in Paranagua, that chemical/oil carrier *Vicuna* had sustained an explosion and caught fire at the Cattalini terminal of same port. The vessel sustained very serious damage. The causes of the accident are still unknown and are being investigated. The vessel has a Chilean crew of 28 people. In addition, at the time of the accident two surveyors were on board of the vessel. Four people are missing and search and rescue operations are ongoing. The rest of the people on board of the vessel at the time of the incident were rescued and are safely ashore.

Santos, Nov 17 — Following received from Lloyd's Sub-agents Paranagua, dated Nov 16: Yesterday afternoon chemical/oil carrier *Vicuna's* fuel leaked out of the tanks and spread around the channel thus causing heavy pollution. The local authorities are unable to say how much oil has leaked out and how much remains in the vessel's tanks. Apparently they cannot do anything at present stage to attempt to suck it out into a local barge. They first have to ensure that the fire separated spots are duly put out. Following report, dated Nov 17, states: According to local fire department information, after 20 hours of hard toil the fire spots are now put

out. The main problem requiring immediate attention is now the bunker oil spillage, which is fast spreading about the bay thus causing a tremendous hazard to the environment. The local authorities have already prohibited the fishing activities. The seafood consumption would have to be provided from other ports. The said oil spill has reached the commercial pier. The vessels in the port have their hulls stained in the water line by black and sticking bunker fuel oil. The local authority have employed Petrobras oil floating barriers to endeavor to hold together as much oil as they can to be sucked into a barge already standing by. Today over 300 personnel working on it. The fire department commander said this morning they are working against the clock in an attempt to protect and save the already damaged environment. He maintains that as per his experience it should take over three months to repair the damages and that outside assistance might be necessary as they never have dealt with such great oil pollution in the bay water. Now that the fire is extinguished surveyors including experts from London have just arrived and should begin the surveys to find out the cause of the accident and the proper way to remove the shipwreck from the water. The rescue team found two bodies and continues searching for the other two reported missing. — Lloyd's Agents.

Rotterdam, Nov 17 — Wijsmuller Salvage B.V. was contracted yesterday to assist in operations concerning chemical/oil carrier *Vicuna* which suffered explosions in the Brazilian port of Paranagua. Brazilian and Dutch salvage staff are on site with further support staff being send in, while special salvage equipment is being mobilised from Wijsmuller Salvage B.V.'s warehouses in Brazil and The Netherlands. — Wijsmuller Salvage B.V.

London, Nov 18 — A press report, dated today, states: Workers today rushed to avert an environmental disaster as an oil slick spread from chemical/oil carrier *Vicuna* that exploded and broke in half at Paranagua. Workers found dead fish and dolphins in the toxic slick of fuel oil, diesel fuel and methanol that leaked from the ship, said Luiz Eduardo Cheida, environmental secretary for Parana state. The slick, which blackened rocks and beaches, stretched for more than 20 kilometres from Paranagua, Mr Cheida said. *Vicuna* exploded on Tuesday while unloading its 11 million litre cargo of methanol. Rescue workers recovered the bodies of two sailors yesterday, while two other crew members remained missing feared dead. Investigators have 30 days to submit their report to the government and police. If found guilty in the accident, terminal owner Cataline or shipowner Ultragas could face a fine of up to US\$55 million. Mr Cheida said he was dismayed after a helicopter tour of the port and the neighbouring bays of Paranagua, Antonina and

Guaraquecaba. "We saw two things that alarmed us," Mr Cheida said. "The size of the oil slick, which stretched for more than 20 kilometres, and the islands in the bays that had beaches and rocks covered with oil." Experts with the Environmental Institute of Parana state estimate that up to four million litres of methanol, fuel oil and diesel fuel leaked into the sea, Mr Cheida said. Environmental officials indefinitely banned many maritime activities and grounded the area's 3,000 fishermen. "It's prohibited to fish, swim or take any wildlife from the three bays," Mr Cheida said. Parana environmental officials said they were concerned that terminal owner Cataline had too few workers, few buoyant barriers to contain the spill and waited almost 12 hours to deploy those barriers. Mr Cheida said the company's response to the spill was "less than satisfactory" and yesterday ordered Cataline to increase the number of workers trying to contain the spill from 60 to 350.

Santos, Nov 18 — Following received from Lloyd's Sub-agents Paranagua, dated today: The bunker oil blot from chemical/oil carrier *Vicuna* has already reached over 22 miles from the area where the accident took place. It has damaged seriously the environment in the bay and surrounding island and fishing spot. The environment authority has applied fines to the ship Owner, Cattalini Terminal and Ship's Agent, without knowing the cause of the accident and the actual responsible party. It seems that such harsh attitude has a show off connotation considering that nations and international news are concerned. Authority and Petrobras staff are working on a around the clock basis to stop bunker leakage from the shipwreck and are trying by using all sources available to bring to a halt the oil scattering around the bay. It has been let out that specialized staff came from abroad to assist and discuss the best way and manner to remove the shipwrecked *Vicuna* from the water. Today the authorities prohibited diving activities in a range of about 2,000 metres because of the pollution. Vessels that might require diving inspection will be positioned far away from the port closer to the bar entrance at inner roads. The Petrobras and Vopak terminal which stands closer to Cattalini terminal are still interdicted by the naval authority. Nobody can say yet when this pier will be free to operate again. The authority has not given any clear and precise information yet. — Lloyd's Agents.

VOC GEMINI (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Nov 17 — Bulk *VOC Gemini* arrived Geraldton Nov 10 from Ko Sichang.

WARSAW (Marshall Islands)

London, Nov 18 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Bulk *Warsaw* (30528 gt, built 1976) stopping at Port Arthur for repairs, sliced through one of the facility's berths Friday (Nov 12),

causing extensive damage, which is thought to be the most severe ever incurred at the port. Port commissioners convened in emergency session Tuesday to begin making immediate preparations for repairs to the damaged docking facility. The incident occurred when the vessel carrying a full load of coke from Premcor struck the berth from its underside, causing serious damage to the berth's concrete wall and protective pilings. "Since the vessel was so big, we allowed it to come in for a repair because there was no other place for it to go. The ship sliced through the concrete like a piece of bread," said Floyd Gaspard, the port's director. The damage impedes the port's berthing capability by 25 percent. Including the damaged docking facility, the port has a total of four berths, Gaspard said. "Berth 1 is our primary place for steel delivery. We will make every effort to reassign vessels," Gaspard said. Gaspard said any congestion at the port can not be determined at this point. Raymond Johnson, president of the port commission, said they are in the process of inspecting the damage. Port staff members will hire engineers to assess the damage and determine how much it will cost to make repairs. Cost estimates should be completed by next week. "Once we determine the extent and scope of the damage, we hope to work to restore the berth back to its credibility," Johnson said. Gaspard said no injuries were reported from the accident, and the port expects to be reimbursed for all repairs made to the berth.

WEST (Mongolia)

London, Nov 14 — A press report, dated Nov 12, states: The death toll from the shipwreck of general cargo *West* in the Sea of Japan rose after a mechanic from *West* died today. He had been struggling for survival in cold water with a safety belt on for more than 36 hours. He was found alive on Nov 4 and hospitalized but did not survive. The other sailor found on Nov 2, is the only survivor from the 27-strong crew of *West*. The Nakhodka Transports prosecutor's office, that is investigating the circumstances of the shipwreck, has completed identification of 15 out of 16 bodies removed from the sea, all are from the crew of *West*. Captain Sergei Fomichev is among the dead who were identified.

WHITE STAR (Cayman Islands)

Hodeidah, Nov 16 — Yacht *White Star* arrived Hodeidah port am, Nov 8, under tow. It is a 155-ft tri deck motor-yacht that was on its way from Suez to Salalah. A fire had broken out in its engine-room am, Nov 7, and it was subsequently disabled. Owners/managers, Fraser Yachts, Monaco, arranged a tug from Hodeidah port to tow it to the safety of Hodeidah harbour. Yacht is still in port awaiting suitable arrangements to tow it back to Suez and then to Genoa. — Lloyd's Agents.

Port State Control

GIBRALTAR

London, Nov 15 — At 1300, Nov 13, general cargo *Harlan* (1739 gt, built 1974), H9QV, was detained by Port Surveyor at Gibraltar due to the minimum safe manning onboard as the Chief Officer and Nav w/rating disembarked after a fatal accident onboard involving the Chief Officer's son who was also a crewmember.

London, Nov 16 — General cargo *Harlan* arrived Gibraltar Nov 13 from Port Said and its next port will be Lome. Vessel, though, remains in port.

Seizures & Arrests

ALLIANCE (Cyprus)

Maassluis, Nov 11 — General cargo *Alliance* now renamed *Arca*, under Panamanian flag, arrived Rotterdam 2035, Nov 10, from St. Nazaire. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

BIGA (Canary Islands)

Bilbao, Nov 15 — General cargo *Biga* continues under embargo in the port of Bilbao. We have recently contacted the local maritime authorities in respect of this matter and have been advised that they have no news regarding any release of the vessel, with the court decision awaited. — Lloyd's Agents.

BOREAS (Cyprus)

Bilbao, Nov 15 — General cargo *Boreas* continues under embargo in the port of Bilbao. We have recently contacted the local maritime authorities in respect of this matter and have been advised that they have no news regarding any release of the vessel, with the court decision awaited. — Lloyd's Agents.

BRAHM (Belize)

London, Nov 14 — A press report, dated today, states: Authorities in Abuja are investigating the master and crew of crude oil tanker *Brahm* (29740 gt, built 1972) with bitumen worth N3billion after their arrests over an allegation that they tried to sell part of the cargo on the high seas before getting to Nigeria, their destination. The owner of the consignment, a Belgian, had in collaboration with some Nigerian representatives, struck a deal with some companies early this year to supply bitumen for road construction purposes. According to police sources, unknown to the owner, the crew had made a mid-sea arrangement with some buyers of bitumen which would have been offloaded into smaller trawlers and barges on the high seas

before getting to their destination. "Some of the stolen bitumen were meant to be shipped to neighbouring countries like Benin Republic, Ghana and Cameroon if the plan of the crew members had succeeded", a source said in Abuja last Friday (Nov 12). The source noted that between N80million to N100million would had been made by the crew had the deal succeeded. Luck however ran out of them when one of the parties to the deal pretended to be tagging along only to contact the owner of the consignment in Belgium and told him about the plot. He was said to have done it because the owner who had lived in Nigeria for a number of years was well known to him and had been of immense assistance to him while in difficulty. Continuing, the source said the vessel was anchoring on the high seas and that Marine Police personnel assisted by the Navy were protecting it and its bitumen content. Asked if the culprits would be prosecuted, the source said that though investigations into the matter had been on for sometime now, as soon as they were completed, the culprits would be taken to court.

CAN GIO (Honduras)

London, Nov 12 — A press report, dated today, states: A Vietnamese ship (?general cargo *Can Gio* (1446 gt, built 1984)), and its 12-member crew have been unlawfully detained in Tanzania for nearly four months in a business dispute dating back five years that doesn't even involve the ship, officials say. A vessel from SEA Saigon Shipping Ltd., a joint venture between Danish and Vietnamese companies, arrived in Tanzania in July (*Can Gio*, owned by SEA Saigon, arrived at Dar es Salaam on Jul 26) with a load of rice and other cargo. The captain and crew were detained and a guard was stationed to watch them, said Henrik Andersen, general manager of the Ho Chi Minh City company, yesterday. The Danish Ambassador to Tanzania, Carsten Pedersen, said the ship had been impounded even though it was not connected to a 1999 rice deal between another Vietnamese shipping company and Tanzanian importer Mohammed Enterprises Ltd. that turned sour. "Our understanding is that the impounding was not done in a right way, not according to international law," Pedersen said. In September 1999, Mohammed Enterprises signed a contract to buy 6,000 tons of rice worth US\$1.4 million (euro1.09 million) from Thanh Hoa company, the Thanh Nien (Young People) newspaper said today. But Thanh Hoa company director Pham Van Tu said the Tanzanian company failed to buy insurance for the shipment and it never arrived in the East African nation. Mohammed Enterprises filed a suit in July 2002, but Vietnamese courts rejected the case because it was not received within two years, the paper said. The ship's case is expected to go before Tanzania's Commercial Court on Nov 22 in a bid to resolve the matter, Pedersen said.

CELTIC PIONEER (United Kingdom)

See under "Marine."

CHEMSEA (Greece)

Piraeus, Nov 15 — Chemical/oil carrier *Chemsea* was not sold at auction. No date has been set for a new auction. — Lloyd's Agents.

DIAGORAS (Greece)

London, Nov 12 — A report in today's edition of "Newsfront" states: After being seized several times, the latest by a private creditor mid-October in pursuit of a Euro143,350 claim against the registered owners Dane Sealine, passenger ro/ro *Diagoras* has been listed once again for hammering down, this time on Dec 1. Lying in Drapetsona, the ferry carries a start-up price of Euro11.7m.

EMERALD II (Panama)

London, Nov 11 — General cargo *Emerald II* sailed Rotterdam 2250, Oct 22, for Argentina.

HIGHLANDER

Cape Town, Nov 18 — As of Nov 15, fishing *Highlander* was still lying at Berth LW4, at Cape Town, under detention. — Lloyd's Agents.

IBUKI (Antigua & Barbuda)

See under "Marine."

INDIAN FISHING VESSELS ARRESTED BY PAKISTAN

Karachi, Nov 12 — A press release from Pakistan's Maritime Security Agency reported today that MSA vessel *Vehdat* apprehended five Indian fishing vessels, along with 29 crew members, on Nov 11 for fishing illegally in Pakistani waters. *Vehdat* was on routine patrol in the Eastern Maritime Region when it found the vessels illegally fishing about 30 km inside Pakistan's Economic Exclusion Zone. The apprehended fishermen have been handed over to the Docks Police for further legal action. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

INDONESIAN FISHING VESSELS DETAINED BY AUSTRALIA

London, Nov 17 — A press report, dated today, states: Two Indonesian boats tried to ram a navy patrol vessel after being caught fishing illegally off the Northern Territory's coast, federal Fisheries Minister Ian Macdonald said today. The boats and the 19 crew on board were today being towed to Gove, in north-east Arnhem Land, after being caught with almost 1000 kg of fresh fish and dried shark fins, Senator Macdonald said. The fishermen had initially tried to flee after being detected off Cape Wessel about 2000, CST, yesterday. The fishing boats were equipped with GPS plotters and depth sounders. Officers from the Australian Fisheries Management Authority will begin their investigations when the boats dock in Gove. There have been 144 illegal fishing vessels caught in Australia's northern waters this year.

JEWEL

(St. Vincent & Grenadines)

Piraeus, Nov 17 — Product tanker *Jewel* (1317 gt, built 1974) is current at Piraeus, under arrest. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Jewel* arrived at Piraeus on Jul 31, 2000.)

KAWKAB (Egypt)

Rijeka, Nov 15 — General cargo *Kawkab* is still at the Viktor Lenac shipyard, Rijeka. Understand repairs have been completed but the vessel still lacks certificates. — Lloyd's Agents.

LAVERNA (Bahamas)

Piraeus, Nov 12 — General cargo *Laverna*, now renamed *Alkman* under the Comoros flag, sailed Piraeus Nov 10 for Odessa. — Lloyd's Agents.

MAYA V (Uruguay)

London, Nov 16 — A press report, dated today, states: Three crew members of Uruguayan fishing *Maya V*, caught with more than \$2 million worth of Patagonian toothfish allegedly poached from Australian waters, have gone on trial in Perth. Uruguayan nationals Alejandro Alvaro Mayo Taxis, Gustavo Hermida De Los Santos and Robert Yuen Bagnarro were three of the 40 crew on board *Maya V* when it was spotted by an Australian warship in the restricted fishing zone near Heard Island in the Southern Ocean in January this year. Perth's Court of Petty Sessions was told HMAS *Warramunga* was on patrol in the area when *Maya V* was spotted 74.5 nautical miles inside the fishing zone, and was ordered to stop via radio. Instead, *Maya V* changed course and sped up, prompting a two hour pursuit which ended with the Montevideo-based vessel being boarded by navy and fisheries officers. Prosecutor Darren Renton said once on board, 196 tonnes of processed toothfish were found, as well as evidence of fresh toothfish caught no more than two days previously, and tonnes of bait. He also said documents found on board the boat indicated Taxis and Bagnarro were to receive bonuses for work on board the vessel. Commander John Van Dyke, captain of the HMAS *Warramunga*, yesterday told the court how after initially spotting *Maya V* on the radar the warship sped up beside the fishing vessel. Navigation officer Lieutenant Luke Ryan said *Maya V*'s high mast, complete with radar, was unusual in such a vessel. On returning to the area where *Maya V* was first spotted, Lt Ryan said buoys and long lines, complete with hundreds of fishing hooks, were discovered. They had similar ropes and markings to buoys found on board *Maya V*, the court was told. The three accused have pleaded not guilty to one count of unauthorised use of a foreign boat within the Australian Fishing Zone. They intend to insist they were not aware they were in Australian waters. Earlier this year, 35 of their crewmates pleaded guilty to similar charges and were fined between \$1000 and \$1500. The ship's two senior officers also pleaded guilty and were fined a total of \$30,000. The trial, in

front of magistrate Pamela Hogan, is due to last the rest of the week. The three accused will begin giving evidence today.

MEGAMAR (Honduras)

Rio de Janeiro, Nov 12 — General cargo *Megamar* remains at Ponta da Areia, Niteroi, Rio de Janeiro area, abandoned and in no condition to return to service. — Lloyd's Agents.

NAVIGATOR

Cape Town, Nov 18 — As at Nov 15, tug/supply *Navigator* was still lying at Berth No.6, in Cape Town, under arrest. — Lloyd's Agents.

POLAR (Honduras)

Las Palmas, Nov 17 — Research *Polar* (432 gt, built 1951) is currently detained at Las Palmas due to illegal immigrants, there is no sign of departure in the near future. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Polar* arrived Las Palmas Oct 15.)

PROTON (North Korea)

Piraeus, Nov 17 — General cargo *Proton* (398 gt, built 1966) is currently at Piraeus, under arrest. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Proton* arrived at Piraeus on Nov 6, 2003.)

REINE (Panama)

See under "Marine."

RITHI BHUM (Germany)

See under "Marine."

SANTORINI SKY (Greece)

London, Nov 12 — A report in today's edition of "Newsfront" states: After being seized several times, the latest time by Hempel Coatings (Hellas) end-October in pursuit of a Euro11,394.98 claim against the registered owners Golden Ferries Maritime, ro/ro *Santorini Sky* (3355 gt, built 1971) is once again listed for hammering down, this time on Dec 15. Lying at Eleusis, the vessel carries two start-up prices of Euro300,000 and Euro175,000 respectively.

SHAMROCK (French Southern Territories)

London, Nov 14 — A press report, dated Nov 13, states: A Canadian transport company successfully bid \$11.05 million Friday (Nov 12) for repossessed ro/ro *Shamrock* that has been detained in Portland Harbour since July. If approved by a federal judge, the sale will mean *Shamrock* will soon be allowed to leave Portland and go back to work moving freight containers. US marshals seized the vessel on Jul 20 when it arrived for its weekly visit to Portland. Fortis Bank of the Netherlands had filed a lawsuit in US District Courtsaying the vessel's owner failed to make payments on a \$14.3 million debt. Friday's auction attracted inquiries from around the world. The minimum bid for the vessel was \$5 million, although the value was estimated to be between \$10 million and \$15 million. Only two bidders, Clarke Inc. and Fortis Bank, actually made offers during the brief

auction in the courthouse. The bank could have simply bought the vessel back if it didn't get a satisfactory bid. There was uncertainty about the auction because the vessel was built specifically for the New England trade route and may not be suitable for other routes. The federal judge in the foreclosure case is scheduled to approve the sale Friday, as long as Clarke Inc. makes the necessary payments and no one involved in the case files a legitimate objection. Assuming the sale is approved, the court can then take up the issue of how to divide the \$11 million. Some of those who are owed money, including the crew members and the city of Portland, are expected to be paid first. The city is owed about \$11,000 in docking fees. It's not clear when *Shamrock* will steam out of Portland to go back to work. That will be up to the judge, Armoyan said. And where it goes will be decided by the new owner during the next several weeks, he said.

VERONIKA GOKOTI (Belize)

London, Nov 15 — Information received from Sandnes, dated today, states: On Nov 10 general cargo *Veronika Gokoti* (2023 gt, built 1981) arrived Mo i Rana with 2262 tonnes of iron scrap from Archangel. The local ITF-agent boarded the vessel on Nov 11 on suspicion that there was no wages deal for the crew. An inspection revealed that the crew had not received any wages for the last two months and that the usual wages were about \$500 per month. ITF rules say that the minimum wage should be \$1400 a month. With this information the local ITF office stopped the vessel from discharging. *Veronika Gokoti* is now arrested in Mo i Rana awaiting collective wage agreements for the eight crewmen. The vessel has discharged about 1100 tonnes of scrap until now.

Pipeline Accidents



SAFRA AREA, IRAQ

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

SHAANXI PROVINCE, CHINA

London, Nov 18 — A press report, dated today, states: An oil pipeline burst and leaked more than 1,000 tons (7,000 barrels) of crude oil, the official Xinhua News Agency said. The breach in the line between Jingbian and Xianyang in north-central China's Shaanxi province yesterday caused about four million yuan (US\$480,000) in direct economic losses, Xinhua said. The cause of the leak was under investigation and cleanup was still under way, it said. The pipeline is owned by Changqing Oilfield, a Shaanxi company.

WALNUT CREEK, CALIFORNIA, UNITED STATES

London, Nov 15 — A press report, dated today, states: The underground fuel pipeline that exploded last Tuesday (Nov 9), killing five workers and injuring four others, has resumed service after undergoing repairs. The 60-mile, 10-inch-diameter pipeline again began carrying gasoline, jet fuel and diesel from Concord to San Jose around 2240 hrs, yesterday. The companies involved continued to assign blame elsewhere today for the fiery accident, as the four injured men remained hospitalised for moderate to severe burns. The workers were welding a water line extension when heavy equipment accidentally nicked the nearby fuel pipeline. Officials believe sparks from welders inside the water pipe ignited the fumes. The explosion caused a 60-foot pillar of fire, destroyed a nearby home and damaged several apartments. The ruptured pipe is owned and operated by Houston-based Kinder Morgan Energy Partners, and officials there said the explosion was the fault of Mountain Cascade, the Livermore, Calif.-based contractor that was doing the construction work. Kinder Morgan officials said the path of the fuel line had been marked and mapped for Mountain Cascade. But Mountain Cascade spokeswoman Julie Chase countered today that the path was incorrectly marked, and did not account for a bend that brought the line closer to the water main.

WESTERN SIBERIA-ANGARSK, ZIMA AREA, RUSSIA

London, Nov 16 — A press report, dated Nov 15, states: There is no danger for the local population from the rupture of the Western Siberia-Angarsk trunk pipeline, the administration of the Irkutsk region's Zima district told Itar-Tass today. Over 1,000 cu m of oil spilled when the pipeline ruptured yesterday, the sources said. The incident happened 13 km from the city of Zima, near an abandoned opencast mine. The oil flows into the mine. The pipe ruptured because of incautious earthwork close to it.

Pollution



COMMENCEMENT BAY, TACOMA, UNITED STATES

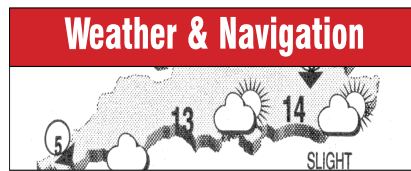
London, Nov 13 — A press report, dated today, states: A federal grand jury in Seattle has issued subpoenas to ConocoPhillips employees as part of the investigation into last month's mystery oil spill in South Puget Sound, according to three people close to the inquiry. The grand jury is seeking to gain testimony about the operations of a ConocoPhillips oil tanker, the *Polar Texas*, that has become a focus of the investigation. *Polar Texas* is operated by Polar Tankers, a Long Beach, Calif.-

based subsidiary of Conoco. The grand jury's action is the first indication that the oil spill could become a criminal investigation, although the subpoenas also could be used to help the Coast Guard in its ongoing civil investigation. Investigators have been seeking to identify the vessel responsible for the 1,000-gallon spill in Dalco Passage, which left an oily slick as far south as the Tacoma Narrows and as far north as Eagle Harbor on Bainbridge Island. The spill, reported Oct 14, fouled 21 miles of beaches and cost nearly \$2 million to clean up. The subpoenas were disclosed to The Seattle Times by a Conoco employee, a person close to the company and a federal law-enforcement official, all of whom spoke on the condition they not be identified. They did not provide the names of people who received the subpoenas, but the Conoco employee said crew members on *Polar Texas* were ordered to appear before the grand jury. The subpoenas ordered the employees to appear on a specified date, but federal attorneys then postponed that date to an unspecified time, two of the sources said. The Houston-based company has said it doesn't believe *Polar Texas* was responsible for the spill. Conoco, Alaska's largest oil producer, has said it is cooperating in the investigation. But the company has begun hiring attorneys to represent employees, two sources said, and the subpoenas indicate investigators found it necessary to compel testimony. Coast Guard investigators began focusing on *Polar Texas* two weeks ago, after oil samples taken from Puget Sound appeared to chemically match samples taken from the vessel shortly after the spill, two federal officials said at the time, speaking on condition of anonymity. Investigators boarded *Polar Texas* Nov 5 at Conoco's Ferndale refinery north of Bellingham to question crew members. This week, the Coast Guard sent divers to inspect the hull of the vessel while it was docked in Port Angeles, the Conoco employee said. The Coast Guard declined comment on the diving operation, but the Conoco employee said he believed the divers did not discover anything unusual. *Polar Texas* carries crude oil between Alaska and Washington ports. It left Tacoma in the late afternoon of Oct 13; the spill was reported about 0100, Oct. 14, by a tug operator. Investigators took oil samples from the vessel Oct 17 in Valdez, Alaska. Conoco is being represented by Philip Lempriere, an attorney with the Seattle office of Keesal, Young & Logan, two sources said. Lempriere declined comment. The company also has hired three prominent criminal defence attorneys in Seattle: Irwin Schwartz to represent the company; and Laurence Finegold and Robert Mahler to represent employees, the sources said. Keesal, Young & Logan is the law firm to whom a Kirkland company, Polaris Applied Sciences, referred questions in late October. Polaris has said it sent two scientists to a spill-affected beach to obtain oil samples, and asked the state

Department of Ecology for a portion of its samples for independent testing. Polaris said it had been hired by a maritime insurance conglomerate, but didn't identify it. In a filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission last week, Conoco disclosed it had received a grand jury subpoena in Anchorage on Sep 1 regarding potential environmental violations aboard Conoco's *Polar Alaska*. The subpoena asked for records related to wastewater discharges from *Polar Alaska* "potentially having concentrations of oil exceeding an applicable regulatory limit of 15 parts per million." In the Puget Sound spill, state and federal officials have said the responsible party could face civil or criminal penalties related to the discharge of oil and to regulations for reporting spills.

PARANAGUA AREA, BRAZIL

See *Vicuna* under "Marine."



ALGERIA

Algiers, Nov 14 — Algerian rescue services were searching today for about 20 sailors missing after severe storms sank general cargo *Bechar* (8583 gt, built 1978) and drove two aground near Algiers port, killing three seamen. Civil protection officials said they had found the bodies of two crew members of Algerian vessel *Bechar*, which sank in high seas on Saturday night (Nov 13), and that of one crewman from a Turkish vessel which ran aground. Prime Minister Ahmed Ouyayia said there was no major storm damage in eastern Algeria, where the oil producer's biggest refinery is located. It was not clear if the refinery at Algiers port was affected. Rescue workers, the coastguard and the navy, helped by their Spanish counterparts, were searching for about 20 missing crewmen from the two vessels, most of them from *Bechar* but rescued one Algerian seaman alive. "We will continue to search for about 20 disappeared," Ouyahia told state television. "The situation yesterday was impossible with 100 km-an-hour winds making it very difficult for our helicopters to rescue anyone. Even our Spanish partners, who we asked to help us, could not rescue them because of the bad weather." At its height the storm whipped up eight-metre high waves, but conditions improved today, making the search easier. At least two of the missing seamen were from the Turkish ship, which the authorities did not identify. An Algerian transport vessel also ran aground near the port, but did not report any crew missing. Ouyahia said there was no major damage to eastern Algeria, where the North African country's largest oil refinery, Skikda, is located, processing 335,000 barrels per day. — Reuters.

London, Nov 15 — A press report, dated today, states: Severe storms sank general cargo *Bechar* and drove two aground near Algiers port, killing three seamen. At its height the storm whipped up eight-metre high waves, but conditions improved yesterday, making the search easier. At least two of the missing seamen were from a Turkish vessel, which the authorities did not identify. An Algerian transport vessel, bulk *Batna* (12829 gt, built 1978), also ran aground near the port, but did not report any crew missing.

Algiers, Nov 16 — During the night of Nov 13, vessels belonging to CNAN, bulk *Batna* and general cargo *Bechar* were in trouble due to very bad weather, high swell with wind up to 100 km/hour. They were on the roads at Algiers when they were caught by the bad weather. *Batna* has been on the roads since 2001 and *Bechar* for more than one year. Both vessel were on sale. *Bechar* had on board a crew of 18 members. As a result of the bad weather it sank west of the port of Algiers. Thirteen crew members are declared lost for the time being, four found dead and one rescued. The crew members of *Bechar* (? *Batna*) were found safe. The vessel is grounded east of the port of Algiers. — Lloyd's Agents.

CANADA

London, Nov 15 — A press report, dated Nov 14, states: More than 100,000 Nova Scotians faced a night without power today, after the season's first snowstorm knocked out electricity across the province and shut down Halifax airport. Power may not be restored to some areas until the end of the week, the province's electricity company warned late today. The heavy snow crumpled electrical towers in Dartmouth. The damage to the grid is extensive and getting worse as the storm continues, said Nova Scotia Power spokeswoman Margaret Murphy. Heavy, wet snow downed power lines across the province and crumpled four steel transmission towers in Dartmouth, a city of more than 65,000 people. It badly damaged nine towers by late today. "When you have four transmission towers crumple, just collapse, under the weight of the wet snow, that shows it's certainly one of the worst winter storms that we've seen," Murphy said. Winds roared at up to 90 kilometres an hour and dumped as much as 45 centimetres of snow on some areas of the province. Snowploughs took to the streets, with emergency crews called in today from other provinces. Environment Canada said the storm, which started yesterday, would continue to pound with gusting winds, rain and ice pellets throughout tonight. Emergency crews from other provinces were called in to help, as the storm played havoc with travel plans. Halifax International Airport grounded all aircraft for several hours today, although by early evening staff had cleared one runway and began allowing domestic flights. Downed power lines blocked some streets in Halifax. Long lineups of customers snaked through the facility,

which was running on backup generators and reportedly lacked power, heat and hot water. There have been several accidents on the highways, and ferry service to Prince Edward Island has been cancelled.

London, Nov 16 — A press report, dated Nov 15, states: Nova Scotia Power is defending itself against growing frustration over widespread power outages in the province caused by a weekend (Nov 13-14) storm. The storm tore down power lines and towers leaving hundreds of thousands of people in the dark. Downed power lines blocked some streets in Halifax.

London, Nov 16 — A press report, dated today, states: Frustration is mounting in Nova Scotia where thousands were still waiting today for power to be restored after an early winter storm over the weekend. Some communities have declared a state of emergency, and the government has opened 35 comfort centres across the province. The storm tore down power lines and towers. In a news release, Peter Kelly calls the company's performance following the weekend storm "wholly inadequate and unsatisfactory." He says the utility has not lived up to its commitment to keep customers informed during outages. The province says it will hold a public review of all departments including Nova Scotia Power once all the lights are back on. And that could take several days.

COLOMBIA

London, Nov 12 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: A state of emergency has been declared in parts of Colombia where floods caused by torrential rains have killed at least 14 people, officials say. They say thousands of people in several states have been forced to flee their homes after weeks of heavy rains. The flooding, which has worsened in recent days, has mainly affected the country's Caribbean coast in the north. The Colombian Red Cross has urged people to donate money as well as first aid and other supplies to the victims. Colombian government minister Diego Palacios has described this year's rainy season as the most damaging in years.

CROATIA

London, Nov 15 — A press report, dated Nov 14, states: Gale-force winds paralysed air, road and sea traffic along Croatia's Adriatic coast today, causing delays, cancellations and power failures, while dozens of people were injured and three were reported missing in the sea, media reports said. Two Austrians, a man and a woman, fell into the sea early today from a yacht some 30 nautical miles south-west of the northern Adriatic town of Pula, the national centre for search and rescue said. Due to strong Bora winds rescuers on the Italian and Croatian side were not immediately able to search for them. A fisherman from the northern island of Krk was also reported missing. In the northern Adriatic town of Rijeka winds, gusting up to 200 kilometers per hour, toppled trees and ripped off roof-tiles. Dozens

of people were injured and hospitalized in coastal towns and on the islands, notably some 30 in Rijeka, with 20 of them sustaining serious injuries, national radio reported. Railway and road traffic in the Rijeka region was also disrupted, while parts of the highway linking the capital Zagreb with the southern town of Split were closed. Due to strong winds airports at Dubrovnik and Split on the southern Adriatic cancelled flights, airport authorities said. Ferry connections to most Adriatic islands were also cancelled and some of the islands had power cuts. A ferry linking Split with the Italian port of Ancona, which had 140 passengers and some 30 vehicles on board, had trouble to dock in the Split port due to engine problems. Eventually, with the help of divers sent from Split ferry *Split 1700* docked safely after a delay of a few hours.

HURRICANE "IVAN"

London, Nov 18 — A press report, dated Nov 17, states: Louisiana's insurance commissioner has raised the estimated damage caused by Hurricane "Ivan" from \$7.2 million to nearly \$7.9 million. Commissioner Robert Wooley says his department's final estimate is based on a reported 3,760 insurance claims paid. His office released a preliminary figure of \$7.2 million about two weeks after Ivan hit the Gulf Coast on Sep 16. The revised figure, however, remains tiny compared to the billions of dollars in damages "Ivan" caused to property in Alabama and Florida.

ITALY

London, Nov 15 — A press report, dated today, states: Storms that lashed Italy this weekend resulted in the death of two elderly people in a mudslide, disrupted rail and air travel and cut electricity supplies, officials said yesterday. Tourists aged 72 and 79 died when mud swept over their house on Lake Como, rescue workers said. Further south, trees felled by high winds blocked the railway track between Rome and Naples. Winds of more than 100 km an hour resulted in the closure of many roads in central Italy and the cancellation of several flights at Florence airport.

MACEDONIA

London, Nov 15 — A press report, dated today, states: Strong wind blowing at over 100 km an hour followed by a torrent hit Macedonia yesterday. The bad weather caused many problems in the populated areas near the rivers. More than 50 houses in Tetovo villages Jegunovce, Radiovce and Podbradje were flooded due to overflow of the rivers of Bistrica and Bogovinjska Reka, while Pena river which passes through Tetovo reached the critical level. Stip was also hit by the storm. The first information says that the agriculture suffered the most damages. Bitola and Strumica were also hit by the bad weather. The local authorities have no concrete information on larger damages at the moment. Intensive rainfalls hit Skopje as well.

MALTA

London, Nov 15 — A press report, dated today, states: A source close to the Gozo Channel Company Ltd said that the sea outside Mgarr harbour was too rough for the ferries to attempt to leave the harbour. The same source said that one of the berths at Cirkewwa had been damaged as a result of the prevailing wind and rough seas. The source said that the berth was totally inaccessible to the company's vessels. However, it did not hinder operations because there was another berth which the ferries could use. Eight motorists had to be rescued by the Civil Protection Department yesterday morning as force eight south westerly winds and sudden outbursts of rain hit the country, leaving a trail of destruction. Nobody was injured however as the 32 personnel on duty at the CPD dashed from one rescue operation to the other to try and contain the damage. Zurrieq boatmen seemed to be worse off, as they woke to find their craft smashed to bits by the sea, which had engulfed the area where they are usually kept on land when not in use. Despite the rain early yesterday morning, motorists decided to make their way through areas prone to flooding, such as Birkirkara and Msida, according to a spokesman for the Civil Protection Department. In fact, CPD personnel had to intervene to assist motorists in Msida, as they were on their way to switch on the storm water alarm in the morning. Six people had to be extracted out of their cars as a sudden outburst of rain turned Msida into a swift flowing river. The CPD was relieved to note that the new water culverts in Qormi relieved the area from its usual heavy flooding. Last year, several residents sustained thousands of liri in damage after torrential rains wreaked destruction. Zurrieq boat owners got a nasty surprise when they found their boats battered against the rocks at Wied Iz-Zurrieq, where they usually ferry tourists to the Blue Grotto for sight seeing. A restaurant owner in the area said that some 15 boats, most costing in the region of Lm700 each, and owned by fishermen and the pleasure trip operators, were actually on shore but were swept away into the sea by the huge waves which swept the area. A restaurant at Wied Iz-Zurrieq also sustained damages. The same fate also visited a number of leisure boats and a cabin cruiser at Mgarr Harbour in Gozo. "In 40 years at sea, I've never seen the winds whip up such waves at Mgarr," one Gozitan fisherman said. In what could have been a catastrophic incident, a large piece of the rock-face crashed into the sea in the vicinity of Ghar Hasan, brought down by the pounding waves. An AFM spokesman said that the rock, some 50 metres in diameter, was carved away from the land, early in the morning, probably as a result of the huge waves, each of which would have sent tens of tons of seawater smashing into the rock face. Luckily, there were no persons in the vicinity. Back on land, Maltacom cables came crashing onto the road near

Burmarrad valley, while an electricity pole near the Luqa primary school was damaged. Several trees were uprooted in different parts of the country, including Ghaxaq, Qala and Ta' Qali. The CPD had to intervene after a tree was torn down at the Marsa Sports Ground and lodged itself in one of the main water culverts, which if left unattended to would have exacerbated the flooding problem in the area. A huge funnel cloud formed on Saturday morning at around 1030 close to Nadur. Malta Weather Services, which offers weather data and forecasts on-line said the funnel cloud was caused by unstable weather which made its way to the central Mediterranean. A Meteorological Office forecaster said that the isolated showers and strong wind currents were expected to prevail throughout today.

RUSSIA

London, Nov 16 — A press report, dated today, states: All air flights to Kamchatka from the mainland expected today are delayed until tomorrow over a cyclone and flights from Kamchatka to the mainland were also cancelled for the same reason. Airliners that headed for Kamchatka, were directed to reserve airports, Tass learnt at the air traffic controller centre in the Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky airport. A gale warning was announced in the peninsula. The cyclone came with strong gale winds, up to 25 metres per second, to coastal areas in the south of the peninsula. Snow storms with rain were recorded in Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky as well as in the Yelizovsky, Ust-Molsheretsky and in the south of the Milkovsky districts. According to the Kamchatka weather centre, the cyclone will rage in the south of the peninsula over the next 24 hours.

SRI LANKA

London, Nov 18 — A press report, dated today, states: At least 35,000 families have been displaced by floods in many parts of Sri Lanka, including the eastern region, the national television reported yesterday. According to the report, flood waters have also damaged more than 1,000 houses. The Department of Social Services has released 2.8 million rupees to meet the immediate needs of the flood victims, said the report, adding that the financial assistance will be disbursed through local authorities.

THAILAND

London, Nov 15 — A press report, dated Nov 14, states: More than half of Thailand's provinces have been hit by water shortages that have caused three billion baht (\$74 million) in damage to crops, officials said today. Thai premier Thaksin Shinawatra said yesterday that 27,000 villages in 51 of the kingdom's 76 provinces had been affected by water shortages since the start of October. He called for economy measures to last throughout an anticipated long dry spell after the end of Thailand's rainy season.

TROPICAL CYCLONE "AROLA"

London, Nov 11 — Following received from the Meteorological Office: Tropical cyclone "Arola" located near lat 11.2S, long 74.2E, at 0600, UTC. Movement past six hours 205 deg at two knots. Position accurate to within 60 nautical miles, based on centre located by satellite. Maximum sustained winds 55 knots with gusts to 70 knots. Radius of 50-knot winds 20 nautical miles. Radius of 34-knot winds 55 nautical miles north-east quadrant, 70 nautical miles south-east quadrant, 70 nautical miles south-west quadrant and 45 nautical miles north-west quadrant. Forecast for 0600, UTC, Nov 12: Position lat 12.3S, long 72.1E with maximum sustained winds of 55 knots and gusts to 65 knots.

TYPHOON "MINDULLE"

Busan, Nov 12 — Chemical/oil carrier *No.1 Dae Bu* sailed from Yeosu Nov 2 bound for an Indonesian port. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

TYPHOON "MUIFA"

London, Nov 15 — Following received from the Meteorological Office: Tropical storm "Muifa" near lat 12.8N, long 127.1E, at 0600, UTC, Nov 15. Movement past six hours 315 deg at 10 knots. Position accurate to within 60 nautical miles, based on centre located by satellite. Maximum sustained winds 35 knots with gusts to 45 knots. Forecast for 1800, UTC: Position lat 13.3N, long 125.9E. Maximum sustained winds 35 knots with gusts to 45 knots. Radius of 34-knot winds 30 nautical miles. Forecast for 0600, UTC, Nov 16: Position lat 13.5N, long 124.5E. Maximum sustained winds 40 knots with gusts to 50 knots. Radius of 34-knot winds 35 nautical miles.

London, Nov 16 — A press report, dated today, states: Some 1,137 passengers were stranded in the Bicol region after authorities cancelled the trips of roll on-roll off vessels yesterday morning due to tropical storm "Muifa." Capt. Antonio Latisan, acting commander of Coast Guard District-Bicol, said that 17 trucks, 81 small cars, 13 passenger buses, eight passenger vessels and five motor boats in various ports in Matnog, Pilar and Bulan, all in Sorsogon, as well as in Tabaco City in Albay and in Virac, Catanduanes were also grounded as of 1100. Lalisan said that 224 passengers, one truck, nine small cars and six buses were stranded at the Matnog port. Some 250 passengers were also stranded at the Pilar port, including the motor vessel *City of Sorsogon* and three motorized passenger boats *Amihan 5*, *BM Ago* and *Edcel*. In Bulan port, eight passengers were stranded and two passenger motor boats *Kulafu* and *Kulafu 8* were not allowed to sail to Masbate City. In Tabaco City, some 450 passengers were stranded as well as three trucks, three passenger buses and the motor vessel *Eugenia*. Another passenger vessel, the motor vessel *Calixta II*, had sought shelter earlier, the Coast Guard added. Meanwhile, Cedric Daep, head of the provincial public safety and management office,

warned residents inside the six-kilometre permanent danger area around Mayon Volcano of possible mudflows, which could be triggered by heavy rains. Daep said there are still more than 53 million cubic metres of pyroclastic materials deposited at the slopes of Mt. Mayon. "We are on a 24-hour stand-by alert status," said Daep.

Manila, Nov 16 — Some 3,600 passengers were stranded in various ports in central Philippines as the Philippine Coast Guard banned vessels from leaving because of rough seas brought about by tropical storm "Muifa." The Philippine Coast Guard said that the number of stranded passengers at the port of Tabaco in Albay province had reached 2,403 while stranded passengers at the ports of Pilar and Matnog in Sorsogon province were recorded at 1,178 as of this morning. Tropical storm "Muifa" with sustained winds of 50 mph continued to move east of central Philippines as of this afternoon. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

London, Nov 16 — Following received from the Meteorological Office: Tropical storm "Muifa" near lat 14.7N, long 124.7E, at 0600, UTC, Nov 16. Movement past six hours 295 deg at nine knots. Position accurate to within 60 nautical miles, based on centre located by satellite. Maximum sustained winds 45 knots with gusts to 55 knots. Radius of 34-knot winds: 100 nautical miles north-east and south-west quadrants, 75 nautical miles south-east quadrant, 120 nautical miles north-west quadrant. Forecast for 0600, UTC, Nov 17: Position lat 14.9N, long 123.1E. Maximum sustained winds 50 knots with gusts to 65 knots. Radius of 34-knot winds: 100 nautical miles north-east quadrant, 75 nautical miles south-east quadrant over water, 95 nautical miles south-west quadrant, 120 nautical miles north-west quadrant.

London, Nov 17 — Following received from the Meteorological Office: Typhoon "Muifa" near lat 14.6N, long 123.5E, at 0600, UTC, Nov 17. Movement past six hours 270 deg at three knots. Position accurate to within 60 nautical miles, based on centre located by satellite. Maximum sustained winds 65 knots with gusts to 80 knots. Radius of 64-knot winds 15 nautical miles. Radius of 50-knot winds 40 nautical miles. Radius of 34-knot winds 130 nautical miles north-west quadrant, 120 nautical miles north-east quadrant, 110 nautical miles south-west quadrant and 100 nautical miles south-east quadrant. Forecast for 0600, UTC, Nov 18: Position lat 14.1N, long 121.6E. Maximum sustained winds 55 knots with gusts to 70 knots. Radius of 50-knot winds 30 nautical miles. Radius of 34-knot winds 115 nautical miles north-west quadrant, 100 nautical miles north-east quadrant, 95 nautical miles south-west quadrant and 80 nautical miles south-east quadrant.

London, Nov 18 — A press report, dated today, states: One thousand people were displaced and one man was injured as Typhoon "Muifa" devastated three provinces south-east of the

Philippines capital, rescuers said. Roads were blocked with landslides and flood waters on Catanduanes, an island of about 200,000 people, hampering relief work two days after the onslaught, the civil defence office said. Floods also swept through the nearby Bicol peninsula, with extensive power cuts across the three areas, it added. A man was injured when strong winds swept him off scaffolding in the town of Gainza, while 1,040 people were evacuated in Bicol. Nearly 3,000 commuters were stranded at ferry crossings between Bicol and the central islands after the coastguard barred sea vessels below 1,000 tons from sailing. The weather bureau here said "Muifa" strengthened into a typhoon overnight yesterday, with peak winds of 120 kilometres-an-hour. At 0200, today, the eye of the typhoon hovered near the island of Polillo in the Philippine Sea and was on course to smash into the main island of Luzon near the town of Casiguran on Saturday (Nov 20).

London, Nov 18 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: Typhoon "Muifa" near lat 15.7N, long 123.8E at 0600, UTC, today. Movement for the past six hours, 360 degrees at one knot. Position accurate to within 30 nautical miles. Maximum sustained winds 110 knots, gusts 135 knots, radius of 64 knot winds 25 nautical miles all quadrants. Radius of 50 knot winds 35 nautical miles all quadrants. Forecast position lat 15.7N, long 123.6E at 1800, UTC, today. Maximum sustained winds 115 knots, gusts 140 knots. Forecast position lat 15.3N, long 123.2E at 0600, UTC, Nov 19. Maximum sustained winds 105 knots, gusts 130 knots.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

London, Nov 17 — A press report, dated today, states: The thunderstorm that raged across Dubai and its neighbouring emirates on Monday night (Nov 15) continued in the northern emirates yesterday afternoon. The storm on Monday night left a husband and wife dead and hundreds injured as a result of more than 200 traffic accidents, police said. Civil defence sources told Gulf News they recorded 26 electrical fires as well as 11 electronic advertisements that caught fire, 10 false fire alarms, 3 flooded buildings and a fallen palm tree blocking traffic. A source at Rashid Hospital said more than 100 people were admitted with minor injuries following the hailstorm. Civil defence reported 26 small electrical fires that led to blackouts in some areas. The source could not say which parts of the city were most affected, although a power outage at the Al Aweer Fruit and Vegetable market caused "chaos," according to an official there.

UNITED STATES

London, Nov 12 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Rare November tornadoes moved across central and northeastern Oklahoma yesterday, causing property damage and power outages but no injuries, authorities said. At least one of the tornadoes may

have neared the size of a football field as it tracked north of Chandler, about 40 miles north-east Oklahoma City. Lincoln County Emergency Management Director Ben Springfield reported heavy damage to three houses northwest of Chandler. The tornadoes moved north-east into Payne County, where at least one touched down briefly about six miles south of Cushing, said Cushing Emergency Management Director Bob Noltensmeyer. "We had one confirmed touchdown and a second possible," Noltensmeyer said. Trees were uprooted, but no other damage was reported, he said. No injuries were reported in either county. The other tornadoes appeared to be weaker but still destroyed an outbuilding and downed large trees and power lines in the communities of Jones and Luther in northeastern Oklahoma County, authorities said. About 2,200 customers were without power at the height of the storms, according to an Oklahoma Gas & Electric Co. Web site.

London, Nov 18 — A press report, dated today, states: Several days of heavy rains that drenched soggy Central Texas left parts of the region flooded and contributed to the deaths of at least two people. Another person was missing. The Lower Colorado River Authority said it had opened or planned to open several dams to move floodwaters as quickly and safely as possible to Lake Travis, which was expected to rise to at least 10 feet into its flood pool. Several tornados were also reported in the region, including in Austin, San Antonio and Gillespie County. No injuries were immediately reported. Many areas around central Texas and the Texas Hill Country received 5 to 8 inches of rain from Sunday (Nov 14) through yesterday morning, the National Weather Service said. The rain stopped in Austin by mid-afternoon. About 11 inches had been measured north-west of San Antonio, near Boerne.



ARGENTINA

London, Nov 12 — A report, dated today, states: A strong earthquake occurred at 0636, UTC, today. The magnitude 6.1 event has been located in Santiago del Estero Province, Argentina, in lat 26.65S, long 63.22W. The hypocentral depth was estimated to be 553 km.

COLOMBIA

London, Nov 15 — A report, dated today, states: A major earthquake occurred at 0906, UTC, today. The magnitude 7.0 event has been located near the west coast of Colombia in lat 04.61N, long 77.54W, depth 10 km.

London, Nov 15 — A press report, dated today, states: A strong earthquake struck western Colombia

early today, destroying about a dozen homes in the port city of Buenaventura west of the capital, but no injuries were reported, officials said. The 6.7-magnitude quake's epicenter was in the Pacific Ocean off the coast of Colombia's Choco province and hit around 0400, EST, said Viviana Agudelo, a spokeswoman for National Seismology Centre of Colombia. The quake caused 12 homes to collapse, most of them near Buenaventura, 220 miles west of Bogota, she said.

FIJI

London, Nov 12 — A report, dated Nov 10, states: A moderate earthquake occurred at 1035, UTC, today. The magnitude 5.6 event has been located in the Fiji region in lat 21.18S, long 176.00W, depth 10 km.

INDONESIA

Jakarta, Nov 12 — An earthquake measuring 6.0 on the Richter scale shook an island in eastern Indonesia today, killing six people and injuring at least six more, a government official said. Petrus Demonsili, who works at an earthquake monitoring centre in the city of Kupang on a nearby island, said the earthquake struck the town of Kalabahi on Alor island, 2,000 km east of Jakarta at around 0526 hrs. "Reports say six have died and at least six are injured," Demonsili told Reuters by phone from the city of Kupang on Timor island. According to reports, the airport runway there has cracks now and several concrete buildings have collapsed," he said.

London, Nov 12 — A press report, dated today, states: A strong earthquake rocked parts of eastern Indonesia early today, killing at least 16 people, injuring more than 100 and damaging hundreds of buildings, seismologists and officials said. The magnitude-six quake struck at 0526 and was centred 30 kilometres off the eastern coast of Alor island, about 1,600 kilometres east of the capital Jakarta, said seismologist Rahmat Triono in Jakarta. It was followed by a magnitude-five aftershock, he added. Residents claimed 16 people were killed and more than 100 injured in seven districts, said local police chief, Lieutenant-Colonel Ishak Siabore. Officials could not confirm the toll. Hospital workers said they had received six bodies in Kalabahi, the capital of Alor district. "We are still feeling many small tremors here," said Fransiscus Salem, a local government official. "We hope the quake has peaked. But we are afraid of big aftershocks which can cause more deaths." One person died when his shop roof collapsed, witnesses said. Twenty others were hospitalised and hundreds of homes, shops and offices were damaged on the island's main town of Kalabahi, they said. The earthquake and two aftershocks could be felt as far away as the East Timor capital of Dili, where witnesses said residents ran from their homes in panic. Two East Timorese sailors were injured when the quake jolted their boat causing it to collide with a freighter in Dili Harbour,

while a hotel worker broke his leg after falling down in his home, a hospital official said. The walls on several buildings were cracked including at Dili Airport, witnesses said.

London, Nov 12 — A report, dated Nov 11, states: A major earthquake occurred at 2126, UTC, today. The magnitude 7.5 event has been located in Kepulauan Alor, Indonesia, in lat 08.19S, long 124.82E, depth 10 km.

London, Nov 13 — A press report, dated today, states: The death toll from a powerful earthquake in eastern Indonesia has risen to 19, while damaged roads hindered the evacuation of wounded, a relief official said. A provincial government relief centre had counted 19 dead, 36 seriously wounded and 76 less seriously hurt, said a centre official from Alor island, which was struck by the quake before dawn Friday (Nov 12). Police on Friday listed 17 people dead after the quake measuring 6.0 on the Richter scale. Residents in the neighbouring country of East Timor also felt the quake but reported no injuries.

London, Nov 15 — A press report, dated Nov 14, states: Two people died on the eastern Indonesian island of Alor today as aftershocks continued two days after a powerful earthquake, a relief official said. The latest deaths bring to 21 the number who have died since Friday (Nov 12) when the pre-dawn quake measuring 6.0 on the Richter scale hit the island near East Timor. Another 94 people were still being treated at hospital in Kalabahi, Ouwboly said. The force of the quake opened up a fissure in a mountain and severed the road link between Kalabahi and Northeast Alor, where damage was heaviest. Most of Northeast Alor's about 8,000 residents are believed to have been left homeless by the quake. As churches and other public buildings are unusable, many residents are staying in open spaces where officials have set up tents to provide health, cooking and sleeping facilities.

London, Nov 15 — A press report, dated today, states: An elderly woman today became the latest victim of a powerful earthquake and aftershocks in eastern Indonesia, as a relief official appealed for tents to house thousands left homeless. The latest death brings to 23 the number who have died since Friday when the pre-dawn quake measuring six on the Richter scale hit Alor island near East Timor. A 70-year-old woman died when she was startled during aftershocks that continued today, though in decreased intensity, said Alberth Ouwboly of the government relief centre in Alor's main town of Kalabahi. Meanwhile, a delegation of four Indonesian Cabinet ministers visited Alor to assess the situation. Ouwboly said the ministers donated more than \$100,000 for emergency aid before setting out for the hardest-hit district of North-East Alor by helicopter and boat. The quake severed road access to the district. Ouwboly said at the weekend the entire population of North-East Alor,

about 8,000 residents, is believed to have been left homeless by the quake, which destroyed every public and private building there. Fewer than 500 tents have arrived since Friday's (Nov 12) disaster, leaving most victims of the quake sleeping without shelter, he said. Tents are providing some accommodation and housing medical and cooking facilities, he said.

JAPAN

London, Nov 12 — A press report, dated today, states: An earthquake with a preliminary magnitude of 6.3 hit eastern Hokkaido yesterday evening, the Japan Meteorological Agency said. There were no immediate reports of injuries or damage from the 1903 temblor and no tsunami warnings were issued. The quake registered 4 on the Japanese quake intensity scale of 7 in the town of Kushiro.

London, Nov 12 — A press report, dated today, states: The damage to agricultural, fisheries and public civil engineering facilities caused by the recent powerful earthquakes in Niigata Prefecture is about 312.6 billion yen (£1.6 billion), the prefectural government said today. The damage to agricultural and fisheries is 130.5 billion yen, more than the 118.1 billion yen damage to farm and fisheries industries in Hyogo Prefecture caused by the 1995 Great Hanshin Earthquake, the local government said. The damage to agricultural facilities such as dams and reservoirs came to 53.2 billion yen, while the damage to forest lands and roads caused by avalanches came to 20.9 billion yen. The damage to agricultural effluent treatment facilities came to 20.7 billion yen, while the fisheries industry, including the ornamental carp industry, suffered 6.5 billion yen in damage. The devastated village of Yamakoshi, where all its residents have evacuated their homes, is the production centre of such carp. The damage to public civil engineering facilities came to 182.1 billion yen, while public roads suffered 130.7 billion yen in damage and the sewage system damage came to 36.4 billion yen, the government said, adding that the damage to rivers were 11.8 billion yen. A powerful earthquake hit Niigata Prefecture and surrounding areas Oct 23 and a series of temblors have continued up till now, leaving 40 people dead and thousands still in shelters.

London, Nov 18 — A press report, dated today, states: Damage from Japan's worst earthquake in a decade, which left 40 people dead, is likely to reach three trillion yen (29 billion dollars) with the destruction of infrastructure severely disrupting the economy. The quake destroyed more than 6,000 roads, 370 waterways and at least six bridges across Niigata, 200 kilometres north of Tokyo, a local government official said yesterday. Apart from the destruction of infrastructure, more than 48,000 houses were destroyed or damaged, the official said, adding that the Niigata government would likely ask the central government for financial help.

SOLOMON ISLANDS

London, Nov 12 — A report, dated Nov 11, states: A moderate earthquake occurred at 1733, UTC, today. The magnitude 5.6 event has been located in the Solomon Islands in lat 11.37S, long 162.15E, depth 10 km.

London, Nov 12 — A report, dated Nov 11, states: A strong earthquake occurred at 1734, UTC, today. The magnitude 6.5 event has been located in the Solomon Islands in lat 11.20S, long 162.14E. The hypocentral depth was estimated to be 28 km.

London, Nov 12 — A report, dated today, states: A moderate earthquake occurred at 1131, UTC, today. The magnitude 5.8 event has been located in the Solomon Islands in lat 11.11S, long 162.35E, depth 10 km.

London, Nov 13 — A report, dated today, states: A strong earthquake occurred at 0024, UTC, today. The magnitude 6.0 event has been located in the Santa Cruz Islands region in lat 10.35S, long 164.57E, depth 15 km.

Volcanic Activity



MOUNT ASAMA, JAPAN

London Nov 15 — A press report, dated today, states: Mt. Asama erupted yesterday evening, the Japan Meteorological Agency said, but there were no immediate reports of injuries or damage. The 2059 eruption was apparently midsize in scale. The agency has issued a warning of falling ash in areas downwind of Mt Asama. Minor eruptions at the 2,568-metre volcano straddling the border between Gunma and Nagano prefectures have continued since large blasts occurred Sep 1.

Political & Civil Unrest



AFGHANISTAN

Kabul, Nov 15 — An Afghan militant group repeated a threat to kill three foreign U.N. workers held hostage since late last month unless Taliban prisoners were freed, but said it was willing to be flexible on other demands. Khalid Agha, one of several men claiming to speak for the Jaish-e-Muslimeen (Army of Muslims), told Reuters today the group would decide the fate of the hostages tomorrow night. But its leader said he expected a response from the government by late today. Khalid Agha said the group's council, or Shura, would meet tomorrow night to decide the hostages' fate. The group has said the Shura had already authorised their killing, but several deadlines have passed without incident. Akbar Agha, the leader of the

Taliban splinter faction, said: "In my view the Afghan government is deceiving us. We have set no deadline but we will wait for a response from our intermediaries until 2300 hrs, (1830, UTC) tonight," he was quoted as saying by the Pakistan-based Afghan Islamic Press news agency. Asked what would happen if there was no response, he said: "We will do what ever we feel is good, correct and necessary and the whole world and media will know." Khalid Agha said authorities had said via intermediaries they did not know the whereabouts of seven of the 26 Taliban prisoners the kidnappers have demanded in exchange for the U.N. workers. "Our point of view is that they should release whoever they have identified so far," he said. "If they release 23 out of 26 prisoners, even then we would consider the talks a success. The release of the Taliban prisoners is our main demand and we can show flexibility on all other demands." However, he added: "If they will not accept our demand, then we will have no choice but to kill the hostages." The government and the United Nations say they are working to secure the trio's release but have declined to give details. On Saturday (Nov 13), a spokesman said better food and accommodation provided for the hostages last week when it appeared a deal was near had been withdrawn and the three moved to the mountains. Akbar Agha, confirmed yesterday some facilities had been withdrawn, but added: "We are still not keeping them in miserable conditions." — Reuters.

Kabul, Nov 16 — A Taliban splinter faction that has threatened to kill three foreign U.N. workers abducted in Afghanistan nearly three weeks ago appeared to narrow its demands for their release today. Mullah Sabir Momin, a commander of the Jaish-e Muslimeen (Army of Muslims), said it had dropped demands for the withdrawal of U.S.-led forces from Afghanistan and the release of Taliban prisoners from Guantanamo Bay in Cuba. But Momin, one of several militants claiming to speak for the group, said it was still insisting on the release of 15 Taliban members arrested in southern Afghanistan before last month's presidential elections. "Without releasing them, the issue will not be resolved," he told Reuters. "To make the negotiations a success, we have withdrawn from two of our important demands," Momin said. "This we have done in good faith, because we want the release of our Taliban prisoners and also a safe and peaceful solution to the hostage issue." Yesterday, an official said the government was considering offering a ransom, but Akbar Agha said his group was not seeking money and an offer would be rejected. Presidential spokesman Jawed Ludin told a regular news briefing the government was extremely concerned about the hostages and was trying its best to secure their release but he declined to give details. — Reuters.

Kabul, Nov 17 — Taliban gunmen raided a police post near a hydro-power

dam in Afghanistan and killed six policemen, a provincial official said today. The Kajaki Dam, which supplies power to southern Afghanistan's main city, Kandahar, was not damaged in the late-night attack, said Haji Mohammad Wali, spokesman for the governor of Helmand province, where the dam is located. One Taliban fighter was killed and two wounded when police returned fire, he said. Taliban fighters opposed to Afghanistan's U.S.-backed government and the presence of foreign forces have tried to attack the Kajaki Dam before. In another incident, the Interior Ministry said its Quick Reaction Force detained seven low-ranking Taliban suspects and seized a large weapons cache in a raid in a district west of Kabul. The cache found in Jarliz, about 50 km from the capital, included rockets, explosives and cannon apparently intended to mount attacks on Kabul, said ministry spokesman Lutfullah Mashal. Four police officers were killed and five wounded today, when their vehicle was hit by a blast in the central province of Uruzgan, an attack for which Taliban guerrillas claimed responsibility. Three U.N. workers abducted almost three weeks ago in Afghanistan are probably still being held in the Kabul area and not by a Taliban splinter faction that has threatened to kill them, the Interior Ministry said today. "We don't think Jaish-e Muslimeen has control over them," said ministry spokesman Lutfullah Mashal. "You can tell by the deadlines and the demands which keep being broken and relaxed. We think they are being held by some armed robbers who abducted them. Our reports suggest that the hostages are still in or around Kabul." The Jaish-e Muslimeen (Army of Muslims), a Taliban splinter faction that claims to hold them, has demanded the release of Taliban prisoners in return for the hostages, but has gradually relaxed its demands and repeated deadlines have passed without apparent incident. In another incident, Afghan police have seized nearly a tonne of opium hidden in a tanker truck in a district of northern Kabul, state television reported yesterday. Kabul Television quoted city police chief Baba Jan as saying the truck had come from the north of Afghanistan and had been destined for the southern city of Kandahar. He said 863 kg of opium were found in the truck. The state-run Bakhtar news agency said the seizure took place on Monday (Nov 15) in the Kotal-e-Khair Khana district of Kabul. Afghanistan's U.S.-backed government has declared that the fight against narcotics was a top priority, but drug output has soared since the overthrow of the Islamic fundamentalist Taliban regime in late 2001. Despite Western efforts led by Britain to reverse the trend, Afghanistan remains the world's leading producer of opium and heroin, much of which is exported to Europe. Officials say opium output is moving fast back towards the 1999 peak of 4,500 tonnes and the big profits yielded are hampering efforts to improve security in provinces already troubled

by Islamic militant insurgency. President Hamid Karzai, who is drawing up a new cabinet after winning elections last month, is considering a reorganisation of the counter-narcotics effort, which could involve the creation of a new ministry, a spokesman said earlier yesterday. — Reuters.

Kabul, Nov 18 — Afghan security forces captured 24 Taliban guerrillas, including four mid-level commanders, in operations in the southern province of Zabul last weekend, provincial officials said today. Provincial security chief Jailani Khan said the guerrillas had been captured on Sunday (Nov 14) in two operations in the province. "We arrested some of them in an ambush and some in a house we had under surveillance," Khan said. Zabul Governor Khiyal Mohammad Hussaini identified three of the commanders as Mullah Sulaiman Baheer, Mullah Akhtar Mohammad and Mullah Abdullah. Mullah is a title for a Muslim religious leader and is used by many senior Taliban members. The fourth commander was not identified. Clashes between militants and government forces have increased since the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan ended last weekend. On Tuesday, Taliban gunmen raided a police post near a hydro-power dam in the south of the country, killing six policemen, including their commander. On the same day, four police officers were killed and five wounded when their vehicle was hit by a blast in the central province of Uruzgan. — Reuters.

ARGENTINA

London, Nov 18 — A press report, dated Nov 17, states: A series of blasts have shaken three banks in the Argentine capital, Buenos Aires, killing one man and injuring another. Police say the man, a security guard, died of injuries received when a bomb exploded at a branch of the US-based Citibank group. Another Citibank branch was targeted in a separate blast, while a third hit a branch of Argentine bank Banco Galicia. They said the bombs appeared to be home-made devices. The 38-year-old guard was fatally injured when he picked up a suspicious package at about 0900, local time, at Citibank's branch in the Caballito district, Agence France Presse said. At least one more device was deactivated there by police. "There were two artefacts, just one exploded. The second one must have been detonated by the fire squad," police chief Francisco Santos Miglino said. A police officer was injured when a separate bomb went off outside a second Citibank branch in the Barrio Norte district. The Banco Galicia branch targeted was in the same district of the Argentine capital. Officials said the explosions had shattered windows and caused damage to the banks' facades. It was not clear who was responsible for the bombs. The country's economic crisis three years ago led to many people losing large amounts of their savings. A similar incident occurred in August when small bombs were set off in the

city to coincide with a visit from the International Monetary Fund's director, Rodrigo de Rato. Federal police said the bombs were not big enough to cause major destruction.

COLOMBIA

Bogota, Nov 16 — Ten Colombian police officers were killed today in an ambush by the National Liberation Army, or ELN, in the worst attack by the Marxist group in years, authorities told Reuters. About 100 members of the ELN, Colombia's second largest guerrilla group, attacked police patrolling near the town of Paimado in the northwest province of Choco, National Police Operational Director Alberto Ruiz said. "The police officers were investigating reports of an armed group operating along a highway when they were attacked with rifles and machine guns. Ten officers died and three more were wounded," Ruiz said. After keeping a low profile since President Alvaro Uribe was elected more than two years ago, the group showed in today's attack it can still hit the government hard. — Reuters.

INDIA

London, Nov 17 — A press report, dated today, states: Indian soldiers traded gunfire with militants in the Kashmiri summer capital of Srinagar as New Delhi started withdrawing some troops from the highly militarised frontier with Pakistan. The skirmish erupted hours before Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh was to arrive in the volatile region today. Two militants took up a sniper position overlooking the Sheri Kashmir cricket field in Indian-ruled Srinagar, where Singh was scheduled to address a rally amid heightened security. Security forces surrounded the area and a gun battle between the authorities and militants followed, killing both of the rebels and wounding one civilian and two Indian paramilitary soldiers, police told CNN. Singh, who took office in May, announced plans last week to reduce the number of Indian troops in Kashmir after a reduction in separatist violence there. In a pullout expected to take just over a month, the first 1,000 of what could eventually be 40,000 forces to be withdrawn from the volatile region were moving out of Anantnag in southern Kashmir. An estimated 300,000 to 500,000 Indian security forces are stationed in the area. Analysts say such a troop reduction poses few risks for India. They believe as winter arrives, heavier snow on the mountains makes it harder for Pakistan-based militants to sneak into India. Today's skirmish comes on top of an incident late Monday (Nov 15), when suspected militants killed six people — all relatives — in the Kashmiri village of Kawoosa, southeast of Srinagar, police sources said. The suspected militants surrounded the house where two former militants — now working as counterinsurgents with Indian forces — were visiting family on the Eid-ul-fitr holiday that marks the end of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan and attempted to kidnap them. When the

counterinsurgents refused to surrender, the suspected militants killed them and four members of their family, including two women.

INDONESIA

London, Nov 18 — A press report, dated Nov 17, states: The Indonesian parliament has approved the extension of a state of civil emergency in the province of Aceh. The move gives the authorities extra powers to combat local separatists. Aceh has been under martial law or civil emergency since May 2003, when talks between the government and the rebel Free Aceh Movement broke down. President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono said civil emergency would be extended for six months at most, and he would also work on other ways to end the violence. Civil emergency allows the authorities to enforce curfews and press restrictions, and order house searches. Mr Yudhoyono added that the extension, which will be officially announced in a presidential decree tomorrow, could be revoked sooner than the six-month deadline if necessary. Mr Yudhoyono, who was sworn in as Indonesia's new leader on 20 October, talked last month about adopting a new approach to Aceh's long-running separatist struggle, despite being the government's chief security minister when the military operation in Aceh was launched. Recent official figures, released by the government, state that almost 7,000 suspected rebels have been killed or captured since the operation began. International and local human rights organisations have consistently raised concerns about alleged abuses being committed by both sides in the conflict in Aceh.

IRAQ

Baghdad, Nov 12 — Aid agencies called on U.S. forces and the Iraqi government to allow them to deliver food, medicine and water to Falluja today and said four days of intense fighting had turned the city into a "big disaster". The Iraqi Red Crescent Society, which receives support from foreign agencies including the Red Cross and UNICEF, said it had asked U.S. forces and Iraq's interim government to let them deliver relief goods to Falluja and establish a medical team in the city's main hospital, but had received no reply. A U.S. military spokesman said the Red Crescent had permission to help refugees around Falluja, but could not say if it had been granted access to the city itself. The Red Crescent has seven teams of doctors and relief workers, backed by trucks of food, medicine and water, ready to go into each of Falluja's districts when the word is given. The U.S. military estimates that 600 militants have been killed in four days of street fighting. It says 18 U.S. troops and 34 Iraqi soldiers have also died and 178 Americans have been wounded. Scores of buildings in Falluja have been completely destroyed, with TV footage showing some districts all but levelled. There has been no water

and electricity for days and food shops have been closed, residents say. U.S. commanders say civilian casualties have been low, but residents dispute that, describing incidents in which non-combatants, including women and children, have been killed by shrapnel or hit by bombs. — Reuters.

Dubai, Nov 12 — Iraqi insurgents have kidnapped an American who works as a manager at Baghdad airport, Al Jazeera television said today. The Arabic channel showed TV footage of the man in a video it said it received from his kidnappers, the 1920 Revolution Brigades, a group which has previously kidnapped foreigners working with U.S. forces. Al Jazeera said the man was of Lebanese origin. In the video he was holding papers identifying him as Dean Sadek. "He asked all foreign contractors who cooperate with the company he works for to stop dealing with it," the channel said, describing him as "manager of the Baghdad airport building." Al Jazeera did not mention any specific threat against Sadek, who it said worked for a company called "Sky Link." Unlike some previous videos of kidnappings in Iraq, no militants appeared in the background. — Reuters.

Mosul, Nov 12 — US forces have carried out air strikes on Iraq's third largest city, targeting insurgents who have attacked police stations and fought fierce street battles this week, the US military said today. The air strikes were launched after dark yesterday. An American soldier was also killed in Mosul yesterday, the second of two intense days of violence in which US forces have battled militants who attacked Iraqi police and National Guards, sending gunfire and explosions echoing over the city. "We have targeted known concentrations of terrorists in specific areas of the city," said Captain Angela Bowman, a spokeswoman for US forces based in the city. "We have used all assets available to commanders to precisely and proportionately respond to the insurgent attacks, these assets do include air strikes." Mosul's governor imposed an immediate curfew on Wednesday (Nov 10) as the northern city of three million people appeared to be sliding out of control, with insurgents brazenly roaming the streets. Bowman said nine police stations had been attacked over two days and said much of the fighting was taking place in the south-west of Mosul, where insurgents appear concentrated. However, she said the city was calm overnight as authorities tried to restore order, with residents ordered to stay at home from 1600 hrs to 0600 hrs. "Iraqi National Guard and multinational forces are restoring security to those areas of the city where terrorists are attacking from, primarily in the south-western area," she said. "Mosul is not out of control nor is the city in the control of the insurgents." There has been a spike in attacks across Iraq as US forces battle to suppress insurgents in the rebel city of Falluja. Mosul, 240 miles north of the capital, has seen frequent outbreaks of

violence, but residents said the past two days were the worst since the end of the war last year. — Reuters.

Falluja, Nov 15 — U.S. warplanes, artillery and mortars struck areas across Falluja today as groups of diehard insurgents held out to the last in the week-long battle. The U.S. military says it has taken full control of Falluja, but scattered spots of resistance remain, particularly in southern parts. Large areas of the city lie in ruins, devastated by the ferocity of the U.S. military's seven-day onslaught. A Reuters correspondent who drove from north to south saw bloated and decomposing bodies in the streets, smashed homes, ruined mosques and power and telephone lines hanging uselessly. Iraq's Red Crescent group has sent seven truck-loads of food and medicine to the city, but the U.S. forces have held up the aid at Falluja's main hospital, on the western outskirts. A U.S. Marine commander said American forces were working to deliver assistance in the city themselves. Any Iraqis needing help would be told to go to the hospital, he said. Iraqi interim Prime Minister Iyad Allawi has said he doesn't believe any civilians were killed in the offensive, which has left 38 U.S. soldiers, six Iraqi troops and more than 1,200 insurgents dead. But witness accounts contradicted him. A member of an Iraqi relief committee told Al Jazeera television he saw 22 bodies buried in rubble of one street in Falluja's northern Jolan district yesterday. "Of the 22 bodies, five were found in one house as well as two children whose ages did not exceed 15 and a man with an artificial leg," Mohammed Farhan Awad said. No help has reached civilians in Falluja since the assault began last Monday (Nov 8). Aid agencies have described the situation as a humanitarian disaster, basing their view on the accounts of refugees who have fled and images broadcast on television. The Iraqi Red Crescent says it knows of at least 150 families trapped inside Falluja in desperate need of aid. One father of seven contacted by Reuters yesterday said his children were sick from diarrhea and had not eaten for days. But a U.S. Marine commander, Colonel Mike Shupp, said he had not heard of any Iraqi civilians trapped inside. In operations in Falluja today, U.S. forces said they had found a fortified bunker with reinforced tunnels leading to stores of weapons, including an anti-aircraft artillery gun. At least five artillery rounds and air strikes hit sites in the southern portion of the city, where the bunker was found, and soon afterwards exchanges of gunfire and blasts were heard. At the same time, the U.S. military said it was announcing through loudspeakers and via leaflets that Falluja residents in need of medical or other assistance should contact U.S. troops. The Falluja offensive has fuelled violence across Iraq's Sunni Muslim heartland, especially in the northern city of Mosul, where gunmen roam some districts following an uprising. Insurgents

overran a police station in Mosul today and U.S. troops, backed by Iraqi security forces, battled for two hours to retake it, the U.S. military said. The U.S. general in charge of security there, Brigadier General Carter Ham, said the situation was tense and he expected it to take some time to quell the insurgency. The Iraqi government has sent national guard reinforcements to the city. There were also heavy clashes between U.S. troops and insurgents in Baquba, about 65 km north of Baghdad today, and U.S. helicopter gunships and tanks battled militants in Baiji, 200 km north of Baghdad, yesterday. — Reuters.

Mosul, Nov 16 — U.S. and Iraqi forces launched an offensive in Mosul today to retake control of rebel-held areas after a week of anarchy with insurgents rampaging through Iraq's third largest city. "Offensive operations have begun on the western side of the river to clear out final pockets of insurgent fighting," said Captain Angela Bowman, spokeswoman for U.S. forces in the north. "It's a significant operation to secure police stations in the area and make sure they can be put to use again." Last week scores of guerrillas seized control of parts of Mosul, attacking police stations, looting them of weapons and flak jackets and setting them ablaze. Nine of Mosul's 33 police stations were overrun, and some were briefly held by insurgents. Bowman said a few hundred U.S. troops, backed by Iraqi national guards and a unit of police special commandos were involved in today's operation, which she said would continue until all police stations were secure and insurgents defeated. A U.S. brigade, around 5,000 soldiers, and a brigade of Iraqi national guards had been assigned to the operation, but only a fraction of those assets were being used, she said. Meanwhile, the U.S. military says it has taken control of Falluja, but scattered resistance remains. Iraq's government has insisted that civilian casualties in Falluja have been minimal, and says reports of a humanitarian crisis in the city have been exaggerated. But controversy over the Falluja offensive has been fueled by video footage showing a U.S. Marine shooting a wounded and unarmed Iraqi in a mosque in the city Saturday (Nov 13). The U.S. military says it is investigating the killing. Rights group Amnesty International said yesterday that both sides in the Falluja fighting had broken the rules governing the rules of war protecting civilians and wounded combatants. Iraq's government has dismissed reports that civilians in Falluja are desperately short of supplies and lacked adequate medical care. Most civilians were reported to have fled the city ahead of the start of the offensive last week. A statement from Prime Minister Iyad Allawi's office said a Health Ministry team had visited the city and Falluja hospital, seized by U.S. and Iraqi forces just before the assault began eight days ago, and found no shortages. The Falluja offensive sparked a surge in unrest in other rebel strongholds. In

Baquba, northeast of Baghdad, five policemen and 26 guerrillas were killed in fighting yesterday. U.S. troops were also fighting guerrillas today in the oil refining town of Baiji, 180 km, witnesses said. They said guerrillas had taken to the streets and were fighting gun battles with American and Iraqi forces. Insurgents also killed a Turkish truck driver in the town in a rocket attack on his truck, police said. Near Balad, between Baghdad and Baiji, guerrillas killed a U.S. soldier and wounded another in an attack on their convoy, the U.S. military said. More than 920 U.S. soldiers have been killed in action since the invasion of Iraq in March 2003. — Reuters.

London, Nov 16 — A press report, dated Nov 15, states: Saboteurs blew up an oil pipeline today, shutting down Iraqi oil exports from the north, and set fire to a storage and pumping station in northern Iraq, officials said. The pipeline, which connects the Kirkuk oil field with the Turkish port of Ceyhan, was hit this morning in the Safra area, 37 miles southwest of Kirkuk, said an official in the Northern Oil Company under condition of anonymity. Oil exports to Turkey, the outlet for Iraq's northern fields, was halted due to the blast, he said. It will take at least a week to repair the damage, he said. Later in the day, gunmen attacked a storage and pumping station in Ein al-Jahish area, about 60 miles south of Mosul. The attackers set fire to the station, where oil is stored and then pumped to Ceyhan port, according to eyewitnesses.

Baghdad, Nov 16 — British-Iraqi aid worker Margaret Hassan has probably been killed by kidnappers, her family said today after a video apparently showing her being shot in the head was sent to an Arab television station. Al Jazeera said it would not broadcast the tape which a spokesman said showed a hooded figure shooting a blindfolded woman in the head. He said he was not certain the victim was Hassan. By one calculation Hassan would be at least the 40th foreign hostage known to have been killed and the first woman. Several foreigners are believed still to be held, including at least one other woman, Polish-Iraqi Teresa Borcz Khalifa. Others include two American men and two French journalists. — Reuters.

London, Nov 17 — A press report, dated today, states: US forces in Iraq have been bombarding southern districts of Falluja with mortar fire in an attempt to flush out remaining pockets of insurgents. The US military says it has taken control of the Sunni city but scattered resistance remains. Mortar attacks by marines aim to clear out surviving rebels and their weapons. Meanwhile, US officials say troops have met little resistance in the northern city of Mosul to an operation to remove rebels and retake police stations. In Falluja, US-led forces say they have now gained overall control, trapping rebels in the south of the city. US artillery has destroyed houses which were being used as arms dumps, Agence France Presse said today. A US

soldier was killed in a car bomb at a checkpoint in the city yesterday, the military said. US officials say more than 1,000 insurgents have been killed and the same number arrested in the course of the battle to take Falluja. Troops are now fighting to regain control over Mosul, Iraq's third largest city, which descended into lawlessness last week as the major US operation in Falluja began. More than 1,000 US soldiers moved through Mosul yesterday, taking control of police stations captured and looted by insurgents. An overnight curfew was put in place and the city's five bridges closed. The city's police chief, Brig Gen Mohammed Kheiri Barhawi, was fired amid reports that some police cooperated with insurgents. All the police stations in west Mosul have been retaken, a US officer said late yesterday, and the same process would start on the east side of the city. A journalist in Mosul, Rouaa Zarari, said that the situation is now largely calm, although there is a heavy troop presence on the streets. Elsewhere, US soldiers and rebels exchange mortar and light weapons fire early today in the centre of Ramadi, 100km west of Baghdad.

London, Nov 17 — A press report, dated today, states: Saboteurs have attacked a domestic oil pipeline west of Samarra, in the latest in a barrage of attacks against Iraq's crucial industry, police said. "At 0800 hrs (0500, UTC), four kilometres west of Samarra, insurgents detonated explosives on a pipeline that links the Baiji refinery with the refinery in Dora (south of Baghdad)", said police officer Mohammad Mahmud. This is the sixth such attack in as many months, he added.

Falluja, Nov 18 — US artillery pummelled Falluja and troops were hunting guerrillas still fighting days after Washington said its offensive had destroyed rebel control of the Sunni Muslim city west of Baghdad. Further north, where violence has surged since the US assault on Falluja began last Monday (Nov 8), 15 Iraqis were killed and 22 wounded in the oil refining town of Baiji. A suicide car bomber rammed a US convoy, prompting troops to open fire. US officers in Falluja said Marines were "cleaning up" Iraqi and foreign Islamists and Saddam Hussein loyalists, and Iraq's interim government said some 1,600 rebels had been killed. Mortar fire and heavy explosive rounds crashed on areas where insurgents were believed still to be holding out. There was trouble in the heartlands of the formerly dominant Sunni Muslim minority, where some fear an election due in January will hand national power to the Shi'ite majority. After the bombing in Baiji, US troops fought insurgents and sealed off the oil refinery to protect it. Witnesses said the bomb, which blew up in a market area near the city centre, damaged a US armoured vehicle and wounded some soldiers, prompting them to open fire. A US military spokesman confirmed that a suicide bomber drove into a US convoy

but had no information on casualties. In Ramadi, just west of Falluja, nine Iraqis were killed and 15 wounded when US forces confronted large groups of rocket- and mortar-firing gunmen who fanned out through the streets, hospital officials and witnesses said. Iraq's third city Mosul, another Sunni stronghold in the north, was quiet after days of clashes, but the road north from Baghdad remained dangerous and three Turkish truck drivers were killed in two ambushes, police said. Iraq's fledgling security forces, set up under US control to replace Saddam's discredited authorities, were targeted again. But for once, a group of unarmed police recruits was able to outwit guerrillas who have killed dozens of their comrades. Held up by gunmen at a hotel in Rutba on their way home from training in Jordan, 35 recruits from the southern, Shi'ite city of Kerbala hid their police papers pretending to be businessmen, Kerbala's police chief said. After three hours, the gunmen left. A NATO official said yesterday that the organisation approved a detailed plan under which it will train some 1,000 Iraqi army officers a year at a proposed military academy outside Baghdad. Washington has said senior militants, including Jordanian al Qaeda ally Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, probably escaped Falluja before it was attacked. It is not clear how widely co-ordinated insurgent activity is, so it is hard to assess whether violence in other Sunni towns has been led by figures formerly based in Falluja or is simply a reaction to events there. More widely, the bloodshed in Falluja, including the alleged shooting dead of an unarmed, wounded guerrilla in a mosque by a US Marine has provoked dismay among many in Iraq and the Arab world, where US President George W. Bush hoped Saddam's overthrow would foster stability. Britain yesterday rejected an estimate by US researchers that some 100,000 Iraqi civilians may have died as a result of the war, agreeing with an Iraqi government figure of a much smaller body count. Foreign Secretary Jack Straw said the estimate, in a report published late last month by medical journal *The Lancet*, was based on imprecise data. London supports an estimate from Iraq's Ministry of Health that 3,853 civilians were killed and 15,517 injured between April and October this year, Straw said in a statement. Those figures may include insurgents. The family of a kidnapped British aid worker, who said on Tuesday she was probably dead, were seeking the return of her body after a video seemed to show her being shot in the head. It has never been clear who seized Margaret Hassan in Baghdad a month ago nor where she was being held. — Reuters.

London, Nov 18 — A press report, dated today, states: A car bomb has exploded outside an Iraqi police station in western Baghdad today, killing two Iraqis and wounding four others, the US military says. An Iraqi woman was among the dead, according to US army specialist Stephen Rivera, who said no

US soldiers or Iraqi security personnel were hurt. The attack occurred shortly before 10:00am local time at the Yarmuk police station.

IVORY COAST

London, Nov 12 — A press report, dated today, states: The African Union chairman, President Olusegun Obasanjo of Nigeria, has invited six African leaders to a summit on the crisis in Ivory Coast. Leaders from Ghana, Burkina Faso, Mali, Senegal, Libya and Ivory Coast are expected to attend the talks on Sunday (Nov 14). War resumed and riots erupted after France destroyed the Ivorian air force, in retaliation for peacekeeper deaths. The exodus of foreigners has been continuing, after huge anti-French protests prompted Europeans to flee. Citizens of nine more countries - Belgium, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Germany, the Netherlands, Britain, the US and Canada - left on yesterday. France had already begun to airlift its citizens. UK troops have deployed to neighbouring Ghana to help with the evacuation of some 400 British civilians. Ivory Coast's main city of Abidjan has been returning to normal after a government call for people to go back to work. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) estimates that during five days of anti-French demonstrations at least 1,000 people have been injured in Abidjan. Ivorian television said 64 had died. International agencies have issued humanitarian warnings about the consequences of the conflict on the rest of the country - especially in the rebel-controlled north. The disruption of water supplies meant an increased risk of disease, the Red Cross said. "If this insecurity continues, we risk losing two years of steady progress made by the national reconciliation government, most importantly in terms of getting schools and health care services open again in the north," Unicef's Rima Salah said. The UN refugee agency (UNHCR) says 5,000 Ivoirians have fled to Liberia. It says it is concerned that more will follow, which could possibly destabilise Liberia's fragile peace.

London, Nov 15 — A press report, Nov 14, states: African leaders have backed proposed UN sanctions against both the Ivory Coast government and rebels. The main planned sanction is an arms embargo aimed at halting the recent renewed violence between the two sides, in which many have died. The leaders also expressed concern that electricity to the rebel-held north of Ivory Coast has been cut off. The Ivorian President Laurent Gbagbo did not attend. He earlier accused France of favouring the rebels. Civil war was reignited 10 days ago, when the Ivorian armed forces broke a ceasefire by launching air attacks on the north. African Union leaders from Nigeria, Senegal, Ghana, Burkina Faso, Togo and Gabon met in the Nigerian capital Abuja. They agreed to back sanctions also including a travel ban and an assets freeze against anyone blocking peace in the country. The sanctions are expected to be voted on at the UN

Security Council tomorrow. "This should be immediate," Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo told reporters. The leaders also sounded a warning over reports that power to the rebel-held north of the country has been shut off. "We are alarmed because this has been used in the past as a prelude to an armed attack and we call on everybody to observe a ceasefire and not to start anything that could amount to mounting a further attack," AFP quoted Mr Obasanjo as saying. Rebels have also said they believe an attack is imminent. Yesterday the Ivorian president sacked the head of the armed forces and replaced him with Colonel Philippe Mangou - who led the latest offensive in the north.

London, Nov 16 — A press report, dated today, states: The UN Security Council has voted unanimously to impose an immediate arms embargo on Ivory Coast, following the recent outbreak of violence there. Under the resolution, drafted by France, the ban will last 13 months. The country's warring sides now have a month to revive a shaky peace process or face more sanctions. Meanwhile, the last emergency flight carrying foreign nationals from Ivory Coast has arrived in Paris, bringing to an end six days of evacuations overseen by the French military. More than 4,500 foreigners have been evacuated during the past week. One of the leaders of the former rebels - now known as the New Forces - who control the north of the country has welcomed the sanctions. The leader said an arms embargo should have been imposed after the peace accord was signed in January 2003. Ivory Coast's ambassador to the UN said his country had not had the chance to defend itself in front of the UN Security Council. The ambassador said the embargo would favour the New Forces, arguing that they have always been able to obtain arms by illegal means. Yesterday's vote at the 15-nation Security Council came after African leaders urged it to put the embargo in place without delay in a bid to try to defuse growing tensions in Ivory Coast. The resolution condemns the Ivorian air strikes and reiterates its full support for action carried out by the United Nations and French peacekeepers. In a month's time, further sanctions will be considered, including travel restrictions or financial sanctions against individuals guilty of human rights abuses. The resolution also expresses deep concern about the humanitarian situation in Ivory Coast and the use of the media to broadcast hate messages against foreigners. Juan Mendez, who is a special adviser to Secretary General Kofi Annan, said he was "particularly distressed by reports of hate speech and the ensuing actions of armed militant groups". Relations between Ivory Coast and France plummeted after nine French peacekeepers died in a government bombing raid, and France retaliated by destroying the small Ivorian air force. The two nations have continued to exchange angry words.

Paris, Nov 18 — Ivory Coast President Laurent Gbagbo said in comments broadcast today that a U.N. arms embargo could help contain rebels fighting the government, but vowed to create a "real army" and rebuild his air force. Gbagbo also urged foreign businessmen who have fled violence in the country to return. In his first direct comments on the U.N. Security Council vote on Monday (Nov 15), Gbagbo said the embargo must apply equally to rebels holding the north of Ivory Coast. "The embargo suits us if the embargo means that neither side must possess weapons," Gbagbo told France Info radio in an interview conducted yesterday. "If the embargo means that our opponents will no longer have weapons, then we don't need new weapons, but in the medium-term, after all this, Ivory Coast must reconstitute all of its forces, create a real army and therefore restore an air force," he said. — Reuters.

NEPAL

London, Nov 16 — A press report, dated today, states: Nepalese security forces and Maoist rebels have clashed in two districts west of the capital, authorities say. Casualty figures are unclear, but some reports say at least 10 people died in the fighting. Violence has escalated in Nepal after a temporary truce between the government and the rebels ended last month. Meanwhile, rebel leader Prachanda has renewed calls for international mediation and urged foreign donors to stop supporting the Himalayan kingdom. A senior official from the Asian Development Bank (ADB), Nepal's biggest donor, voiced concern about the escalating violence and said peace was vital for economic progress in the impoverished nation. The authorities said security forces clashed with the rebels in Dhading, 90km west of the capital, Kathmandu, as well as in the far western district of Kailali. One report on Reuters news agency said six policemen and a soldier had died when the rebels fired on them from heavily-forested hills in their stronghold of Kailali. This has not been confirmed. The authorities said the clash in Dhading occurred when security forces were trying to force open a highway linking the capital with the rest of the country. They rejected reports that a number of soldiers had died in an ambush in the area, but said the rebels had suffered significant casualties. There has been no word from the rebels on the latest violence. (See issue of Nov 10.)

London, Nov 18 — A press report, dated Nov 17, states: Eight policemen were killed when their vehicle hit a landmine laid by Maoist rebels in the west of Nepal, authorities said. Several rebels died in subsequent fighting about 45km from Nepalganj, a military spokesman said. The clashes occurred when the security forces tried to force open a highway that rebels were blocking between the districts of Banke and Dang. Meanwhile, the Prithvi highway linking the capital, Kathmandu, to the rest of the country

was largely deserted for a second day today. Maoists called a two-day boycott of the road in protest at alleged killings and disappearances of colleagues. Drivers largely obeyed the call for fear of Maoist retaliation.

NIGERIA

London, Nov 18 — A press report, dated today, states: Nigeria has formally lifted the six-month state of emergency in the central highland state of Plateau. In May, hundreds of Muslims were killed by Christians in an attack on Yelwa in the south of the state, prompting revenge riots in northern Nigeria. President Olusegun Obasanjo responded by removing the elected state governor and his assembly from office. The former governor, Joshua Dariye, is expected to be reinstated today. Over the last three years, the conflict in Plateau has left several thousand people dead. The conflict is sometimes described as religious, but at its heart is a dispute over access to land and political office. At the time of his suspension, President Obasanjo accused Mr Dariye of failing to pay sufficient attention to the deteriorating security situation. The decision to lift the state of emergency is largely because of improved security.

PAKISTAN

London, Nov 17 — A press report, dated today, states: Two people were killed and 29 others injured early today in a bomb explosion in a cinema in Mangora, northern Pakistan, a senior police official said. The explosion occurred shortly after midnight during the last screening, the official said. The blast was caused by a bomb attached to a seat with a wire, he said.

SPAIN

London, Nov 16 — A press report, dated today, states: The Spanish interior ministry says at least 15 suspected members of the armed Basque separatist group Eta have been arrested in north-eastern Spain. More than 150 Spanish police conducted pre-dawn raids in the three Basque provinces and neighbouring Navarra. Eta has suffered serious setbacks in recent months, since French and Spanish police stepped up joint operations. On Sunday (Nov 14) the banned Basque political party Batasuna called for a peaceful dialogue with the Spanish government. But Batasuna leader Arnaldo Otegi stopped short of launching an anticipated appeal for Eta to end its terror campaign. French and Spanish police have arrested more than 100 Eta suspects on both sides of the border so far this year. Most of the group's leaders have been detained and its caches of weapons and explosives seized. Commenting on the latest arrests, Spain's Deputy Prime Minister, Maria Teresa Fernandez de la Vega, said Spaniards could see that "the action against the men of violence is effective". Eta has in the past announced a dozen ceasefires, all of which it has broken. The longest

ceasefire held for 15 months between 1998 and 1999. Eta carried out its last attack on Saturday (Nov 13), but no-one has been killed in an Eta attack in more than 17 months.

SUDAN

Nairobi, Nov 15 — The Sudanese government is still attacking villagers in Darfur and rebel groups there are looting and abducting civilians despite an April cease-fire, a rights group said today. The New York-based Human Rights Watch also urged the U.N. Security Council to press Khartoum to take immediate action to reverse "ethnic cleansing" in the western Darfur region. The Security Council meets at a special session on Sudan in Nairobi on Thursday (Nov 18) and Friday (Nov 19). The report charged government action has already resulted in ethnic cleansing in Darfur and accused the two main rebel groups fighting in the western region of regularly violating the pact. "The government in particular has continued to use helicopter gunships in bombing attacks on civilian objects. Fighting and displacement continue, particularly in South Darfur," the report says of attacks as recent as October. "Unless the Security Council backs up its earlier ultimatums with strong action, ethnic cleansing in Darfur will be consolidated," said Peter Takirambudde, executive director of Human Rights Watch for Africa. The report said ethnic cleansing in Darfur consists of "forcibly displacing people, then preventing them from returning home safely" and said government forces were raiding camps using tear gas to force some 1.5 million displaced people to relocate to areas other than their homes. The report also slammed the rebel Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) and the Sudan Liberation Army (SLA) saying they "have abducted civilians, attacked police stations and other government institutions and raided and looted substantial numbers of livestock and commercial goods." The SLA is also using male soldiers under the age of 18, but the group told rights investigators they are only used for sentry duty. Peace talks to end the humanitarian crisis broke off last week in Nigeria after Sudan and the rebels signed protocols on disarming the pro-government "Janjaweed" militias and providing aid workers access to refugees. The government also agreed to establish a no-fly zone over Darfur. — Reuters.

London, Nov 17 — A press report, dated today, states: A mine explosion blew a three-metre hole in an oil pipeline in northern Sudan but officials said that the line would soon resume pumping. Energy and Mining Minister Awad Ahmed Al Jaz blamed the explosion on "a group of cowards," while other officials said the saboteurs apparently entered the country from the east. "Immediately the pumping operations were halted altogether and now work is underway to restore the pipeline to normalcy," Al Jaz told state-run television. The official Sudan

Media Centre (SMC) said one security officer was seriously injured by another land mine blast in the same area, about 20km north-east of Shendi, in northern Nahr El Nile state. The television broadcast footage of soaring towers of smoke rising into the sky above the pipeline. The fire could not be put out immediately because "those who were behind the blast have planted land mines around the area," Al Jaz said. The SMC said the government has begun investigating the incident. General El Fatih Abdul Mutalib, the commissioner of Shendi locality, told the SMC that it appeared the attackers sneaked into the country through eastern Sudan. He did not elaborate.

THAILAND

London, Nov 14 — A press report, dated today, states: Five blasts have struck Thailand's Muslim-majority south within 24 hours, killing a Buddhist man and wounding 29 people, according to police. Police say three of the injured were in a critical condition after a blast in the Than To district of Yala province. "A remote control bomb was placed on the ground at a food stall inside the market," said Lieutenant Colonel Jarin Charowan, deputy superintendent of Than To police. At least six people were injured in a later bombing at a resting spot for taxi drivers at Bukita village in the neighbouring province of Narathiwat. It was the fifth bombing within 24 hours in the region after three apparently coordinated bomb attacks hit Narathiwat on Friday evening (Nov 12). At least 16 people were injured, four seriously, in the first blast in a crowded restaurant in the provincial capital of Narathiwat. The device was allegedly planted by two men posing as customers who rode off on a motorcycle. Two other bombs went off within two hours of the first on Friday but nobody was injured, according to officials. Tensions have increased in the region since 87 Muslim protesters died on Oct 25 after security forces broke up a riot at Tak Bai in Narathiwat. Most of the victims died of suffocation after hundreds of men were arrested, tied up and piled into the backs of trucks.

UGANDA

London, Nov 15 — A press report, dated Nov 14, states: Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni has declared a week-long truce with the rebels of the Lord's Resistance Army. The move is designed to allow the insurgents to confirm that they are ready for peace talks, a presidential spokesman said today. Earlier this month a rebel commander called for negotiations aimed at ending the country's 18-year civil war. The seven-day unilateral truce will begin tomorrow, and cover a limited area in the north of the country. Mr Museveni's response to the rebels' overture gives the peace process a chance. The Lord's Resistance Army has been severely weakened in recent months. The army says only 200 rebel fighters remain,

down from an estimated 2,000 to 3,000 in 2002 - though this claim is impossible to verify.

ZIMBABWE

London, Nov 12 — A press report, dated today, states: Zimbabwe's supreme court has upheld the law used by the government to seize farms owned by white farmers under the land reform programme. The court rejected a challenge brought by a farmer, George Quinnell, who lost his farm two years ago. Mr Quinnell said there had been a procedural violation of the Land Acquisition Amendment Act when it was passed and it should be overturned. Four out of the five judges said technical issues did not affect the validity of the law. Mr Quinnell's lawyers had argued that the law was unconstitutional as parliamentary procedures had not been followed when it was introduced. They had also criticised giving farmers 45 days to leave their land, instead of the 90 days stated in the original law. The judges said on the 45-day notice that "public interest" had overridden the "private interests of individual landowners". The land reform programme has been criticised for disrupting the country's food supplies. This week MPs warned Zimbabwe is set to run out of food before next year's harvest.

Labour Disputes



CHILE

London, Nov 15 — A press report, dated today, states: Copper futures in New York traded at a one-month high as a strike at Phelps Dodge Corp.'s El Abra mine in Chile enters an 11th day. Labour unions expect a response from management later today after the two groups met on Nov 13 for the first time since the strike began, said Miguel Barraza, a vice president at one of two striking unions at El Abra.

DENMARK

London, Nov 16 — A press report, dated Nov 15, states: Scandinavian Airlines' (SAS AB) management said it had reached an agreement with Danish cabin crew following a strike last week at Copenhagen airport that led to the cancellation of 151 flights and stranded 5,000 passengers. Cabin crew went on strike for almost eight hours Friday (Nov 12) after a dispute between cabin crew unions and management about the transfer of SAS staff from Malmoe in Sweden to Copenhagen. In connection with the transfer, management had repealed a 50-year-old agreement that regulates salary scales, pensions, seniority and other conditions. The transfer conditions of Swedish staff had angered many of their Danish colleagues. The dispute ended when management today reinstated the agreement.

FINLAND

Helsinki, Nov 16 — The bus strike of AKT, the Finnish Labour Organisation of Trucking and Transportation branch is announced to be extended at 0600 tomorrow. AKT has announced that the bus strike will be extended to concern its stevedores and clerical employees. This extension will affect the port operations so that all operations will stop in Helsinki Sompasaari, West and South Harbours as well as in Kantvik Harbour in Kirkkonummi. AKT has given no information upon the duration of this strike. — Lloyd's Agents.

NIGERIA

London, Nov 15 — A press report, dated Nov 14, states: Unions in Nigeria have vowed to carry out their threat of a general strike despite the government agreeing to reduce the price of cooking fuel. The strike, set to take place on Nov 16, is likely to disrupt the country's oil industry which exports more than two million barrels a day. Workers are protesting at a 23% rise in petrol, diesel and kerosene prices in September. Unions said a government concession to cut kerosene prices was insufficient. President Olusegun Obasanjo has personally intervened to try to avert strike action by ordering the state oil firm to cut the price of kerosene. Unions have vowed to plough ahead with a nationwide strike, warning that the disruption will continue until the government reverses the earlier price rises. "The general strike scheduled to commence on Tuesday proceeds as planned nationwide by various organisations of Nigerian people," said Adams Oshiomhole, president of the Nigerian Labour Congress. "This action is necessary to enable the government to appreciate that the Nigerian people remain bitter and angry over these harsh prices and the failure of government to respect our wishes for immediate price reversals," he added. Unions have specifically threatened to target crude oil production and exports as part of the latest stoppage. A Nigerian court has ruled against the strike but unions have said they will not respect the ruling.

London, Nov 15 — A report from the BBC, dated today, states: Nigeria's main labour union has called off a nationwide strike over fuel price rises, after the government cut energy costs by 10%. "In light of the fuel reduction we decided to suspend the strike," John Odah of the Nigeria Labour Congress said. He said more negotiations were needed as "incessant increases in fuel prices are a recurring problem." Deputy Senate president Ibrahim Mantu said the strike has been averted.

SOUTH KOREA

Seoul, Nov 15 — South Korean public sector workers launched an unprecedented strike today, setting them on a collision course with the government of President Roh Moo-hyun, which has vowed a tough line on what it labels an illegal action. The workers are protesting over a government bill pending in parliament

that will allow formation of a public sector union but ban public employees from striking or taking part in political activities. "We will continue to fight until our demands are met," an official of the as yet unrecognized Korean Government Employees' Union (KGEU) said. The official said 45,000 of its members from various local government offices went on strike today, although the government said the number was exaggerated. "The people who joined the strike will be facing dismissal. A verbal warning is not an option," an official at the Ministry of Government Administration and Home Affairs said. The government only recently heeded calls to allow civil servants to form a union, something the International Labour Organisation had criticised Seoul over in the past. Around 280,000 workers are eligible to join the union, excluding firemen, police and the armed forces. Labor Minister Kim Dae-hwan told KBS radio today that it would be a "very worrisome situation" if public workers were given the right to strike. "Our labour relations still have an aspect of confrontation and conflict rather than one of understanding and the spirit of cooperation," he added. The Korean Confederation of Trade Unions (KCTU), the country's most militant labour umbrella group, said yesterday that hundreds of thousands of its members would strike next week in solidarity with the public workers. — Reuters.

London, Nov 17 — A press report, dated today, states: South Korea's unionised civil servants ended their outlawed three-day strike today after the government took steps to punish them. Members of the Korean Government Employees' Union, however, said they would walk off their jobs again next Friday if the government refused to come to the negotiating table. "We will return to work on Thursday morning, ending a three-day strike," Kim Young-gil, head of the union, said in a statement. The union's decision came after the government began to take steps to punish union leaders and other members who joined the strike. "Regardless of their decision to stop the strike, the government will punish every worker who joined the illegal walkout," Labor Minister Kim Dae-hwan said. The unprecedented strike by civil servants also failed to win public support. The strikers had demanded that the government withdraw a bill that would restrict their right to collective action.

**DEATH DUE NEGLIGENCE, UNITED STATES**

London, Nov 16 — A press report, dated Nov 15, states: Ginger Evans says she hopes a multi-million-dollar

verdict in the case of a propane gas explosion that killed her three children will be used to benefit other children and bring awareness to a little-known household danger. Evans, who won the \$5.25 million judgement last month, said she plans to use her share of the money to establish an orphanage in honour of her children — 14-year-old Casey Simmons and 11-year-old twins Kayla and Kevin Simmons — who died in the February 2002 blast. A Fulton County State Court jury awarded Evans the amount on Oct 25 after finding manufacturer Blossman Gas and distributor H&H Shoppette negligent in the children's deaths. Evans' lawyers argued that the 55-year-old tank was not properly certified or checked for leaks, and that a faulty valve caused the explosion at her northwestern Hall County home. Attorneys for H&H Shoppette and Ocean Springs, Miss.-based Blossman, however, argued that Evans' husband, Eddie Evans, never should have installed the faulty tank. Jurors sided with Evans, awarding her \$1.75 million per child. A second suit against Blossman, seeking \$65 million in punitive damages and for the children's pain and suffering, is pending. Blossman attorney John McCoy said the company is considering an appeal. He declined to comment on either lawsuit. H&H, which was found responsible for \$1 million of the total verdict, also may appeal, said its attorney Jason Willcox. The convenience store was not named in the second suit.

FALSE REPORTING, UNITED STATES

London, Nov 17 — A press report, dated today, states: Cinergy Corp. has agreed to pay \$3 million to settle U.S. allegations that two natural-gas traders made false reports to industry publications from at least August 2000 through to July 2002. The unidentified traders lied about prices and the amount of fuel that changed hands in reports to Gas Daily and Inside FERC's Gas Market Report, the U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission said in a statement. The publications, owned by McGraw-Hill Cos., compile indexes used in some contracts to set gas prices, the commission said. Cinergy didn't admit wrongdoing and will co-operate with a broader probe of gas markets, the commission said.

LAND DISPUTE, CANADA

London, Nov 12 — A press report, dated Nov 11, states: An Indian band has settled a decades-old land dispute for \$39.5 million, eliminating a major obstacle to a huge Vancouver Port Authority expansion project. Under the deal announced yesterday, the Tsawwassen First Nation band is to receive \$6.5 million up front and the rest over the 25-year term of the contract. In return, the 328-member band is dropping a lawsuit against the port authority over about five square miles of submerged land. "It means justice to our community for resolving

outstanding issues we have raised since the original superport was constructed in the 1970s," band chief Kim Baird said. "It also means our community will have an opportunity to benefit from that facility economically." The agreement also includes a cash settlement for past and future infringements on the band's reserve near the Tsawwassen ferry terminal and \$2.1 million in compensation for accepting the resolution. The port authority agreed to support band members' education, training and small business ventures and to provide Tsawwassen members with 35 person-years of employment. Jim Cox, the port's vice president of infrastructure development, said the deal would enable work to proceed on the addition of a three-berth container terminal to the Deltaport terminal at Roberts Bank, subject to government approval. The project would allow more than three times as many containers, about three million units, to be handled at the site, a prospect that concerns environmentalists. The agreement is subject to ratification by band members, and Baird said most of the comments she has heard have been positive.

MEDICAL MALPRACTICE, UNITED STATES

London, Nov 18 — A press report, dated Nov 17, states: In what may be New Jersey's largest medical malpractice verdict, an Essex County jury has awarded \$75 million to the parents of a six-year-old boy who suffered brain damage as an infant when he was deprived of oxygen following surgery at St. Barnabas Medical Centre in Livingston. The jury in Superior Court in Newark awarded the money to Casey Pellicer, a former Elizabeth resident who is severely mentally handicapped, confined to a wheelchair, virtually blind and unable to speak, according to his lawyer. Casey's brain damage occurred because he was without sufficient oxygen for five to 20 minutes while recuperating from surgery to remove a cyst near his spine in 1998, said the lawyer, Craig Rothenberg. Jurors found that a nurse, Delphine Anderson, and a physician, Anne Olesnicky, failed to take appropriate action when an endotracheal tube giving the infant oxygen dislodged, Rothenberg said. Besides finding against Anderson and Olesnicky, the jury assigned culpability to two other physicians, Michael Vallee and Norman Zeig, who were not in the room when Casey was deprived of sufficient oxygen, but were accused of poorly training Olesnicky. Another nurse who was in the room and named in the lawsuit, Jean Rue, was found not responsible. The jury reached its verdict on Monday (Nov 15) after a four-week trial. Robert Conroy, attorney for the Medical Society of New Jersey said the verdict is likely to be reduced — if not overturned — by an appellate court, but will nonetheless have an impact on malpractice litigation in the state. He said the case will probably bring about an increase

in malpractice insurance premiums and could influence other juries to reach for larger amounts.

PHYSICAL AND SEXUAL ABUSE, IRELAND

London, Nov 16 — A press report, dated today, states: Ireland has so far paid around £100m in compensation to victims of abuse within Roman Catholic-run institutions. A high-level probe into claims of physical and sexual abuse within orphanages, workhouses and schools from the 1940s to the 1980s, expects to pay out much more. The Residential Institutions Redress Board has issued judgements on 1,939 cases so far, with payments averaging £53,000. It said that claims from more than 2,000 people were still pending, while claims from 71 people had been rejected and two people who had made successful claims had refused to accept their payments. The Board said that any abuse victims who accept payments are not allowed to publicise their cases and must not pursue lawsuits against their alleged abusers. A range of religious orders ran the institutions, which had virtually all closed by the 1980s. In early 2002, the Catholic Church struck an agreement with the Government to pay £88m, mostly in donated property, to help cover the compensation costs in exchange for legal immunity. Victims and opposition politicians criticised the deal as too lenient on church authorities. In so-called industrial schools, children and teenagers worked unpaid on tasks such as clearing hospital bed sheets, making clothes or stringing rosary beads. Former residents can seek cash payments if they suffered physical, psychological or sexual abuse, and claims are still coming in from across the globe.

ROAD ACCIDENT, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Nov 17 — A press report, dated Nov 16, states: A Kent man who lost a leg and was left brain-damaged following a road accident nearly 15 years ago has been awarded £3m in compensation by the High Court. Douglas Taylor, 34, from the Isle of Sheppey, was left in need of 24-hour care after a lorry and his car collided head-on in January 1990.

WRONGFUL IMPRISONMENT, UNITED STATES

London, Nov 18 — A press report, dated Nov 17, states: A man who served 27 years in prison before his murder conviction was overturned was awarded \$1.4 million today, Maryland's largest award for a wrongful conviction. Michael Austin, 56, was convicted in 1974 of killing a man at a market, but his conviction was overturned and he was freed in 2001. "Today is a day of reckoning for me," said Austin, who compared his time in prison to spending 27 years in a coma. The judge who overturned the conviction said Austin's trial lawyer, who is now dead, was incompetent and the prosecution committed errors at trial. A witness also told police the

shooter was a light-skinned black man, about five feet-eight inches tall. Austin is six feet-five and dark-skinned. The award, to be paid over 10 years, was approved by the state Board of Public Works, made up of the governor, the state treasurer and the state comptroller.

WRONGFUL-DEATH, UNITED STATES

London, Nov 17 — A press report, dated Nov 16, states: A former lawyer in prison for life for murdering his ex-wife has been ordered to pay her estate nearly \$4.4 million. Following a bitter custody battle over their children, Seth Bader of Stratham was convicted in 1998 of shooting his 35-year-old ex-wife, Vicki, in the head two years earlier, then burying her near a hiking trail in Waterboro, Maine. The couple had divorced in 1994. The body wasn't found until the following April after the oldest of the couple's three sons, Joseph, then 15, led police to her grave. He told police he lured his mother into their house, where Bader was waiting to shoot her, then helped bury her. Police had charged Bader with first-degree murder and conspiracy to commit murder. His son was not charged. Another man who admitted being an accomplice reached a plea bargain that required him to testify against Bader. Bader, a former defense lawyer, has insisted that his former fiancée and Joseph were the killers. Two days after Vicki Bader was found, her brother, John Buzby, filed a wrongful-death lawsuit against Bader, claiming he intentionally caused his ex-wife pain by vandalizing her car; breaking into her home and "roasting alive" her pet birds in her oven; and manipulating the children against her. The lawsuit asked for \$15 million. Buzby died of a heart attack in April. After a three-day bench trial last month, in which Bader declined to participate, Rockingham County Superior Court Judge Kenneth McHugh ruled Bader should pay for the murder. The judge said Bader also should pay for the "campaign of terror" Mrs. Bader suffered at Bader's hands during a custody battle in the two years before her death. The ruling was last week. Lawyers for Mrs. Bader's estate released it yesterday. Stephen Borofsky, an attorney for the family, said they anticipated an appeal from Bader's lawyer, Michael Cormier, of Haverhill, Mass.



BUNDABERG AREA, QUEENSLAND, AUSTRALIA

London, Nov 16 — A press report, dated today, states: Queensland Transport Minister Paul Lucas says the black box recorder from the Tilt Train that crashed north of Bundaberg

overnight will be recovered and sent to Brisbane. More than 100 people were injured, two seriously, in the accident and it is now the subject of an Australian Transport Safety Bureau (ATSB) investigation. The crash happened just before midnight about 70 kilometres north of Bundaberg. Mr Lucas says a crucial question the black box can answer is how fast the train was travelling before it derailed. "That's something that has to be determined by the investigation," he said. "It does have a black box recorder on it which will be taken to Brisbane and downloaded. "The Tilt Train can cruise at speeds of up to 150 kilometres-an-hour, it depends on the nature of where it is, of course, as to what speed is indicated for the particular area." Two dozen people are still being treated for injuries. The north-bound Tilt Train travelling between Brisbane and Cairns was carrying more than 160 passengers and rail staff. Queensland Premier Peter Beattie says he is surprised no one was killed. "I think a lot of that is due to the sound structure of the train, Paul and I first flew over it and we were horrified to see what had happened to the train," he said. "There are two reasons why that hasn't happened, one is obviously the structure of the train and secondly the quick response from all the doctors, nurses and the emergency services staff." Up to 24 of the most seriously hurt have been evacuated by helicopter to regional hospitals. Queensland Health says two people are in the most serious category. The bulk of injuries were fractures, burns, cuts and head and chest injuries. All other passengers have been taken away for medical check-ups and counselling. Queensland Rail is not speculating on what caused the accident. The Australian Transport Safety Bureau (ATSB) has begun investigating the cause of the derailment. Queensland Rail chief executive Bob Schueber says it is the first major incident involving a Queensland tilt train.

London, Nov 17 — A press report, dated today, states: Police and Queensland Rail (QR) have confirmed that the Tilt Train involved in a derailment in central Queensland this week was travelling more than 50 kilometres-per-hour above the speed limit when the accident happened. The Tilt Train came off the tracks north of Bundaberg two nights ago, injuring 120 people on board. In a joint statement, police and Queensland Rail say the train was travelling at 112 kilometres-per-hour along a section of track where the limit is 60kph. Queensland Rail chief executive Bob Scheuber says preliminary investigations show the train was going too fast. "I believe that the train was travelling in excess of the speed for the 60 kilometre-per-hour curve," he said. "That's a view that we've ascertained from looking at some of the information that has come through. Clearly the event recorders are absolutely crucial in determining that speed. "Just from the observations when you look at where the train is and

that sort of thing, you sort of form a view that speed was a contributory factor. "I don't know to what extent. I'm not going to speculate. Mr Scheuber says it is not known for certain if speed was the only cause of the crash. "At this stage we can't be absolutely sure of that," he said. "It would be one of the contributing factors. I can't be absolutely sure as to whether speed alone has caused that. I'm not discounting that it could be speed alone, I just don't at this stage know." The speed limit on the curved section of track where the crash occurred is 60 kilometres-per-hour, although on the straight section of track before the crash site the speed limit is 150 kph. Mr Scheuber says Queensland Rail has not yet taken any statements from the two drivers, one of whom is still in hospital. He says there are a lot of factors for investigators still to consider. Queensland Transport Minister Paul Lucas is disturbed by the news that speed was a factor. "I'm concerned to hear about that but of course we have independent investigators and we want to let them do their job," he said. "That's why the Queensland regulator invited a Commonwealth-state investigation and I'm concerned with the accident full stop. "I want to see what the answer is and have a look at some solutions when the report comes out."

London, Nov 18 — A press report, dated today, states: The Federated Union of Locomotive Employees is expected to decide tonight whether to proceed with industrial action in Queensland. The union is concerned a joint statement by Police Commissioner Bob Atkinson and Queensland Rail chief executive Bob Scheuber could jeopardise the impartiality of investigations into this week's Tilt Train derailment north of Bundaberg. The pair revealed the train was travelling at almost twice the speed limit when it crashed. The union's industrial officer, Siobhan Keating, says the two drivers involved in the accident have not been given a fair go. "We are very keen to be able to cooperate with the investigators and get to the bottom of what caused this terrible accident," she said. "But to do that, we really need to know that our drivers are going to be given a full, free and fair hearing and that the ATSB investigation will be an independent investigation. "The comments by QR's CEO yesterday have left us with a feeling that that's not going to be the case." Ms Keating says a decision will be made tonight on whether to go ahead with statewide strike action in support of the drivers. "If it does go ahead, we're conscious that we need to let people know that and make some arrangements, so it will probably be tomorrow if it goes ahead," she said. "We'd be letting people know in advance to cause the minimum amount of inconvenience to the public."

CHILHOWIE, VIRGINIA, UNITED STATES

London, Nov 12 — A press report, dated Nov 11, states: Fourteen cars of

an 83-car Norfolk Southern train derailed near an industrial park in Chilhowie, Virginia, last night. About 20,000 gallons of beer leaked from three cars of the Roanoke-bound train, said railway spokesman Robin Chapman. No one was injured when the cars skipped the tracks at about 2230 yesterday, Chapman said. Investigating officers said the leak did not contaminate any nearby water sources nor affect any highways. "Everything was contained away from the creek," said Jack Tolbert Jr of the Virginia Department of Emergency Management. Authorities were investigating the cause of the derailment. All trains scheduled to use the tracks through Chilhowie were held until they were cleared this evening.

ISTANBUL, TURKEY

London, Nov 12 — A press report, dated today, states: A passenger train smashed into a water tanker at a level crossing in an Istanbul suburb today, killing the truck driver. Two of the train's carriages were derailed and toppled over in the accident in the district of Bahcesehir, a suburb on the European side of Turkey's largest city, a spokesman for the state railways said. "None of our passengers were injured in the accident," he said. "Some of the crew suffered bruises. The driver of the tanker was hospitalised with serious injuries." News agency Anatolia said the 40-year-old driver later died in hospital.

PADRE BURGOS AREA, PHILIPPINES

Manila, Nov 12 — Rescuers in the Philippines smashed train windows with axes and hammers today to reach 100 passengers trapped when a carriage derailed and dragged other cars into a ravine, killing at least four people. Police and Philippine National Railways officials said it was too early to pinpoint the cause but track and fittings in the area had been stolen in the past and sold as scrap metal. Many of the 312 people on board were pulled from the wreckage of the early morning accident and rescuers were focusing on the crowded last car. At least 80 people were injured. The train was travelling overnight from Naga City in the Bicol region to Manila, some 300 kilometres to the north-west. Disaster officials said the first report of the accident near Padre Burgos town came at about 0330, local time. Police said five of the train's eight cars had derailed and tumbled about 40 feet into a ravine that was at least 100 feet deep. The back half of the train was for passengers and the front for cargo. — Reuters.

London, Nov 12 — A press report, dated today, states: At least 10 people, including a 1-year-old baby, died when a speeding train with more than 300 passengers on board fell into a ravine early today in Quezon Province, south of Manila, the Office of Civil Defence said. OCD administrator Elma Aldea said at least 129 others were injured in the accident that occurred around 0245 today in the area of Duhat village,

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Padre Burgos town, around 165 kilometres south of Manila. The train's manifest lists 312 passengers but civil defence officials fear the actual number of passengers could be higher as passengers are usually picked up en route. Rescuers expected more bodies to be retrieved.

Padre Burgos, Nov 12 — Rescuers in the Philippines have freed more than 100 train passengers trapped after a crowded economy carriage derailed and dragged other cars into a steep ravine, killing at least 12 people. The train's speed was believed to be a factor in the crash in the central province of Quezon early this morning. Track and fittings in the area had been stolen in the past and sold as scrap metal, railway engineers and disaster officials said. Estimates of the number of people on board ranged from 312 to more than 400. "It's simply a case of overspeeding," said Noli Tolentino, a Philippine National Railways maintenance engineer, adding the train could have been travelling at up to 37 mph as it negotiated a sharp curve near the town of Padre Burgos. Another railway official said three theories had been formulated as investigation began to determine the cause of the accident. Human error, mechanical failure and overspeeding were among the possible reasons, he said. Elma Aldea, a civil defence administrator, said the train should have slowed to 12 mph due to missing bolts and wooden planks in the area, which is about 100 miles south-east of Manila. The last four of the train's six cars plunged about 40 feet into a ravine that was at least 100 feet deep. Villagers, police and soldiers used ropes to reach the wreckage and any tools at hand to get to those trapped inside. The railway company said it was sending a train with cranes to lift the damaged carriages. "It was speeding. Suddenly the lights went out and we felt the train coming off the tracks," Rolando Cruz, a passenger in the third car from the back, told a radio station. "Our coach overturned three times." The dead included a one-year-old child. At least 158 people were hospitalised, disaster officials said. Rescuers trimmed thick vegetation and used shovels to dig out the body of a woman pinned under an overturned coach. They were also searching for two passengers who remained unaccounted for and could have been pinned under derailed train cars. The train was travelling overnight from Legaspi City in the Bicol region to Manila, 340 miles to the north-west. A conductor on the second-last coach, Melquiades del Pilar, said there were about 150 people in the fan-cooled economy carriage, which shuddered as it rounded a bend. "It was very quick. I felt like we were being pulled over," del Pilar said on radio. The engine was still on the track, with two cars on their sides behind it. Police commandeered vehicles to rush the wounded to hospital in Lucena and smaller clinics nearby. "We have sent teams to inspect the tracks to see if there are missing parts because there were instances of theft in that area,"

another railway engineer said on radio. The company said the coaches involved in the accident were among 30 second-hand cars donated by the Japanese government in 2000 to help the railway modernise its stock. — Reuters.

London, Nov 15 — A press report, dated today, states: The Department of Transportation and Communication (DoTC) gave a fact-finding team 10 days to determine the cause of the train accident in Padre Burgos town, Quezon province, which killed at least 6 people. In a statement, DoTC Secretary Leandro Mendoza said the probe would determine those criminally liable for the accident before dawn last Friday (Nov 12). Colonel Lucas Cauton of the DoTC Office of Transportation Security was appointed head of the committee, which was formed on orders of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. "We will bring to justice those who will be found accountable and responsible for this tragic accident and we will prosecute them to the full extent of the law," Mendoza said. Mendoza said the Philippine National Railways (PNR) Calamba to Bicol route would remain closed until the portion of the railway where the ill-fated train fell was safe. The DoTC chief also ordered all drivers of the PNR as well as the Metro Rail Transit and the Light Rail Transit to undergo drug tests.

PALAYUR AREA , INDIA

London, Nov 16 — A press report, dated Nov 15, states: The engine and a general compartment of the Coimbatore-Nagercoil passenger train derailed between Palayur and Erode stations in the Palakkad section of the Southern Railway today. There were no injuries, Railway police sources said. The derailment had occurred at around 1230 when the engine and the general coach, next to it, jumped the rails.

UFTON NERVET, BERKSHIRE, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Nov 16 — A press report, dated today, states: Full train services are returning to the stretch of track where a crash killed seven people 10 days ago. First Great Western said the line serving Reading, Newbury, Pewsey and Bedwyn would fully reopen today following the crash near Ufton Nervet. Police are still investigating why a car was on the Berkshire crossing when the train hit it on Nov 6. First Great Western said train services between London Paddington and the west of England that had been diverted or replaced by other services were running again.



INFESTATION OF LOCUSTS, EGYPT

London, Nov 18 — A press report, dated Nov 17, states: Millions of locusts swarmed into northern Egypt today for

the first time in 50 years, prompting authorities to order emergency pesticide spraying to protect the region's important agriculture industry. Clouds of the insects flitted about over Cairo, while others hopped around on rooftops. By evening, the skies were clear. Christian Pantenius, program coordinator of the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation office in Egypt, said the swarm was an offshoot of a serious locust infestation in West Africa that was blown by strong winds across the Sahara. He said locusts also were spotted in Crete and Lebanon. Pantenius said the locusts were showing no sign of moving farther south along the agriculturally rich Nile River valley, and he predicted the swarm would most likely head south-east towards the Red Sea coast, which is an annual locust breeding ground between November and March. "People are very afraid that it may cause damage to agricultural production, but to what extent the agricultural sector could be damaged is difficult to say," Pantenius said. Agriculture Minister Ahmed el-Leithy said the locusts appeared to pose no serious threat to Egypt's crops "because the swarms are continuing to move and are not fully grown." However, he said 50 pest eradication teams had been rushed out to spray pesticides in farm areas. Farmers without pesticides set smoky fires and made loud noises with machinery in hopes of keeping locusts away from their fields. The FAO described the insect clouds as a "medium density swarm of locusts numbering several million, if not a billion," covering several square miles.

POWER OUTAGE, CANADA

See "Canada" under "Weather & Navigation."

VANDALISM, UNIVERSITY PREMISES, DULUTH, MINNESOTA, UNITED STATES

London, Nov 16 — A press report, dated Nov 15, states: Vandals caused more than \$1 million in damage to the new science building on the Duluth campus of the University of Minnesota, which may delay the spring move-in date for researchers and staff. Vandals entered the \$33 million James I. Swenson Science Building, broke windows, discharged fire extinguishers and damaged mechanical equipment. Most damage, however, was caused by turning on water faucets on the third floor of the building's research wing. When workers discovered the damage around 0500 hrs, today, they found standing water on the building's first, second and third floors.



CARGO SHED, KOLKATA, INDIA

London, Nov 17 — A press report, dated today, states: A devastating fire,

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which is still raging, has engulfed a shed in the Netaji Subhas dock of the Kolkata Port Trust (KPT). The fire, which broke out in the early hours of today, has destroyed many export and import goods. Fire brigade sources said that 15 fire tenders of the West Bengal Fire Service are fighting to douse the fire, which was reported at around 0145 hrs. The KPT chairman, A K Chand, is personally supervising the firefighting. There was no report of any injuries. At least 100 firemen are attempting to extinguish the fire. The cause of the fire and the extent of damage are being established.

Kolkata, Nov 18 — In the early hours of Wednesday, Nov 17, there was a fire in Kolkata Port. The cargo stored in the covered shed No.4 of Netaji Subhash Dock were totally destroyed due to the fire. The damages were related to imports of cargo in Kolkata port in containers, stored in the shed unloaded from containers and also cargo awaiting in the shed for export purposes which will be loaded into containers prior to shipment. — Lloyd's Agents.

Mumbai, Nov 18 — Fire has devastated the number four shed of the Netaji Subhas Dock of Kolkata Port. Large volumes of cargoes stacked in the shed have been destroyed. Preliminary estimates put the value of the cargo destroyed at US\$10 million. No one was hurt. Dr. A.K.Chanda, Chairman of Kolkata Port Trust, said that the cause of the fire was yet to be known. Mr.M.A.Bhaskarachar, Deputy Chairman, would hold the inquiry and submit the report as soon as possible. "We will step up our firefighting arrangement if the inquiry report so suggests," Dr.Chanda said. The fire started at around 0145. Kolkata Port Trust's own firefighters, including fire float tugs, were pressed into operation immediately. Subsequently, a number of fire tenders from the West Bengal Fire Service joined to put out the blaze. Fortunately, the fire could be contained and, therefore, it did not spread to other berths and sheds. There was no vessels at the berth adjacent to the shed ravaged by the fire. The number four shed of the NSD comprised a three-storied building with a total area of 12,500 sq.m. Mostly LCL cargoes, comprising assorted goods such as carpets, polythene, granules, edible oil, chemicals, garments, electronics items, raw silk and the like, both imports and exports were stored in the shed. The imported items were those already destuffed from the containers and awaiting evacuation while the exports were still to be stuffed. Only one container, open top and stuffed with tyres, was damaged in the fire. About 150 packages could be retrieved from the wreckage. The liability of the port, according to the Chairman, would be restricted to only those imports that had arrived in past seven days. The port would accept no liability for the cargo lying in the shed for more than seven days, he said. Dr. Chanda felt that the damaged shed might have to be completely demolished. In any case, as he pointed out, the port authorities

had been planning to dismantle a portion of the shed to facilitate the operation of the mobile harbour cranes being installed there. The fire had only made the job easier. The installation of the cranes had been held up because of the delay in obtaining necessary clearance from the state commercial tax department, he said. The fire, as the Chairman pointed out, did not affect the normal cargo handling operation in other berths of the Kolkata Dock System. There were no working ships in the dock system yesterday, two of them in NSD and six others in Kidderpore dock. Ship movement too had been normal. Mr. Pratim Chattopadhyaya, West Bengal Minister for Fire Services, visited the fire ravaged shed. — Lloyd's Agents.

COAL MINE, HENAN PROVINCE, CHINA

Beijing, Nov 12 — A coal mine blast killed at least 33 miners in central China, the government said today. Yesterday's accident at the Xinsheng coal mine in the central province of Henan also injured six. — Reuters.

COAL MINE, XINMI, HENAN PROVINCE, CHINA

London, Nov 15 — A press report, dated today, states: Chinese authorities say a massive coal mine blast last month that killed 148 people was sparked after mine operators failed to realise that extending the mine's shaft would greatly increase its gas level, state media reported yesterday. Insufficient ventilation in the mine allowed the gas to build up and mix with fresh air, and the explosion was ignited by sparks from mine machinery, government-run newspapers and the Xinhua News Agency said. It occurred "deep in a complicated stratum" inside the mine, Xinhua said. When mine operators extended the shaft, gas rushed out, it added, citing Zhao Tiechui, deputy head of the State Administration of Production Safety.

FACTORY, WOODSTOCK, SOUTH AFRICA

London, Nov 12 — A press report, dated today, states: Nearly 200 employees fled for their lives when a fire gutted a Woodstock factory yesterday morning. Six workers at Stingray, a factory that manufactures car seat covers and electric blankets, suffered from smoke inhalation and were admitted to Vincent Pallotti Hospital. They were discharged hours later. Stingray manager Mark McLaughlin said his chief concern was about the safety of the workers and that he was relieved no one had been seriously injured. He said the fire broke out in the factory's storeroom where foam is kept. "Although the storeroom was damaged by the flames, the damage to the premises caused by water and smoke appears more serious," he said. He said he was unsure of the cost of the damage. Cape Town Central Fire Department's Sebastian Martin said fire engines from Brooklyn and Salt River had

helped to put out the fire, which broke out at 0900 hrs. He said part of the roof, wall and floor of the factory's storeroom had been damaged and that the electricity supply had to be isolated. "There is also a burst water main." Martin said, adding: "It is too early to say what caused the fire, but there is a fire inspector and a police forensic expert at the scene to investigate the cause."

PREMISES, EAST PIKELAND, PENNSYLVANIA, UNITED STATES

London, Nov 15 — A press report, dated today, states: A three-storey residence in the 900 block of Lincoln Road sustained \$1.5 million in damage following a three-alarm fire yesterday afternoon. According to Kimberston Fire Chief Charles Fields, upon arrival at the scene at 1505 hrs he noticed fire venting out of the roof of the residence at 905 Lincoln Road. "As soon as I arrived on scene, we called for a second alarm," said Fields. "Due to the size of the home and extent of the fire, we needed additional help and manpower. Fields said the fire's cause was related to the HVAC unit in the attic. "The fire started in the attic, then it spread throughout the attic area and then vented out onto the roof," he said. "This was a humongous home with wood sidings and cedar wood shingles. The combination led to the fire spreading quickly on a windy day." Fields said no one on the scene was injured, but the house sustained \$1.5 million in damage and losses. "Most of the rooms were heavily damaged by the fire," he said. "The third floor is basically gutted, and the roof area was lost, as well. The first and second floors sustained smoke and water damage. Numerous antiques and furniture were able to be saved." Due to the lack of fire hydrants in the area, Fields said various tanker trucks were called in as a precaution. "However, we never lost water supply because we kept having trucks arrive on scene. We were able to have the fire under control at 1625 hrs," he said. Fields said no one was at the residence at the time of the fire. The family was away on vacation.

PREMISES, LAS VEGAS, NEVADA, UNITED STATES

London, Nov 12 — A press report, dated Nov 11, states: A spectacular early morning fire destroyed two homes under construction and seriously damaged two others. The blaze broke out just after 0500 hrs, today. Now, fire investigators are trying to establish what started it. The flames spread so quickly because the homes were still in the framing process, still under construction. Tim Szymanski, with the Las Vegas Fire Department, said, "It's the exposed wood, the pine that burned readily really fast." It took a little less than an hour for 60 firefighters using more than 20 firefighting units to control the blaze. The financial impact is \$1.5 million worth of damages. The developer of the subdivision, U.S. Home, says it will try to accommodate the future homeowners who lost their residences.

RECYCLING PLANT, LEICESTER, LEICESTERSHIRE, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Nov 17 — A press report, dated Nov 16, states: The cost of repairing fire damage to a recycling plant in Leicester has reached £3m. The site is not expected to reopen fully until January. Police said they do not believe the cause of the fire was suspicious.

REFINERY, PARAGUANA, VENEZUELA

London, Nov 17 — A press report, dated Nov 16, states: Venezuela's biggest oil refinery caught fire, injuring one worker before the blaze was brought under control, a fire chief said today. The blaze occurred yesterday at the Paraguana Refinery Complex in western Venezuela, said Rober Infante, fire chief of the nearby town of Punto Fijo. The injured worker was employed by the state oil company, known by its acronym as PDVSA. The company did not have any comment on the fire. Infante said the blaze was extinguished by firefighters before it could do serious damage.

UNIVERSITY PREMISES, WEST LAFAYETTE, INDIANA, UNITED STATES

London, Nov 15 — A press report, dated Nov 14, states: A fire levelled Purdue University's aquaculture research and training centre early today, destroying several species of fish and thousands of fish eggs. No one was injured. Crews from three departments fought the fire that started about 0300 hrs, for several hours, according to a Purdue news release. The cause was under investigation. The fire also destroyed tanks and scientific equipment in the \$1 million building, which opened in 1992. Purdue spokesman Joseph L. Bennett said it would be difficult to estimate the value of the lost research.

WAREHOUSE, FLEMINGTON, MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA

London, Nov 12 — A press report, from Australia, dated today, states: Firefighters battled to stop a large fire at a paper warehouse in Melbourne's suburb of Flemington from spreading early this morning. The fire at the Lombard company building in Mount Alexander Rd was first reported just after 0100, AEDT, through an automatic alarm, the Metropolitan Fire Brigade said. As of 0300, AEDT, around 30 fire trucks were at the site and the fire had taken hold of the entire 50 by 30 metre building. "It has gone from one end to the other," a MFB official said. Firefighters were trying to save an adjoining building where the fire threatened to spread. No-one was thought to have been inside when the fire broke out.

London, Nov 12 — A press report, dated today, states: Melbourne paper warehouse destroyed in a multi-million dollar blaze appeared to have no fire protection at all, a fire official said today. The Flemington fire, which caused up to Aus\$20 million (£8.3

million) damage, was one of the biggest in Melbourne in years, leaving a pall of thick grey smoke over the city, the official said. The building's owner says the company, Lombard The Paper People, will rebuild. The blaze broke out about 0100, AEDT, destroying much of the business and the adjoining Victoria Ranges indoor rock climbing centre and pistol range. All were owned by Claude Lombard, who put the damage bill at up to \$20 million. Melbourne Fire Brigade (MFB) commander Wayne Garrard said flames had shot 30 metres into the air. "We've still got a lot of stuff burning. We'll be here for the next couple of days. It was probably one of the biggest fires we've had in a long time," he said. Mr Garrard said it appeared there was no fire protection inside the warehouse. "There was quite a lot of stock in there and from what we can ascertain there wasn't any sprinklers installed - so no fire protection at all," he said. Dousing hot spots was made more difficult because the roof had collapsed, he said.

London, Nov 16 — A press report, dated today, states: Faulty electrical equipment was probably to blame for last week's \$20 million blaze at a Melbourne paper warehouse, fire investigators said today. Metropolitan Fire Brigade fire investigation manager Ian Hunter said there were no suspicious circumstances involved in the inferno at Lombard The Paper People premises in Mt Alexander Road, Flemington, last Friday (Nov 12). Investigators finished the physical investigation of the site yesterday afternoon. They would now submit the electrical equipment for forensic examination and reconstruct the scene with company employees, possibly tomorrow, Mr Hunter said. Demolition crews were still working today to clear away the debris of the building, which was constructed of iron sheeting. There were no sprinklers installed inside the factory. The company lost all of its Christmas stock in the fire, owner Claude Lombard said. Victorian Premier Steve Bracks, who visited the scene, pledged the State Government's support to help the business recover.



9G-MKJ

London, Nov 15 — A press report, dated Nov 14, states: Investigators in the fatal crash of a massive cargo jet (9G-MKJ) near Halifax have virtually ruled out overloading as the cause and are instead probing the mystery of why the engines were underpowered at take-off. Bill Fowler, lead investigator with the Transportation Safety Board of Canada, told The Canadian Press the flight data recorder shows the MK Airlines 747 jet's weight at takeoff was "fairly close to" 352,400 kilograms. That was the maximum the plane was allowed to weigh for the runway at

Halifax International Airport on Oct 14. "Bottom line, we do not see at this time that the aircraft was significantly over or under or off the planned weight, based on the maths," said Fowler. The flight data recorder, which was discovered in the wreckage of the crash, indicates what the plane's acceleration and speed were at the time of take-off. From this data, mathematical formulas allow investigators with Boeing, the safety board and the National Transportation Safety Board in the United States to determine the mass of the airplane as it lifted off.

ACCIDENT, LOGAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, BOSTON, UNITED STATES

London, Nov 16 — A press report, dated today, states: A fire was discovered aboard a British Airways flight shortly after it landed at Logan International Airport, and five firefighters were injured battling the blaze, officials said. The firefighters complained of burning in their throats and eyes, MassPort spokesperson Phil Orlandella said. The captain of the London-to-Boston Flight 239 called the Logan control tower after it landed around 2130 yesterday and said a cockpit indicator showed a fire in the avionics compartment on the underside of the plane. There were 219 passengers and 14 crew aboard. None were injured, Orlandella said. "They were already deplaning when this fire happened," Orlandella said. A British Airways spokesperson said the airline was investigating and could not comment further. The fire's cause was not immediately known, and it was unclear what substance might have caused the firefighters' injuries.

C-GAMS

London, Nov 16 — At 1200, Nov 13, the pilot of the Lancair aircraft was conducting the initial test flight at the Stratford Airport, Ontario. During the preflight check, the pilot did not observe that the landing gear handle was selected in the up position. During the take-off run on Runway 05, the landing gear collapsed prior to liftoff and the aircraft came to rest on the runway. The aircraft sustained substantial damage; the pilot was not injured.

CRASH, BEARLEY, WARWICKSHIRE, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Nov 12 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: A man has died in a helicopter crash near Stratford-on-Avon. Warwickshire Police say the two-person helicopter was seen dropping rapidly before crashing into a field by the A3400 near the town of Bearley. Air ambulance and the police were called to the scene this afternoon. The victim was the only person on board. Police believe the helicopter was making a journey between Herefordshire and Wellesbourne in Stratford-on-Avon. Air accident investigators are trying to establish the cause of the crash.

**CRASH, GRIFFITH,
NEW SOUTH WALES, AUSTRALIA**

London, Nov 18 — A press report, dated today, states: A family of four has survived a light aircraft crash at Griffith in south-western New South Wales. Police say the Piper Arrow aircraft on a trip from Orange to Victoria was coming in to land for a refuelling stop when it was caught in a crosswind. Joanne Elliot from police headquarters says the aircraft flipped and was forced into trees at the side of the airstrip. "As a result of the impact the front of the plane containing the motor was torn from the aircraft," she said. "One man, two women and a boy on board walked away. "One woman has suffered cuts and bruises to her legs but all of them have been taken to Griffith Hospital just to be checked over."

**CRASH, KRASNOYARSK REGION,
RUSSIA**

London, Nov 16 — A press report, dated Nov 15, states: A helicopter Mi-2 made an emergency landing 47 km off Krasnoyarsk in Siberia today because of a damaged propeller and a tail boom, preliminary reports said. The helicopter made an emergency landing in the Krasnoyarsk region today. None of the four people on board, including two crew members and two passengers, were hurt in the accident, the Siberian regional centre for emergency situations reported. Radio contact with the helicopter was lost. Another helicopter sent to search for the lost aircraft found the helicopter 47 km north-west of Krasnoyarsk. The helicopter was heavily damaged, but the people on board were not hurt. The crew and passengers were evacuated from the crash site to Cheremshanka. The Inter-regional Commission for safety of flights has been studying the causes of the accident.

**CRASH, LAKE HAVASU AREA,
ARIZONA, UNITED STATES**

London, Nov 18 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: An El Monte-based, Beechcraft Bonanza A-36 aircraft that vanished last weekend was found crashed near the California-Arizona state line today and both people aboard were dead, a Federal Aviation Administration spokesman said. The aircraft was spotted eight miles west of Lake Havasu, Ariz., spokesman Donn Walker said. The aircraft was found shortly after another small aircraft was found near Perkinsville, Ariz., he said. That aircraft carried three people, all of whom were killed, Walker said. The El Monte aircraft, took off Saturday (Nov 13) from the small airport about 10 miles east of Los Angeles, said police Detective Henry August. The aircraft's registered owner is Robert Caron of South El Monte, according to the Federal Aviation Administration registry. August said a male and female were aboard the aircraft, which seats four to six people. The pilot contacted the Hawthorne Flight Service station at 1711 hrs, shortly after takeoff, and asked for a weather report for the high

desert, said Walker. That was the last time anyone had contact with it, he said, but it was not reported missing until Monday.

**CRASH, PAULDEN AREA,
ARIZONA, UNITED STATES**

London, Nov 18 — A press report, dated today, states: Authorities yesterday found the remains of three men in the wreckage of a burned Cessna airplane northeast of Paulden. Officials began the search for the plane early yesterday morning after they received information that it was overdue at the Sedona Airport. Yavapai County Sheriff's Office spokeswoman Susan Quayle said today that the plane had exploded when it went down in rigid and remote terrain near Perkinsville/Drake Road and Forest Road 186. At around 0430 hrs, the Department of Public Safety (DPS) and the Federal Aviation Authority (FAA) issued an "attempt to locate" the plane. The Coconino County Civil Air Command, which was also searching for the aircraft, reported seeing the wreckage at around 0950 hrs. A DPS Ranger helicopter out of Flagstaff landed at the scene 30 minutes later and confirmed that it was the missing plane. They also reported that they found the remains of three severely burned men's bodies, whose names authorities declined to release pending a medical examiner confirmation of their identities, Quayle said. However, authorities have notified next of kin based on the list of names they gathered from the Williams Airport, Quayle said. She said the victims were not local residents but they lived in other parts of Arizona. "It was a private plane," Quayle said, whose occupants were "scouting elk," she said, adding that the pilot left the Sedona Airport yesterday heading to Williams to pick up two passengers. They boarded the plane and left the Williams airport at around 1500 hrs, heading for Sedona, she said, adding that it is unclear whether the plane had any communication with the nearby airports before it crashed. She said authorities initially planned to remove the bodies today via helicopter. Instead, though, the scene remained secure overnight pending the arrival of National Transportation Safety Board and Federal Aviation Authority investigators. Representatives from both agencies were to arrive at the scene early today. After that, authorities plan to remove the bodies in the presence of the medical examiner, who will later use dental records to determine the victims' identities, Quayle said.

**CRASH, PERKINSVILLE, ARIZONA,
UNITED STATES**

See "Crash, Lake Havasu area, Arizona, United States."

**EMERGENCY LANDING,
TIMISOARA, ROMANIA**

London, Nov 15 — A press report, dated today, states: A plane heading to Turkey with more than 150 people aboard, mostly German tourists, made

an emergency landing in the western Romanian city of Timisoara after a smoke alarm went off, authorities said today. The plane, which belonged to Turkey's MNG Airlines, was flying from Hamburg, Germany, to Antalya in south-eastern Turkey when the alarm went off over Hungary, said Dan Idolu, general director of Timisoara's international airport. Firefighters and an ambulance arrived at the airport, and 152 passengers were taken off the plane as a precaution, Idolu said. No one was injured, but several people were treated for panic attacks. Authorities checked the plane and nothing amiss was found.

**EMERGENCY LANDING, WEST
PALM BEACH AREA, FLORIDA,
UNITED STATES**

London, Nov 13 — A press report, dated Nov 12, states: A single-engine Cessna aircraft made an emergency landing on a golf course west of West Palm Beach yesterday, authorities said. No one was hurt. The pilot radioed the control at Palm Beach International Airport about 1015 hrs and reported that he was having mechanical problems, Palm Beach County Fire Rescue Capt. Don DeLucia said. But instead of trying to make it the airport, the pilot landed the aircraft on the greens of the Emerald Dunes golf off Okeechobee Boulevard just west of Florida's Turnpike, authorities said. The aircraft landed safely. Neither the pilot, who was the sole occupant, nor any golfers were injured, DeLucia said.

**EMERGENCY LANDING, WESTON
AREA, FLORIDA, UNITED STATES**

London, Nov 13 — A press report, dated Nov 12, states: A Cessna 172 made an emergency landing on U.S. 27 near Weston just north of the toll plaza on Alligator Alley early this morning after it reportedly developed engine trouble while returning to Opa-locka Airport in Miami-Dade County. No one was injured. It contained two pilots and a student pilot. According to the pilot, the three men had flown to Melbourne so the student pilot could log night hours of flying. They were on their way back to Opa-Locka when they were forced to make an emergency landing. After the oil pressure dropped and the aircraft developed engine trouble, they decided to land on the Alley. No one was injured during the landing. The wings were to be removed from the aircraft so that it could be transported by flatbed truck back to Opa-locka.

N130JH

London, Nov 15 — Bell 206B III (JetRanger III), N130JH, operated by Av Enterprises Inc, with two persons on board, clipped powerlines and crashed at Eureka, Utah, at 2021, UTC, Nov 13. One person suffered minor injuries.

N2969

London, Nov 13 — A press report, dated Nov 12, states: A Chalks Airways Grumman Mallard seaplane made an emergency landing at Fort

Lauderdale/Hollywood International Airport after its left main landing gear got stuck in the up position. Airport spokesman Steve Belleme said the seaplane landed safely at 0844 today. None of the three people aboard the seaplane flight from the Bahamas was injured, and damage to the aircraft was described as minimal. Airport traffic was not affected, Belleme said.

London, Nov 15 — Grumman G-73 (Mallard), N2969, operated by Seaplane Leasing III LLC, while on a taxi flight from Bimini, Bahamas, to Fort Lauderdale, Florida, with two persons on board, port main gear would not extend completely and landed with it partially extended, at Fort Lauderdale, at 1350, Nov 12. Aircraft sustained minor damage and no personal injuries reported.

N40731

London, Nov 15 — A press report, dated today, states: Five people were killed yesterday when a small aircraft crashed in bad weather near an apartment complex for seniors, authorities said. There were no survivors aboard the aircraft. The victims included the pilot and a pair of fathers travelling with their sons, said John Clabes, a spokesman for the Federal Aviation Administration. The aircraft was trying to make an instrument landing in rainy conditions with poor visibility. The Piper Navajo owned by Dash Air Charter Inc. of San Antonio was on approach to San Antonio International Airport shortly after 1700, said Clabes. The pilot had filed a flight plan in Dodge City, Kan., Clabes said. The pilot was off course on his approach and was swinging around to try again when the aircraft crashed. "He pulled out of the approach and disappeared off our radar," Clabes said. The crash site is in a thickly populated residential and commercial area about six miles north-west of downtown San Antonio. The aircraft, which can seat as many as eight people, crashed about three miles from the airport and just off a busy city street. "It looks like it clipped a tree, clipped the apartment and went into the ground," said Joe Rios, a spokesman for San Antonio police. He said there was a small explosion after the crash. Rios said part of the 34-foot-long aircraft was buried in the ground at the housing complex. One wing disintegrated on impact, he said, while the other was embedded in the wall of an apartment. A woman was in that apartment at the time, but she was not hurt. David Herrmann, vice president of the company that owns the aircraft said that the group was returning from a pheasant hunting trip in Kansas. Officials with the National Transportation Safety Board were scheduled to arrive today to investigate. No one on the ground was hit by the wreckage.

London, Nov 15 — Piper PA-31-350 (Navajo Chieftain), N40731, operated by Dash Air Charter Inc, while on a flight from Dodge City, Kansas, to San Antonio, Texas, with five persons on board, crashed into a building in San

Antonio, at 2015, UTC, Nov 14. The aircraft was destroyed. All five persons on board died and two persons on the ground suffered minor injuries.

N56960

London, Nov 15 — A press report, dated today, states: A couple and their granddaughter were killed yesterday when their aircraft crashed en route to Illinois in a rural area of north-west Mississippi, authorities said. Felix E. Nylec, 64, and his wife, Mary Nylec, had flown to Louisiana to visit their daughter and were on their way back to Illinois when the aircraft went down at about 1220, said Randy Stewart, an assistant chief at the Tunica County Sheriff's Department. Also on board the Piper PA-28 was 9-year-old Emily Nylec, the couple's granddaughter, Stewart said. The couple was from Mokena, Ill. "Several of the witnesses said they heard a loud noise and the airplane just plummeted," Stewart said. The aircraft crashed near the small community of Dubbs about 10 miles south of Tunica. The cause of the crash was under investigation.

London, Nov 15 — Piper PA-28-200R (Cherokee Arrow II), N56960, operated by Felix E. Nylec, while on a flight from Gonzales, Louisiana, to Malden, Missouri, with three persons on board, crashed in Tunica area, at 1826, UTC, Nov 14. The aircraft was destroyed and all three persons on board died. (See "Crash, Dubbs Area, Mississippi, United States" in issue of Nov 16.)

N6539P

London, Nov 13 — A press report, dated Nov 12, states: The pilot of a single-engine aircraft has been killed in a crash just north of Berea in Madison County, Kentucky. The Cessna 210 was headed for Blue Grass Airport in Lexington, but the pilot reported engine trouble. Blue Grass controllers radioed the Richmond-Madison Airport that the pilot would try to land there. The aircraft fell two miles short of the Richmond-Madison Airport, crashing and burning off Kentucky 595, north-west of Berea. The National Transportation Safety Board reports the pilot was the only person aboard the aircraft, which was registered to a business in Denton County, Texas. The NTSB is sending an investigator.

London, Nov 15 — Cessna 210N (Centurion II), N6539P, operated by Hudelson 7 LLC, while on a flight from Warsaw, Indiana, to Louisville, Kentucky, with one person on board, reported engine failure on approach to Richmond-Madison airport, Kentucky, and crashed short of airport at 1645, UTC, Nov 12. The aircraft was destroyed and the pilot died.

N655TV

London, Nov 11 — Aerospatiale AS350B, N655TV, operated by Coastal Helicopters LLC, was making a practice approach to the west end of the airport when it struck the tail rotor and rolled over on its side, at Oxnard, California, at 2015, Nov 9. The aircraft was destroyed.

N75776

London, Nov 15 — Cessna 172N (Skyhawk), N75776, while on a local flight from Wilmington airport, North Carolina, with two persons on board, declared a mayday, due to smoke in the cockpit, and made an emergency landing in a field two miles east of the airport, at 1937, UTC, Nov 14. The aircraft was substantially damaged, but no personal injuries reported.

N7701J

London, Nov 18 — A press report, dated Nov 17, states: Government air traffic controllers were liable for an aircraft crash that killed two Jacksonville lawyers and an Orange Park couple at Jacksonville International Airport in 2001, a judge has ruled. US District Judge Timothy Corrigan found the Federal Aviation Administration 65% at fault for the crash because, he said, controllers did not give pilot Donald Weidner the most current weather information. The judge said Weidner was 35% to blame because he was trying his third instrument-landing approach after two missed approaches at a time when he was tired, ill and on cold medication. "I am certain that neither the air traffic controllers nor Mr. Weidner intentionally compromised the safety of this flight. Nonetheless, based on the evidence, it is more likely than not their combined failure to use reasonable care that led to this tragic accident," Corrigan wrote. "The FAA is liable for this accident and the government's negligence was 65% of the legal cause. The remaining 35% of the responsibility is due to the negligent actions of the pilot." Corrigan said he would meet with attorneys to schedule a bench trial on the amount of damages, probably early next year. Weidner, law partner Thomas Bowden and their clients, Orange Park business owners Adrienne and James Abrisch, died when Weidner crashed his Piper PA-32-260 (Cherokee Six) (N7701J) in thick fog. The families' lawyers and Justice Department lawyers agreed the crash occurred because Weidner became disoriented but disagreed about what caused his disorientation. The case was tried in September and October before Corrigan without a jury. Weidner and his passengers were returning from a business trip to South Florida the night of Dec 12, 2001. After Weidner missed approaches at St. Augustine and Craig Airport in Jacksonville, he asked to be directed to JIA, where at least a half dozen FAA employees were involved with his approach. Corrigan found that Weidner was not given updated weather information and as conditions rapidly deteriorated, Weidner approached the runway unaware visibility had dropped to a quarter of a mile and the cloud ceiling below 100 feet. The last weather information he had was more than an hour old and had visibility at 1.5 miles with a 200-foot ceiling, Corrigan found. "The air traffic controllers' failure to provide the pilot with the correct weather led to the

pilot being at a point in his final approach where the weather was worse than anticipated, thus preventing him from picking up any of the visual points on the ground that he would have expected to see," Corrigan found. He said as Weidner searched frantically for reference points he expected to see with the weather information he had, he likely became disoriented. The judge did not single out any FAA employee but blamed the lack of information on miscommunication and negligence by the various controllers. He said, however, that Weidner's decision to try to land at JIA after two missed approaches "while fatigued, on medications and while ill, was also a failure of reasonable care which substantially contributed to his spatial disorientation."

N803ZG

London, Nov 12 — A press report, dated Nov 11, states: A small aircraft has crashed in the mountains north of Santa Barbara, killing at least two people. The Piper PA-32 was flying from Bakersfield to Santa Barbara. Wreckage has been spotted in the San Rafael Wilderness area about 17 miles north of Santa Barbara. The aircraft left Bakersfield about 2130 last night. A sheriff's sergeant says one victim's wife filed a missing persons report after her husband was long overdue to arrive.

London, Nov 12 — Piper PA-32R-301T (Saratoga IITC), N803ZG, crashed near Santa Barbara, California, at 0554, Nov 11, while on a flight from Bakersfield, CA, to Santa Barbara. The aircraft was destroyed. The two persons on board were killed.

SU-ZCF

London, Nov 12 — A press report, dated today, states: An Egyptian aircraft which crashed in January, killing 148 people, went into a steep turn after take-off and the crew did not fully correct it before the aircraft plunged into the Red Sea, investigators said yesterday. The Jan 3 crash, in which 133 French tourists died, took place minutes after the Flash Airlines Boeing 737-300 (SU-ZCF) took off from the diving resort of Sharm el-Sheikh bound for Cairo and Paris. "The aircraft took a shallow right turn which turned into a steep right turn," head investigator Shaker Kelada told a news conference. "Recovery was attempted, but there was not enough recovery before it dived into the sea. "Whether or not more could have been done is yet to be decided," he said in answer to a question about whether the crew had done all it could to recover control of the aircraft. Kelada said his team would spend two months analysing the results of their investigations, after which a preliminary report would be issued. A final report would be ready around June. Relatives of the French victims have accused Paris of making no effort to clarify the causes of the disaster, which they say could have been avoided

Product Recalls

BARBEQUE GRILLS, UNITED STATES

Washington, DC, Nov 10 — The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission announces the recall of about 12,500 five-burner Vermont Castings barbecue grills in voluntary co-operation with CFM Corporation, Mississauga, Ontario, Canada. Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed. Hazard: Gas leak and fire hazard. The burner tubes may not fit fully into the gas valves. If a consumer pulls on the console, the metal may flex and the gas valves may disconnect from the burners, releasing gas and creating a fire risk that could cause injury and property damage. CFM Corporation has received 38 reports involving gas leaks. No injuries or property damage have been reported. The recalled grills have five burners and a label on the back of the cabinet with the model number on the left side. Models CF9086 and VCS5000 are equipped with a side burner. Model CF9085 is not equipped with a side burner. Grills that do not have five burners and grills sold before 2004 are not affected by this recall. All of the affected grills were listed by Canadian Standards Association. Sold at Model VCS5000 barbecue grills were sold at Vermont Castings dealers and distributors in Canada and the U.S. from January 2004 through September 2004 for between \$899 and \$1249. Models CF9085 and CF9086 were sold at The Home Depot in Canada and the U.S. from January 2004 through September 2004 for between \$899 and \$1249. Manufactured in Canada. — Consumer Product Safety Commission.

ELECTRIC PRESSURE WASHERS, UNITED STATES

Washington, DC, Nov 15 — The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission announces the recall of 30,500 BLACK CATÆ Electric Pressure Washers in voluntary co-operation with Shanghai MeiHao Electric Co. Ltd., of Shanghai, China. Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed. U.S. Distributor RMM Corporation, Eden Prairie, Minn. The electric motor in the pressure washer can overheat and melt the housing, possibly igniting nearby flammable materials or exposing live electrical parts. RMM and CPSC are aware of 14 incidents of pressure washers overheating, including one report of damage to a wooden deck. Many of these incidents occurred when the pressure washer was left running and unattended. No

injuries have been reported. The recalled pressure washers have a black plastic housing and a BLACK CATÆ logo on both sides of the unit. "MCM International," "Model TW1800" or "Model BC2200" appear on a silver label on the recalled units. Sold at Target and Menard's stores sold the recalled pressure washers between March 2002 and September 2002 for about \$145. Manufactured in China. Consumers should stop using the recalled electric pressure washers immediately and contact RMM to arrange for a refund or free replacement. — Consumer Product Safety Commission.

FITNESS MACHINES, UNITED STATES

London, Nov 17 — A press report, dated Nov 16, states: The makers of the popular Bowflex fitness machine are recalling nearly 800,000 units after dozens of people reported injuries from mechanical problems, the government announced today. This marks the second large recall of Bowflex equipment this year. In January, the machine's manufacturer issued a voluntary recall of about 420,000 units after reports of similar mechanical problems. The latest recall affects 680,000 Bowflex Power Pro systems and 102,000 Bowflex Ultimate Fitness Machines, manufactured by The Nautilus Group, of Vancouver, Wash. The Consumer Product Safety Commission says the machine's seat can unexpectedly break on the Ultimate model and Power Pro with "Lat Tower." There were 46 reports of such incidents and two of those were serious injuries requiring stitches to the head. Another failure involves the machine's backboard bench unexpectedly collapsing when it is in the incline position on Power Pro models without the "Lat Tower." There were 42 reports of this failure and subsequent injuries to the back, neck and head, none of which were serious. The company issued its recall in January after reports of more than 70 injuries due to the backboard bench failure and problems with the "Lat Tower." That piece \emptyset used to strengthen the upper body \emptyset can weaken over time and collapse, injuring the user's back, head and shoulder. The recalled machines were sold at fitness stores and through informercials and direct mail around the nation between 1995 and April of this year. The systems cost between \$1,200 and \$1,600, depending on the model.

GAS FURNACES, UNITED STATES

Washington, DC, Nov 15 — The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in co-operation with The Unitary Products Group (UPG) of York International Corp., of York, Pa., today announced voluntary recalls of 226,000 gas furnaces. These furnaces can overheat, causing heat-exchanger cracking, burn-through and, in extreme cases, furnace wrapper burn-through. This can lead to heating and possible burning of the drywall and other

combustibles adjacent to the furnace, which poses a fire and smoke hazard to consumers. UPG has received 27 reports of fires, some resulting in extensive property damage that could be related to these hazards. There have been no injuries reported. The recall involves Coleman, Coleman Evcon and Red T brand furnaces. The furnaces are a silver colour with white access panels. The "Coleman," "Coleman Evcon" and "Red T" brand names are located on the middle of the front access panel. These model furnaces with model numbers listed below are included in the recall: DGAM075BDD, DGAM075BDE, DGAM075BDF, DGAT070BDD, DGAT070BDE, DGAT070BDF, DGAT075BDD, DGAT075BDE, DGAT075BDF, DLAS075BDD, DLAS075BDE and DLAS075BDF. The model number is written on a nameplate, found by removing both front access panels. The nameplate is found mounted on the left inside surface behind the lower panel. These furnaces were sold nation-wide between 1995 and 2000 under the brand names of Coleman, Coleman Evcon and Red T as original equipment in manufactured homes and as replacement furnaces in manufactured homes. Manufactured in Wichita, Kan. Consumers should not use the heating function of these furnaces until it has been inspected and repaired. Consumers should contact UPG to schedule a free inspection and repair of any furnace involved in the recall. — Consumer Product Safety Commission.

MAZDA MOTOR VEHICLES, JAPAN

London, Nov 12 — A press report, dated today, states: Mazda Motor Corp notified the government yesterday it plans to recall a total of around 40,600 commercial vehicles in five models in Japan for free repairs due to possible front-hub and drive-train defects, the government said. The models, produced between May 1999 and October 2004, include the Bongo, Vanette and Delica trucks and vans. Mazda has produced the Vanette series for sale by Nissan Motor Co and the Delica series for marketing by Mitsubishi Motors Corp.

SONY TELEVISIONS, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Nov 11 — A press report, dated Nov 5, states: This notice is important to everyone using the following Sony television models that were introduced to the market in Autumn 2003: KV-32HQ100B / KV-32HQ100E / KV-32HQ100K KV-36HQ100B / KV-36HQ100E / KV-36HQ100K: Hints to identify the models: FD Trinitron WEGA Screen 16:9, Remote Commander RM 940 (1), Memory Stick Slot Left Side (2) and Aluminium Brackets Left and Right Sides (3). In the course of their continuous quality programme, Sony has discovered an electrical problem with the above-mentioned televisions, which need to be inspected and serviced by a designated service agent. Although they have no reported incidents, Sony has decided to issue this important safety notice, as there is a risk of receiving an electrical shock from the set. In the meantime, if you own one of the above models, it is important that you unplug your television from the mains and do not use it until the necessary modification has been carried out by Sony authorised service personnel. If you have an affected television, please contact Sony and they will then take details from you, and make arrangements to have your television serviced. This will be carried out free of charge in your home, and as it is a simple procedure it not take long. They stress that this information applies only to Sony television models KV32HQ100 and KV36HQ100. No other models are affected.



BANGLADESH

London, Nov 18 — A press report, dated Nov 17, states: The Chittagong Port, the principal seaport of the

country has again faced the acute container congestion due to poor delivery of containers during the long six day holiday. The numbers of the stockpiled containers in the port container yard has now exceeded 17,000 20-foot equivalent unity TEUs against the storage capacity of 13,278 TEUs of containers. Earlier the Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) imposed penal rent on the containers remaining stockpiled in the Port yard effective from Nov 10 last as the Port had been facing congestion. It may be mentioned that some containers have been remaining stockpiled in the port yard for more than four months. So the Chittagong Port is facing an acute container congestion that has compelled the CPA to impose penal rent. According to CPA sources, a total of 14 container vessels called at the Port berths during the past six days and unloaded at least 9000 TEUs of containers. But during the Eid holiday that started Thursday last (Nov 11), delivery of containers from the CPA container yard was very negligible. As a result, the congestion of containers has become acute. With the imposition of penal rent since Nov 10 last, the congestion has to some extent eased. But the six-day holiday has turned the congestion acute again. AMM Shahadat Hussain Chairman of the CPA hoped that the congestion would become easier within a few days. He said, delivery of containers has resumed today at a full speed.

TURKEY

London, Nov 12 — A press report, dated today, states: Delays for daylight-restricted oil tankers transiting the Bosphorus grew to 15 days for a round-trip journey on Tuesday (Nov 9), shipping brokers report.

Port Delays

Country/Port	Date of report	No.of vessels waiting and/or days delay
Australia		
Abbot Point	15-17-Nov-2004	Coal: 1 vessel berthed, 2 anchored; 8 vessels due by 3/12; up to 2 days berthing delay subject to cargo availability and berth congestion can be expected.
Brisbane	15-17-Nov-2004	Coal: Fisherman Island coal berth: 4 vessels due by 30/11; no delays expected. Grain: no vessels; no delays expected.
Dalrymple Bay	15-17-Nov-2004	Coal: 2 vessels berthed, 20 anchored; 47 vessels due by 26/12; vessels berthing in order of cargo availability; up to 3 days berthing delay subject to cargo availability and berth congestion can be expected, although vessels with other stems are experiencing longer berthing delays.
Dampier	15-17-Nov-2004	Iron ore: Parker Point: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 1 anchored; 9 vessels due by 25/11; 1-5 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; East Intercourse Island: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 3 anchored; 6 vessels due by 25/11; 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	15-17-Nov-2004	Coal: R.G. Tanna coal terminal: 3 vessels berthed, 8 anchored; 33 vessels due by 17/12; up to 9 days berthing delay expected subject to port congestion; Barney Point: 1 vessel berthed; 5 vessels due by 1/12; up to 1 day's delay expected due to port congestion and cargo availability. Grain: 1 vessel due 30/11 to load sorghum; no delays expected.
Hay Point	15-17-Nov-2004	Coal: 2 vessels berthed, 6 anchored; 14 vessels due by 1/12; up to 3 days berthing delay expected subject to cargo availability and berth congestion.
Newcastle	15-17-Nov-2004	Coal: Kooragang 4, 5 and 6: 3 vessels berthed, 7 anchored; 25 vessels due by 27/11; Dykes 4+5: 3 vessels berthed, 6 anchored; 10 vessels due by 26/11; 1 unallocated vessel due 25/11; 3-6 days delay expected prior to berthing due to planned maintenance at Kooragang terminal and cargo receipt. Grain: Maintenance work is being carried out from 1/11 to ca. 1/12; during this time, there will be no loading but towards the end of this period, 1 vessel will be used for testing etc.
Port Adelaide	15-17-Nov-2004	Grain: No. 27 berth: 5 vessels due by 5/12, 3 to load wheat, 2 barley; up to 2 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Port Hedland	15-17-Nov-2004	Iron ore: BHP Iron Ore Pty. Ltd., Mt. Newman (Nelson Point), "A" berth: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 2 anchored; 6 vessels due by 24/11; 1-4 days delay expected due to congestion and cargo availability; "B" berth: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 1 anchored; 7 vessels due by 23/11; 1-4 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; BHP Iron Ore Pty. Ltd., Goldsworthy (Finucane Island) "C" berth: 1 vessel berthed and loading; 1 vessel due 22/11; no delays expected; Westyard "D" berth: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 1 anchored; 4 vessels due by 20/11; no delays expected; shiploader maintenance will take place from ca. 16/11 for 96 hours. Due to heavy demand for product, acute cargo shortages are still being experienced at wharf stockpiles. Vessels will continue to berth as product becomes available.
Port Kembla	15-17-Nov-2004	Coal: 1 vessel berthed; 14 vessels due by 3/12; CB1: 1 vessel due 18/11; up to 1 day's delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability. Grain: 2 vessels due by 7/12, both to load wheat; up to 1 day's delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Port Walcott	15-17-Nov-2004	Iron ore: 2 vessels berthed and waiting to load, 2 anchored; 16 vessels due by 4/12; up to 3 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; shiploader no. 2 will shut down for maintenance on 16/11. Every effort will be made to ensure that vessels berth in order of arrival; however, due to product constraints, this may not be possible. Shippers advise that stores, air freight and crew baggage can no longer be delivered to vessels or taken off at berth. With immediate effect, all stores, airfreight and bags must be delivered/removed by launch.
Portland	15-17-Nov-2004	Grain: 1 vessel berthed to load wood-chips, 1 anchored to load barley; 3 vessels due by 3/12, all to load wheat; no delays expected.
Brazil		
Paranagua	16-Nov-2004	Nine vessels berthed of which 1 fertiliser discharger, 1 container discharger, 1 reefer loader, 1 sugar loader, 5 other loaders/dischargers; 9 vessels waiting in roads, of which 6 to load (1 sugar, 2 reefers, 1 soya, 2 others), 3 to discharge (1 containers, 2 fertiliser); 44 vessels due over the next 7 days.
Rio Grande	16-Nov-2004	Two vessels berthed of which 1 ammonium phosphate loader, 1 soya meal loader; 4 vessels waiting in roads; 34 vessels due over the next 10 days.
Santos	16-Nov-2004	Twenty-six vessels berthed of which 3 bulk fertiliser dischargers, 3 chemical products loaders, 1 gasoline loader, 1 bulk wheat discharger, 1 full container loader/discharger, 12 sugar

Port Conditions

		loaders, 1 bulk LPG loader/discharger, 1 soda discharger, 3 other loaders; 17 vessels waiting in roads; 102 vessels due over the next 7 days.
Sao Sebastiao	16-Nov-2004	Two vessels berthed, 3 waiting in roads; 2 vessels due over the next 10 days.
Vitoira	16-Nov-2004	No vessels berthed; Terminal Vila Velha: 3 containers, 1 pig-iron loader, 1 fertiliser discharger; Tubarao: 1 iron ore loader; Praia Mole: 1 coal discharger, 2 steel products loaders; Portocel: 2 cellulose loaders; Ubu: 1 iron ore loader; 34 vessels waiting in roads; 14 vessels due over the next 7 days.
Bulgaria		
Bourgas	15-Nov-2004	Twelve vessels in port operating, of which 8 loading (1 copper anodes, 1 baryte concentrate, 2 steel sheets, 1 wheat, 2 coils, 1 scrap), 4 discharging (1 billets, 1 zinc concentrate, 1 concrete/iron, 1 iron ore); 3 vessels waiting in roads, all to load, of which 1 coils, 2 empty; 10 vessels due, of which 3 to load (2 coils, 1 containers), 7 to discharge (1 containers, 2 metals, 1 coils, 1 iron ore, 1 billets, 1 coal).
Chile		
Valparaiso	15-Nov-2004	Three vessels berthed, 5 berths vacant; 3 vessels anchored; 16 vessels due this week.
Colombia		
Buenaventura	11-Nov-2004	Shore cranes operational. Nine vessels berthed (5 containers, 4 bulkers), no vessels anchored; 25 vessels due (19 containers, 1 bulker, 4 tankers, 1PCC), with no delays expected
Egypt		
Alexandria	15-Nov-2004	Thirty-five vessels berthed (loading/discharging) of which 23 general cargo, 8 bulkers, 3 containers, 1 tanker; 13 vessels dry-docked; 12 vessels at inner anchorage, 7 at outer anchorage.
Damietta	15-Nov-2004	Twenty-three vessels berthed (loading/discharging) of which 15 general cargo, 4 bulk carriers, 4 containers; 6 vessels at outer anchorage, 2 at inner anchorage.
Suez Canal	15-Nov-2004	Seventeen vessels transiting Northbound, 15 Southbound.
Israel		
Ashdod	16-Nov-2004	No labour problems. Two general cargo vessels loading at berth, 11 vessels discharging at berth (9 general cargo, 2 bulkers), 3 vessels loading/discharging at berth (2 containers, 1 tanker); 2 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (1 general cargo, 1 bulker), 2 container vessels waiting at anchor to load/discharge; 1 vessel under repairs/dry-docked; 11 vessels due, with 2-3 days delay expected.
Haifa	16-Nov-2004	No labour problems. Eight vessels discharging at berth (4 general cargo, 4 bulkers), 7 vessels loading/discharging at berth (4 containers, 1 car carrier, 2 tankers); 1 general cargo vessel waiting at anchor to load, 3 vessels waiting at anchor to discharge (1 general cargo, 2 bulkers), 7 vessels waiting at anchor to load/discharge (5 containers, 2 tankers); 3 vessels under repairs/dry-docked; 20 vessels due, with 2-3 days delay expected.
Poland		
Gdansk	15-Nov-2004	Six vessels loading at berth (2 coal, 2 bulkers, 2 general cargo), 3 discharging at berth (1 bulker, 2 general cargo); 9 vessels under repairs/dry-docked; no vessels waiting at anchor age, none waiting in roads; 19 vessels due.
Gdynia	15-Nov-2004	Three general cargo vessels loading at berth, none discharging at berth; 17 vessels under repairs/dry-docked; no vessels waiting at anchorage, none waiting in roads; 33 vessels due.
Russia		
Novorossiysk	15-Nov-2004	Fourteen vessels in port operating, of which 13 loading (3 bulk NPK, 1 bulk cement, 1 pipes/tin plate/steel sheets/steel billets/vehicles, 2 copper, 2 bulk ammonium nitrate, 1 equipment/vehicles, 1 steel sheets, 1 barley, 1 UAN solution), 1 discharging bulk sugar; 2 vessels waiting in roads, both to load, of which 1 bulk urea, 1 wheat; 78 vessels due, of which 75 to load (5 copper, 6 pig-iron, 4 DRI, 2 bulk urea, 3 HBI, 6 bulk ammonium nitrate, 1 bulk NPK, 3 scrap, 7 coils, 1 coils/steel sheets, 5 aluminium, 1 slabs, 1 coils/copper, 1 flowers, 1 vehicles, 1 pipes/steel sheets/scrap, 4 wheat, 1 equipment, 1 UAN solution, 1 WRIC/steel billets, 3 zinc, 4 steel billets, 1 steel billets/steel sheets, 2 pipes, 2 tin plate, 1 scrap, 1 steel sheets/debars/coils, 2 bulk peas, 1 lead/zinc, 1 steel sheets, 1 bulk NPK/bulk urea, 1 beetroot), 2 to discharge (1 zinc ore, 1 pipes), 1 to discharge/load containers. Oil terminal: 2 tankers berthed, both loading crude oil; 3 tankers in roads, all to load crude oil; 15 tankers due, all to load, of which 13 crude oil, 2 fuel oil.
Tuapse	15-Nov-2004	Oil products: no vessels berthed; 2 vessels in roads of which 1 gasoil, 1 crude oil; 7 vessels due by 26/11, of which 4 gasoil, 1 naphtha, 1 fuel oil, 1 crude oil.

Port Conditions

Slovenia

Koper 15-Nov-2004 Port working normally; no berthing delays. Ten vessels berthed of which 4 bulk carriers discharging coal/minerals, 1 bulk carrier loading grain, 1 barge loading coal, 2 vessels loading paper products/general cargo, 1 car carrier discharging vehicles, 1 ferry loading vehicles; 15 vessels due over the next 2 days of which 2 to discharge/load containers, 3 bulk carriers to discharge minerals, 3 bulk carriers to load coal, 3 vessels to load sawn timber/general cargo, 3 car carriers to charge/load vehicles, 1 tanker to discharge mineral oils.

Spain

Cadiz 16-Nov-2004 Seventeen vessels in port of which 11 operating (3 Ro/Ros, 1 containers, 1 wheat, 1 sand, 3 shipbuilding materials, 2 passenger vessels), 6 vessels under repair; no delays.
Sagunto 16-Nov-2004 Nineteen vessels in port operating of which 12 discharging (10 steel products, 1 logs, 1 anhydrous ammonia), 3 loading (1 steel products, 1 baled scrap, 1 vehicles), 4 Ro/Ros discharging/loading general cargo; no vessels outside commercial wharf; no berthing delays.

Sri Lanka

Colombo 15-Nov-2004 Berthing/unberthing (pilotage) delays being experienced on breakbulk/conventional vessels. Delays to conventional vessels are due to the fact that container/feeder vessels are given priority at breakbulk berths if there is container congestion. Conventional cargo vessels at BQ 1 and 2 are facing navigation delays. Heavy rains being experienced at present. Five container/feeder vessels loading at berth, 21 vessels discharging at berth (12 containers /feeders, 3 bagged maize, 2 general cargo, 1 frozen fish, 1 palm oil, 1 bulk fertiliser, 1 bulk cement); no vessels waiting at anchorage; 4 vessels dry-docked, 1 under arrest, 1 awaiting orders from principals, 1 at new tanker berth; 9 vessels due (8 containers/feeders, 1 bulk cement), with 1 day's delay expected for general cargo/bagged cargoes.

Ukraine

Ilichevsk 15-Nov-2004 Thirteen vessels in port operating, of which 9 loading (5 steel products, 1 oil, 2 grain, 1 sulphur), 1 discharging ore, 3 discharging/loading containers; 5 vessels in roads, of which 4 to load (1 oil, 1 gasoil, 2 steel products), 1 to load/discharging containers; 21 vessels due, of which 16 to load (14 steel products, 1 oil, 1 ferro nickel), 5 to load/discharge containers.
Mariupol 15-Nov-2004 Fourteen vessels in port operating, all loading, of which 8 steel, 1 fire-clay, 3 coal, 2 sulphur; 2 vessels undergoing survey (1 ammonium nitrate, 1 steel); 9 vessels in roads, all to load, of which 6 steel, 2 coal, 1 fire-clay/containers; 47 vessels due, of which 45 to load (25 steel, 1 pig-iron, 8 coal, 1 coke, 4 fire-clay, 1 ammonium nitrate, 1 wheat, 2 ammonium saltpetre, 1 sulphur, 1 sunflower beans), 2 to discharge (1 pipes, 1 equipment).
Odessa 15-Nov-2004 Nineteen vessels in port operating, of which 8 loading (6 metal, 1 barley, 1 pig-iron), 8 to discharge (2 luggage, 1 sand, 2 citrus, 1 meat, 1 building materials, 1 oil), 2 loading/discharging containers, 1 passenger vessel; 4 vessels in roads of which 1 to load metal, 3 to load/discharge containers; 49 vessels due, of which 31 to load (23 metal, 2 ferro alloy, 3 wood, 2 pig-iron, 1 corn), 6 to discharge (1 metal, 2 citrus, 1 sand, 2 oil), 12 to discharge /load containers.

United States

Houston 16-Nov-2004 Channel open under normal traffic. Pilots report normal 40 ft. 0 ins. max. draft in Houston ship channel; Cargill terminal: no delays; LDC Dreyfus terminal: no delays.
Kalama 16-Nov-2004 Kalama export terminal: 3 days delay; United Harvest terminal: no delays.
New Orleans 16-Nov-2004 Mississippi River terminal berthing delays: Cenex-Harstates/Myrtle Grove: 1-2 days delay expected; Cargill-Westwego: 2 days delay expected; ADM/Ama: 7-10 days delay expected; Bunge/Destrehan: 4 days delay expected; ADM/Destrehan: 7-10 days delay expected; ADM/Reserve: 7-10 days delay expected; Cargill/Reserve: 2 days delay expected; Peavey/Paulina: 2 days delay expected; Zen-Noh/Convent: 3-5 days delay expected; Cargill/Baton Rouge: no delays; Mississippi River mid-stream buoys - estimated berthing delays based on new vessel presented as load-ready and weather permitting: Mile 121.5 ADM (Gemini) - Destrehan: 4 days delay expected; Mile 158.0 Cargill (K2) - Convent: 2 days delay expected; Mile 180.0 Cooper (America) - Darrow: no delays. Nine-day forecast for Carrolton Gauge/New Orleans: expected to decrease to 7.7 ft. by 25/11. Mississippi River recommended draft restrictions: SW Pass to New Orleans (Mile 090.0) - 47 ft. for all vessels; New Orleans (Mile 090) to Baton Rouge (Mile 233.5) - 45 ft. for all vessels; Mississippi River Gulf outlet: 36 ft. bw.; vessels with drafts up to 47 ft. have been handled up to Mile 180 in the past, but are approved by pilots on a case by case basis, based on current river conditions.

Portland	16-Nov-2004	Columbia Grain terminal: 2 days delay; CLD Irving terminal: 2 days delay; CLD, O Dock terminals: 1 day's delay.
Tacoma1	16-Nov-2000	Temco terminal: 2 days delay.

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