

Tokyo MOU to target operations in its next ship safety campaign

Port state administrations detain 102 ships in October,

THE executive body of the memorandum of understanding on port state control in the Asia-Pacific Region (Tokyo MOU) has decided that its next campaign to improve ship safety standards will target operations.

Yet to report formally on its concentrated inspection campaign (CIC) on maritime security from July to September, Tokyo MOU said after an executive committee meeting last week that it planned to run a CIC on control of operational requirements from September to November 2005.

Latest figures indicate that, in October, port state controllers in the 18 Tokyo MOU administrations detained 102 ships for falling short of standards expected.

This was higher than in September when 92 ships had been detained.

By ship type, the highest detention rate was witnessed among general cargo ships, accounting for 45.7% of those detained in September and 49% in September.

In both cases, the flag scoring the highest detention rate was Panama, at 23 ships in September and 24 in October.

Statistics show a marked increase in the number of detentions for the Cambodian flag, up from seven in September to 20 in October.

Among the class societies, NKK recorded the highest number in both months, with 17 detentions in each.

However, Global Marine Bureau saw the number of detentions of the ships it has classed rise from six in September to 15 in October.

Tokyo MOU's executive committee said the organisation would establish a detention review panel to deal with complaints by flag states or recognised organisations against orders by port state authorities, to be operational from January 1, 2005.

It had also amended its memorandum to include more comprehensive criteria on membership.

At the end of the meeting,

chairman John Mansell of New Zealand stepped down, following the expiry of his tenure.

He will be replaced by Lim Ki-Tak, investigator general, Korean Maritime Safety Tribunal, Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries of the Republic of Korea for the next three sessions.

Mr Lim also chairs the International Maritime Organization's Subcommittee on Flag State Implementation.

Hugh O'Mahony
Lloyd's List Editorial

If you have information that has not appeared in the World Watch feature please contact :

Stephen Olley

Tel +44 (0) 20 7017 5205

Fax +44 (1206) 765 284

Email stephen.olley@lloydsmiu.com

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

Vessel	Type	Flag	Class	GT	DWT	Bit	Casualty
ALMAR	edible oil tanker	ANT	RP	1,756	2,188	1980	Reported drifting toward Terschelling in lat 53 33.7N, long 05 15.4E, Nov 19. Tug Hunter, PBIY, towing vessel away from Terschelling, to Harlingen, where arrived same day. Still in port Nov 23.
ALMAZ	fishing	RUS	—	2,402	1,532	1978	Had fire following an explosion 35 miles north-west of the eastern island of Ullung Nov 21. One of the 73 crew missing, 72 rescued. Fire extinguished same day & towed to Donghae. Destroyed by the fire beyond recovery.
AVANTIS III	general	GRC	BV	2,362	1,650	1977	Sank in about lat 37 40.7N, long 23 18.8E, Nov 19 after striking rocks. 11 of the 12 crew rescued.
BORDER HEATHER	product tanker	IOM	—	2,200	3,100	2004	Had explosion and fire on board Oct 31 at Grangemouth. Fire extinguished by crew and firefighters. Sailed Nov 7 for Rotterdam, for repairs.
CASINO EXPRESS	passenger	SWE	LR	10,542	1,410	1966	Grounded at Hillskar, in lat 63 41 39N, long 20 21 34E, Nov 24, while approaching Umea harbour in high winds, with tug assistance. Ballast tanks leaking and vessel taking water. Passengers and 10 crew evacuated, 18 still on board.
FEDON	bulker	BRB	GL	22,465	39,250	1979	Had fire in chief engineer's cabin at Vitoria Nov 20. Fire extinguished. Sustained serious damage to equipment including GPS, communications, radar, etc. Vessel discharging by own means. Moved away from discharge berth Nov 24.
NAPHTAL YEMEN 17	product tanker	KOR	SM	9,101	15,000	1974	Had fire in engine-room off Hodeidah Nov 18. Fire extinguished by late Nov 19. All crew rescued. Heavily damaged. Not given clearance to enter port. Cargo to be transferred. Not considered safe to enter port.
POLO M.	bulker	BHS	NV	21,630	34,214	1980	Grounded in lat 57 38N, long 18 48E, Nov 23, due to extreme bad weather. Hole in ballast tank. 10 crew evacuated. A number of double bottom tanks breached. Salvors appointed and tugs being mobilised. Leaking oil. Clean-up in progress.
TUG NESTOR	tug	NIS	—	236	—	1972	Drifted, developed a heavy list and grounded in lat 57 26.9N, long 18 49.9E, Nov 23, due to bad weather. 5 of the 6 crew evacuated, 1 missing. Sank same day. Divers to search vessel Nov 25 for missing crewman.
VICTORIAN RELIANCE	ro-ro	AUS	NV	16,775	7,619	1999	Reported Nov 25 damaged by an uncharted rock off northern Tasmanian coast almost 2 weeks previously. Starboard side and rudder believed damaged. May enter dry dock at Newcastle Nov 29.
YAKIT I	product tanker	TUR	TU	892	1,263	1965	Grounded and sank at Istanbul Nov 19. No oil leakage. Booms deployed as a precaution.

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The following reports are reprinted from Lloyd's List



ALFONSO (Cyprus)

Copenhagen, Nov 23 — Danish Authorities released ref *Alfonso* 2300, Nov 18 after class had been onboard and found no damage to hull. It is understood the vessel is bound for Cristobal, Panama Canal. — Lloyd's Agents.

ALMAR (Netherlands Antilles)

London, Nov 20 — Following received from Den Helder RCC, timed 0715, UTC: Edible oil tanker *Almar*, PJIK, (1756 gt, built 1980), Hamburg for Rotterdam, in ballast, was reported adrift in lat 53 33.7N, long 05 15.4E, at 2355, UTC, Nov 19. Vessel drifted across traffic lane towards Terschelling and Coast Guard salvage tug *SmitWijfs Rotterdam* proceeded to the vessel, however, master of *Almar* accepted a towage contract with tug *Hunter* which is now towing the vessel away from Terschelling believed to Harlingen. (Note — *Almar* sailed Hamburg 2125, Nov 18 for Rotterdam)

London, Nov 20 — Edible oil tanker *Almar*, and tug *Hunter*, PBIY, reported in Harlingen Harbour at 1628, UTC.

London, Nov 21 — Edible oil tanker *Almar* was reported still in port at Harlingen at 1937, UTC.

London, Nov 23 — Edible oil tanker *Almar* is still in port at Harlingen.

ALMAZ (Russia)

London, Nov 21 — A press report, dated today, states: Two people were missing and 71 rescued after a fire broke out on board fish factory *Almaz* (2402 gt, built 1978), sailing off South Korea's east coast, the South Korean navy said today. The rescue and search began early today when the vessel reported a fire some 35 miles north-west of the eastern island of Ullung, the navy said. It carried a total of 73 crew, it said. Officials said the navy rescued 70 crew from the burning vessel before the maritime police later saved one more. A search was under way for two missing crew in heavy seas nearby, they added. The cause of the fire was not immediately known.

London, Nov 21 — A press report, dated today, states: Russian fish factory *Almaz* caught fire off South Korea's east coast but 71 of its 73 crewmen were rescued, South Korea's Navy said today. South Korean rescuers were searching the nearby sea for two missing crewmen who were identified as a 58-year-old South Korean and a Russian, the Navy said in a news release. *Almaz*, left Donghae port yesterday with 73 crewmen who included seven South Koreans. A South Korean navy patrol boat found it on fire 55 kilometres north-west of Ullung. South Korea's navy dispatched a destroyer and other smaller ships to the area but rescue operations were

hampered by high seas and sporadic rain, the news release said. The cause of the fire was unknown, it said.

London, Nov 21 — A press report, dated today, states: A sailor reported missing from fish factory *Almaz* is a South Korean citizen, sources in the Far Eastern fish fleet supervision office said. All 72 other crew members were rescued and are being transported to the shore. More than half of them are Russian citizens. In the mean time, South Korean rescue ships localised and extinguished the fire on board *Almaz*. Rescue crews report that the vessel was almost completely destroyed by fire and it is beyond recovery. The vessel was headed from "Busan" to Vladivostok. The fire on board the vessel started after an explosion. Three vessels from Busan answered the vessel's distress signal and came to the rescue. The causes of the explosion on board the vessel are still unknown.

London, Nov 21 — A press report, dated today, states: Rescue ships towed fish factory *Almaz* to the port of Donghae. Sources in the Far Eastern fish fleet supervision office said that South Korean rescue ships also transported 72 *Almaz* crew members to the shore. Forty-eight crewmembers are Russian citizens. Only one sailor, a South Korean citizen, is considered missing. The vessel was enroute from Busan to Vladivostok. It was later scheduled to sail to the Okhotsk Sea for herring fishing. Three rescue vessels from Busan fought with the fire on board *Almaz* for four hours. Rescue crews report that the ship has been destroyed by fire beyond recovery.

London, Nov 22 — A press report, dated today, states: A South Korean state expert commission began investigating the cause of a fire on fish factory *Almaz* in the port of Donghae today. A spokesman for the Far East regional Emergencies Ministry centre said that the ship's master said a short circuit in the ship's wiring caused the fire. One South Korean sailor is missing. South Korean authorities have not officially confirmed information about him, the spokesman said. Yesterday, the ship was towed to Donghae. No oil leaked from the ship.

AMBER (Isle of Man)

See *Hanseatic Star*.

AMERICAN PILLAR (U.S.A.)

London, Nov 22 — Following received from Coast Guard New Orleans, timed 1500, UTC: Lead grain barge being pushed by tug *American Pillar* (1415 gt, built 1976) was in collision with a lead barge of a convoy being pushed by another tug at Mile 149, River Mississippi, about 0500, local time, Nov 21. The barge from the *American Pillar* convoy began taking water and the tug used its own pumps to keep the levels under control. The other tug and its barges moored safely at Mile 152.

AMISIA J. (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Nov 25 — Information received from Sandnes states: General

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

cargo *Amisia J.* is still at Langstein Shipyard undergoing repairs. ETC Dec 3.

ANGLIAN EARL (Barbados)

Falmouth, Nov 19 — Anchor handling tug/supply *Anglian Earl* is still under repair at Kings Wharf. — Lloyd's Agents.

ANGLIAN WAY (Panama)

London, Nov 24 — Ro/ro *Anglian Way* sailed Schiedam Nov 22 for Ostend.

ANTINA (Antigua & Barbuda)

Brest, Nov 24 — As per last information obtained repairs are now completed and general cargo *Antina* is due to depart from Brest at 1700, local time, today, bound for Spain. — Lloyd's Agents.

ARADOSH (Syria)

London, Nov 22 — A press report, dated today states: Syrian general cargo *Aradosh* (? ex *Haj Mahmoud*, 1983 gt, built 1964) caused damage to two holiday homes when it ran aground on the Asian side of the Bosphorus in Istanbul, the Anatolia news agency reported yesterday. The master reportedly lost control of *Aradosh*, which ran aground, damaging the gardens and swimming pools of two villas in the Uskudar district, the agency said. The ship managed to right itself and continued on its way until it was stopped by maritime police at the entrance to the Marmara sea, where the crew was questioned. It was not immediately known what caused the accident, but high, gusting winds were blowing over the Turkish metropolis on Saturday. Weathermen were predicting snow yesterday.

London, Nov 22 — Following received from Coast Guard Ankara, timed 0720, UTC: General cargo *Aradosh*, YKDI, is at anchor.

ASAHI (Panama)

See "Illegal Dumping of Waste Oil at Sea" under "Miscellaneous."

ATLANTIC TRANSPORT (Belgium)

London, Nov 25 — Non specific tanker *Atlantic Transport*, Terneuzen for Antwerp, with blend (a thinner for fuel oil), ran aground at about 0515, local time, this morning, on a sandbank in the River Scheldt, between Hansweert and Ossensisse. The vessel went out of the fairway for another passing vessel and ran on to the sandbank. The cargo is considered dangerous, but there was no damage caused by the stranding and no threat to the environment. The vessel successfully refloated under own power at about 1100 and continued the voyage to Antwerp.

AUTO ATLAS (South Korea)

London, Nov 23 — Vehicle *Auto Atlas* sailed Bremerhaven 1205, Nov 18, arrived Southampton 0102, Nov 21 and sailed 1809 same day for Port Said.

AVANTIS III (Greece)

London, Nov 19 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 0830, UTC: General cargo *Avantis III* (2362 gt,

built 1977), 12 crew on board, sank in approximately lat 37 40.7N, long 23 18.8E, sometime before 0400, local time, this morning. One crew member was drowned the others were rescued.

London, Nov 19 — A press report, dated today, states: A Greek sailor drowned earlier today when a small cargo vessel (general cargo *Avantis III*), carrying construction materials, and a crew of 12, sank after hitting a reef near the Aegean Sea island of Aegina. According to the Merchant Marine Ministry, the sailor was a cook on board the vessel that went down just before dawn. The other 11 crew members were picked up by the coast guard and taken to Aegina, located near Athens. It was unclear why the vessel, carrying bricks and other construction materials, struck the clearly marked reef. The vessel had left the Greek port of Messolonghi headed for Cyprus. The body of the ship's cook was found by a search and rescue helicopter.

London, Nov 19 — Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: At 0355 hrs, today, the Central Search and Rescue of the Ministry of Mercantile Marine was advised by the master of general cargo *Avantis III* that he and 10 crewmembers had abandoned ship into a lifeboat and were located near Aegina island. They had abandoned ship, which had sunk after striking rocks. One crew member, the 35 year old Greek cook, remained missing. Immediately two Coast Guard patrol boats and one rescue boat were dispatched to the area along with a Navy frigate, fishing boats and other private craft. Additionally a Super Puma helicopter was sent in order to search for the missing crewmember. The 11 crew who are in good health have been rescued and transported to Aegina. For precautionary reasons they were taken to the local hospital. At about 0730 hrs, the Super Puma located the body of the missing crewmember and transported him to Aegina where he was identified by the Master of the vessel. *Avantis III* had sailed from Messolonghi loaded with a cargo of construction materials, specifically gypsum boards and ceramic roof tiles. The destination of the cargo was Cyprus.

London, Nov 20 — A press report, dated today, states: One seaman drowned when general cargo *Avantis III* struck a rock and sank before dawn yesterday on one of Greece's most frequently travelled waterways. *Avantis III*, which had just exited the Corinth Canal and was heading for Cyprus, sank within a few minutes of hitting the submerged rock close to the islet of Angistri near Aegina, some 19 nautical miles from Piraeus. The accident occurred around 0345 in fine weather conditions. Out of the vessel's 12 officers and crew, 11 managed to abandon ship by diving into the water, and climbed into a small lifeboat. However the ship's cook who had only joined the crew last Saturday (Nov 13), was trapped in his bunk and drowned. The vessel went down so quickly that none of the crew members had time to send out a distress signal. Search-and-

rescue authorities were only notified of the shipwreck when the vessel's master, Sotiris Bissios called Merchant Marine Ministry officials on his mobile phone from the lifeboat. A large sea-and-air search-and-rescue operation was immediately launched around the Doroussa rock, off the southwestern tip of Angistri, an increasingly favourite weekend destination for Athenians. The 11 survivors were taken to Aegina for first aid, but none required further treatment. Captain Bissios was arrested, together with Second Mate Magdalini Mandzou and seaman Giorgos Spanos who were on bridge duty when the vessel struck. The vessel had sailed from Corfu, and stopped at Mesolongi in central Greece to take on a cargo of tiles and other building material destined for Cyprus.

B.NO.120 (U.S.A.)

See "Buzzards Bay, Massachusetts, United States" under "Pollution."

BARON (Panama)

See "Illegal Dumping of Waste Oil at Sea" under "Miscellaneous."

BATNA (Algeria)

See "Algeria" under "Weather & Navigation."

BBC CHINA (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Nov 19 — A press report, dated today, states: Members of the public have been asked to observe the boundaries set up during preparations for the final "reduction" of general cargo *BBC China*, which ran aground at Port Grosvenor on the east coast last month, maritime authorities said today. The final phase involves the cutting, burning and toppling of the accommodation section, the removal of masts and cranes and the cutting open of the fuel tanks to allow the sea to flush it out. An environmental impact assessment would determine the final fate of the vessel's remains, but in the meantime pollution prevention and wreck reduction continued, the Maritime Safety Authority and department of environmental affairs said. The salvage team have completed the recovery of most of the pollutants - like paint and lead-covered batteries - and have already stripped the accommodation section of fittings. Patrols by *Kuswag I* and *Kuswag VIII* would continue in the vicinity and a team was on standby to deal with possible threats to the environment.

London, Nov 22 — A press report, dated Nov 19, states: Subject to the final results of an Environmental Impact Assessment report to be completed and submitted on Monday, Nov 22, to the Department of Environmental Affairs & Tourism and the South African Maritime Safety Authority, preparations for the general cargo *BBC China* wreck reduction operation continue. It is likely that the *BBC China* salvage team will carry out a reduced wreck reduction plan including pre-cutting, burning and toppling of the accommodation section, removal of masts and toppling of cranes and removal of all deck cargo after

which a reduced blasting operation to render the fuel tanks tidal will take place. However, plans are in place should it be deemed viable for an extensive blasting operation to render the wreck open to the sea. This decision will only be made once the results of the Environmental Impact Assessment have been presented. In the interim several pollution prevention and wreck reduction measures are proceeding, including preparations for the burning of the accommodation section to further clean and eradicate any pollutants, removal of certain loose equipment and fittings from the deck for safety reasons, toppling of the cranes and the accommodation section and opening up of fuel tanks and the engine-room to the sea to allow flushing of the tanks. The methods employed in the wreck reduction operation will have the least impact on the environment and also ensure in the short and long term that the wreck is not attractive to local inhabitants, tourists and adventure seekers whose safety could be at risk should they wish to investigate the wreck. A consultative meeting on the wreck reduction process was held on Tuesday in the Eastern Cape between the South African Maritime Safety Authority, Department of Environmental Affairs & Tourism, salvors Smit, local leaders, representatives of the local community and *BBC China's* Owner's Representatives.

BECHAR (Algeria)

See "Algeria" under "Weather & Navigation."

BELLONA (Sweden)

Gothenburg, Nov 23 — Product tanker *Bellona* departed Cityvarvet at 1600, Nov 19 for tests. Repairs approved and tests were successful and vessel sailed Gothenburg 2400 hrs for Ventspils. — Westax Marine Services AB.

BIRK (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Nov 22 — Following received from RCC Curacao, timed 1435, UTC: C.c. *Birk* (6674 gt, built 2003) was towed to Anna Bay by tug *Lima II* at 0200, local time, yesterday after experiencing problems.

BLUE OCEAN (Cambodia)

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

BORDER HEATHER (Isle of Man)

London, Nov 22 — A press report, dated Nov 18, states: A ship's engineer is recovering at his Cramlington home after he bravely helped firemen avert a major disaster following an explosion on product tanker *Border Heather* (2200 gt, built 2004) loaded with 3,000 tonnes of fuel. Derek Davison was on board the BP oil tanker *Border Heather* when it caught fire just after being filled with petrol, diesel and aviation fuel at the Grangemouth oil refinery. Derek said: "The tanker had just been filled up with 3,000 tonnes of fuel. As we cast off there was an explosion at the front of the ship. There was smoke everywhere and for some reason I just

grabbed a breathing apparatus set and headed towards it." By the time Derek reached the front of the ship it had got alongside the quay and firefighters managed to get on board. He then led them into the compartment where the explosion had taken place. Eleven fire engines and 50 firefighters from Central Scotland Fire and Rescue Service attended the incident which took place at about 1830, Oct 31. After four hours crews finally managed to get the blaze under control. A spokesman for BP said: "Everyone responded excellently to the incident. They did a superb job making sure everyone was safe." Derek is still suffering from shock after the incident and is seeing a counsellor provided by BP. However, he opted to stay with the ship after the incident and sail with it over to Holland for repairs. (Note — *Border Heather* arrived Grangemouth Oct 27 and sailed Nov 7 for Rotterdam.)

CASINO EXPRESS (Sweden)

London, Nov 24 — Following received from Gothenburg MRCC, timed 2000, UTC: Passenger ro/ro *Casino Express* (10542 gt, built 1966), 39 passenger and 27 crew on board, grounded while entering Umea harbour, in storm to hurricane force winds, in lat 63 41.39N, long 20 21.34E at 1835, local time, today. The vessel has leaking ballast tanks and is making water. A Coast Guard vessel, a pilot vessel, and a helicopter are on scene, trying to evaluate how best to evacuate passengers and crew. (Note — *Casino Express* trades between Vaasa and Umea.)

Gothenburg, Nov 24 — Passenger ro/ro *Casino Express*, routing between Umea and Vaasa with 39 passengers and a 27 person crew, ran aground at Hillskar, east of Umea, northern Sweden. No injuries reported. The vessel was approaching the port with tugs when the line to the tug broke and drifted towards the ground. The master decided to evacuate the passengers since there was very bad weather and strong winds between 28-30 metres-per-second. Coast Guard to assist the evacuation and passengers to depart from the vessel, which is located some 500-600 metres from the pier of Umea. The grounding was around 1835, tonight. Investigating if any leakage or holes in vessel's bottom or if oil spillage. After all passengers evacuated and pending the result of a survey, a decision whether to attempt to pull vessel off the ground or await better weather condition and/or extra assistance will be made. — Westax Marine Services AB.

Helsinki, Nov 25 — Passenger ro/ro *Casino Express*, in regular traffic between Vaasa and Umea, owner RG-Line, Vaasa, grounded at the port of Umea at 1915, Nov 24. According to managing director B'rje Lassfolk of RG Line there are some holes in some tanks, but the vessel is not in danger of sinking. Refloating of the vessel can be attempted if the direction of the wind changes. Refloating the vessel will need assistance of tugs. The 39 passengers and some of the 28 crew

members were evacuated yesterday evening. The vessel was coming into the port of Umea when the 31 metre-per-second wind pushed the vessel past the port, and despite tug assistance the vessel grounded. The vessel will be out of service for some time. At present it is not yet known if there will be a replacement vessel. — Lloyd's Agents.

Gothenburg, Nov 25 — The evacuation of passengers and crew from passenger ro/ro *Casino Express* commenced at Holmsund port near Umea, outport of Umea, at 2240, local time (yesterday). The work proceeded well and all were ashore without incident. Ten of the crew were ashore, the remaining 18 to keep the vessel "for running business" and to assist in salvage. An attempt to pull the vessel off the ground failed and further investigation now to proceed. Vessel hard on the ground, damage in bottom and hull, and three tanks with holes says Borge Lassfolk managing director of RG Line. The vessel was assisted by tug *Krone*, where towline broke. — Westax Marine Services AB.

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

Troy, Michigan, Nov 25 — Bulk *Cason J. Callaway* (12309 gt, built 1952) was in drydock at Fraser Shipyards in Superior yesterday undergoing repairs to a leaking stern bearing. — Great Lakes & Seaway Shipping.

CELINE (Switzerland)

London, Nov 25 — Following received from Madrid MRCC, timed 0955, UTC: General cargo *Celine* (6382 gt, built 2001) is adrift in lat 36 05.5N, long 11 32.3W, with engine breakdown.

London, Nov 25 — Following received from Lisbon MRCC, timed 1000, UTC: General cargo *Celine* has been in contact with owner and is now awaiting a tug.

CELTIC PIONEER (U.K.)

London, Nov 23 — General cargo *Celtic Pioneer* arrived Goole Nov 22.

CENTAURUS (Panama)

Stanley, Nov 23 — Product tanker *Centaurus* (5104 gt, built 1982) went aground around 0900, local time, today in Stanley Harbour. Vessel was refloated around 1435 this afternoon. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Nov 24 — A press report, dated today, states: The grounding of product tanker *Centaurus* in high winds caused a seven hour drama in the Falklands yesterday. Around 0800 yesterday *Centaurus*, carrying a cargo of some 2,000 tonnes of diesel oil for Stanley, touched bottom, while attempting to dock at the Falklands Interim Port and Storage Facility (FIPASS). The ship grounded some 200 yards to the east of the floating dock. The accident happened at low tide and the sea bed at the point of contact was described by Harbour-master, Jon Clarke, as "relatively soft". However, this was threatened by the distinct possibility that as the tide rose the ship would be driven further inshore by gale force winds from the north. High tide was expected at around 1430 hrs. During the late morning, the local

inter-island cargo vessel *Tamar F.I.* took a tow line from *Centaurus* in order to prevent the situation worsening, while discussions took place about the next move. In the Falklands with its small population, there is often a shortage of people with specific skills and so a degree of multi-tasking is normal. In this case, master mariner Ian Wilkinson, manager of Island Shipping Ltd., the company that operates *Tamar F.I.*, was also the local pilot onboard *Centaurus* at the time it grounded. As negotiations regarding salvage operations began between the master of *Centaurus* and the master of *Tamar F.I.* Ian Wilkinson found himself in a position which he described as "somewhat invidious." Just before noon, with no let up in the force of the wind, listeners to inter-ship communications heard Captain McNeill of *Tamar F.I.* urge the master of *Centaurus* to agree to accept Lloyd's Open Form as a preliminary to a salvage attempt being made. Ian Wilkinson also urged acceptance, saying that the ship was beginning to "bump" and that he feared that unless prompt action was taken, it would later be impossible to get the ship off and it could become a "constructive total loss". Eventually, after messages had been exchanged through the local agents for *Centaurus* to Greece and from Greece to, the vessel's operator's, Lavinia Corporation's lawyers in London, the salvage operation began at around 1220 hrs. By 1223 hrs, assisted by two harbour patrol launches acting as tugs, *Tamar F.I.* had succeeded in pulling the tanker's bow away from the shore and somewhat into the wind. At this point, just after Ian Wilkinson had reported "We seem to be unstuck now" a windlass problem on *Tamar F.I.* intervened and by 1230 hrs the status quo was resumed, with *Centaurus* once more lying broadside on to the wind and pointing towards the shore. In the hope of a slight reduction of wind strength later in the afternoon, no further attempt to pull the tanker free was made until 1410 hrs. At this point *Tamar F.I.* and the two harbour patrol launches, which had maintained station throughout, were joined by two other vessels: the Falkland Islands Company launch *Speedwell* and the long-retired harbour workhorse, *Lively*. With launches and *Lively* pushing from the leeward side and *Tamar F.I.* pulling, by 1420 hrs *Centaurus* was heading into wind and declared "fully afloat" by its pilot.

Stanley, Nov 24 — Following received from the Government Marine Officer: At 0900, local time, yesterday, product tanker *Centaurus* grounded in Stanley Harbour, about one cable east of the Falklands Interim Port and Storage System (FIPASS). At the time of grounding, the vessel had been attempting to berth at FIPASS but was unable to turn up into the wind (NW force 8, gale) with one and a half shackles out on its starboard anchor. It was later refloated on the flood tide at around 1425, local time, with the assistance of general cargo *Tamar F.I.* and other local launches. There does

not appear to have been any pollution. A damage report is awaited. — Lloyd's Agents.

CONTRADER (Panama)

See "Hurricane 'Jeanne'" under "Weather & Navigation."

CORN SWIFT (Malta)

London, Nov 20 — Following received from Coastguard Milford Haven MRSC, timed 0756, UTC: At 2135, UTC, Nov 19 overheard fishing *Monica 2*, FVRP, (51 gt, built 1988), fishing No.LO686632, calling unidentified vessel requesting its call sign. Contact established with *Monica 2* who confirmed that it had been in collision with an unidentified cargo vessel in lat 51 32N, long 05 56W. Further extensive investigation revealed other vessel to be general cargo *Corn Swift*, 9HFM7, (4921 gt, built 1983). Both vessels safe and in no danger. *Corn Swift* is currently heading for Hartlepool. *Monica 2* currently heading back to Loctudy, Brittany. Search and rescue terminated 0130, UTC.

London, Nov 21 — A press report, dated today, states: An investigation is under way after general cargo *Corn Swift* and fishing *Monica 2* collided off the southern tip of the Welsh coast. But Milford Haven coastguards, who co-ordinated the operation on Friday, said no-one was hurt and both vessels were happy to continue on their voyages. The French trawler is expected to arrive in port in Brittany today. A spokesman for the coastguards said both ships had sustained very little damage in the incident which happened between the southern tip of Wales and the Cornish coast. They said they liaised with French authorities, but did not attend themselves. We only know at the moment that the two boats collided. There was no pollution resulting from the incident and coastguards said they had no idea what had caused the collision, the spokesman added. *Monica 2*, was not taking on water after the collision and was limping to the port of Loctudy, according to maritime officials in Brest, today. The ship's five-man crew will be questioned by officers at Brest about the incident when they arrive in port, said a police spokesman. Visibility at the time of the accident was good and the sea was calm. Fishermen in the area of the accident said *Corn Swift* had not stopped after the incident. The ship is expected to arrive in its destination port of Hartlepool. The authorities have been given recordings of the ship radio conversations which should allow them to discover the exact chain of events, French officials in Brest said.

London, Nov 24 — General cargo *Corn Swift* arrived Hartlepool 0035, Nov 23.

Hull, Nov 24 — General cargo *Corn Swift* sustained superficial damage to the port side shell plating, between frames 41 and 45, which does not require immediate repairs. There is no interruption to the vessel's schedule. The vessel is presently at the deep water berth, Hartlepool, and is expected to sail tomorrow afternoon. — Lloyd's Agents.

DAKA (Panama)

See "Netherlands" under "Port State Control."

DAVIKEN (Bahamas)

London, Nov 23 — Bulk *Daviken* (23306 gt, built 1987) struck the approach wall while approaching Lock 1, Welland Canal, in lat 43 15N, long 79 18W, at approximately 1540, Nov 20. Upon Seaway inspection it was discovered that there was previous damage; 1.5m hole by 4m above the waterline. (Note — *Daviken* sailed Bremen Nov 7 for Windsor, Ontario.)

DELLA BROWN (U.S.A.)

See *Pacific Highway*.

DINO (Croatia)

London, Nov 23 — A press report, dated Nov 22, states: General cargo *Dino* (543 gt, built 1958) was coming in to dock at the fishing village of Kukljica, on the Adriatic island of Ugljan, when the master mistakenly put the ship into full speed ahead instead of slowing it down. The vessel crashed through the port, the beach and into the front of a house, Croatian TV reported.

DWEEP SETU (India)

Kochi, Nov 24 — Understand that the repair work to passenger ro/ro *Dweep Setu* is delayed due to non-availability of spare parts. The local agent is unable to indicate a date for completion of the repairs. — Lloyd's Agents.

EL VENIZELOS (Greece)

London, Nov 22 — Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: Passenger ro/ro *El Venizelos* (38261 gt, built 1992) sustained engine damage while at Iraklion port, evening Nov 20. The damage was eventually repaired by the crew and following survey by the marine inspectorate, the vessel departed for Piraeus at 0020 hrs after a 4.5 hour delay to the original schedule. (Note — *El Venizelos* sailed Valletta Nov 7 for Iraklion.)

ERNA OLDENDORFF (Liberia)

London, Nov 23 — Bulk *Erna Oldendorff* (11264 gt, built 1994), while berthing at Pier 10, Hamilton Harbour, struck the pier in lat 43 18N, long 79 51W, at 1100, Nov 21. The vessel sustained minor damage and the pier sustained some damage. (Note — *Erna Oldendorff* sailed Port Klang Oct 15 and subsequently passed Gibraltar Nov 5 bound for Montreal.)

EUROPA I (Bolivia)

Piraeus, Nov 19 — Passenger ro/ro *Europa I* arrived Piraeus Nov 17 from Albania. — Lloyd's Agents.

FAIRWEATHER (U.S.A.)

London, Nov 25 — A press release from Alaska Marine Highway System, dated Nov 10, states: Alaska Marine Highway System's passenger ro/ro *Fairweather* will return to service on Nov 17 with a round-trip sailing from Juneau to Haines and Skagway. *Fairweather* has been out of service since mid-September for scheduled

maintenance, and to have one of its four diesel engines replaced. In addition, the vessel's crew will complete training for Coast Guard certification for nighttime operations by Nov 13.

FEDERAL BAFFIN (Barbados)

London, Nov 19 — Bulk *Federal Baffin* arrived Halifax Nov 16 from Montreal.

FEDON (Barbados)

London, Nov 23 — Following received from the managers of bulk *Fedon* (22465 gt, built 1979), in Piraeus, dated today: *Fedon* had a fire in chief engineers cabin at Vitoria, Brazil, yesterday. The fire was brought under control. There are no problems and vessel is discharging by own means after which repairs are to be carried out.

London, Nov 23 — A press report, dated today, states: Severe delays are anticipated at the Tubarao fertilizer quay, after bulk *Fedon* caught fire while discharging fertilizers at TPD/04 berth yesterday morning. Understood *Fedon* sustained serious damage to its equipment as a result of the fire on its bridge which broke out at about 0340 yesterday. The blaze was extinguished at about 0800, local time. An official investigation is currently underway to establish the cause. The Harbourmaster is looking into how the damaged ship can be unberthed from TPD/04 once discharging operations have been completed, to allow other vessels to berth. Understood as the ship has no functioning equipment, GPS, communications, radar, etc, it is not yet clear when this will be possible.

London, Nov 24 — Delays at Tubarao fertilizer quay have been minimised as bulk *Fedon*, which was damaged by a fire while discharging cargo on Monday (Nov 22), has been moved away from TPD/04 berth to allow other vessels to discharge fertilizers. An inquiry into the cause of the fire is still underway. The damaged vessel is expected to be unberthed from Tubarao/TPD 3 tomorrow afternoon (Nov 25), possibly to anchorage.

FIONE (Panama)

London, Nov 18 — Following received from Coastguard Dover MRSC, timed 2336, UTC: At 2302, UTC, today, general cargo *Fione* (2451 gt, built 1967), in ballast, with 12 people on board, was reported, by a member of the public, aground at Foreness Point, near Margate. The master later confirmed the grounding and the Margate lifeboat was launched. Tug *Anglian Monarch* is also proceeding. (Note — *Fione*, Motril for Tilbury, passed Cape Finisterre on Nov 15.)

London, Nov 19 — Following received from Coastguard Dover MRSC, timed 0353, UTC: General cargo *Fione* refloated under own power at 0349, UTC, and is proceeding to Margate anchorage. Seaworthiness to be checked at the earliest opportunity. Lifeboat stood down.

London, Nov 19 — A press report, dated today, states: General cargo

Fione, which ran aground after it was swept ashore by high winds, was refloated today. Dover Coastguard said the Panama-registered *Fione*, which had been anchored offshore and was on its way to Tilbury, grounded on to sand at Long Nose rocks, south east of Margate, shortly before 2300, yesterday. A lifeboat, rescue team and tug were sent to the scene. A coastguard spokeswoman said the vessel was not carrying any cargo and had not been damaged. The crew of 12 were in no danger and remained on the vessel. The vessel was refloated at about 0400.

London, Nov 19 — Following received from Coastguard Dover MRSC, timed 1002, UTC: General cargo *Fione* is now under way to Szczecin, ETA 1500, UTC, Nov 21.

London, Nov 24 — General cargo *Fione* arrived Szczecin Nov 22.

FORTUNE EPOCH (Panama)

London, Nov 19 — A press report, dated Nov 18, states: A leaking fuel tank on Panamanian-flagged ro/ro *Fortune Epoch* (9992 gt, built 1995), carrying machinery and parts out of Savannah heading for Philadelphia, has created a six-mile long sheen on the Atlantic Ocean off Tybee Island. A Coast Guard official said the spill is not viewed as a high risk to the environment. A preliminary report from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration predicts that yesterday's fuel spill could reach uninhabited Little Tybee Island today. *Fortune Epoch* began leaking fuel around 1000, Wednesday (Nov 17) when it was about 10 miles off Tybee Island. A Coast Guard helicopter flight over the vessel indicated it had stopped leaking by 1900. The ship's tank holds about 37,000 gallons of intermediate fuel oil 180 (a combination of fuel and diesel oil), according to Lt. Cmdr. Charles Barbee of the US Coast Guard. He did not know how much had leaked or why. "It's not as high a risk to the environment as crude oil," Barbee said. "It still has a pretty good evaporation rate," which he said makes the spill less of a threat to wildlife. "It covers a very large area, but it's very light," Barbee said. "We are definitely concerned, but the risk doesn't appear to be that high."

Fort Lauderdale, Fla., Nov 19 — Ro/ro *Fortune Epoch*: Resolve Towing and Salvage Inc from Fort Lauderdale, Florida, are the named salvors for this project. — Resolve Towing and Salvage Inc.

London, Nov 21 — A press report, dated Nov 20, states: Wildlife officials are busy tending to injured animals along the Georgia coast, after identifying at least 20 birds that were affected by a recent fuel spill. Beachgoers at Tybee Island found a loon coated with oil yesterday morning. Later in the day, cleanup crews found about 19 more oil-covered birds on Little Tybee and Wassaw islands as well as offshore. Ro/ro *Fortune Epoch* began leaking fuel oil Wednesday morning (Nov 17) when it was about 10 miles off the coast of Tybee. A Coast

Guard helicopter flight over the vessel indicated it had stopped leaking by 1900. Wednesday. The bulk of the spill occurred in the first few hours, but a "slight sheen" continues to come off the boat, U.S. Coast Guard Lt. Anthony Quirino said. An oil boom was set up around the vessel Thursday night. Most of the birds affected by the spill are red-throated loons, said Brad Winn, a wildlife biologist with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources. The injured birds apparently swam ashore, after fuel coating their feathers robbed them of their natural insulation and prevented them from flying, Winn said. As they preen their feathers to get clean, they ingest the oil and make themselves sick. The ship was carrying machinery and parts out of Savannah heading for Philadelphia when the leak developed. Divers investigating the damaged ship found three large holes spanning a fuel tank and adjacent ballast tank, but do not yet know what caused the damage. Nor do they know how much fuel spilled from its 37,000 gallon tank. But Winn was optimistic yesterday that the extent of the damage was limited. Shellfish beds in Chatham County appear unaffected by the spill, said Michelle Cortes of the Georgia Environmental Protection Division. The investigation and cleanup, which includes the Coast Guard, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the state Department of Natural Resources, will be billed to the ship's owner, Quirino said.

Atlanta, Nov 22 — Ro/ro *Fortune Epoch* is currently at anchor about 11 miles offshore, undergoing repairs. The vessel sailed from Savannah last Wednesday (Nov 17), and was noted to be leaking fuel as it was leaving port. The vessel stopped and anchored, reported the spill to the Coast Guard in Savannah, brought in divers to investigate and they found that the hull had three cracks in it in the way of the number 2 fuel tank and number 4 ballast tank on the port side, forward. Two of the cracks are in the way of the number 2 fuel tank and the third is in the way of the adjacent number 4 ballast tank. There is also some manner of leak between the number 2 fuel tank and the number 4 ballast tank. How much fuel has been spilled is unknown; however, the fuel tank is reported to hold some 37,000 gallons of fuel. One of the three cracks is 12 feet long by 6 inches wide, the second is 10 feet by 6 inches and the third is 4 feet by 2 inches. Two of the three were found in the way of the number two fuel tank with the third was in the number 4 ballast tank. Which cracks are in which tank is not known. Divers are applying patches to the hull. That work is expected to be completed sometime late tomorrow. Simultaneously, the vessel owners have reportedly made arrangements to bring in a tug and or barge to off load any remaining fuel in either or both tanks. Oil containment booms have been deployed around the vessel and cleanup is apparently ongoing. The cause is still under investigation, by the Coast Guard. The vessel reports that it does

not believe that it struck anything or grounded while leaving. The vessel is not expected to be released by the Coast Guard Captain of the port to sail for at least another day if not longer. It was supposed to be sailing to Philadelphia from Savannah. Its plans now are not known. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Nov 24 — A press report, dated today, states: Several birds covered in oil have been found along the beaches of Hilton Head and Daufuskie islands after ro/ro *Fortune Epoch* leaked fuel off Tybee Island. No fuel has been found along local beaches, US Coast Guard officials said. Four birds have been found covered in fuel, including one that was dead, said Petty Officer Jaime Bigelow, a US Coast Guard spokesman. The fuel, a mixture of diesel fuel and crude oil, leaked Wednesday (Nov 17) from the vessel. The vessel is about 10 miles offshore of Tybee Island. The fuel leaked from three holes in the bottom of the vessel, the largest hole 12 feet by 1 foot. Bigelow said the Coast Guard was still investigating how far the fuel has moved. "We did receive a couple of reports on Daufuskie and Hilton Head of oil," Bigelow said. "We went to check those out and didn't see anything." Diane Beeman, spill response coordinator for the Southeast region for the US Fish and Wildlife Service, said that as of midday yesterday, 20 birds had been turned in to Tri-State Bird Rescue and Research, the company rehabilitating the birds. There were 17 loons, one pelican and two gannets. She didn't know the number of dead birds found.

GENMAR PROGRESS (Liberia)

London, Nov 23 — Following received from Coastguard Falmouth MRCC, timed 1258, UTC: Crude oil tanker *GenMar Progress* (52164 gt, built 1991), with 28 persons on board is reporting a fire on board in lat 39 58N, long 25 55E, and is requesting assistance. (Note — *GenMar Progress*, sailed Tuapse Nov 18 and subsequently passed Istanbul westward 0705, Nov 21 for Savona.)

London, Nov 23 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 1305, UTC: Crude oil tanker *GenMar Progress*, Novorossiysk for Savona, loaded, is requesting firefighting assistance in lat 39 57.4N, long 25 54.1E. Turkish Coast Guard are co-ordinating operations.

Istanbul, Nov 23 — Crude oil tanker *GenMar Progress*, while transiting Dardanelles on voyage from Tuapse to Savona, experienced fire in way of accommodation at 1400, local time, today. Reportedly fire was extinguished partly by vessel's own means. Vessel requested tug assistance. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Nov 23 — Crude oil tanker *GenMar Progress* managed by Wallem Shipmanagement INC, USA, reported a fire in the accommodation at approximately "1320," UTC, this afternoon. The fire has been successfully fought by vessel staff, and was reported fully extinguished at 1400 UTC today. No casualties occurred and only minor damage to the vessel's

accommodation in the vicinity of the fire has been reported. The vessel is currently underway and there is no danger to its systems or cargo. The vessel was enroute from the Dardanelles in Turkey to Savona, Italy, laden with crude oil. The master has been in touch with Turkish authorities, and has now been instructed to anchor off Bozcaada, south of the Dardanelles. Reports from the crew confirm the fire was small in size and contained in one cabin. A general message stating that the fire is out and no external assistance is required has been transmitted by the vessel. Vessel's position is currently lat 39 57.7N, long 25 52.9E.

London, Nov 23 — Following received from the managers of crude oil tanker *GenMar Progress*, dated today: The Master of *GenMar Progress* received clearance from the Turkish Authorities to resume passage, and the vessel was under way at 1730, local time, bound for Savona for discharge.

Istanbul, Nov 24 — Crude oil tanker *GenMar Progress* completed necessary repairs by its own means and upon inspection/formalities, sailed from Canakkale at 1900, local time, Nov 23. — Lloyd's Agents.

GLOBAL FREIGHTER (Finland)

Lubeck, Nov 23 — Ro/ro *Global Freighter* arrived Lubeck 1918, Nov 21 from Turku. — Lloyd's Agents.

GOOD HOPE (Malta)

London, Nov 21 — A press report, dated today, states: Maltese crude oil tanker *Good Hope* (50552 gt, built 1996) leaked oil into the Mediterranean off Egypt's north coast today because of a technical problem, an official with a governmental environment affairs agency said. "The spill happened early today," the official said. He added the tanker had stopped leaking oil but there was a spill about one km square in size about one km from Egypt's north coast, east of Alexandria. He said local authorities were cleaning up the spill and had no plans to close ports on Egypt's Mediterranean coast.

GUANTANAMO BAY EXPRESS (U.S.A.)

Jacksonville, Nov 19 — Barge *Guantanamo Bay Express* ran aground when proceeding outbound from Jacksonville when, apparently, the towline parted. The barge was aground through three high tides before it was possible to get it off the stone jetty. It is presently at the Atlantic Marine Dry Dock on the St Johns River, close to the accident site. It is expected that repairs will take about 30 days. — Lloyd's Agents.

HANSEATIC STAR (Gibraltar)

London, Nov 19 — General cargo *Hanseatic Star* (1590 gt, built 1985) and chemical/oil carrier *Amber* (3159 gt, built 1997) collided near the eastern lock of the Kiel Canal early yesterday. Water police said that *Hanseatic Star* was moved by strong winds. While *Amber* was hardly affected, *Hanseatic Star* sustained visible damage. It was

allowed to continue its voyage after an inspection by the classification society. Total damage ran to E25,000. Traffic on the canal was not affected, police said. (Note — *Hanseatic Star* sailed Bremen Nov 17 for Tofte. *Amber*, Nynashamn for Antwerp, subsequently passed Brunsbuttel 1558, Nov 18)

HARLAN (Panama)

See "Gibraltar" under "Port State Control."

HIGH ENDURANCE (Liberia)

Singapore, Nov 19 — Chemical/oil carrier *High Endurance* is still in port. — Lloyd's Agents.

HIGHSPEED 1 (Greece)

London, Nov 22 — Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: Ro/ro *Kriti I* (27667 gt, built 1979) making manoeuvres to berth at Piraeus, was in collision with the starboard side bow of ferry *Highspeed 1* (4480 gt, built 1996) in strong winds, morning Nov 20. There were some hull damages but no injuries to the passengers. Following survey by the marine inspectorate, *Kriti I* was permitted to sail the same day.

IBUKI (Antigua & Barbuda)

Honolulu, Nov 19 — C.c. *Ibuki* sailed Honolulu harbour today for Long Beach. — Lloyd's Agents. (See issue of Nov 16.)

ILKNUR 2 (Turkey)

See "Gibraltar" under "Port State Control."

IRAN ARDEBIL (Iran)

Dubai, Nov 21 — Understand c.c. *Iran Ardebil* arrived Dubai Drydocks for repairs Oct 28 and is expected to sail on Dec 31. — Lloyd's Agents.

JOHN SPENCE (Canada)

See *McAsphalt 401*.

JUNEAU (U.S.A.)

See "Illegal Dumping of Contaminated Cargo in South China Sea" under "Miscellaneous."

KAPITAN KONIG (Germany)

Bremen, Nov 19 — Bulk *Kopalnia Borynia* (8893 gt, built 1989) was in collision with pilot ship *Kapitan Konig* (762 gt, built 1963) near Weser buoys 17/19, in the River Weser at about 2000, Nov 18. *Kopalnia Borynia*, apart from paint abrasions, did not sustain any evident damages, nobody was injured and there was no ingress of water. A removable boat (hanging in davits) and a liferaft on *Kapitan Konig* are said to have been damaged. Nobody was injured and there was no ingress of water. At present *Kopalnia Borynia* is still near the pilot vessel. It is still to be clarified whether it has to drop anchor or whether the voyage can be continued. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Kopalnia Borynia* sailed Nordenham 1815, Nov 18 for New Orleans.)

Bremen, Nov 23 — Pilot ship *Kapitan Konig* sustained insignificant damage - vessel's rail slightly bent and is being repaired at Motorenwerke,

Bremerhaven. Bulk *Kopalnia Borynia* departed at 1815, Nov 18 for New Orleans. — Lloyd's Agents.

KEN EXPLORER (Liberia)

London, Nov 23 — Following received from the managers of bulk *Ken Explorer*, dated today: *Ken Explorer* is still discharging cargo at Jebel Ali. Once discharge operations are completed, the vessel will be taken to dry dock.

KERAVNOS (Greece)

London, Nov 22 — Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: Ferry *Keravnos* (195 gt, built 1972) sustained damage to the starboard main engine, while sailing from Angistri for Aegina-Piraeus at 1400, Nov 19. Following the incident, vessel arrived safely at Aegina and disembarked the passengers. Seven passengers with destination Piraeus were forwarded on another vessel. Vessel was permitted to sail for Piraeus without passengers in order to carry out repairs.

KOPALNIA BORYNIA (Malta)

See *Kapitan Konig*.

KRITI I (Greece)

See *Highspeed 1*.

KSENIA ZHARKIKH (Belize)

Townsville, Nov 19 — Trawler *Osha*, towing fish factory *Ksenia Zharkikh*, passed Thursday Island westbound Nov 14. — Lloyd's Agents.

LADY GRACE (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

Barbados, Nov 18 — General cargo *Lady Grace* sank in very deep water, hence prospects of salvage would be non-existent. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Nov 19 — Following received from Coast Guard Barbados, timed 1930, UTC: General cargo *Lady Grace* had already succumbed to the deep, before the arrival of Coast Guard Barbados, and only its surviving crew could be rescued. The reported position of the sinking of *Lady Grace*, from the 406 beacon, which was relayed from GANSEC Puerto Rico, was lat 13 17.3N, long 60 52.2W.

LEAKAGE OF GAS, OFFSHORE PLATFORM OFF CALIFORNIA, UNITED STATES

London, Nov 19 — A press report, dated Nov 18, states: A leak of explosive natural gas forced dozens of workers to evacuate an offshore oil platform off the California coast today, but no damage or injuries were reported. Thirty-eight workers were picked up from lifeboats and taken to shore, said Coast Guard Petty Officer Prentice Danner. Some workers complained of seasickness but otherwise were uninjured, he said. More than a dozen workers remained aboard the platform and managed to plug the leak, Danner said. It was unclear how much gas escaped. "It was a fire hazard but there was never a hazard to the shoreside community because the winds were blowing away from the shore," he said. The platform,

which stands six storeys above the water, is one of about 30 oil platforms off the California coast.

LUCKY LADY (Malta)

London, Nov 22 — Following received from the managers of crude oil tanker *Lucky Lady*, dated today: *Lucky Lady* completed repairs Nov 15 and sailed Vietnam Nov 16.

LUDVIG ANDERSEN (Panama)

London, Nov 25 — Information received from Sandnes, dated today, states: Ro/ro *Ludvig Andersen* is still undergoing repairs at Karmsund Shipyard. ETC unknown.

MAYSORA (Bahamas)

See under "Miscellaneous."

MCASPALT 401 (Canada)

London, Nov 23 — Tank barge *McAsphalt 401* (3366 gt, built 1966), pushed by anchor handling tug/supply *John Spence* (718 gt, built 1972), lost its bow anchor and chain near buoys D92 and D93, Grossy Island, in the St. Lawrence River Channel, in lat 45 00.48N, long 74 39.30W, at 2300, Nov 18. Transport Canada and Seaway Inspectors are monitoring recovery operations.

MENOMINEE (NIS)

Montreal, Nov 21 — Bulk *Menominee*: Steel repairs were completed at noon Nov 20. It has a problem with its steering that will be completed today. It will depart Montreal at 2200 today to continue its voyage into the Great Lakes. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Nov 24 — Bulk *Menominee* sailed Montreal Nov 21.

MICHAELA MCALLISTER (U.S.A.)

London, Nov 23 — Tug *Michaela McAllister* (195 gt, built 1967) was struck by the McArdle Bridge in Chelsea Creek, Boston, Mass, about Nov 12 when the bridge was lowered while the tug was passing.

MISS SARAH (U.S.A.)

Portland, Oreg, Nov 24 — Repairs to fishing *Miss Sarah* were completed on Nov 18, and vessel departed the same date for Brookings, Oregon. — Lloyd's Agents. (See issue of Nov 16.)

MONICA 2 (France)

See *Corn Swift*.

MONTANA SUN (Liberia)

London, Nov 19 — Chemical/oil carrier *Montana Sun* (22620 gt, built 1994), Houston for Zarzis, Tunisia and Turkey, laden with refined corn oil and tallow, grounded Nov 18, when entering Zarzis. Vessel had two pilots onboard at the time of grounding. Local tugs have been unable to refloat the vessel. (Note — *Montana Sun* sailed Houston 0100, Oct 29.)

Tunis, Nov 19 — Chemical/oil carrier *Montana Sun* grounded in the channel at Zarzis while proceeding to berth Nov 18. Tug assistance has not been successful. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Nov 20 — Chemical/oil carrier *Montana Sun* is still aground.

Tunis, Nov 22 — Several attempts to refloat chemical/oil carrier *Montana Sun* have been made but so far without success. Owners will proceed with lightening of cargo by chartering a vessel. — Lloyd's Agents.

Tunis, Nov 24 — Chemical/oil carrier *Montana Sun* is still grounded after several attempts made by local port authorities. Presently the vessel is lightening its cargo onto chemical/oil carrier *Quality Spirit* and this operation will last approximately three days. After the final operation of lightening the cargo it is expected that the vessel will refloat again. — Lloyd's Agents.

MYCONOS (Greece)

London, Nov 22 — Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: Ro/ro *Myconos* (7171 gt, built 1971) struck the quay of Mykonos, in strong winds, morning Nov 20. Vessel sustained some damage to the port side. There was no pollution or injuries to the crew.

London, Nov 25 — Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: Ro/ro *Myconos* was permitted to sail from Keratsini Nov 24, after carrying out repairs there and being surveyed by the marine inspectorate.

NADINE BAKER (U.S.A.)

London, Nov 25 — A press report, dated today, states: The Coast Guard is currently investigating what caused northbound tug *Nadine Baker* (136 gt, built 1965), owned by Crounse Corporation, Paducah, Ky, and operated by Tennessee Valley Towing Inc., also of Paducah, to sink in the Green River near Curdsville, Ky, at Mile 28.5, 0215, Nov 16. It was pushing four barges filled with coal when the boat began to take on water and sink. None of the eight crewmembers on board were injured. W.H. Dyer, president of Tennessee Valley Towing said, "We're thankful no one was injured. Everybody got off the boat safely and thanks to the crew's quick actions there was no major pollution incident." Harley Hall Jr., port captain/personnel with Tennessee Valley Towing, said they are still investigating the cause of the incident. "There are no solid conclusions on what has happened," he said. "We probably won't get to the bottom of it until we get a look at the boat and that probably won't happen until mid-week. Once we get it up, we can start to answer a lot of questions." Aquarius Marine Inc. of Ludlow, Ky. will raise the boat Nov 23 working in conjunction with Mainstream Commercial Divers Inc. of Murray, Ky

London, Nov 25 — A press report, dated today, states: Salvage operations are underway to raise a sunken towboat (tug *Nadine Baker*) in the Green River. The Coast Guard is monitoring the salvage operation, which could be finished by the end of the week. The concern is the 10,000 gallons of diesel fuel still on board the towboat, which is at the bottom of the river. A separate environmental cleanup crew is prepared for any spill.

Why the vessel sank is still under investigation. No one was hurt and the shipping channel remains open.

NAPHT AL YEMEN 17 (South Korea)

London, Nov 20 — Product tanker *Napht Al Yemen 17* (9101 gt, built 1974), carrying about 11,000 tons of diesel fuel, caught fire off the port of Hodeidah on Thursday night (Nov 18) and firefighters battled for nearly 24 hours before extinguishing the blaze yesterday. It caught fire late Thursday as it was preparing to unload at the port, officials said. The port's director Ahmad Ali Ba-Ubaid said that firefighters completely extinguished the fire by yesterday evening. An investigation would be launched. All crew members were rescued unhurt immediately after the fire erupted in the ship's engine-room. The port director said earlier that three fireboats were called in to douse the flames but could not get close to the tanker because of the intense heat. The rear part of the ship was heavily damaged because the firefighters initially focussed on protecting the oil tanks. The fire started in the engine-room and spread quickly to engulf the entire vessel as it was preparing to berth at the port's wharf. The state-run Saba news agency, however, provided a different account on the cause of the fire. Quoting an unnamed source at the port, it said the blaze was sparked by an electrical short circuit that it said happened as the tanker was unloading at the port. A fire brigade official said the tanker, that transported the fuel from an oil refinery at the port of Aden, was about 13 miles off the Hodeidah port when the fire broke out. Officials of the Yemeni Overseas Oil Services Co., the owner of the stricken tanker, could not be reached for comment.

Aden, Nov 22 — At 1145, Nov 18, fire broke out in the engine-room of product tanker *Napht Al Yemen 17* while the vessel was on passage from Aden to Hodeidah, loaded with 11,000 tons of diesel oil. The Port Authority have said a possible cause might be a spark from the starboard auxiliary engine. The ship's crew fought the fire and brought it under control by 1700, Nov 19. Foam and water smothering was used. Understand port tug assisted in spray smothering from outside. The CO₂ system was not released. The Port Authorities have not given clearance to enter the port. Understand cargo on board will be transferred to another vessel which is expected soon. No injury or casualty reported. — Lloyd's Agents.

Hodeidah, Nov 24 — Product tanker *Napht Al Yemen 17* is presently anchored outside Hodeidah port limits, about 15 miles from the harbour. One auxiliary engine, which was affected by the fire, is beyond the crew's ability to repair and will require spares and outside assistance. The vessel will be able to proceed for repairs after transferring cargo. The shippers are attempting to arrange another tanker. The Port Security Officer does not consider the vessel safe to enter the harbour. — Lloyd's Agents.

NISSEN MARU NO.1 (Japan)

Yokohama, Nov 22 — General cargo *Nissen Maru No.1*, 698 gt, (built 1989) entering the port of Kanmon contacted light boy No.4 in Wakamatsu passage Nov 17. Scratching damage observed to vessel's hull and light beacon. — Lloyd's Agents.

NORTHERN SEEKER (Norway)

London, Nov 20 — Understand salvage services were rendered to offshore safety *Northern Seeker* under Lloyd's Open Form, by Esvagt A/S. (See issue of Nov 17.)

Esbjerg, Nov 24 — Offshore safety *Northern Seeker* is still in port and repairs are presently being performed. The owners or master will not advise extent of damage, reports advise that vessel should be ready to depart around Nov 28. — Lloyd's Agents.

NUEVO PILIN

Bilbao, Nov 23 — Fishing *Nuevo Pilin*, 17 metres, homeport Santona, five persons on board, turned over due to heavy swell, 10 miles north of Bilbao, Nov 19. All crew members died. Vessel was towed to Bilbao Nov 20 and returned to its normal position with the aid of cranes Nov 21. Vessel turned over again Nov 22 and is presently with the keel up at Bilbao. — Lloyd's Agents.

OCEAN 2

See "Malaysia" under "Kidnappings."

OSHA (Russia)

See *Ksenia Zharkikh*.

PACIFIC HIGHWAY (Panama)

London, Nov 21 — A press report, dated Nov 18, states: An initial US Coast Guard investigation into a July accident between vehicle *Pacific Highway* and the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge has found that a small sailboat played a role in the accident. Around 1630, Jul 11, *Pacific Highway*, which was carrying automobiles, hit the fendering system of the bridges north support tower while en route to Benicia. According to the Coast Guard, the impact did not cause any injuries, but did cause some damage to the bridge's fendering system. There was also some damage to the port side of the ship. Investigators found that 34-ft sailboat *Della Brown* was in the vicinity of the ship at the time of the accident. The Coast Guard's Marine Safety Office for the San Francisco Bay is recommending a civil penalty against the operator of *Della Brown* for impeding the passage of the ship. According to the Coast Guard, the sailboat operator violated Rule 9 of the Inland Rules of the Road. The maximum penalty for violating this rule is \$6,500, according to the Coast Guard. The office is forwarding the results of its investigation to Coast Guard Headquarters, for final approval of the recommendations.

PALMYRA (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Nov 22 — Following received from Australia MRCC, timed 0358, UTC: General cargo *Palmyra*, in tow of

tug *Keera*, arrived Melbourne 0938, Nov 20. (See issue of Nov 17.)

Sydney, Nov 24 — The operator of general cargo *Palmyra* has declared General Average, after the vessel limped into Melbourne under tow "yesterday morning". The vessel experienced trouble when it lost steerage in the Great Australian Bight on Nov 12. It was taken under tow by Melbourne tug *Keera* and was inspected on its arrival at Webb Dock 3 East, where it was discovered that all but a small part of her rudder had sheared off. The owners have ordered a new rudder to be flown out from Europe and it is expected to take up to three weeks to arrive. The vessel is tentatively scheduled to sail from Melbourne on Dec 22. *Palmyra* is carrying a number of 200-tonne heavy lifts bound for Tasmania. — Lloyd's List Daily Commercial News.

PARTNER (Russia)

Terneuzen, Nov 23 — General cargo *Partner* is still being towed by tug *Barracuda* for Cartagena, where ETA early Nov 26. — Multiraship Salvage BV.

PAUWGRACHT (Netherlands)

London, Nov 24 — General cargo *Pauwgracht* sailed Port Lincoln Nov 16 for Bunbury.

POINTE DU CORMORAN (French Southern Territories)

Newport, Nov 23 — Chem.tank *Pointe du Cormoran* is still at Milford Haven. The vessel's owners are obtaining quotes for repairs to the engine. — Lloyd's Agents.

POLO M. (Bahamas)

London, Nov 23 — Following received from Gothenburg MRCC, timed 1015, UTC: Bulk *Polo M.* (21630 gt, built 1980), bound Port Everglades, loaded, ran aground in lat 57 38N, long 18 48E at 0849, local time, today. No ingress of water but there is a hole in a ballast tank. A Coast Guard vessel is on scene.

Gothenburg, Nov 23 — Bulk *Polo M.*, loaded with cement, has ran aground four nautical miles south of Slite. Vessel has 28 crew onboard. No immediate danger for the vessel or crew. — Westax Marine Services AB.

Gothenburg, Nov 23 — Bulk *Polo M.*: Situation at 2100, UTC, remains the same where 10 crew members have been evacuated by helicopter and the rest remain on board, vessel stable at present. — Westax Marine Services AB.

Ymuiden, Nov 23 — Wijsmuller Salvage B.V. was contracted today to assist bulk *Polo M.* which had grounded on the island of Gotland, Sweden. The vessel, loaded with some 26,000 tons of cement, grounded due to extreme bad weather conditions which resulted in a number of double bottom tanks being breached. SvitserWijsmuller personnel, equipment and tugs from Sweden and the Netherlands are being mobilised in to take charge of the operations. — Wijsmuller Salvage B.V.

Gothenburg, Nov 24 — Bulk *Polo M.* is leaking oil and the Coast Guard have started to clean up. Wind is now only seven m/s and turned northerly, but seas and swell still reasonably high. On board vessel is 970 tons of HFO bunkers and 250 tons of DO. In contact with Roda/Svitzer tug *Freja* on its way and ETA at Slite around 2300 hrs, tonight. — Westax Marine Services AB.

London, Nov 24 — Understood salvage services are being rendered to bulk *Polo M.* by Wijmuller Salvage BV/Roda Bolaget under Lloyd's Open Form.

Gothenburg, Nov 24 — The Coast Guard placed oil booms all around bulk *Polo M.* as oil was spilling into the water. The vessel's diesel oil tank was partly emptied and discharged. Cracks were found in the heavy fuel oil tank, and work is in progress to prevent the tank leaking, but the air temperature is so cold that oil is not leaking, as there is no heat in the tank. Tug *Freja* was delayed by bad weather and is now due on scene around midnight. No attempts will be made to pull the vessel off the ground tonight, as the vessel first needs to be lightened by discharging the heavy fuel oil. — Westax Marine Services AB.

Gothenburg, Nov 25 — Bulk *Polo M.*: Attempts were made yesterday afternoon to pump out oil from the damaged tank, as it was leaking, but work proceeded very slowly, as the oil needs to be heated first. Oil leakage from the vessel has reached the coastline and new, bigger oil booms are to be placed ashore as well as around the vessel. In addition to the heavy fuel oil tank, there is also damage to a 120-ton diesel oil tank. Coast Guard vessel *KBV049* is alongside the vessel and has been carrying out pumping operations throughout the night. — Westax Marine Services AB.

REINE (Panama)

Freeport, Bahamas, Nov 19 — Ro/ro *Reine* was successfully refloated from the reef near Cayo Cruz on yesterday's high tide. Tug *Sea Angelus* provided the towing service assisted by judicious use of the ship's main engine. The ship appears to be intact. It is understood that the ship is continuing on its originally intended tow to Las Calderas, in the Dominican Republic, where it will be dry-docked for re-classification purposes. — Lloyd's Agents.

Santo Domingo, Nov 22 — Ro/ro *Reine* has not arrived Las Calderas yet, still proceeding. — Lloyd's Agents.

Santo Domingo, Nov 23 — Ro/ro *Reine* is estimated to arrive Las Calderas on Nov 25. — Lloyd's Agents.

RITHI BHUM (Germany)

London, Nov 23 — C.c. *Rithi Bhum* sailed Hong Kong 1056, Nov 20 for Shekou.

ROSARIO

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

ROSTOK (Russian)

London, Nov 25 — Work has begun on a three-month project to remove the

wreck of general cargo *Rostok* from the Romanian River Danube. A multinational consortium comprised of Netherlands-based Multraship Salvage, US salvage firm Titan Maritime and Romanian river engineering company Deltacons is working on the project, which is being funded by the European Investment Bank. The vessel sank in 1991, blocking the fairway. The bow section of the vessel has already been lifted and the *Rostok* Wreck Removal Consortium will completely remove the wreck prior to the reopening of the waterway. According to Multraship managing director Leendert Muller: "This is a busy river and the wreck has settled and silted heavily, but we expect to remove all of it within three months, restoring full navigation to this section of the Danube. We have deployed our floating sheerlegs *Cormorant* to Romania for this job, along with tug *Multrasalvor 2*, our multipurpose salvage vessels, the tugboat *Fonda* and local equipment." Out of the 15 that tendered only two companies and consortia pre-qualified for the work.

RUBY

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

SAN DOMENICO (New Zealand)

Wellington, Nov 22 — The hulk of fishing *San Domenico* was put afloat at Shelly Bay, Evans Bay, Wellington, at 1430 hrs, today. The owner has obtained a dumping permit from the Maritime Safety Authority. Waiting for good weather conditions to tow it to scuttling site in lat 41 45S, long 175 00E, in the Cook Strait. — Lloyd's Agents.

SEABARONESS (Russia)

Novorossiysk, Nov 19 — General cargo *Seabaroness*: According to information received from our local sources, navigation resumed via the Konstantinovskiy Lock on Nov 19. Initially vessel traffic commenced from upriver to down. It is expected that general river navigation is to be suspended on Dec 3 due to ice — Lloyd's Agents.

SKIPPER K.

(St. Vincent & Grenadines)

See under "Miscellaneous."

SONJA DORIS (Denmark)

London, Nov 23 — Understood trawler *Sonja Doris* has been or is to be broken up.

SPRING HAWK (Liberia)

Honolulu, Nov 19 — It is reported that bulk *Spring Hawk* (25537 gt, built 1998) sustained main engine problems due to bad bunkers. The vessel is currently at the Barber's Point Deep Draught Harbour for inspection and repairs. — Lloyd's Agents.

STEPAN RAZIN (Russia)

St. Petersburg, Nov 19 — Bulk/c.c. *Stepan Razin*: According to available information bilge waters and oil have already been completely discharged

from the vessel to avoid pollution. Engine-room and all holds were flooded. Due to severe damages to hull it is very difficult to predict results and time of completion of salvage operations. Joint forces of different companies are involved. Harbour-master's investigation regarding circumstances of grounding is in progress. Results cannot be expected before the end of the year and therefore no official information will be available before New Year. — Lloyd's Agents.

SUK JEONG NO.505 (South Korea)

London, Nov 25 — Understood general cargo *Suk Jeong No.505* is to be broken up.

SWAN (Cyprus)

London, Nov 18 — Following received from Victoria RCC, timed 1625, UTC: Bulk *Swan* (19917 gt, built 1977) had total engine failure in Prince Rupert harbour at 2300, UTC, Nov 15. Vessel was brought to anchor and towed to a berth. Understand vessel remains in port. (Note — *Swan* arrived Prince Rupert at 1900, Nov 13.)

London, Nov 23 — Bulk *Swan* sailed Prince Rupert 1740, Nov 17, arrived Port Angeles 1115, Nov 21 and sailed 2213 same day for Peru.

TERRA NOVA PLATFORM

London, Nov 22 — A press report, dated today, states: A mechanical failure has been cited as the cause of the largest spill of crude in the history of oil production in Newfoundland and Labrador. About 250 barrels of crude oil - or about 40,000 litres - were pumped directly into the ocean yesterday morning at the Terra Nova platform 350 kilometres south-east of St. John's. High winds have been making it difficult to clean up the spill. A supply vessel attempted to recover some of the oil yesterday, but waves were more than three metres high. More equipment has been dispatched from St. John's, but is not expected to arrive until tomorrow. John Downton, director of communications with operator Petro-Canada, said production on the platform was suspended when the incident was reported. He said that a failure had occurred in the machinery used to separate fluids brought up to the platform. The fluids contain water and crude. "We take it very seriously. We are looking into it to try to find out what happened and to make sure it doesn't happen again," Downton said. The Canada-Newfoundland Offshore Petroleum Board has ordered a suspension of production operations at the platform. It is investigating the incident.

London, Nov 22 — A press report, dated today, states: Air and ship crews were keeping an eye on an oil spill off the coast of Newfoundland today as containment crews waited out stormy weather to take action. Up to 40,000 litres of crude oil was dumped into the ocean early yesterday morning during a mechanical malfunction at the Terra Nova offshore oil platform. There is some containment equipment on board

the oil production platform but crews struggled with high winds and three-metre waves. An overflight was taken this morning to assess the latest information on the spill. Supply vessels were tracking the spread of the slick, which was eight nautical miles south of Terra Nova. Petro-Canada said the spill occurred just after 0100, local time, yesterday morning. The Canadian Coast Guard, which is advising the board and Petro-Canada on containment and clean-up, said difficult conditions continued today at the site. There were reports of one oiled seabird.

London, Nov 23 — A press report, dated today, states: An oil spill off the coast of Newfoundland is much worse than first thought, authorities said yesterday. It was first reported by Petro-Canada, operators of the Terra Nova platform, that 200 barrels had spilled. However, the Canada-Newfoundland Offshore Petroleum Board, which monitors the industry in the province, said it was actually up to 1,000 barrels. That's about 170,000 litres. "This is the largest oil spill to date in the Newfoundland offshore," said Simone Keough, spokeswoman for the Canada-Newfoundland Offshore Petroleum Board. "It's a large spill," added Fred Way, acting chairman and CEO of the Offshore Petroleum Board. Attempts to contain the spill are being handicapped by bad weather. There are still no containment barriers in place due to seas of between five and six metres at the site. John Downton, director of communications for Petro-Canada, said the spill is being tracked by air. The slick has moved about 24 kilometres south of the platform, which is 350 kilometres east of St. John's. Petro-Canada officials say with the poor weather, they may be able to recover only about 25 per cent of the spill. The rest will likely dissipate into the ocean and eventually break down.

Troy, Michigan, Nov 24 — Stormy seas kept containment crews at bay Monday (Nov 22) as estimates of an oil spill off the coast of Newfoundland increased dramatically. As much as 170,000 litres of oil could have dumped into the ocean during a malfunction aboard the Terra Nova oil platform. Original estimates said about 40,000 litres had spilled. "It's a large spill," said Fred Way, acting chairman and CEO of the Canada-Newfoundland Offshore Petroleum Board, which monitors the industry in the province. "It's not an *Exxon Valdez* category, but it's a large spill." The board has suspended operations at *Terra Nova* until further notice. Bob O'Brien, of the environmental group Ocean Net, said the area is home to many nesting birds and there will be habitat destruction. "You're dealing with nature and its forces," he said. "I think the infrastructure that we have in place to clean up spills is probably very adequate, but you can't fight nature and its forces." O'Brien said he's comfortable that Petro-Canada has been diligent in preparing for such a spill. "We just need a weather break right now," he said. The spill was the

largest yet for Canada's East Coast offshore industry. — Great Lakes & Seaway Shipping.

TINA

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

TROPIC BRILLIANCE (Liberia)

Port Said, Nov 21 — Crude oil tanker *Discovery* loaded all cargo from crude oil tanker *Tropic Brilliance* and sailed Nov 20. *Tropic Brilliance* is still at Port Said pilot station awaiting the arrival of a tug to be towed to Greece for dry dock. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Nov 22 — Unicom of Cyprus, managers of the crude oil tanker *Tropic Brilliance*, report that the transfer of the tanker's cargo to a second vessel was completed by late evening Nov 20. *Tropic Brilliance* departed the lightering position, two miles off Port Said, at 2200, Nov 21. The vessel is under tow to Greece, for repairs.

TUG NESTOR (NIS)

Gothenburg, Nov 23 — At 0554 today, an SOS was issued by tug *Tug Nestor* (236 gt, built 1972), from a position close to shore, just north of Katthammarsvik, at eastern Gotland island, in the Baltic. Vessel was drifting from the position in which it had anchored, had a heavy list and was at risk of sinking. Crew of six persons onboard. A number of surface units were called in to assist, along with a helicopter. Weather in the area is bad - cold northern winds and heavy snow. — Westax Marine Services AB.

London, Nov 23 — Following received from Gothenburg MRCC, timed 0645, UTC: A combination of bad weather and heavy winds caused tug *Tug Nestor*, LAOV5, to drift from anchor off Gotland. Vessel drifted aground in lat 57 26.9N, long 18 49.9E. Vessel has a heavy list. Five of the crew have been taken off and attempts to take off the last remaining crewman are continuing. Salvage prospects remain unknown at the present, due to the serious weather conditions on scene.

Gothenburg, Nov 23 — Tug *Tug Nestor*: The planned rescue operation to put men onboard and open up doors or bulkheads had to be postponed due to extreme weather conditions. The helicopter rescued five men from vessel, under severe difficult conditions. The other man was trapped inside but since part of the vessel under water now - divers considered it too dangerous. Divers are also searching the shores nearby if man floated ashore. — Westax Marine Services AB.

Gothenburg, Nov 23 — Tug *Tug Nestor*: Despite extreme weather conditions, rescue teams have now managed to pick up five out of the six crew. One man is trapped onboard and vessel remains hard aground with risk of sinking. Rescue operators will now board the vessel if not possible to break up the doors from inside. Wind is between 23 - 25 met/sec, snowstorm with poor visibility - risk of increasing to gale force 9-10 (strong gale - storm) during the day. Vessel is at anchor near

coastline at eastern side of Gotland anchor released and dragging, possibly broken. — Westax Marine Services AB.

Gothenburg, Nov 23 — One crew member from tug *Tug Nestor* is still missing, and Coast Guard divers are on their way from Stockholm, along with helicopters. The tug was anchored waiting for the weather to ease, and had a timber barge in tow which is now also aground. The vessel is aground a few hundred metres from the shore, and only part of it is visible above the surface. The weather in the area is still bad, with snow and heavy seas from the north constantly flushing the vessel. — Westax Marine Services AB.

London, Nov 23 — Following received from Gothenburg MRCC, timed 1651, UTC: Tug *Tug Nestor* has now sunk. The search for the missing crew member has been suspended until tomorrow.

Gothenburg, Nov 23 — Tug *Tug Nestor*: Despite searches with helicopters on all beaches, only parts from the tug wreck were found, but no trace of the missing man. At 1740 the MRCC has together with all parties involved, in agreement, considered the man lost and no chance of being found alive. The matter is to be handled by the local Police. — Westax Marine Services AB.

Gothenburg, Nov 25 — Divers will investigate the interior of tug *Tug Nestor* this morning to try to find the missing man. — Westax Marine Services AB.

URSULA LEONHARDT (Malta)

Brest, Nov 24 — General cargo *Ursula Leonhardt* is still in port at Brest. No decision has yet been taken regarding repairs or onward towage of the vessel. — Lloyd's Agents.

VALERIE

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

VERNON C.SMITH (U.S.A.)

London, Nov 22 — Following received from Coast Guard New Orleans, timed 1510, UTC: Tug *Vernon C. Smith* (735 gt, built 1965), pushing 12 barges, had barge come into contact with Point Pleasant River Bridge, Mile 265.1, Illinois River, about 1200, local time, Nov 20. Bridge has been cleared for traffic to continue. No reported damage to tug or barges.

VICTORIAN RELIANCE (Australia)

London, Nov 25 — A press report, dated today, states: It is believed an unchartered rock off the northern Tasmanian coastline may have caused damage to ro/ro *Victorian Reliance* (16775 gt, built 1999) almost a fortnight ago. The chairman of the Burnie Port Corporation, Alan Carey, says he understands the Navy has been asked to investigate whether an unchartered rock off Penguin is responsible for damaging the vessel. It is believed the starboard side and rudder has been damaged with the ship likely to go into dry dock in Newcastle (Aus) on Monday (? Nov 29). (Note —

Victorian Reliance, which trades between Melbourne and Burnie, arrived Newcastle (Aus) on Nov 20.)

VICUNA (Chile)

London, Nov 18 — A press report, dated today, states: Operations at the Cattalini Terminal in Paranagua port remain suspended, following the explosion and fire on board chemical/oil carrier *Vicuna*. It will only be possible to partly resume vessel and cargo operations at the terminal when the Petrobras pier is released by the port authorities/harbour master, which is expected on Nov 23. Berthing manoeuvres at Cattalini Terminal, Petrobras and Fospar (Cargill) are still suspended. Any fertiliser discharging operations will be allowed only at the commercial quay. Bunkering operations have also been halted since the accident as a bunker barge is being used to assist in efforts to remove oil from the damaged vessel. Therefore, no bunkering is available at Paranagua, at least until Nov 23, with the possibility of this being extended to the end of month.

Santos, Nov 19 — Following received from Sub-agents at Paranagua, dated today: "Petrobras staff and environmentalists continue to try to remove the bunker oil from chemical/oil carrier *Vicuna* by a suction system using Petrobras portable pumps. They are also endeavouring to contain the oil which has already spilled out. By this morning the oil "blot" had already reached areas over 32 miles away and has damaged many islands shorelines. UFPR (Federal University of Paran-) at Pontal do Sul (east of Paranagu- close to the outer bar) is offering its Sea Centre for the volunteers and specialists for accommodation and work. The local authorities are very busy discussing funds that can be made available from government to support local fishermen. The authorities seem to be amazed at the number of fishermen who are applying for financial support. Apparently they did not know how big the number of fishermen in this area was. It is reported that experts will resume their assessment of how to remove the shipwreck, after all the bunker oil is removed from the ship. They will also search for any possible remaining methanol in the ships tanks. In the meantime the three terminals (Petrobras/Vopak-Cattalini and Fospar - a fertiliser terminal) remain closed by the port authority. The authority has not confirmed yet when the Petrobras and Fospar terminals will open again. The superintendent said in an interview yesterday that before they could authorise the terminals to resume operations, a thorough inspection would have to take place and that the shipwreck should not offer any further danger of explosion. In the meantime vessels scheduled to call at these two berths are standing by waiting for orders." — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Nov 22 — Four companies have been hit by fines of R\$5m (US\$1.8m), and rising, for failing to take effective steps to prevent the

environmental fallout of an explosion that ripped chemical/oil carrier *Vicuna* in two in the port of Paranagua last week. Ultragas, the owners of *Vicuna*, Catallini Terminais, the operator of the chemical terminal at which the incident occurred, Wilson Sons, the vessel's shipagent and Kuhzmann Surveyors, the local representative of the cargo insurer, have all been hit by fines of R\$250,000 a day by the Brazilian environmental watchdog, IBAMA. According to IBAMA, the fines, which came into affect last Wednesday, will continue to be levied against the companies until the spill has been contained. Eduardo Pinheiro, a lieutenant with the local fire brigade helping coordinate the response on the ground, said that a shortage of floating oil barriers and the failure to position them correctly in the immediate aftermath of the blasts were just two of the shortcomings in the effort to prevent what he termed an 'ecological disaster'. "The explosion was without precedent in Brazil but the emergency response plan was much less than was needed," said Mr Pinheiro. Other failures listed by IBAMA include the failure to prioritise sensitive environmental areas to be protected and to consult sufficiently with environmental authorities and other parties involved in the clean-up operation.

Santos, Nov 22 — Following received from Sub-agents at Paranagua: Dated Nov 20: Chemical/oil carrier *Vicuna*: The authorities report the bunker oil has reached far away shorelines. Apparently it has even reached the neighbouring state of Sao Paulo coast. Additional equipment arrived Paranagua yesterday to control the bunker oil spread. Moreover it has been reported that a special product will be used to clean up the polluted shores. This operation will begin shortly. However, nobody can say how long it will take to conclude it. In the meantime Petrobras, Cattalini and Fospar terminals continue interdicted. Although the fire has been put out on *Vicuna*, the local port authority has not confirmed yet as to when the Petrobras and Fospar terminals will be authorized to operate again. Apparently a meeting will be called on Monday to discuss this issue. The vessel's fuel oil is being removed to Petrobras Terminal - reported that about 700/800 (? tons) of heavy oil has been already transferred to that terminal. The salvage team are using a pneumatic pump to drain the fuel oil to a barge that then discharge it at Petrobras Terminal. (Later) The port authority requested Petrobras and Vopak terminals to submit several survey reports showing the real condition in respect of safety operational aspect of the pier, prior to authorizing them to resume the loading and discharging operations on a normal basis. Both would have to submit such documents by Nov 23. If all OK then the port may consider authorizing them to resume the operations soonest. The fuel oil is being removed from the shipwreck. Dated Nov 22: The port

authority and rescue team are working frenetically on removing bunker oil from the ship and vicinity. The oil is removed from the water by suction system and pumped into a local barge. A source reckons the vessel had on board some 1,500 tonnes of heavy fuel oil and 116 tonnes of diesel oil and that about 700 tonnes had been already removed and discharged at Petrobras Terminal. Vopak and Petrobras terminals are working on proving safety aspects thus permitting local port authority to give permission for their pier to become operative again. They are looking to be cleared by Nov 25. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Nov 22 — Port authorities at Paranagua are evaluating the possibility of resuming operations at the Petrobras/Vopak terminal near the Cattalini pier which was damaged by an onboard explosion and fire last week on board chemical/oil carrier *Vicuna*. Operations at the Petrobras/Vopak terminal could start again some time this week. The Fospar/Cargill fertiliser terminal re-opened on Saturday (Nov 20). Bunkering is still suspended at Paranagua as one bunker barge is being employed in the operation to remove oil from the damaged vessel's engine-room. There is currently no indication of when bunkering to vessels will resume as the bunker pier has also been closed by the authorities. The oil spill from the damaged vessel has been stopped and the remaining oil from the damaged vessel is being removed. More than 300 people are being employed to clean the water and beaches around Paranagua Bay. The removal of the vessel from Cattalini terminal will depend on the completion of removal of oil from its engine-room. It is anticipated that this will be completed by the end of the week.

Santos, Nov 23 — Following received from Paranagua Sub-agents: The Federal Police report they have collected all possible evidence from chemical/oil carrier *Vicuna*. Diving companies working at the scene are investigating procedures to remove the wreck from the pier. Fish, dolphins, sea turtles and birds are being found dead every day, or are being treated by government organisations or volunteers. — Lloyd's Agents.

Santos, Nov 24 — Following received from Paranagua Sub-agents, dated Nov 23: The rescue team continues toiling to remove the bunker oil from chemical/oil carrier *Vicuna*. The operation is very slow due to the difficulties to pump out the oil to the barge. They are working on a round the clock basis. However since the vessels tanks are filled up with mixed salt water, the removing procedure should be carried out carefully to avoid any further scattering of oil in the bay. The rescue team does not give a time to get all the oil out. A source is confident that they will conclude at the forthcoming weekend. After the oil is out, they will commence the process to remove the ship off the berth. On the other hand the port is waiting now for Petrobras and Vopak terminals to submit the documents required in

respect of the pier's safety, prior to authorising it to be come operative again. The Vopak terminals advised that they will do it shortly and expect to get operative again by tomorrow, Nov 24. — Lloyd's Agents.

Santos, Nov 25 — Following received from Paranagua Sub-agents, dated today: Chemical/oil carrier *Vicuna*: Local port authorities reporting that Petrobras Terminal Pier will be cleared for operation in next hours. Petrobras and Vopak operates this terminal and it is possible that Cattalini will also operate from there with certain products. A diver working for a Spanish salvage company reported that he has finished his inspection and the company is preparing a proposal to shipowners or P&I Club in London to remove the shipwreck from Cattalini pier. Two other salvage companies will also present proposal to the same task. Two barges containing fuel oil drained from the shipwreck discharged to Petrobras Terminal early this morning. Vacuum trucks also been employed to drain the fuel oil from the shipwreck vicinity. Authorities reporting salvage team still "toiling" the oil, cleaning the beach, coastal rocks and boundaries. At spots the oil penetrated the sand and in spite of being cleaned is re-appearing with the tide washing. — Lloyd's Agents.

VIHAN 5 (Vietnam)

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

VOLGO-BALT 225 (Russia)

London, Nov 19 — Following received from Den Helder RCC, timed 1050, UTC: General cargo *Volgo-Balt 225* (2457 gt, built 1980), from Amsterdam, in ballast, is anchored in lat 52 32.7N, long 04 19.34E, with engine trouble. Vessel's crew is attempting to carry out repairs and they have estimated it should all be fixed in around two hours. (Note — *Volgo-Balt 225* sailed Amsterdam 1940, Nov 18 for Szczecin.)

London, Nov 19 — As of 1321, UTC, general cargo *Volgo-Balt 225* is still anchored in same position.

London, Nov 19 — Following received from Den Helder RCC, timed 1455, UTC: General cargo *Volgo-Balt 225* completed repairs and got under way at 1419, UTC.

WARSAW (Marshall Islands)

London, Nov 22 — Following received from the managers of bulk *Warsaw*, dated today: On Nov 12, *Warsaw* came alongside in Port Arthur, and docked. Seventeen mooring lines were deployed to secure the vessel to the dock. Some five hours later, a vessel travelling south along the narrow channel alongside the dock created a surge which caused the lines securing *Warsaw* to part. The vessel then swung out into the river and its bow came into contact with the face of the dock. Tugs and pilots thereafter assisted the vessel to a suitable safe anchorage. The vessel's owners and managers have co-operated fully with the US Coast Guard who have not detained the

vessel. The extent of the damage to the dock is being inspected by all relevant parties.

WAVEMASTER 7 (Singapore)

London, Nov 20 — A press report, dated today, states: An elderly woman was found dead after a boat she was on was hit by passenger ro/ro *Wavemaster 7* (253 gt, built 2002) off of Banten Island on Thursday evening (Nov 18). Deputy chief of the Tanjung Pinang Police Precinct Sr. Comr. Nasri said yesterday that the woman was believed to have fallen overboard and drowned. "All 27 of the boat's passengers, including the woman, fell into the water, but most were able to swim back to Tanjung Pinang seaport," he said, while adding that the collision took place a few hundred metres offshore. Nasri alleged that the collision occurred when the ferry on the Tanjungpinang-Singapore route, left port at high speed and ignored a signal given by the other vessel as it was coming into the port. "We are waiting for the *Wavemaster 7*'s master to show up for questioning," he added.

XANDRINA (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Nov 22 — Following navigation warning issued at 1250, UTC, Nov 21: Lost deck cargo (from general cargo *Xandrina*, 1567 gt, built 1986): Windmill blade, 10 tons, length 45 metres, "polyester," white in lat 56 51.2N, 17 45.7E. Caution advised.

YAKIT I (Turkey)

London, Nov 24 — A press report, dated Nov 21, states: Understood product tanker *Yakit I* (892 gt, built 1965), owned by Turkish Maritime Lines, grounded and subsequently sank at Istanbul, Nov 19. The tanker was laden with 60 tonnes of diesel oil, there is no leakage. In order to prevent spreading of possible leakage, the wreck is surrounded with oil booms.

YOU KING (Hong Kong)

London, Nov 20 — A CESAM report, dated Nov 17, states: Bulk/c.c. *You King* (12995 gt, built 1981), which loaded in Hamburg, Antwerp and Rouen for West Africa ports, met bad weather Oct 27 and took on water. The ship declared Genral Average following its arrival at Le Havre. (Note — *You King* sailed Antwerp Oct 23, arrived Rouen Oct 24, sailed Oct 25, arrived Le Havre Oct 29, sailed Nov 11 arrived Rouen same day, sailed Nov 13 and passed Cape Finisterre Nov 15 for Tema.)

YU BAO NO.1 (Taiwan)

Suva, Nov 24 — All navigational aids, engine parts etc have been removed from fishing *Yu Bao No.1*, regarded as "salvage" by the owners. Currently, the vessel's local agent has instructed a salvage company, Fiji Fish, to remove the hull or structure from the reef for dumping into the sea. In order to do so, Fiji Fish is awaiting an approval letter from the Fiji Government, Marine Department, giving their approval. Once the approval/permission is granted, the vessel will be laid to rest in deep waters. — Lloyd's Agents.

ZIEMIA GNIEZNIENSKA (Liberia)

Montreal, Nov 21 — Bulk *Ziemia Gnieznienska* (16696 gt, built 1985), upbound into the Great Lakes loaded with steel coils, had a steering gear failure at 1818, Nov 19, took a shear to port and struck the river bank. It refloated itself approximately 20 minutes later but has a 2.5 metre by one metre hole in its bulbous bow and is over draught for the Seaway. Compressors were fitted to its forepeak and it regained the draught and is down bound for Valleyfield where it should arrive late Nov 21. It will lighter approximately 12,000 tons of coils in order to raise the bow out of the water and effect temporary repairs consisting of a large cement box. It will then reload and continue its voyage into the Lakes as planned. This repair process should take 10 to 14 days including the cargo handling. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Ziemia Gnieznienska* sailed Ymuiden Nov 8 for Montreal.)

Port State Control



GIBRALTAR

Gibraltar, Nov 22 — General cargo *Harlan* was released from detention by Port Surveyor and sailed at 2035, Nov 20. Vessel sailed with full crew. Charterers agreed vessel to proceed either to Gioia Tauro arriving in five days time or to Piraeus arriving in seven days, whichever port it arrives will be for discharging cargo. — Lloyd's Agents.

Gibraltar, Nov 23 — General cargo *Ilknur 2* was released from detention Nov 23. — Lloyd's Agents.

NETHERLANDS

London, Nov 23 — General cargo *Daka* (856 gt, built 1971), which arrived Flushing at 1815, Nov 2, has been detained at Flushing by the Scheepvaart Inspectie due some missing items/papers, etc. After being released vessel is due to sail for the Persian Gulf.

Seizures & Arrests



AFRICAN PRIDE (Panama)

London, Nov 20 — A press report, dated Nov 19, states: President of the seven-man military court-martial trying three senior officers over the mysterious disappearance of product tanker *African Pride*, Rear Admiral Joseph Ajayi yesterday assured that the court will wind up proceedings before Christmas holidays. Admiral Ajayi told reporters after the day's morning proceedings that at inauguration of the court, it was

expected to round up sittings by Oct 30, but it failed to meet the deadline. "In any court, we expect to have some delays and once the problems are resolved, the proceedings continued and I think that was what we have been doing. For now I cannot say precisely when the proceedings will end, but we will finish as soon as possible. I am working towards ending before Christmas." At yesterday's proceedings, the 16th prosecution witness, Commodore Olukayode Biobaku who was the Director, Naval Intelligence told the court the security arrangements put in place to protect the vessel after he had information that it was going to be tampered with. Led in evidence by lead prosecutor, Brig.-Gen. Donatus Ikpomwen (rtd.), the witness recounted the series of operational meetings held by senior officers and pre-information of the disappearance of the vessel before and after it disappeared. He said: "The incident that I recalled was that few weeks after the arrest of *African Pride* in October 2003, I got information from my source indicating that some people were trying to tamper with product of *African Pride*. "Based on this, I informed Rear Admiral Bob-Manuel and he was worried," adding that there was a meeting held, where the issue was discussed and the Flag Officer Commanding, Rear Admiral Bob-Manuel "sought to know the state of security of the ship." The witness told the court that, he (FOC) was informed that there were three men guarding the vessel and the FOC urged them to add to the security men, which later increased to 12. He also said that subsequently when the product (crude oil) was tampered with, he was also informed by the same source who initially told him of the plan to tamper with the product. "I reported to the FOC but he expressed surprise. At that time arrangement was in progress to evacuate the crude oil in the vessel."

London, Nov 24 — A press report, dated today, states: The House of Representatives Committee investigating the disappearance of seized product tanker *African Pride*, yesterday heard that the plan for the theft of the vessel took a long period of time and was facilitated by the incompetence of superior Naval officers who failed to adequately secure the missing vessel. Appearing before the committee yesterday, former Officer in Charge of the Atlas Cove, Lt. Commander M. M Kabir said he was told after the disappearance of the vessel by one discharged naval rating that the plan to snatch the vessel was hatched at Apapa. The Discharged Naval rating has been summoned to appear before the committee tomorrow. According to Commander Kabir, who said he had been in detention for 105 days since the disappearance of the vessel, the slack security arrangement, the Bas Operating Officer as well as the Commanding Officer of the NNS Beecroft where only one Naval rating was posted on the seized vessel

facilitated the smooth sail for those who wanted to steal it. He contended that the missing vessel was not in the custody of the Atlas Cove where he was the officer incharge and wondered why he was being held by the Naval authorities, lamenting that he was being detained in a cell with ordinary ratings while he was tormented and intimidated by Naval authorities. Also appearing yesterday, former Minister of State for Defence, Dr Olu Agunloye, denied any knowledge of trying to bribe Naval authorities to facilitate the release of the detained vessel. He contended that he was approached by one Fafowora to intervene on his behalf to ensure the release of the vessel, saying the Navy was detaining the vessel illegally. Dr. Agunloye said when he approached the Flag Officer Commanding Western Naval Command, Admiral Bob-Manuel, and later the Chief of Naval Staff and he was told that the vessel was not being detained illegally, he left the matter and never tried to influence the decision of the Navy. The owner of one of the alleged arrested vessels which the Chief of Naval Staff allegedly ordered its release, Chief Isaac Jolapamo, alleged that the involvement of the Navy in the down stream sector was responsible for the illegal oil bunkering activities. He admitted that his vessel was used to evacuate the crude from the detained *African Pride* without his knowledge but added that he did not report because he did not want to compound the problems of Captain Duke who was the Commanding Officer of NNS Beecroft at that time. Hearing on the missing vessel continues today.

AGIOS CONSTANTINOS (Cambodia)

Tenerife, Nov 19 — General cargo *Agios Constantinos* is still under arrest at Tenerife.— Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Agios Constantinos* was boarded by Spanish police Aug 16, 2001. The vessel subsequently arrived Tenerife Aug 30, where cocaine was found on board. The crew members were detained by the authorities.)

AIDA LUZ (Ecuador)

Santo Domingo, Nov 23 — General cargo *Aida Luz* has been sold to Mr Tony Contreras and renamed *Bella Trini*. Understand the vessel has almost completed repairs and should be ready to sail within 10-15 days. — Lloyd's Agents.

AQUATIC PIONEER (Namibia)

Cape Town, Nov 18 — As at Nov 15, fishing *Aquatic Pioneer* (229 gt, built 1975) was lying at Berth No.3, Cape Town, under arrest. — Lloyd's Agents.

ATLANTICA (Honduras)

London, Nov 25 — A US federal judge has ordered the judicial sale of Honduras-flagged crude oil tanker *Atlantica* two months after the ship's all-Ukrainian crew effected an arrest in Florida, denying the shipowner's plea for more time to post a \$225,000 bond under a court order issued last month.

Magistrate Theodore Klein of the US District Court for the Southern District of Florida has ordered the US Marshal to conduct a public auction of the vessel on Dec 21, with the minimum bid set at \$200,000. However, the six-week period leading up to the sale is also in order to give shipowner Grace Tanker an opportunity to obtain financing to secure the ship's release, Magistrate Klein's order states. The judge has declared himself open to the possibility of retaining external marketing help to obtain a fair price for the ship. National Liquidators of Fort Lauderdale, which is already the substitute custodian of *Atlantica*, is understood to be the front-runner for this appointment. *Atlantica's* crew of 13, including a lip cancer patient, effected the ship's arrest on Sep 24 claiming more than \$140,000 in wage arrears for five months, a period during which the crew claimed to have sailed with few supplies, often being reduced to eating barracudas fished off the ship's side as it plied the Caribbean trade. Other creditors subsequently intervened in the case. Magistrate Klein's order notes that the total claims against the *Atlantica's* owner amount to \$373,000, including \$72,000 due to intervening creditors and around \$158,000 in custodial expenses incurred from the date of arrest up to the date of projected judicial sale. Shipowner Grace Tanker, represented by Miami businessman Maurice Denis, has paid off the cancer patient, but failed to post the \$225,000 bond as ordered in October. Under the court order, the bond amount was supposed to rise by \$2,500 for every day until the bond was posted. Grace Tanker is understood to have acquired the ship for \$480,000 in 2001, also in a judicial sale.

AUKUREN (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

Oslo, Nov 25 — Following received from Lloyd's Sub-agents at Fredrikstad, dated today: According to the Port Authority, cement *Aukuren* is still in port at Fredrikstad. For the time being work is done by changing an auxiliary motor on board the vessel. Time stipulated for this is about three weeks. — Lloyd's Agents.

CAN GIO (Honduras)

London, Nov 23 — A press report, dated today, states: The first court hearing on general cargo *Can Gio* seized by Tanzania has been postponed. A date for the case has not been fixed yet. The trial was initially scheduled to be held on Nov 22 by the Tanzanian Commerce Court. The Vietnamese Foreign Ministry will request the Government contact the Tanzanian Government in settling the case, according to sources from the Foreign Ministry.

CATUMBELA RIVER (Madeira)

London, Nov 23 — Ro/ro *Lider Safak*, ex *Catumbela River*, sailed Harwich Oct 18.

CHINESE FISHING VESSELS SEIZED BY PERU

Lima, Nov 23 — Nine Chinese fishing vessels were seized by Peruvian naval vessels and commandos on Nov 19, while they were illegally operating within the 200-mile Peruvian territorial limits, and now face a US\$ 2.5 million fine. With the help of factory vessels anchored outside the 200-mile limit, the vessels had been illegally fishing giant squid and operating during the night hours to avoid being spotted. The Peruvian Navy, using two Lupo-class frigates, commandos and helicopters, carried out a raid on the fishing vessels which were captured while operating within the 200-mile limit. Two were taken in tow as the crew damaged the engines to avoid being captured. All nine vessels are presently at the port of Callao, where they remain detained. — Lloyd's Agents.

CHINESE FISHING VESSELS SEIZED BY SOUTH KOREA

London, Nov 21 — A press report, dated today, states: Four Chinese fishing boats were seized today for poaching in South Korea's western territorial waters, local police said. The Chinese vessels sailed some 4.7 nautical miles into South Korea's Exclusive Economic Zone while fishing in the Yellow Sea around 1900, the Mokpo Maritime Police Agency said.

ENDEAVOR II (Greece)

Karachi, Nov 25 — The Sindh High Court sets Dec 7 for rehearing the case of crude oil tanker *Endeavor II*, which is still under arrest at Karachi, according to Karachi Port Authority and Partner Surridge & Beecheno, the counsel for M/s Andros Maritime of Greece, which owns the vessel. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

FERROMINA HARVEST (India)

Mumbai, Nov 24 — Supply *Ferromina Harvest* is still under arrest at Mumbai. — Lloyd's Agents.

GODRILABUAN II

London, Nov 20 — A press report, dated Nov 19, states: The nationwide drive against illegal logging continued as the police apprehended foreign ship *Godrilabuan II* carrying illegal logs in Papua and a minister revealed that a number of officials were allegedly involved in the rampant illegal logging. The police in Sarmi regency bordering Papua New Guinea were still bringing the ship, logging equipment and nine crew members from Sarmi to Jayapura seaport for further investigation. Reliable sources at the Sarmi Police station said *Godrilabuan II* which was chartered by Malaysian timber baron Lai Rue Tang to supply two timber companies PT Jutha Daya Perkasa and PT Papua Limbah Mewah in Takar district, was held because it did not have a licence to operate in Indonesia. The sources said all detainees, the ship and logging equipment were moved to Jayapura because the police would thoroughly investigate the case and seek detailed

information on illegal logging activities in the province. The detainees consisting of three Indonesians, five Malaysians and one Filipino and the ship was expected to arrive in Jayapura early today.

JUNO TRADER (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

London, Nov 23 — The International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) has said it will deliver a judgment within 30 days on a demand by a flag state for the release of ref *Juno Trader* (3240 gt, built 1968) claimed to have been detained unfairly for two months. Lawyers for the government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines have called ITLOS in to secure the release of *Juno Trader*, after the vessel's arrest in Guinea-Bissau on Sep 26. Under article 292 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, ITLOS has been asked to consider whether the government of Guinea-Bissau overstepped its authority in arresting the Saint Vincent and Grenadines-flagged ship. Port state authorities alleged *Juno Trader* infringed national legislation on fishing in the maritime waters. An order of confiscation has been issued by Guinea-Bissau authorities for the cargo of approximately 1,183 tonnes of frozen fish found on board the vessel. According to the application, *Juno Trader* was boarded by members of the navy of Guinea-Bissau on Sep 26, while crossing Guinea-Bissau's exclusive economic zone. The vessel was brought into Bissau, where it remains. The crew of 19, who are Russian and Ukrainians, are being detained on board the vessel, with the exception of one crew member who was injured during the arrest. The flag state maintains that the fish had been legally caught by a fishing vessel in the EEZ of Mauritania and that the cargo was then transhipped onto *Juno Trader*, for on-shipment to its owners in Ghana when the arrest took place. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines has requested that the tribunal orders the release of *Juno Trader* and its crew either without issuing a bond or upon the posting of a reasonable bond. Itlos president of the tribunal, Judge Dolliver Nelson, fixed Dec 1 and 2 as the dates for the hearing. The tribunal said it would deliver its judgment at a public sitting, to be held no later than 14 days after the closure of the hearing.

LAEMTHONG GLORY (Thailand)

Aden, Nov 21 — General cargo *Laemthong Glory* was released Nov 17 and sailed 0150 hrs for Bangkok. — Lloyd's Agents.

QUEEN CONSTANTINA (Cyprus)

London, Nov 20 — Passenger *Queen Constantina*, now lying at Limassol port, will be sold "as is, where is" at public auction at the office of the Marshal of the Admiralty Court of Cyprus, Limassol, on Nov 24. Appraised value of vessel is US\$1.75 million.

RAVENI (Tonga)

Messina, Nov 24 — C.c. *Raveni* is still in port at Augusta under arrest. — Lloyd's Agents.

RITHI BHUM (Germany)

See under "Marine."

ROMANA I (Panama)

Port au Prince, Nov 24 — Ro/ro *Romana I* is still at anchor, abandoned. — Lloyd's Agents.

SOKRAT (Russia)

London, Nov 19 — Fish factory *Sokrat* arrived Tromso Sep 27 and sailed Sep 28, subsequently arriving Kaliningrad Nov 13. (Note — *Sokrat* was arrested Feb 28 for "systematically throwing fish overboard" in Norway.)

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

Troy, Mich, Nov 18 — Unhappy with progress in restarting Rochester's troubled private high-speed ferry service, city officials want to buy the ship and turn it into a publicly run operation. The proposal involves creating a public authority that would sell government-backed bonds to purchase, own and run passenger ro/ro *Spirit of Ontario I*. The initial price tag would be about \$40 million. "We have tried every way we could to make this deal work with a private-sector solution. It is not possible," Mayor William A. Johnson Jr. told the Rochester Democrat and Chronicle yesterday. The goal is to have the ferry back in service in the spring and operate year-round. The city proposal faces legislative hurdles - the top one being getting the state to approve the creation of the new authority. The plan also likely will face public opposition. Canadian American Transportation Systems, its lenders and political leaders have been negotiating behind the scenes in an attempt to restart the service. — Great Lakes & Seaway Shipping.

TAIWAN FISHING VESSEL SEIZED BY JAPAN

London, Nov 23 — A press report, dated today, states: A Fisheries Agency patrol vessel apprehended a Taiwanese boat after finding it fishing without authorization yesterday in Japan's exclusive economic zone off Nagasaki, agency officials said today. The agency arrested Chen Chih-tsai, the 57-year-old captain of the 214-ton fishing trawler, for violating the Fishing Sovereignty Law. The trawler, with Chen and nine other crew members onboard, was catching crabs and jack mackerels in waters about 225 kilometres south of the Danjo Islands around 1835 yesterday.

VERONIKA GOKOTI (Belize)

London, Nov 22 — Information received from Sandnes, dated today, states: The ITF and the owners of general cargo *Veronika Gokoti* made agreement and the crew wrote a collective wage agreement on Nov 16. The vessel has now completed discharge and has left Mo i Rana.

Pipeline Accidents



BAKER, CALIFORNIA, UNITED STATES

London, Nov 24 — A press report, dated Nov 23, states: A major underground pipeline, which transports fuel between Las Vegas and Colton, burst yesterday morning, spewing a 60-foot geyser of gasoline into the open desert near Baker and forcing the closure of Interstate 15, fire officials said. California Highway Patrol officers shut down both directions of the freeway between Barstow and Baker for five hours as a safety precaution and to allow emergency personnel to assess the damage, officials said. Traffic was closed on the I-15 northbound at the Interstate-40 split in Barstow, and southbound at Kelbaker Road near Baker. The incident affected about 50,000 motorists and slowed traffic from Los Angeles all the way to Las Vegas, Barstow CHP spokesman Adam Cortinas said. Motorists reported a strong smell of diesel fuel in the area of Razor and Basin roads at 0321 hrs, but emergency personnel were unable to locate the source of the smell until daybreak, said Tracey Martinez, spokeswoman for the San Bernardino County Fire Department. At one point, the pipeline break created a geyser that shot gasoline 60 to 80 feet in the air, Martinez said. "We don't know what caused it," she said, but the cold weather may have possibly played a role. Officials were unsure how much gasoline spilled from the 14-inch Cal-Nev pipeline, which is owned by Houston-based Kinder Morgan Energy Partners, said Larry Pierce, company spokesman. Work crews closed a valve to stop the flow of gasoline to the area, but residual fuel in the pipeline was still flowing from the break at noon, he said. Kinder Morgan work crews and the county fire department's Hazardous Materials Team were on scene and waiting for the situation to be deemed safe enough to begin repairs, Pierce said. A slight wind blew the plume to the north, and residents who live near Razor Road and in Baker were evacuated, Martinez said. No injuries were reported from the leak, she said. The break occurred about three-quarters of a mile from the highway. Once work crews begin repairs, the pipeline typically can be operational within several hours, Pierce said.

London, Nov 24 — A press report, dated Nov 22, states: Gasoline spewed to heights between 60 feet and 80 feet today after a pipeline near Interstate 15 ruptured last night, causing the highway to close for hours and scores of residents to be evacuated. Automobile-grade gasoline spilled out until local firefighters were able to

shut off pressure to the line that carries fuel from Colton to Las Vegas, via Barstow. Nobody was hurt, but there was a threat of explosion and injury from the toxic fumes, firefighters said. The rupture occurred southwest of Razor Road, about a half-mile from the southbound side of the freeway. Firefighters stopped the leak by shutting off fuel to the pipeline about 0530, today. Residual fuel leaked until about 1100 hrs. The underground pipeline is owned by Kinder Morgan Energy Partners of Houston and moves up to 128,000 barrels containing 42 gallons each a day from Colton to Las Vegas, Kinder Morgan spokesman Larry Pierce said. It carries gasoline that is sold to large oil companies, most of which is sold to customers at the local filling stations in Colton, Barstow and Las Vegas, Pierce said. There will be a joint investigation into the cause of the rupture by Kinder Morgan and federal and local agencies, Pierce said.

BASRAH, IRAQ

London, Nov 24 — Work is underway to repair a leak at Pipeline No.42 to Basrah Oil Terminal. Repairs and testing are expected to be completed tomorrow, and if all goes well, normal loading will resume on Friday (Nov 26). The terminal is currently loading in Berth 2 with loading flow rate of 16,000bbls/hr and in Berth 4 with flow rate of 28,000bbls/hr. The total average loading is 44,000bbls/hr, compared to the normal rate of 75,000bbls/hr, as a result of the leak which was discovered on Monday (Nov 22). In the meantime, berthing is temporarily suspended because of rough weather. Due to congestion at the terminal, the present delay is approximately 120 hours.

FATHA AREA, IRAQ

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

Pollution



BASEL, SWITZERLAND

London, Nov 23 — A press report, dated Nov 22, states: Traffic on the River Rhine has resumed after an oil spillage near the Swiss city of Basel over the weekend. The authorities said clean-up operations would be completed by tomorrow. The accident occurred on Saturday (Nov 20) near the port of Birsfelden outside Basel, when more than 100kg of heavy heating oil spilled into the river, apparently while it was being pumped into a German freighter. Emergency services set up dams to prevent any further spillage and the river had to be closed off to traffic between Birsfelden and Basel. Officials said two people were injured in the accident, but they

said it was not clear yet how much damage the oil spillage had caused. However, the authorities described clean-up efforts as very important. The Birsfelden terminal is one of four ports in Basel.

BUZZARDS BAY, MASSACHUSETTS, UNITED STATES

London, Nov 22 — A press report, dated today, states: The US Attorney for the District of Massachusetts issued a Press Release stating the Bouchard Transportation Co. was sentenced to pay a \$10 million fine in connection with the oil spill in Buzzards Bay on Apr 27, 2003. A loaded tank barge (B. No.120) being towed by a company tug grounded while outside the channel. The tug and barge were outside the channel because the mate on duty had left the pilothouse unmanned. The company was aware of repeated concerns raised about the mate's competency. Charges were brought under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and the Federal Water Pollution Control Act. Of the total fine, \$7 million will be used to fund eligible wetlands conservation projects in the Buzzards Bay vicinity and \$2 million will be directed to the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund. The remaining \$1 million will be suspended and only imposed if the company fails to comply with conditions of its probation.

MARLIM SUL FIELD, CAMPOS BASIN, BRAZIL

London, Nov 20 — A press report, dated Nov 19, states: Petroleo Brasileiro SA today said it discovered an underwater oil leak next to one of its offshore oil wells at the bottom of the South Atlantic. Submarine robots yesterday detected the leak 50 metres from one of the wells of the Marlim Sul field in the oil-rich Campos basin at a depth of 1,250 metres below the surface and 110 kilometres from the coastal city of Macau north of Rio de Janeiro, the company said in a statement. The leak has caused an oil slick on the surface, but the company could not tell how large it was. Boats from Petrobras' Environmental Defence Centre in Macau already are at the site to collect the spilled oil, the company said. The company said specialists were analyzing the cause of the oil leak in order to stop it. "This situation is new and uncommon," company spokeswoman Gabriela Massimo said. The company's oil production was not affected by the incident as the well had already been temporarily placed on non-operational status.

NEWFOUNDLAND, CANADA

See "Terra Nova Platform" under "Marine."

PARANAGUA AREA, BRAZIL

See *Vicuna* under "Marine."

TYBEE ISLAND AREA, GEORGIA, UNITED STATES

See *Fortune Epoch* under "Marine."

Weather & Navigation

**ALGERIA**

London, Nov 23 — A press report, dated Nov 22, states: The body of the ninth victim of the general cargo *Bechar* shipwreck was recovered yesterday and transferred to El-Alia mortuary for its identification. Thus, the number of the bodies recovered since last Saturday (Nov 13) near Algiers port, reached nine victims whereas seven sailors are still missing, according to the list released by the CNAN. According to the person in charge of communication at the general direction for civil defence in Algiers, Bakhti Sofiane, the searching operations have not stopped since the disaster. The same person said "two rescue teams of 10 divers are taking turns to search for the missing bodies." Moreover, Bakhti declared, "a diving team is assisting CNAN technical team for the towing of bulk *Batna* offshore."

AUSTRIA

London, Nov 20 — A press report, dated today, states: Gale-force winds dumping heavy snow caused havoc across Austria today, blowing cars across roads and into deadly collisions, knocking out power to thousands of homes and tearing a balcony off a building that critically injured a man below. Several hundred cars spun out of control and ended up in snowbanks along the north-south A2 highway, where visibility was poor as gusts exceeding 60 miles an hour blew snow into the air. Authorities closed the A2 near the city of Graz for more than three hours after 12 inches of wind-whipped snow fell on the area. Police reported numerous head-on collisions apparently caused when powerful gusts pushed cars over the centre line and into oncoming traffic. In one accident, two minivans collided, killing a 32-year-old man and injured two young children, Austrian television said. Heavy winds were blamed for damage to homes, businesses and property across Austria, where thousands of households were without electricity overnight. Power was restored to most areas by midafternoon today, officials said. Firefighters in the southwestern province of Carinthia worked overnight to clear streets of debris and remove fallen trees from rooftops and overhead power lines. In Klagenfurt, the provincial capital, strong winds uprooted a tree that struck a utility worker as he was removing another fallen tree from a power cable. He suffered serious injuries and was taken by helicopter to a hospital. At the St. Gilgen ski resort in Salzburg province, heavy winds prompted officials to cancel the gondola service shuttling skiers and snowboarders to the summit.

HURRICANE "IVAN"

London, Nov 24 — A press report, dated Nov 23, states: Commissioner of Insurance Robert Wooley reports that the final estimate of Hurricane "Ivan" damage in Louisiana is \$7,868,750. That figure is based on a reported 3,760 claims paid following a Louisiana Department of Insurance survey of the major insurance carriers in the state.

HURRICANE "JEANNE"

Freeport, Bahamas, Nov 19 — Cement *Contrader*, once refloated and stabilised, was recently towed to Cuba for dry-docking and repairs. — Lloyd's Agents.

INDIA

London, Nov 24 — A press report, dated today, states: The season's first fog engulfed Delhi and adjoining areas today, throwing life out of gear and delaying flights and trains. Delhiites woke up to a thick blanket of fog that reduced visibility to a few metres and led to traffic snarls at several places. Several flights were delayed by two hours or more, airport officials said. An Air India flight from Muscat to Delhi was diverted to Mumbai, they said. This is the first time this season that fog delayed flights in Delhi. Some flights were, however, rescheduled in Lucknow yesterday due to foggy conditions. The situation was no better for trains. Most of the trains were running late by over two hours. The worst hit were trains coming to Delhi from eastern part of the country with all of these running several hours late, Northern Railway spokesperson D P S Sandhu said. "Trains leaving Delhi were also being rescheduled," he said. Meteorological Department officials said the fog was a "temporary phenomenon" and it was unlikely to continue in the next few days.

NORWAY

London, Nov 22 — A press report, dated today, states: Flights were delayed in airports across the country as snow blanketed eastern and northern Norway. Cars in southern Norway were not doing much better today. Flights to and from Oslo Gardermoen International Airport (OSL) were up to an hour and a half delayed as southeastern Norway was hit with heavy snowfall. Torp airport in Sandefjord and Bodo in the north were also having trouble meeting flight schedules. "There is only one reason for the delays, the weather. The runways have to be shoveled and cleared and the aircraft de-iced. This takes time," said OSL information chief Jo Kobro. Meteorologists predicted steady snowfall throughout today, with the weather first clearing at around 1700. Monday morning commuters on Oslo's highways also had to brace for major delays. "The Public Roads Administration had cleared roads before rush hour traffic began but when the snow really started to fall while the queues started the snowplough teams also got caught in traffic," said Mats Carlsson at Oslo's road traffic headquarters. Traffic was also snarled

with unusually long queues on branch roads in eastern Norway, as well as on main highway E18 in southern Norway heading towards Oslo. The road to the tourist resort Geiranger in More og Romsdal county was re-opened today, after two avalanches blocked the only roadlink to the hamlet on Friday (Nov 19). The danger of further snow and rock slides had prevented the clearing of the road earlier. A ferry has been the only link with the outside world since Friday, with a nearby rescue vessel on alert in case of an emergency.

RUSSIA

London, Nov 20 — A press report, dated Nov 19, states: All the airliners diverted from Moscow to other airports because of the heavy snowstorm last night have arrived at the destination airports, the Moscow air traffic control service told Itar-Tass today. The heavy snowstorm overnight disturbed the work of all the Moscow airports that were closed for some time to clear the runways. Nine airliners that could not land at Moscow airports and were diverted to Nizhny Novgorod have already conveyed the passengers to the destination.

London, Nov 21 — A press report, dated Nov 20, states: All the aircraft en route to Moscow are diverted to other airports because of the heavy snowstorm in the Moscow region today. Tens of aircraft are already diverted to Nizhny Novgorod and St. Petersburg, sources in the Moscow air traffic control service told Itar-Tass. According to the weather forecast, the snowstorm will continue during the day.

SCANDINAVIA

London, Nov 19 — A press report, dated today, states: A massive storm, which hit Scandinavia early this morning cutting power to thousands of households and disrupting land, sea and air traffic across the region, continues to rage. The storm barrelled in over the Danish shores of the North Sea, with wind gales of up to 30 metres per second and water levels rising by three to four metres in a number of western ports, the Danish Meteorological Institute and rescue services said. The Great Baelte bridge, which links the eastern and western parts of the country, was closed to traffic for around three hours this morning due to strong winds, according to the country's highway authority. The gusts of wind uprooted dozens of trees and blew roofs off houses, while the town of Odense, on the island of Fyn in central Denmark, was left without power for about 30 minutes after a transformer exploded. In addition, boat traffic between the islands that make up Denmark was, in many places, suspended as was ferry traffic to neighbouring Norway, Sweden and Germany, while the Copenhagen International Airport (CPH) was forced to close down runways and reduce its number of flights. Scandinavian Airlines (SAS AB), the region's largest operator, said it has been forced to cancel about a dozen flights out of Denmark and is currently seeing delays

of up to an hour due to the storm. Sweden meanwhile has been hit by the first large-scale snowstorm of the season, entailing power outages, delays at airports and train stations and pile-ups on the highways. Some 15,000 homes were left without electricity at midday, according to power companies Sydkraft AB and Vattenfall AB. In neighbouring Norway, 10 flights out of Oslo's airport were cancelled today because aircraft were unable to land at the airport in a large snowstorm, which occurred yesterday.

SLOVAKIA

London, Nov 24 — A press report, dated today, states: The Slovak government decided Monday (Nov 22) to deploy army units to help clear up mass devastation caused by high winds and blizzards in the Tatra mountains. Entire forests in the Tatras were flattened over the weekend as freak snow storms swept through the area killing one Czech tourist and injuring dozens of others. Preliminary estimates suggest 90 percent of the forestation in some of Slovakia's most beautiful mountain ranges has been destroyed. Around 2.5 billion cubic metres of forest have been affected, officials say. Environmentalists also say vast areas lived in by bears, wolves and other wild animals have been destroyed. Local railways servicing the High Tatras have also been severely damaged. Officials said the overall cost of the damage could run into hundreds of millions of dollars.

TROPICAL CYCLONE "BENTO"

London, Nov 22 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: Tropical cyclone "Bento" near lat 8.8S, long 77.8E, at 0600, UTC, Nov 22. Movement for the past six hours 235 degrees at four knots. Position accurate to within 40 nautical miles. Maximum sustained winds 65 knots, gusts 80 knots. Radius of 50 knot winds 25 nautical miles all four quadrants. Forecast position lat 9.2S, long 76.5E at 1800, UTC, Nov 22. Maximum sustained winds 75 knots, gusts 90 knots. Forecast position lat 9.5S, long 74.5E at 0600, UTC, Nov 23. Maximum sustained winds 80 knots, gusts 100 knots.

London, Nov 23 — Following received from the Meteorological Office: Tropical cyclone "Bento" near lat 8.4S, long 76.3E, at 0001, UTC, Nov 23. Movement past six hours 295 deg at four knots. Position accurate to within 30 nautical miles, based on centre located by satellite. Maximum sustained winds 120 knots with gusts to 145 knots. Radius of 64-knot winds 35 nautical miles. Radius of 50-knot winds 55 nautical miles. Radius of 34-knot winds 140 nautical miles south-east quadrant, 120 nautical miles north-east quadrant, 100 nautical miles elsewhere. Forecast for 0001, UTC, Nov 24: Position lat 8.1S, long 74.8E. Maximum sustained winds 130 knots with gusts to 160 knots. Radius of 64-knot winds 45 nautical miles south-east quadrant, 40 nautical miles north-east quadrant, 100 nautical

miles elsewhere. Radius of 50-knot winds 65 nautical miles south-east quadrant, 60 nautical miles south-west quadrant, 50 nautical miles elsewhere. Radius of 34-knot winds 150 nautical miles south-east quadrant, 135 nautical miles north-east quadrant, 120 nautical miles elsewhere.

London, Nov 25 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: Tropical cyclone "Bento" near lat 10.7S, long 73.6E at 0600, UTC, today. Movement for the past six hours 160 degrees at five knots. Position accurate to within 60 nautical miles. Maximum sustained winds 100 knots, gusts 125 knots, radius of 64 knot winds 20 nautical miles north-east and north-west quadrants, 25 nautical miles south-east and south-west quadrants. Forecast position lat 11.8S, long 73.8E at 1800, UTC, today. Maximum sustained winds 95 knots, gusts 115 knots. Forecast position lat 12.8S, long 73.8E at 0600, UTC, Nov 26. Maximum sustained winds 90 knots, gusts 110 knots.

TROPICAL DEPRESSION "MERBOK"

London, Nov 23 — A press report, dated today, states: At least 11 people were killed after a powerful storm battered the Philippines, officials said. Tropical depression "Merbok," which passed over the eastern province of Aurora, caused flashfloods that swept away at least 11 people before dawn and caused some 2,000 people to flee their homes, civil defence officials said. Rescue teams including one helicopter, military trucks and rubber boats have been dispatched to the area to help with the rescue, the office added. Several roads in Aurora were left blocked by floods or landslides. Damage estimates were not yet available.

TURKEY

London, Nov 23 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Thirteen people were killed and 121 injured today in road accidents in Turkey provoked by snow storms and heavy rains that wreaked havoc and paralyzed the country. Snow began falling in Istanbul late yesterday, causing huge traffic jams this morning, leaving motorists trapped on the two bridges linking the Asian and European sides of the city. Traffic was at a near standstill on major arteries in Istanbul and in the capital Ankara, where the snowfall that began Saturday (Nov 20) has been continuing almost non-stop since. Heavy fogs and snow on Mount Bolu, the halfway point on the busy highway linking Ankara and Istanbul, resulted in at least 21 accidents in which 53 people were hurt, television channels reported. In the central city of Yozgat, a bus transporting school children fell from a bridge, killing four — including two teenagers — and injuring 42, reported the Turkish news agency. Officials reported that 2,800 local roads were cut off, blocking villages, and some 100 homes flooded in the southern city of Adana. Ferryboat services between

Tasucu and northern Cyprus were cancelled for the second day running because of heavy storms and some 1,500 passengers were lodged in the small southern town, waiting for the weather to clear.

TYPHOON "CHABA"

Moji, Nov 25 — General cargo *Vihan 5*: Two large sections of the wreck were removed on Nov 24. Now small pieces are being removed and this is expected to be completed on Nov 26. — Lloyd's Agents.

TYPHOON "MUIFA"

London, Nov 19 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: Typhoon "Muifa" near lat 14.8N, long 124.1E at 0600, UTC, today. Movement for the past six hours, 200 degrees at six knots. Position accurate to within 40 nautical miles. Maximum sustained winds 85 knots, gusts 105 knots. Radius of 64-knot winds 20 nautical miles east semicircle, 25 nautical miles west semicircle. Radius of 50-knot winds 30 nautical miles east semicircle, 35 nautical miles west semicircle. Forecast for 0600, UTC, Nov 20: Position near lat 13.5N, long 120.7E with maximum sustained winds of 70 knots and gusts to 85 knots.

London, Nov 20 — A press report, dated Nov 21, states: At least five persons were confirmed killed while 20 others were reported missing as Typhoon "Unding" (international codename: "Muifa") battered several areas of the Bicol region and neighbouring provinces yesterday, reports reaching the National Disaster Coordinating Council (NDCC) in Camp Aguinaldo said. Defence Secretary and NDCC Chairman Avelino Cruz Jr. also said thousands of families in Catanduanes, Camarines Norte and Roxas City in the Visayas were evacuated to government relief centres due to massive flooding. The OCD said that the 20 missing persons were mostly fishermen whose boats *RB Jamaica* and *Binsan Govbe*, capsized in an undisclosed area. Reports also said that at least 823 families or 4,117 persons were evacuated to 13 government relief centres in Catanduanes, Camarines Norte and Roxas City. At the height of Typhoon "Muifa," at least 4,878 passengers on board 64 sea vessels, 67 buses, 73 light vehicles, seven vessel, and five small bancas were stranded in 14 terminals and ports in Region 4 (Southern Tagalog). The NDCC reported that damage caused by "Muifa" was estimated at R 86,887,483, with damage to crops placed at R 45,413,463; infrastructure R 41,810,000 and private property R 484,000. NDCC officials said that power interruption was experienced in several areas of Albay, Catanduanes, Camarines Sur, Camarines Norte, Masbate and Sorsogon. Power supply was immediately restored later in the afternoon in areas of Masbate and Catanduanes. Landslides were also monitored on the San Miguel-Viga-PanganibanPanda Road in Catanduanes. The NDCC said that

there was heavy flooding in San Agustin, Sta. Cruz and Lipon area in Albay. Provincial Disaster Coordinating Council authorities said they released 550 sacks of rice to the evacuation areas in Region 5 (Bicol region). The Marinduque Provincial Disaster Coordinating Council undertook clearing operations along all roads connecting the municipalities of Boac, Mogpog and Sta. Cruz. Three fishermen were saved by patrol boats while several others are still missing after their fishing vessel sank off the coast of Roxas, Oriental Mindoro, yesterday. Mayor Jess Dimapilis of Roxas did not identify the victims. "We were not able to interview them because they were still in shock," Dimapilis told radio DZMM's "Pasada Sais Trenta" program yesterday afternoon. He said that rescue crewmen are still looking for other survivors of the ill-fated vessel that came from Zamboanga. The official said several patrol boats from neighbouring municipalities have been dispatched to Roxas to help in search and rescue efforts. The Coast Guard and Philippine National Police have also been notified of the incident, he said.

Manila, Nov 22 — At least 24 people were killed and dozens were missing in the central Philippines after heavy rains and waves whipped up by a tropical storm sank several vessels, disaster officials said today. The coast guard rushed rescue teams to waters around the central Mindoro and Romblon islands to search for about 40 fishing vessels missing since Saturday (Nov 20), when tropical storm "Muifa" pounded the southern part of the main island of Luzon. Disaster officials said 61 persons were missing and 79 injured. "We expect the toll to increase because many areas in Mindoro island remained isolated," Neri Amparo of the National Disaster Coordinating Council (NDCC) told reporters. "Several towns have no power and no communications to the outside world. We are trying to restore them to get a more accurate picture of the disaster." The NDCC said five people drowned, two died from hypothermia and another was killed by a falling tree in the Bicol region. About 16 others died of unknown causes, Amparo said. Disaster officials said the typhoon displaced more than 60,000 people in the affected regions, but most of them had returned home by today. Close to 30,000 houses were damaged or destroyed. Crop and property damages were estimated at 73 million pesos (\$1.3 million). The storm moved out into the South China Sea, strengthening again into a typhoon, and was headed for southern Vietnam. — Reuters.

London, Nov 22 — A press report, dated today, states: Fifty-eight fishermen are missing, feared drowned as the death toll from a severe storm that battered the Philippines rose to 24. Hopes were fading for dozens of fishermen who were lost at sea south of the main island of Luzon when "Muifa" unexpectedly changed course and struck the region on Friday (Nov 19). Coast Guard spokesman Armando

Balilo said the missing men had spent more than 48 hours in raging waters and that aerial searches of the region were underway. "We are using helicopters to look for them," he said. Balilo said the authorities were checking reports that four of the missing were washed ashore in the central island of Romblon. He could not say whether the four were alive or dead. After lashing the Bicol peninsula early last week, "Muifa" went for a second pass at the weekend before plowing through the islands of Marinduque, Mindoro and Coron on its way to the South China Sea. Forty-three fishing boats and two tugs with a total of 58 crewmen on board were unaccounted for off Mindoro, Marinduque, Romblon, the Coron island group and off the Bondoc peninsula near Bicol, the civil defense office said in an updated report. Big waves and strong winds sank or capsized the vessels on Saturday, killing two other crew members. Thirty-four other crew members were rescued by other vessels. The government agency reported three other deaths by drowning, two by hypothermia, one struck by a falling tree, five by a tornado near Roxas town on Mindoro, and 11 others due to unspecified causes. Three other people are also missing, while 79 were injured. "Muifa" destroyed or damaged more than 27,000 houses and displaced more than 60,000 people, it added. The storm wrought 73 million pesos, \$1.3 million dollars, in damage to crops and infrastructure, the civil defense office said. Social Welfare Secretary Corazon Soliman said food and assistance were being rushed to the heavily hit areas. "We will start giving emergency shelter assistance. Many houses have lost their roofs, if not totally damaged," Soliman told reporters. "We have been coordinating with the agencies and have provided relief, basically rice, because that is what they need," she said.

London, Nov 22 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: Typhoon "Muifa" near lat 11.1N, long 113.0E at 0600, UTC, Nov 22. Movement for the past six hours 250 degrees at eight knots. Position accurate to within 40 nautical miles. Maximum sustained winds 75 knots, gusts 90 knots. Radius of 64 knot winds 20 nautical miles north-east and north-west quadrants, 15 nautical miles south-east quadrant and south-west quadrants. Forecast position lat 10.5N, long 111.4E at 1800, UTC, today. Maximum sustained winds 70 knots, gusts 85 knots. Radius of 64 knot winds 15 nautical miles. Forecast position lat 10.1N, long 109.9E at 0600, UTC, Nov 23. Maximum sustained winds 70 knots, gusts 85 knots.

Manila, Nov 22 — The Philippine Coast Guard reported that Philippine-registered tug *Ruby* sunk between Simara and Banton island in Romblon province central Philippines at 0400, Nov 20. It was towing cargo barge *Valerie* when it was overturned by heavy waves brought about by tropical storm "Muifa." The tug's nine crew

members were rescued by responding fishermen. *Valerie* was reported to have drifted after being cut off from *Ruby*. The barge was recovered with its eight crew members by passing vessels. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Manila, Nov 22 — The Philippine Coast Guard reported that Philippine tug *Tina* sank between Simara and Banton island Romblon province, central Philippines at 0430, Nov 20. *Tina* was towing cargo barge *Rosario* when it was swamped by giant waves brought about by typhoon "Muifa." All eleven crew members were rescued by passing vessels. *Rosario* and its crew of eight were also rescued. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

London, Nov 23 — A press report, dated today, states: Flash floods triggered by a powerful typhoon left at least 14 people dead in the northeastern Philippines, bringing the toll to nearly 40 since the weekend, officials said. Air Force spokesman Lieutenant Colonel Restituto Padilla said heavy rains prevented two military helicopters from reaching the flooded shorelines near Dingalan town in Aurora province, about 110 kilometres north-east of Manila, where rescue officials said at least 14 residents died. "The area is inaccessible by road and the weather is not getting better. The rain continues ... and we can't land at the moment," Padilla told The Associated Press, adding that casualty and damage reports from the remote area were sketchy. The Office of Civil Defence reported at least 14,000 people were evacuated from their homes. Typhoon "Muifa" slammed into the Philippines over the weekend with winds of 110 kph and gusts up to 140 kph, capsizing boats, damaging farmlands and leaving at least 24 dead and up to 79 injured, the civil defence office said. Sixty-one others, mostly fishermen, went missing in the provinces of Occidental Mindoro, Oriental Mindoro, Quezon and Romblon. Officials said the death toll would probably rise further as hopes for finding any more survivors faded. The typhoon toppled trees, electricity and telephone lines as it sliced through the Bicol region on the main island of Luzon, before blowing westward on its way out of the country toward Vietnam yesterday.

London, Nov 23 — A press report, dated today, states: Typhoon "Muifa" battered the Philippines left 29 dead and 84 missing, officials said. "Muifa" swept out of the country, leaving many drowned or missing at sea after capsizing and sinking at least eight fishing and cargo boats off in the Philippine archipelago. Another 89 people were injured while 211,864 people had been forced to flee their homes at the height of storm "Muifa," the office said although some of the evacuees had since started returning home. Over 9,700 houses were totally destroyed by the storm while initial damage estimates to agriculture, infrastructure and private business hit 147.5 million pesos (2.64 million dollars), the office added.

London, Nov 23 — Following received from the Meteorological Office: Typhoon "Muifa" near lat 9.9N, long 111.1, at 0600, UTC, Nov 23. Movement past six hours 235 deg at nine 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 50-knot winds 20 nautical miles south-west quadrant, 25 nautical miles north-east quadrant, 30 nautical miles elsewhere. Radius of 34-knot winds 70 nautical miles south-west quadrant, 50 nautical miles south-east quadrant, 60 nautical miles elsewhere. Forecast for 0600, UTC, Nov 24: Position lat 9.5N, long 108.0E. Maximum sustained winds 65 knots with gusts to 80 knots. Radius of 50-knot winds 35 nautical miles north-west quadrant, 30 nautical miles elsewhere. Radius of 34-knot winds 65 nautical miles south-east quadrant, 75 nautical miles elsewhere.

Manila, Nov 23 — At least 65 people have died and thousands been left homeless in the Philippines as fresh rains and flooding from a tropical storm compounded the misery and damage from a typhoon over the weekend. Air force and disaster officials said up to 16 people were killed in Aurora province, north-east of Manila, during heavy rains. Air force teams said many residents had been injured by logs being washed out to sea from the Sierra Madre mountains. Local officials had requested extra food and medical supplies. The National Disaster Coordinating Council (NDCC) said 14,000 people were displaced in Aurora province and 200 houses were partially destroyed. Rescuers were also scouring the sea around the islands of Romblon, Mindoro and Palawan for 67 people missing since Saturday (Nov 20) when dozens of fishing boats capsized as Typhoon "Muifa" hit the Philippines. The NDCC said 49 people were killed during the typhoon, which moved towards Vietnam on Sunday. Damage to crops, mainly rice and corn, from Muifa was put at 97.5 million pesos (8.3 million pounds). Property damage was about 50 million pesos. "Most of the farmers just finished harvesting, so damage to rice was not that high," said Gregorio Tan, administrator of grain trading firm the National Food Authority. "Muifa" displaced more than 200,000 people but most returned by yesterday. Nearly 30,000 houses were damaged or destroyed. — Reuters.

London, Nov 23 — The ports of Benchamas and Tantanwan in Thailand were closed at 1600, local time, today due to the imminent arrival of Typhoon "Muifa".

London, Nov 24 — A press report, dated today, states: The death toll from a weekend typhoon and a storm in the Philippines has risen to 79 people and at least 86 others are missing, a disaster agency said today. Nearly 11,000 houses were destroyed and more than 23,000 buildings damaged when Typhoon "Muifa" struck the Bicol region southeast of Manila at the weekend, affecting more than 250,000 people, said Neri Amparo, operations chief at the Office of Civil Defence. The

typhoon killed 61 people and left 80 others missing, mostly fishermen, in Bicol province and on Mindoro and Romblon islands south of Manila, the office said in a report. The typhoon toppled trees, electricity and telephone lines, it said. Another 18 people died and six went missing in flash floods and a landslide from a smaller storm that dumped torrential rain over the provinces of Aurora and Nueva Ecija northeast of Manila early yesterday, disaster officials said. Much of the damage in the two provinces occurred when uprooted trees and illegally cut logs, washed away by the floods, smashed into homes and destroying a major bridge that led to the worst-hit town of Dingalan, about 110 kilometres northeast of Manila, Amparo said. Air Force spokesman Lieutenant Colonel Restituto Padilla said one military helicopter plucked three children from flooded shorelines near Dingalan yesterday. The area was inaccessible by road because of the debris and floodwaters that reached as high as rooftops in some areas. The floods subsided today, Amparo said. About 115 people have been injured in the typhoon and storm, which has since headed toward Vietnam.

London, Nov 24 — Following received from Meteorological Office, dated today: Tropical storm "Muifa" near lat 8.7N, long 109.2E at 0600, UTC, today. Movement for the past six hours 240 degrees at six knots. Position accurate to within 60 nautical miles. Maximum sustained winds 55 knots, gusts 70 knots. Radius of 50 knot winds 25 nautical miles north-east and south-east quadrant, 30 nautical miles south-west and north-west quadrants. Forecast position lat 8.7N, long 107.0E at 1800, UTC, today. Maximum sustained winds 55 knots, gusts 70 knots. Forecast position lat 8.7N, long 104.2E at 0600, UTC, today. Maximum sustained winds 55 knots, gusts 70 knots.

Manila, Nov 24 — The Philippine Coast Guard reported the cargo barge *Rosario* is now anchored at Carmen Bay in Tablas island. *Rosario* was cut adrift after tug *Tina*, which was towing it, sank between Simara and Banton island on Nov 20. The Coast Guard said that only one out of the *Tina* crew of 11 was rescued. This was contrary to earlier reports indicating that the entire crew of *Tina* was picked up by passing vessels. The Coast Guard said that search and rescue operations were on-going to save the 10 missing crew. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Hanoi, Nov 24 — Typhoon "Muifa" is expected to skirt Vietnam's southern coast though rains are likely to pound the area with strong winds later today as the storm moves into the Gulf of Thailand, weather forecasters said. Ahead of the storm's approach, the government issued protective orders, including asking state oil monopoly Petrovietnam to guard oil drilling facilities. Operators said the oil rigs were fixed so they can withstand the typhoon. Most of the workers on the oil facilities have been evacuated, state media reported. Authorities urged

boats to return to shore or seek cover, and dozens of military helicopters and high-speed boats were used to help direct fishermen away from dangerous areas. Children in the southern province of Ca Mau were asked to stay home from school. At 0700 hrs (0000, UTC) today, the National Hydro and Meteorology Centre said the typhoon was 490 km east of Ca Mau, moving southwest at a speed of 10 to 15 kmph. "From tomorrow afternoon the typhoon will enter the Gulf of Thailand," it said. Strong winds and torrential rains were expected on Wednesday in eight southern provinces. Traders said any rains in the Central Highlands coffee belt could hurt bean quality and damage trees with harvests about to peak within a week. — Reuters.

London, Nov 25 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: Typhoon "Muifa", downgraded to tropical storm, near lat 8.7N, long 101.7E at 0600, UTC, today. Movement for the past six hours 270 degrees at 18 knots. Position accurate to within 60 nautical miles. Maximum sustained winds 35 knots, gusts 45 knots. Forecast position lat 9.1N, long 98.4E at 1800, UTC, today. Maximum sustained winds 30 knots, gusts 40 knots. Forecast position lat 9.7N, long 95.4E at 0600, UTC, today. Maximum sustained winds 35 knots, gusts 45 knots.

TYPHOON "SONGDA"

Moji, Nov 22 — General cargo *Blue Ocean*: Wreck removal was completed on Nov 18. — Lloyd's Agents.

UNITED STATES

London, Nov 22 — A press report, dated today, states: Rain doused already saturated areas of southeast Texas today after as much as 15 inches during the weekend forced hundreds of people from their homes and closed highways. No injuries were reported. Heavy rain also fell early today in the Austin area, flooding city streets and highways and stalling cars. The Colorado River, which flows through the city and into southeast Texas, was swollen out of its banks in places and authorities warned residents to take precautions. About 250 people were evacuated from their homes yesterday in El Campo. Mayor Randy Collins said 50 to 100 homes as well as some businesses were flooded yesterday. Highway 59 remained closed today because of flooding, said El Campo police dispatcher Donna Hubenak. Up to 15 inches of rain fell across parts of Wharton and Jackson counties. Eighteen people had to be removed from their homes in Ganado in Jackson County, Mayor Fred Rickaway said. London, Nov 24 — A press report, dated today, states: Tornadoes touched down yesterday in eastern Texas, killing a woman, injuring three people, and destroying several homes after days of rain throughout the region. Valerie Stewart, a dispatcher for the Hardin County Sheriff's Department, said there was "pretty extensive damage," but she was not aware of other injuries from a deadly late-afternoon tornado - one of four she said

struck the county. Authorities in Hardin and neighbouring counties said additional storms moved through the region, destroying several homes. Hardin County Emergency Management spokeswoman Theresa Wigley said the amount of damage was not immediately clear because downed trees and other debris made many roads impassable. Authorities believe three tornadoes hit the town of Kirbyville within minutes Tuesday evening. Creeks and rivers continued to rise yesterday after days of heavy rain throughout much of the state. In Dewitt County, officials called for evacuation of about 100 homes near the Guadalupe River. In Wharton County, about 2,500 people were asked to evacuate their homes near the Colorado River. Winter storm warnings were also posted for parts of the Texas Panhandle, with up to 8 inches of snow forecast.

London, Nov 25 — A press report, dated today, states: A fierce snowstorm hit the Midwest on one of the busiest travel days of the year yesterday, snarling roads and causing long delays at airports as millions of Thanksgiving travellers tried to make it home for the holiday weekend. The National Weather Service said parts of Illinois got up to eight inches of snow, while seven inches were reported outside Kansas City in the Midwest's first major snowfall of the season. The region was also hit by strong thunderstorms, high winds and icy conditions that made driving treacherous. The snow caused dozens of flight cancellations and three-hour delays at Chicago's O'Hare International Airport. Bad weather forced Northwest Airlines to cancel a total of 37 flights, including 22 into or out of Detroit. The snowfall was accompanied by high winds in spots. The National Weather Service reported gusts of 57 mph around Champaign, Ill. High winds along Interstate 74 near Greensburg, Ind., caused a semitrailer to overturn, leaving the highway strewn with debris. In Indiana, severe thunderstorms cut across the southeastern part of the state, as heavy snow fell to the north. At the Atlanta airport, many flights were delayed and a few were diverted because of the severe weather in the region. The weather was also disrupting travel in the Northeast. Airports in New York City, Boston and Newark, N.J., were experiencing delays up to two hours because of rain.

Earthquakes



ALBANIA

London, Nov 24 — A report, dated Nov 23, states: A moderate earthquake occurred at 0226, UTC, today. The magnitude 5.5 event has been located in Albania in lat 40.40N, long 20.76E, depth 15 km.

COSTA RICA

London, Nov 21 — A report, dated Nov 20, states: A strong earthquake occurred at 0807, UTC, today. The magnitude 6.2 event has been located in Costa Rica in lat 09.55N, long 84.22W, depth 25 km.

London, Nov 21 — A press report, dated Nov 20, states: A strong, early-morning earthquake shook presidents and prime ministers attending a Costa Rican summit today and killed eight people, including several who were frightened into having fatal heart attacks. The Red Cross said most of the eight victims died from heart attacks. The quake cracked major highways, toppled water towers and knocked pillars from under a house, causing it to collapse atop a parked car. The National Emergency Commission said 500 homes were damaged. Power lines also were downed in some areas. The U.S. National Earthquake Information Centre said the quake, which hit at 0207 hrs, had a magnitude of 6.2 and was centered 30 miles south-south-west of San Jose. Costa Rica's seismological observatory recorded more than 100 aftershocks of magnitudes reaching 4.6.

London, Nov 24 — A press report, dated Nov 23, states: President Abel Pacheco declared a national emergency in Costa Rica today, a move that frees up government funds for hundreds of families driven from their homes by a strong earthquake that rattled the country on Nov 20. The 6.2-magnitude temblor was blamed in the deaths of eight people and damaged or destroyed more than 500 homes. Pacheco said the declaration would eliminate bureaucratic red tape so that the government could get relief funds immediately to the people and projects that need it. The emergency designation opens up immediate access to \$5.5 million for repairing roads, hospitals and housing, said Diego Morales, president of the National Emergencies Commission.

DOMINICA & GUADELOUPE

London, Nov 21 — A press report, dated today, states: A strong earthquake shook the Caribbean islands of Dominica and Guadeloupe early today, destroying at least a half dozen buildings and injuring several people. The temblor had a preliminary magnitude of 6.0, said John Minsch, a seismologist at the US National Earthquake Information Service. Its epicentre was about 28 miles north-north-west of Dominica, near the Guadeloupe archipelago of Les Saintes. At least six houses were destroyed and others were damaged in Terre-de-Bas, one of the islands in the chain, private Radio Caraibes reported. Several people were injured in mainland Guadeloupe in the southern towns of Trois-Rivieres and Basse-Terre, the radio station reported. The injuries were not serious. In Dominica, several homes and buildings were damaged in the northern part of the former British colony, including three churches, national disaster coordinator Cecil Shillingford said. No injuries were reported in Dominica, Shillingford said.

The facade of a Roman Catholic church collapsed in Portsmouth, north of the capital, Roseau, said Ian Douglas, a parliamentary representative from the area. There was nobody in the church at the time. Portsmouth's hospital also suffered damage and patients were evacuated to a nearby building, Douglas told state-run Dominica Broadcasting Corp. The earthquake lasted several seconds and was felt as far away as Antigua and Barbuda, some 125 miles north of the epicentre. No damage was reported there.

FIJI

London, Nov 21 — A report, dated Nov 17, states: A strong earthquake occurred at 2109, UTC, today. The magnitude 6.6 event has been located in the Fiji region in lat 20.01S, long 178.74W, depth 623 km.

London, Nov 24 — A report, dated Nov 23, states: A strong earthquake occurred at 2104, UTC, today. The magnitude 6.0 event has been located south of the Fiji Islands in lat 24.23S, long 178.95E. The hypocentral depth was estimated to be 535 km.

GUATEMALA

London, Nov 21 — A report, dated Nov 20, states: A strong earthquake occurred at 2201, UTC, today. The magnitude 6.1 event has been located near the coast of Guatemala in lat 13.41N, long 90.05W. The hypocentral depth was estimated to be 62 km.

INDONESIA

London, Nov 21 — A report, dated Nov 20, states: A moderate earthquake occurred at 0232, UTC, today. The magnitude 5.6 event has been located in Buru, Indonesia, in lat 03.40S, long 126.14E, depth 225 km. The hypocentral depth was poorly constrained.

LEeward ISLANDS

London, Nov 22 — A report, dated Nov 21, states: A strong earthquake occurred at 1141, UTC, today. The magnitude 6.0 event has been located in the Leeward Islands in lat 15.68N, long 61.69W, depth 20 km.. The hypocentral depth was poorly constrained.

NEW ZEALAND

London, Nov 23 — A press report, dated today, states: An offshore earthquake with a magnitude of 7.2 shook much of New Zealand's South Island today, but emergency services said they had no immediate reports of injury or significant damage. The quake hit at 0926 hrs (2226, UTC, Nov 22) 240 kilometres southwest of the tourist and farming town of Te Anau, and was 33 kilometres below the earth's surface, Geological and Nuclear Sciences seismologist Peter McGinty said. "We would expect very minor damage," he said, but it would likely cause few problems because it was deep and offshore. Southland District Civil Defence officer Tom Shaw said there were no immediate reports of personal injury or significant damage. Council

engineers were checking for any damage to water or sewerage systems and to the region's roads, he said in a statement.

London, Nov 23 — A report, dated today, states: A major earthquake occurred at 2026, UTC, yesterday. The magnitude 7.3 event has been located off the west coast of South Island, New Zealand, lat 46.58S, long 164.83E, depth 270 km.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

London, Nov 21 — A report, dated Nov 16, states: A strong earthquake occurred at 1006, UTC, today. The magnitude 6.1 event has been located in the New Britain region, Papua New Guinea, lat 05.57S, long 151.42E, depth 56 km.

RUSSIA

London, Nov 21 — A report, dated Nov 16, states: A moderate earthquake occurred at 1157, UTC, today. The magnitude 5.5 event has been located near the east coast of Kamchatka, Russia, in lat 53.05N, long 160.11E. The hypocentral depth was estimated to be 54 km.

TAJIKISTAN

London, Nov 21 — A report, dated Nov 17, states: A moderate earthquake occurred at 2058, UTC, today. The magnitude 5.8 event has been located in Tajikistan in lat 39.16N, long 71.85E. The hypocentral depth was estimated to be 46 km.



MOUNT IABU, PAPUA NEW GUINEA

London, Nov 24 — A press report, dated today, states: Vulcanologists have upgraded the threat from a volcano in Papua New Guinea after an increase in activity. The volcano on Manam Island, off the north-eastern coast of the Papua New Guinea mainland, started erupting a month ago. Around 2,000 people live in villages around its base. Papua New Guinea's main volcano observatory in Rabaul says an eruption last night threw ash up to 10 kilometres in the air and ejected debris up to eight centimetres in diameter. It says there may also be a lava flow down one side of the volcano where a continuous red glow has been observed. The observatory has recommended upgrading the threat level and is warning villagers around the eruption to stay as far away as possible. The Papuan New Guinean Government is considering its plans should the threat from the volcano increase.

London, Nov 25 — A press report, dated today, states: Voluntary evacuations have begun on a tiny Papua New Guinea island after a major volcanic eruption spewed ash 14 kilometres into the air and blanketed homes, crops and water supplies, officials said today. The volcano on

Manam, off the country's north coast, began erupting in October but a severe burst on Tuesday night (Nov 23) prompted authorities to upgrade volcanic activity to stage 3, and urge voluntary evacuations. A Papua New Guinea volcanologist said the volcano coughed up lava and large rocks. An aviation red alert was issued for aircraft to avoid the area, with an ash plume extending 130km south-east of Manam. Emergency officials said an area was being cleared on the mainland for a possible full-scale evacuation of Manam's 9,600 islanders. Evacuation becomes compulsory if volcanic activity intensifies and reaches stage 4. The US Geological Survey said Tuesday's eruption sent ash 14km into the air. Papua New Guinea's Rabaul Island volcanological observatory said lava flowed down the north-east side of the volcano after the eruption, with rocks thrown up among the dark grey ash. "Some 20 bush homes have collapsed due to mud rain and five people have been injured," said volcanologist Herman Patia.



AFGHANISTAN

Kabul, Nov 23 — Three foreign U.N. workers held hostage in Afghanistan were freed unharmed today, almost four weeks after they were abducted at gunpoint on the streets of the capital Kabul, the United Nations said. "Yes they have been released," said U.N. spokesman Manoel de Almeida e Silva. "They are in Kabul and they are being taken care of, having medical checkups and talking to our people." Interior Ministry spokesman Lutfullah Mashal said he would provide details of the freeing of the hostages at a news conference later today. A spokesman for Kabul's NATO-led peacekeeping force said the three were currently at one of its bases in Kabul and had undergone medical checkups. "They have been positively identified and all three appear to be healthy," Squadron Leader David Bennett said, adding that he understood the hostages were freed at about 0700 hrs. Habib Noorzad, a member of the Taliban splinter faction that had claimed to be holding the hostages, said an understanding reached with intermediaries was that 24 Taliban prisoners would be freed after the release of the hostages and another two traced. He denied that his group had demanded any ransom. A government official, who did not want to be named, denied any deal had been done. — Reuters.

BRAZIL

London, Nov 22 — A press report dated yesterday, states: Five rural workers have been shot dead and 14 others injured in Brazil as part of a dispute over land. They were members of a landless workers group that

occupies agricultural land it says is not being used. The Brazilian government has called yesterday's attack, in the state of Minas Gerais, a barbarity. Conflict over land is nothing new but this is the most violent incident since President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva took power nearly two years ago. It seems that on yesterday afternoon a mini bus pulled up at the settlement near the town of Felizburgo. Hooded gunmen got out and opened fire on men, women and children. Five people died and, of the others taken to hospital, two are said to be seriously injured. The victims were part of Brazil's Landless Workers' Movement (MST). In what has become a familiar pattern, they occupied the 2,500-hectare site in 2002. They say the land belongs to the state government and had fallen into disuse. The MST has already accused a landowner in a neighbouring state of ordering the attack. The government agency responsible for land rights has called the killings a massacre and has promised a speedy investigation.

GEORGIA

London, Nov 22 — A press report, dated today, states: Unidentified persons last night blew up one of the seven radio communication stations of the Baku-Supsa oil pipeline near the village of Chorchana in Georgia's Khashuri region. The assailants, wearing masks and camouflage, tied up the radio stations' operator Merab Mumladze and took him to the forest, and then blew up the radio station. Mumladze reached the village of Chorchana in the morning and informed the local police about the incident, the Georgian Interior Ministry told Interfax on Friday. The ministry said that Chorchana borders on South Ossetia. South Ossetia is legally a province of Georgia, but a conflict in the 1990s led to its de-facto independence.

INDIA

Srinagar, Nov 24 — Separatist militants threw a grenade at a paramilitary picket in Indian Kashmir today, wounding six civilians, a police officer said. The attack in the northern Kashmiri town of Sopore came as the prime ministers of India and Pakistan held talks in New Delhi to keep alive a peace process that is stumbling over their bitter dispute over Himalayan region. The grenade was aimed at a sand-bagged bunker of the Border Security Force, one of several Indian formations trying to crush the 15-year revolt, but it exploded on the street wounding pedestrians, the police officer said. — Reuters.

INDONESIA

London, Nov 20 — A press report, dated today, states: Soldiers have shot dead five separatist rebels in the latest arms clashes in the restive province of Aceh, the military said today. The Free Aceh Movement rebels, three of whom were in their 20s, were gunned down in separate clashes in five districts yesterday, Aceh military spokesman

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

Ari Mulya Asnawi said. Among them was a rebel commander for Bireuen district in North Aceh, one of rebel strongholds, Antara reported. On Wednesday (Nov 17) the government extended Aceh's emergency status for another six months, under which civilian authorities keep control but can order press censorship, curfews and other restrictions.

IRAQ

London, Nov 19 — A press report, dated today, states: Clashes have broken out in Iraq after Iraqi national guardsmen raided a Sunni mosque in Baghdad's Adhamiya neighbourhood after weekly Friday prayers. Eyewitnesses say at least two Iraqis were hurt in the clashes inside the Abu Hanifa mosque, which is considered one of the most important Sunni places of worship in Iraq. Around 300 national guardsmen are reported to have stormed the mosque. The purpose of the raid is not immediately clear. Meanwhile, a group led by Abu Musab al-Zarqawi says it has beheaded two Iraqi national guards in broad daylight in Mosul. The statement, which was found on an Islamist website, is unverified.

Baghdad, Nov 21 — Kidnappers have freed the cousin of Iraqi Interim Prime Minister Iyad Allawi, a source in the premier's office said today. "He has been freed and is now with his family in Baghdad," the source said, giving no more details. It was not clear when 75-year-old Ghazi Allawi, the prime minister's first cousin, was freed. A previously unknown Islamist group had seized him along with his wife and their daughter-in-law in Baghdad on Nov 9. The women were released a week ago, Arab television channels said. The group had threatened to kill all three unless Allawi's government called off a U.S.-led assault on the rebel-held city of Falluja. Elsewhere, the Paris Club of creditor nations agreed today to cancel 80 percent of the debt Iraq owes its members, ending a trans-Atlantic dispute and probably setting the framework for debt pardons from other creditors. Paris Club President Jean-Pierre Jouyet told reporters in Paris that the deal, which will slash Baghdad's debt to Club creditors to \$7.8 billion from \$38.9 billion, would be put into effect in three steps over the next four years. The deal came shortly after Russia, in talks on the sidelines of a meeting of Group of 20 developed and emerging market countries in Berlin, agreed to forgive up to 80 percent of Iraq's debt. Other creditors who are not in the Paris Club, but could now follow its lead, include Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Eastern European states. The Club's 19 members include most Western European states, Japan, Russia, United States, Canada and Australia. Jouyet said after the negotiations, the Paris Club would pardon 30 percent of Iraq's debt to it immediately, an additional 30 percent in 2005 and the final 20 percent in 2008. The final deal ended a dispute between the United States and France over how much of Iraq's debts

they should waive, and could serve as a benchmark for relief deals with other creditors such as Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Eastern European states. — Reuters.

Baquba, Nov 23 — Gunmen killed a Sunni Muslim cleric in the city of Miqdadiya today, the second such killing in Iraq in as many days, witnesses and hospital officials said. Sheikh Ghaleb al-Zuheir was a member of the Muslim Clerics Association, which aims to speak for the once dominant Sunni minority and which has called for a boycott of January's Iraqi election. It was not clear whether there was any connection with the drive-by shooting in the northern city of Mosul yesterday of Sheikh Feydhi Mohammed al-Feydhi, brother of the association's official spokesman. — Reuters.

Baghdad, Nov 23 — Thousands of U.S. and Iraqi troops and police commandos swept through a cluster of lawless towns southwest of Baghdad today, in a new offensive against Sunni Muslim insurgents. The raids by 5,000 American, Iraqi and some British troops, in what has become popularly known as the "triangle of death," comes two weeks after U.S.-led forces stormed the western Sunni city of Falluja and routed rebels there. The U.S. military said Operation Plymouth Rock began in the town of Jabala but is planned to reach across the Sunni area southwest of Baghdad, where rebels have banished police and rule the streets. Guerrilla and bandit attacks in the area, which straddles major highways between the Euphrates and Tigris rivers, have threatened to cut Iraq in half by making travel between Baghdad and the Shi'ite Muslim south dangerous. "The latest offensive...follows the swift seizure of the restive city of Falluja, where terrorists and insurgents suffered significant losses and the elimination of a key sanctuary," the U.S. Marines said in a statement. "The joint Iraqi-U.S. force captured 32 suspected insurgents, including a number of high-interest individuals, in a series of early morning raids." The Sunni area east of the Euphrates river is one of the most dangerous in the country for Iraqi security forces who are routinely stopped and killed, their bloated bodies washing up on the fertile banks virtually daily. Insurgents and bandits who stalk the main highway linking Baghdad to the Shi'ite south have turned it into a no-go area, attacking Iraqis they suspect of working with U.S.-led forces or foreign firms, and killing or kidnapping foreigners, including two French journalists snatched in August. The U.S. military said it was trying to cut lines of communication between rebels in the western Falluja area, Baghdad and the province of Babylon, southwest of the capital. "In the past three weeks, Iraqi security forces and Marines have rounded up nearly 250 insurgents," it said referring to the area of the present offensive. Iraqi security forces arrested 47 gunmen today in raids in Jabala, Hilla, Mahaweel, Iskandariya and

Haswa, Babylon province's police department said. Some of the detainees are accused of passing information on the whereabouts of Iraqi security forces to insurgents in nearby Latifiya, helping them ambush passing police and National Guard. Iraq's Defense Minister Hazim Shaalan told the London-based al-Sharq al-Awsat newspaper today that Iraqi security forces would focus on crushing rebels in their stronghold southwest of Baghdad then move onto the capital itself. The government had few means at its disposal to protect under equipped police and Guards from attack, he said. Police have become such targets that many switch their uniforms for civilian clothes before going home at night, while National Guards don balaclavas with their uniforms and keep their jobs secret from neighbours for fear of reprisals. Near Latifiya on Saturday (Nov 20), a Reuters reporter saw two Guards and a policeman, whose uniforms were hidden in their car, hauled out of the vehicle at a guerrilla roadblock and summarily shot. — Reuters.

London, Nov 25 — A press report, dated today, states: An explosion hit a domestic pipeline today that runs from northern Kirkuk to the Beiji refinery, oil officials said. The early morning sabotage took place in the Fatha area, about 113km south-west of Kirkuk, said a source with the state-owned Northern Oil Company. It was unclear what impact the attack would have on domestic production. Repairs will take about five days, the official said.

NEPAL

London, Nov 22 — A press report, dated today, states: Thirteen government soldiers and 23 communist rebels were killed in gun battles and explosions in Nepal over the past two days, government officials and local media said yesterday. In Kailali district, about 700 kilometres west of Kathmandu, 10 soldiers and 16 rebels were killed when security forces fought with a group of insurgents of the Communist Party of Nepal overnight Saturday (Nov 20).

NIGERIA

London, Nov 24 — A press report, dated today, states: Nigerian police fired tear gas at several hundred protesters outside the offices of Royal Dutch/Shell in Nigeria's oil-rich southern delta today, activists said. The demonstrators were from the Movement for the Survival of the Ogoni People, which is demanding that Nigerian security forces withdraw from ethnic Ogoni areas in the Niger Delta. The group says security presence has increased markedly since August to protect oil installations and to prepare an eventual return of Shell oil-drilling in the area. MOSOP leader Ledum Mitee said three activists were arrested at the demonstration and beaten by police, adding that more demonstrations would be held soon. Kpalap alleged security forces have been extorting money from locals, and have committed a number of rapes. A

Western human rights activist at the protest estimated the number of demonstrators at 500.

PAKISTAN

Karachi, Nov 21 — Pakistan Railway and Sindh Police said rail traffic between Hyderabad-Kotri section remained suspended for quite some time after two successive blasts destroyed small sections of railroad in Sindh Province yesterday. As a result, Faisalabad Night Coach and Karachi Express was stopped at Kotri railway station and Shah Rukn-e-Alam Express and Shalimar Express to halt at Hyderabad. It was reported that the first blast occurred at around 1945 hrs followed by another blast separated by about seven to eight minutes about half a kilometre away. Personnel of law-enforcement agencies rushed to the spot to cordon off the area. Apart from a minor injury sustained by a woman, no casualty was reported. Officials of the bomb disposal squad who examined the sites of the blast said that the tracks had been damaged by high-explosive non-electrical device. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

London, Nov 25 — A press report, dated today, states: A bomb exploded in a crowded bazaar in south-western Pakistan today, killing at least one person and wounding 14 others. No one immediately claimed responsibility for the blast in Khuzdar, a town about 210 miles south of Quetta in Baluchistan province. "I confirm a bomb explosion has killed one person, while 14 others have been injured," said local government official Omar Babar. He said the bomb was planted on a bicycle outside a shop. The injured were taken to a nearby hospital, where at least three were in critical condition, he said. Yesterday, a bomb ripped through a truck parked outside a police station in Quetta, damaging its outer wall but causing no injuries. Baluchistan has been the scene of small-scale bomb explosions and rocket attacks in recent months, but authorities have failed to arrest those responsible.

PHILIPPINES

London, Nov 20 — A press report, dated today, states: The Philippine military has killed up to 10 people in an air raid on a suspected meeting between the Abu Sayyaf kidnap gang and Jemaah Islamiyah (JI) extremists, a senior military official said today. Huey and MG-520 helicopters and OV-10 aircraft blasted two houses in the marshlands of the southern province of Maguindanao yesterday, where about 50 Abu Sayyaf members were believed meeting with two Indonesian JI members, said regional military chief Major General Raul Relano. As many as 10 bodies were seen floating in the marsh waters after the attack but it could not be confirmed if they were Abu Sayyaf or JI members, Major General Relano said. One Huey helicopter was slightly damaged by return fire, the general said. The armed forces had to resort to air strikes due to the difficulty of entering the marsh by foot. Major General Relano said the attack in the

central part of the main southern island of Mindanao did not violate a cease fire in place between the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), the main Muslim separatist group in the country. MILF spokesman Eid Kabalu confirmed the air strike took place but said it hit communities known to harbour MILF members. No MILF fighters were killed in the air strike, he added.

SUDAN

Nairobi, Nov 19 — Sudan's government and its southern rebel foes promised the U.N. Security Council today to end Africa's longest running civil war by Dec 31. With U.N. Security Council ambassadors as witnesses, a Sudanese government official and a negotiator from the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Movement signed a document pledging to sign a final pact by Dec 31 to end 21 years of war in the oil-producing south of Africa's biggest country. The signing took place at a special session of the U.N. Security Council in the Kenyan capital, and all 15 ambassadors of the world's top security body then signed the document. Sudanese Vice President Ali Osman Mohamed Taha said long-term plans would require \$1.8 billion in aid over three years. Britain, has already pledged some \$180 million. A resolution the Security Council is expected to adopt today asks the European Union, the World Bank and the United Nations to devise a reconstruction programme. — Reuters.

Khartoum, Nov 23 — Sudan said today clashes with rebels in its Darfur region had killed more than 30 policemen, and denied accusations from aid workers that government planes had bombed a town captured by the rebels. Rebels attacked and seized the town of Tawilla in North Darfur state yesterday, and officials said fighting was continuing as police and army struggled to regain control over the town, where about 30,000 refugees are encamped. The Save the Children UK organization said about 30 of its workers were forced to flee on foot when a bomb landed about 50 meters from one of its feeding centres in the town. Rebel commanders in North Darfur also said the town had been bombed, but Foreign Minister Mustafa Osman Ismail denied this. "There are clear instructions to the army that they should not use any bombing. There is no bombing," he told reporters in Khartoum. But he added helicopter gunships may have been used. Sudan's security chief has said rebels have used villages in Darfur as human shields attracting government bombardment throughout their uprising. After years of skirmishes between Arab nomads and mostly non-Arab farmers over scarce resources in arid Darfur, rebels took up arms early last year accusing the government of neglect and of arming Arab militias, known as Janjaweed, to loot and burn non-Arab villages. Khartoum denies the charge. — Reuters.

El Fasher, Nov 24 — A Sudanese warplane killed 25 rebels today in a bombing raid on a village in western Sudan's troubled Darfur region, a rebel commander said. Bosh Shag Omar, a Sudan Liberation Army (SLA) local commander, told Reuters the Russian-built Antonov aircraft bombed the village of Tadit, 25 miles south of the North Darfur capital El Fasher, at 0800 hrs. "The bombing killed 25 SLA men and many sheep and camels, a lot of houses are burned and civilians are injured," he said. Aid workers at Zam, a teeming camp south of el Fasher for thousands of people displaced by violence, said they heard planes bombing south of the state capital between 0800 and 0900 hrs, today.

"You could hear the explosions and see the smoke coming from the south. Everybody in the camp is very nervous," said one aid worker, who asked not to be identified. Sudanese Foreign Minister Mustafa Osman Ismail told reporters the government had instructed the army not to bomb Darfur, but said any such reports would be investigated. He said the government would respond to rebel attacks in self defense. Suleiman Mohammed Jamous, the SLA humanitarian co-ordinator, said government forces had launched a counter-attack yesterday after the rebels entered the town of Tawilla. "The government is now bombing one of our bases about 20 miles southwest of El Fasher," Jamous told Reuters. Jamous said the rebels had abandoned Tawilla after two days of heavy fighting with government forces. "Our troops are no longer in Tawilla. We are now back in our camps," he said. Several weeks of skirmishes between Arab militias and African rebels around Tawilla erupted into heavy fighting when about 100 rebels stormed into the transit town early Monday (Nov 22). The United Nations has condemned the fresh fighting, which comes two weeks after both government and rebels signed peace protocols in the Nigerian capital Abuja. "We don't care if the cease-fire collapses," Jamous said by telephone. "We are ready to fight the government anywhere." The government says at least 30 policemen were killed in Monday's rebel attack, but has so far denied any bombing. A 700-strong African Union force has neither the mandate nor the capability to intervene to halt the violence that has engulfed Darfur, an area the size of France. "We are monitoring the situation and waiting for things to calm down," said one AU officer who did not want to be identified. — Reuters.

THAILAND

London, Nov 21 — A press report, dated today, states: Five fire bombs exploded just minutes apart in southern Thailand's Pattani town in what police said today was likely a coordinated attack by Muslim insurgents in the restive region. No injuries were reported from the bombs, described by police as Molotov cocktails, which were thrown at four homes and a shop in the provincial

capital at about 2235, local time. "Police are investigating the cause of the attacks," a policeman in Pattani said, adding that a preliminary investigation suggests the bombings were related to ongoing separatist violence in the south which has left more than 500 people dead this year. Two policemen and a civil servant were among those who lived in the homes, which suffered minor damage from the bombings. Thai television reported a sixth small bomb exploding in a Pattani district outside town, also causing no injuries.

UKRAINE

London, Nov 25 — A press report, dated today, states: Ukraine's opposition is stepping up its campaign to overturn the disputed presidential poll, launching a general strike to try to paralyse the country. Opposition leader Viktor Yushchenko called for the stoppage after election officials declared Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich the winner. Both sides earlier warned of a civil conflict, as thousands of people continue to protest in Kiev. The US has said it "cannot accept" Sunday's (Nov 21) poll result as legitimate. Outgoing Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma - who backs Mr Yanukovich - called on world leaders not to interfere, warning that civil war "could well become a reality at the present time". In a bid to calm the tense situation, the European Union and Poland have sent envoys to Kiev. Ukraine's crisis is also set to dominate an EU-Russia summit at The Hague later today, after the two sides adopted strikingly different stances on the election. The EU voiced dismay over the result, pointing to widespread reports of election abuses. Earlier, Russian President Vladimir Putin rushed to congratulate Mr Yanukovich - even before the official result had been announced. Thousands of opposition supporters braved the cold in a fourth night of protests in the capital, Kiev. A number of pro-government supporters were also visible in the city for the first time in yesterday, though eastern Ukraine saw pro-government rallies earlier in the week. Riot police have been on stand-by since the demonstrations began but there have been no reports of violence. Ukraine's Central Electoral Commission yesterday declared Mr Yanukovich as president, saying he had won 49.46% of the vote against Mr Yushchenko's 46.61%. However, several exit polls immediately after Sunday's voting suggested that Mr Yushchenko had a clear lead. The pro-Western Mr Yushchenko immediately rejected the commission's declaration as the "latest crime" of the Ukrainian authorities. The nationwide strike aims to shut factories, shops and schools and paralyse Ukraine's major transportation arteries. Some analysts say the planned stoppage could further divide the country. Mr Yushchenko draws his support mainly from the predominantly Ukrainian-speaking western and central regions,

while Mr Yanukovich's strength comes from the Russian-speaking heavily industrialised east. The opposition is also planning to challenge the official result in the supreme court today. The new head of the European Commission, Jose Manuel Barroso, also warned Ukraine there could be "consequences" for its relations with the European Union, unless there was a serious and independent review. Western election observers and the Ukrainian opposition have reported thousands of voting irregularities, including a near 100% turnout in some pro-government strongholds.

Kidnappings



MALAYSIA

Manila, Nov 24 — Philippine military authorities confirmed the death of three crew members of the tug *Ocean 2*, who were kidnapped by the Abu Sayyaf off Tawi-Tawi in April. The Southern Command reported that a Marine battalion recovered the remains of Toh Chiu Tong, and Wong Siu Ung, both Malaysians, and Indonesian J.E. Walter Sempel. *Ocean 2* and barge *Sarinto 1*, laden with construction materials, were bound for the Solomon Islands when Abu Sayyaf terrorists stopped the vessels and took the master, Walter Sempel, marine engineer Toh Chiu Tong and crane operator Wong Siu Ung hostage on Apr 11. Seven other crewmen hid in the lower deck of the tug and sailed back to Sandakan port the following morning. The terrorists had demanded US\$1.5 million for the release of the three hostages. The military said the three probably died of malaria in June. The remains of the hostages were recovered in the town of Panglima Sugala, about 1,120 km south of Manila. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Labour Disputes



CANADA

London, Nov 23 — A press report, dated Nov 22, states: UPS employees in Canada went on strike today, in a move that the United Parcel Service called disappointing. The strike by 3,800 employees comes nearly two months after a tentative agreement was reached with UPS. The agreement was rejected in a vote by UPS workers. "As a result, we are temporarily unable to provide service to your location. We regret the inconvenience caused by this disruption in service," UPS said in a statement on its website. UPS said it had reached a collective agreement with the Canadian Council of Teamsters representing workers on Oct

1 that "offered significant enhancements to our employees." "We are extremely disappointed that the proposal was not accepted by the membership and that the Teamster leadership has initiated this unnecessary action," the statement said. The work stoppage will only affect Canadian UPS operations. The following services will be suspended until negotiations are resolved: Pick up and delivery of all UPS Canada courier shipments and UPS Standard to Canada. Delivery of UPS Worldwide ExpressSM and UPS Worldwide ExpeditedSM shipments into Canada will continue, but may be delayed. There are no guarantees on shipments to and within Canada while the strike is on.

London, Nov 23 — A press report, dated today, states: Workers at an aluminum smelter ended their 40-month strike today, accepting a five-year deal at a general meeting. The 800 members of the Steelworkers Union of America accepted a settlement tabled by Labour Department negotiator Jean Beauchesne, the plant said in a news release. Workers will gradually return to the plant beginning on Thursday (Nov 25), said the statement. The workers went on strike on Jul 7 in a dispute over job security, outsourcing and pensions. Alcoa managers operated the smelter, about 150 kilometres northeast of Montreal, at one-third of its annual capacity of 400,000 tonnes.

London, Nov 24 — A press report, dated Nov 23, states: United Parcel Service Inc., the world's biggest package carrier, reached a contract agreement with the Teamsters Union in Canada, ending a two-day strike by 3,800 drivers and sorters that disrupted services. Pick-ups and deliveries in Canada will resume immediately, the Atlanta-based company said in a statement. Union spokesman Stephane Lacroix said the tentative agreement will be presented to members within a week and declined to discuss details. The strike had halted all shipments in Canada except international cargo being flown to the country. Union members walked out early yesterday after rejecting an agreement last week. United Parcel stopped all pickups and relied on managers to deliver shipments within Canada that were in transit during the strike. Shipments from Canada by air also were halted.

CHILE

London, Nov 24 — A press report, dated today, states: Copper in London rose for a second day as inventories fell to their lowest since July 1989. A 20-day strike at Phelps Dodge's El Abra copper mine in northern Chile may deepen the shortage. Phelps Dodge Corp's management at El Abra rejected a union proposal to increase bonuses, said Luis Ibaceta, a treasurer at one of two striking unions at El Abra. Workers have blockaded the mine, which accounts for 1.5 percent of the global mine production of copper.

FINLAND

London, Nov 18 — A press report, dated today, states: A strike by workers at the Port of Helsinki kept the city's cargo harbours shut down today. The stoppage was called by the Finnish Transport Workers' Union (AKT) to back demands of striking bus drivers working for the private companies Connex and Concordia, which drive regional routes in the Helsinki area. Also affected by Tuesday's (Nov 16) decision were chemical transport services by ADR-Haanpää. Earlier the strike action had spread to bus services in five Finnish cities, and drivers of Helsinki City Transport (HKL) are also considering joining the fray. Harbour workers in Helsinki did not load or unload vessels. However, lorries were able to drive on and off passenger and cargo ferries. Members of the Finnish Seamen's Union are supporting the striking transport workers by refusing to do any work in harbours that is covered by the action taken by the Transport Workers' Union. Most of Finland's imported food comes through the Port of Helsinki. However, no serious shortages are expected, although there could be temporary difficulties with some of the most sensitive perishable goods. The Finnish paper industry fears that the strike by drivers ADR-Haanpää tank trucks could quickly lead to shortages of chemicals leading to shutdowns in the paper industry already today. Paper factories no longer keep stockpiles of chemicals and are completely reliant on regular deliveries.

ITALY

London, Nov 19 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Alitalia SpA said it is cancelling tomorrow 172 flights because of an air traffic controllers strike between midday and 1600 hrs. The cancellations comprise 78 flights on domestic routes and 94 on international routes, it said.

London, Nov 19 — A press report, dated today, states: Air travel from Italy was snarled today as air traffic controllers staged a nationwide strike that forced hundreds of flights to be cancelled or delayed. The four-hour walkout to protest plans for a single European traffic control agency started at noon (1100, UTC). The Italian flagship airline, Alitalia cancelled 172 flights, including 78 domestic flights and 94 international flights. The company also said several flights would be rescheduled. German airline Lufthansa has cancelled 44 of its 80 scheduled flights between Italy and Germany today. The company said, however, that it would try to accommodate the 2,500 passengers who were booked on cancelled flights by using larger planes for the remaining flights. Lufthansa's regional partners Eurowings, Lufthansa Cityline and Air Dolomiti are also affected by the strike. At Milan's Malpensa international hub, 116 flights were cancelled and 44 rescheduled. Another 22 flights were cancelled and 17 rescheduled at Linate, a smaller airport closer to the city centre, said SEA, the company that

manages the two airports. At Rome's Leonardo Da Vinci airport, 112 flights were cancelled, airport officials said. The controllers are protesting plans to create a single traffic control agency in central Europe, to be based in Vienna, said Nicoletta Tomiselli of Italy's air traffic agency ENAV. Controllers fear that the plan might cost some of them their jobs. The strike was organised by the country's three largest unions.

NEW ZEALAND

London, Nov 24 — A press report, dated today, states: Onshore oil-rig workers yesterday voted to accept a contract deal hammered out between their union and employers. On Sunday (Nov 21), the Employment Court ordered workers to return to work after they had walked off the job on Friday (Nov 19), pending a full injunction hearing which had been set down for today. But talks on Monday night had come up with the deal workers unanimously accepted. The deal included a pay rise of five per cent for 18 months, backdated to Sep 1, and a substantial allowance for working with new hazardous substances. Other gains included a 10 per cent redundancy increase, an agreement on pay for training, and hot meals for all workers.

PAKISTAN

Karachi, Nov 25 — Terminal Association of Pakistan (TAP) said this afternoon that shipment for export of molasses from Pakistan will suffer with the start of season next week due to on going transporters strike for the last two months. A spokesman of association said that two vessels are expected to arrive on Nov 29 and Dec 1 respectively at Karachi port to load about 50,000 tones molasses, but exporters may face problem due to unavailability of transport to bring commodity from interior of Sindh and other parts of country to port. Exporters believe that because of this strike the shipments of molasses would not take place in December, which is the peak period of demand from foreign buyers. He said transporters want 100% increase in their cartage rates. In case the rates are not increased, they would not bring their trucks on roads, he feared. To resolve the issue talks are being held between all stakeholders. The government has not increased the price of diesel from last May, and as such there is no justification for transporters to go on strike, the exporters contend. The spokesman said such strike has become an annual feature as whenever the new season of sugarcane crushing starts the transporters start dictating their terms without any proper rationale. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

PHILIPPINES

London, Nov 25 — A press report, dated today, states: Thousands of commuters in metropolitan Manila and other Philippine cities were stranded today as drivers and other public transport operators went on strike to protest oil price increases. In a last-minute attempt to avert the strike,

three major oil companies promised a two percent discount on diesel, the main fuel used by public transport. But Mar Garvida, president of Piston, one of the drivers' groups leading the strike, said in a statement that "such a discount would mean nothing with the weekly increases in the prices of petroleum products. This is just a deception." Garvida said the strikers are demanding stronger government control over oil prices, a 60 percent rollback in diesel prices and a repeal of the oil deregulation law that gives oil companies freedom to raise fuel prices. The strikers also were protesting heavy fines imposed by traffic officers. Caltex Philippines Inc. said in a statement it will implement the diesel discount to show it is "sensitive to the concerns of our customers" and help "ease the burden on the transport sector and the commuting public." Police reported that about 80 percent of public transportation was affected by the strike in Manila and in central and southern Philippine cities. Taxi operators and trains were unaffected. The strike was generally peaceful, but traffic authorities reported some strikers allegedly threw steel spikes on a road in suburban Quezon city, bursting the tyres of a passenger bus, which toppled on its side, injuring 20 passengers. In a separate incident, police arrested at least eight members of drivers' federation for allegedly harassing colleagues who refused to join the strike in Manila. Some school authorities suspended classes in Manila to prevent students and teachers from getting stranded.

UKRAINE

See under "Political & Civil Unrest."

Awards & Settlements

**AGE DISCRIMINATION, UNITED STATES**

London, Nov 19 — A press report, dated Nov 18, states: A 59-year-old engineer who accused Boeing Co. of age discrimination has won a \$2.5 million verdict in a federal lawsuit claiming he was wrongly denied assignment as a test pilot three years ago. Mario Goico, a veteran pilot who has worked at Chicago-based Boeing's Wichita plant for more than 20 years, argued that bias against his Cuban heritage also contributed to his being passed over for the higher-paying job. The verdict, returned yesterday by a U.S. District Court jury, includes \$1.5 million in punitive damages intended to deter similar behaviour. The jury awarded Goico \$370,000 in what he would have been paid as a test pilot, \$31,000 in back pay and \$625,000 for pain and suffering. U.S. District Judge Wesley Brown could lower the award under laws that limit liability. Company spokesman Dick Ziegler said Boeing

was "very disappointed" with the verdict. The company has not decided whether it will appeal.

ALLEGED INDECENCY ON TV & RADIO, UNITED STATES

London, Nov 24 — A press report, dated Nov 23, states: Viacom will pay a record \$3.5 million to settle dozens of federal investigations into alleged indecency on TV and the radio, and introduce delays in more live programming to help catch troublesome material before it gets on the air. The settlement, announced yesterday, closes investigations dating back to 2001. Viacom, which also owns CBS and MTV, agreed to implement a company-wide compliance plan aimed at preventing future violations of federal indecency statutes. The plan includes installation of audio delay equipment at radio stations that broadcast live programming and training broadcasters and employees about indecency laws. Viacom said the public, not the government, should decide what it is exposed to on radio and television. But agreeing to the settlement makes that impossible, says John Dunbar, a project manager at the Center for Public Integrity, a nonpartisan government watchdog group. Viacom had a reputation for questioning federal investigations under its former president, Mel Karmazin, who left in June, Dunbar said. Karmazin is joining his longtime associate Stern at Sirius, where he will be CEO. The agreement cancels investigations into about 50 radio and television shows, said Richard Diamond, a commission spokesman. The shows were broadcast by Viacom-owned stations across the country, including some in Florida, Michigan, Ohio, California, Nevada, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Texas, Massachusetts and New York. The FCC defines indecent programming in the main as containing sexual language or material that is "patently offensive" when measured against prevailing community broadcast standards. It is forbidden on radio or broadcast television from 0600 to 2200 hrs. Material that is judged obscene is not allowed at any hour. Viacom has five days to pay the \$3.5 million fine, according to the agreement. Diamond said it was the commission's largest settlement.

ANTI-PIRACY OPERATIONS, UNITED STATES

London, Nov 24 — A press report, dated today, states: A Malaysian resident who ran a website that charged users to watch pirated films has been ordered by a California court to pay 23.8 million dollars to movie studios. The studios had sued Tan Soo Leong and company MasterSurf for operating the website Film88.com, according to the Motion Picture Association. The MPA's director of world-wide anti-piracy operations, John Malcolm, said MasterSurf set up an international web of servers designed to shelter the venture for liability. The trade group said Leong

previously operated an almost identical Web site, Movie88.com, out of Taiwan until authorities there shut the company down. MasterSurf's primary servers were then hosted out of the Netherlands and Iran, but the MPA and a Netherlands anti-piracy organization used Dutch courts to shut down servers there, according to the MPA. Leong and MasterSurf also were barred from infringing on any of the studios' movies, and ordered to destroy any and all copies of copyright films that reside on servers or in other formats. Malcolm said the MPA "shattered" MasterSurf's capabilities and shut the company down. "This case shows that some people will go to extravagant lengths to profiteer from pirating movies," he said.

DEATH AND INJURIES DUE COLLAPSE OF LOGS, TEXAS, UNITED STATES

London, Nov 21 — A press report, dated Nov 20, states: Families of seven students killed or injured during the deadly Texas A&M Bonfire collapse have reached a \$4.25 million partial settlement of a state lawsuit alleging negligence, an attorney for four of the families said yesterday. The settlement resolves their claims against 25 of the 35 student leaders who oversaw construction of the massive stack of logs that collapsed five years ago this week, killing 12 and injuring 27. "Justice will not be served until full damages are assessed against all of the defendants," attorney Darrell Keith said of the lawsuit, which is set for trial next year against three dozen other defendants, including Texas A&M University, former school president Ray Bowen, the Texas Aggie Bonfire Committee, and H.B. Zachry Co. and Zachry Construction Corp. The Zachry firms provided cranes and crane operators to help erect the logs for the bonfire, which was constructed annually and burned on the eve of A&M's game with its archrival, the University of Texas. "It has been going on so long and most of these kids were out or getting out of school," said attorney Chuck Aris, who represented four student leaders who settled. The student leaders did not admit any responsibility in the settlement, which was first reported yesterday by the Fort Worth Star-Telegram. Some "red pots" were among those killed in the collapse and the money being paid out for the settlement comes from homeowner's insurance policies the families had. Most student leaders who did not settle lacked insurance. The settlement will benefit the families of bonfire victims Chad Powell, Christopher Lee Heard and Bryan McClain. Injured Aggies, including John Comstock, Dominic Braus and Matthew Robbins, also were included in the settlement. Texas A&M is a defendant even though the school has been dismissed from six federal suits based on sovereign immunity, said Tom Kelley, a spokesman with the Texas Attorney General's office. Sovereign immunity is the state's constitutional right prohibiting lawsuits or liability.

The attorney general is representing the school and all state employees named in the suit. The school and its administrators have made immunity claims in the state case, which is the consolidation of 11 lawsuits, Keith said. The case is pending in Brazos County, home to Texas A&M, and set for trial in March.

DEATH DUE NEGLIGENCE, UNITED STATES

London, Nov 24 — A press report, dated Nov 23, states: Nearly a year after a woman was electrocuted while walking her dogs on a wet East Village street, Consolidated Edison has agreed to pay her family more than \$6.2 million and to set up a \$1 million scholarship fund in her name at Columbia University, where she was a doctoral student. The settlement, announced late yesterday, ended months of negotiations between Con Edison and the family of the woman, Jodie S. Lane, who died the night of Jan 16 after stepping on an electrified metal plate near a bakery on East 11th Street, New York. Ms. Lane's death set off a firestorm of criticism of the utility that led to aggressive new safety rules and citywide inspections of electrical equipment that turned up hundreds of locations where the public was exposed to stray voltage. Under the terms of the settlement, Con Edison will provide a \$1 million fund at the Teachers College for scholarships and research in the clinical psychology department, where Ms. Lane, 30, was completing her degree. The Jodie Lane Fund - which will receive five annual installments of \$200,000 each - will be established after legal proceedings are completed, probably early next year, said a spokesman for the college, Joe Levine. In an unusual move, Con Edison will form a panel consisting of three electrical safety experts - two chosen by a foundation Ms. Lane's family will create, and one by the utility - that will meet periodically to review the company's safety performance. The Lane family will use part of the money to create the Jodie S. Lane Public Safety Foundation, which will pursue efforts to improve public safety in New York, Mr. Lane said. The metal plate Ms. Lane stepped on had become electrified by a wire inside a utility box that had not been properly insulated. The shock killed her, though her dogs survived. Since then, her father, a 57-year-old engineer, haunted by her death, has learned about electrical systems and pushed Con Ed to overhaul its safety policies. Those efforts were part of yesterday's settlement. The panel of electrical experts will monitor the utility's efforts to expand training for first responders in handling electrical emergencies. It will also oversee the utility's efforts to detect and repair stray-voltage problems, and produce reports that it will release to the public and the Lane family. Of the \$6.25 million to be paid to the Lane family, \$5.27 million is for the claim of wrongful death and \$975,000 is for Ms. Lane's pain and suffering, according to papers filed in

Surrogate's Court in Manhattan yesterday. Under the terms of the settlement, the company will pay about \$7.25 million, including the scholarship. In settling, the company appeared to acknowledge fault in Ms. Lane's death, a conclusion its own investigators seemed to have reached several months after she died, when they found that workers had improperly insulated a wire. Legal experts said the settlement was remarkable in several ways. Wrongful death settlements in which the person who died was unmarried and childless, as was Ms. Lane, are rarely so big. And the amount exceeded the maximum single payout from the federal fund set up to compensate families of Sept. 11 victims, which was just under \$7 million.

EXTRA JUDICIAL DEATH, UNITED STATES

London, Nov 19 — A press report, dated today, states: A woman in the US has been awarded more than \$80m after suing Cuban President Fidel Castro and his government for allegedly executing her father. CIA pilot Thomas Pete Ray took part in the failed Bay of Pigs invasion to overthrow Mr Castro in 1961. A judge in Miami ruled that he was the victim of an extra-judicial killing. Cuba did not offer a defence in the trial, heard without a jury. According to American law, Janet Ray will be paid out of Cuban assets frozen in the US. Speaking after the award was given in her favour, Ms Ray said her intention was to do nothing more than honour her father. The pilot was captured by Cuba shortly after his aircraft was shot down during the botched invasion by Cuban exiles, backed by the US. Ray's body, with a gunshot wound to the right temple, remained in a Havana morgue until 1979, when Cuba finally returned it to the US. Six years later two Cubans came forward to say that the pilot was killed in Mr Castro's military headquarters. Awarding the damages, Judge Ronald Dresnick said the pilot had been executed.

PERSONAL INJURY, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Nov 23 — A press report, dated today, states: A computer expert who suffered severe brain injuries in a go-kart crash has accepted £1.25m in damages. Paul Murphy, now 38, was injured in the collision at a kart circuit in Sittingbourne, Kent, in July 1999. Mr Murphy, from Lewisham in south-east London, agreed the settlement from three defendants against whom he was taking action in the High Court. Mr Murphy made a good recovery from his injuries but had to leave his job with a bank, the hearing was told. His counsel, Robert Glancy QC, told Mr Justice Hodge another driver, who collided with the back of his go-kart. Mr Murphy's kart came off the track and collided with an unprotected lamppost. Mr Murphy's head hit the lamppost and caused severe brain injury. Mr Glancy said Mr Murphy's recovery had been good, "but sadly not

such a recovery that enabled him to go back to work and do the things that he loved". Mr Glancy said the agreed settlement order was against three defendants - Gerald Lilley, who owned and occupied the circuit at the time of the accident, the event organisers, Playscape Pro-Racing Ltd, and The Royal Automobile Club Motor Sports Association Ltd, the company which licensed circuits.

ROAD ACCIDENT, UNITED STATES

London, Nov 19 — A press report, dated today, states: A lawsuit filed against a garbage removal and recycling firm stemming from a 1998 traffic accident in Lackawanna County was settled in federal court yesterday for \$13 million. Phyllis Burton, the plaintiff, was awarded both a cash settlement and monthly and yearly payments worth about \$13 million over her lifetime, said her attorney, Joseph Quinn of Kingston. In June of 1998, Burton, of Dunmore, 52 at the time, was stopped at a red light in Dickson City when the driver of a garbage truck owned by J.P. Mascaro and Sons lost control on U.S. Route 11, Quinn said. Robert Hopple, the driver of the more-than-25-year-old truck said failing brakes on the vehicle led to the collision that injured Burton, according to Quinn. Quinn said the truck had been driven for weeks without adequate brakes or a functioning speedometer. The truck struck the front of Burton's Honda, an impact that led to the removal of three ruptured disks in her spine and has left her in chronic pain and unable to work, Quinn said.

London, Nov 24 — A press report, dated Nov 23, states: A Tennessee jury today ordered DaimlerChrysler AG to pay more than \$105 million, saying the company's minivan seats were unsafe and led to a baby's death in a car crash. The auto maker denounced the verdict and said its seats are designed above federal and industry standards. The jury's ruling specifies \$98 million in punitive damages, \$5 million for the wrongful death of the child, and \$2.5 million for the mother's claim of emotional distress, lawyers said. The lawsuit said eight-month-old Joshua Flax was riding in the back seat of a 1998 Dodge Caravan in Nashville in 2001 when the vehicle was rear-ended, causing the front passenger seat to collapse back onto him. "Daimler has known for over 20 years that these seats are deadly dangerous and never warned anybody," said James Butler, an attorney who represents Joshua's parents, Jeremy Flax and Rachel Sparkman. "Instead they continue to claim there's nothing wrong and try to mislead the press, public and juries." Butler said the company has concealed hundreds of accidents where the faulty seats played a role in injuries. "We reject that as ridiculous," DaimlerChrysler spokesman Jason Vines said, adding that a reckless driver travelling at twice the speed limit caused Joshua's death, and said the company's seats are designed with

safety in mind. "We share the jury's empathy for the plaintiff," he said. "This ruling ignores the fact that DaimlerChrysler didn't cause this accident." The company plans to appeal the verdict. "It is unfairly punishing DaimlerChrysler for a reasonable engineering decision that resulted in a product that met all federal standards," Vines said. DaimlerChrysler said high-speed rear-end collisions are rare, representing only three percent of all traffic crash fatalities. The seats are designed to perform in other types of crashes, and can't be designed so stiffly that they would never collapse, the carmaker said. Such seats would cause injuries in other types of crashes, the company said. "In a collision you want the seat to take some energy; otherwise your body absorbs all the energy," Vines said. Butler said the crash was relatively minor, and said the seat should not have collapsed — and shouldn't have been designed to collapse like it did. He said the company used inferior seats to save money. Joshua's grandfather was driving the minivan when it was struck from behind by a pickup truck traveling about 20 mph faster than the minivan, Butler said. The front passenger seat collapsed backward, and the passenger's head hit Joshua's forehead, fracturing his skull. The infant died the next day. The driver of the pickup, and everyone else in the minivan, walked away from the wreck.

WRONGFUL DEATH, UNITED STATES

London, Nov 19 — A press report, dated Nov 18, states: A San Mateo County jury has awarded the family of a concrete laborer killed in an accident nearly \$7 million, the plaintiff's attorney announced today. Luis Sanchez, 35, a concrete labourer for Casey Fogli Concrete Contractors, was killed on Sep 12, 2001 at San Mateo's Bay Meadows development project when an outrigger stabilizing a 100,000-pound concrete-pumping truck sank into the ground, causing the truck's boom to fall forward and strike Sanchez in the head. Sanchez was controlling the hose and directing a concrete pour on the main floor of one of the apartment buildings when the boom, a four-piece steel arm, hit him with 60,000 pounds of force, said attorney Russell Moore of the Boccardo Law Firm, which represented the Sanchez family in the case. Jurors divided responsibility for the accident among three defendants. RJS & Associates, the concrete contractor, was determined to be 70 percent at fault for the accident. JPI West Coast Construction, the general contractor, was determined to be 20 percent at fault and CF&T Available Concrete Pumping, the pumping-truck provider, was determined to be 10 percent at fault. The award totaled \$6,853,284, which included Sanchez's estimated lifetime wage loss and \$5 million in general damages.

Railway Accidents



ADELAIDE HILL, AUSTRALIA

London, Nov 22 — A press report, dated today, states: Investigations are underway into the cause of a freight train derailment in South Australia's Adelaide Hills. The Pacific National freight train was carrying up to 47 containers of goods from Melbourne to Perth. It left the tracks near Glenalta Station at about 1000 AEDT, yesterday, demolishing part of the station. Eleven wagons came off the tracks and two jackknifed onto nearby homes. No one was hurt. It is not clear what caused the derailment, but police have ruled out driver error. Inspector John De Candia says the wreckage should be removed in 24 hours. "What we are trying to do is clear the track so we can restore traffic back to the area in normal conditions," he said. "Then it will be up to Pacific National to organise for the goods to be removed and be restored back to order and we're hoping that will be done within 24 hours." David Marchant from the Australian Rail Track Corporation says there are no indications yet as to the cause of the derailment. "Details of the train and its operation is in a black box which will be removed from the locomotive and will form part of the inquiry," he said.

Sydney, Nov 22 — The interstate rail line between Melbourne and Perth will remain blocked until at least tomorrow, following the weekend derailment of a Pacific National freight train. The derailment occurred about 1010 hrs, yesterday, when the 1,474-metre-long Pacific National service hauling containers from Melbourne to Perth derailed close to Glenalta station in the Adelaide Hills. Both the interstate standard-gauge and the nearby TransAdelaide suburban broad-gauge track are blocked with derailed wagons. A Pacific National spokesman said the closure of interstate line, managed by the Australian Rail Track Corporation (ARTC), had affected 11 of its freight services between Perth and Melbourne. Some services have been cancelled or delayed and other services have been diverted, he said. Sydney-Perth services are not affected. The spokesman said the cause of the derailment has not been established. It is understood that two or three of the five-pack wagons immediately behind the train's locomotives derailed close to the station, he said. One container even ended up on the platform. The Australian Transport Safety Bureau and ARTC are investigating the derailment. ARTC said its engineers were on site assessing the damage and the possible cause of the derailment. — Lloyd's List Daily Commercial News.

London, Nov 22 — A press report, dated today, states: The Australian

Rail Track Corporation has confirmed that dangerous goods were on board the freight train that derailed in South Australia's Adelaide Hills yesterday. However, it maintains there was no risk to the public. The corporation's operations manager, Denise MacMillan, says she cannot say what dangerous freight was on board but a clean up is continuing. Ms MacMillan says investigations into the cause are still under way but rejects any suggestion that there may have been something wrong with the track.

London, Nov 22 — A press report, dated Nov 23, states: A cocktail of dangerous chemicals was among the freight on a train which derailed in the Adelaide Hills. The chemicals included calcium hypochlorite, hydrocarbons and acetone. Australian Rail Track Corporation moved to reassure the public last night that they were never at risk from the freight. An ARTC spokeswoman said the chemicals were in a section of the train not directly involved in the derailment and plans were in place to cope with any spill that did occur. ARTC workers were at Glenalta, the site of the derailment, while cranes pulled the wreckage from the track yesterday. It was expected the salvage operation would be completed this morning. Work would then begin on restoring the 4km of track damaged by the derailment.

Sydney, Nov 23 — Freight services should resume along the main interstate rail line between Melbourne and Perth early this evening, the Australian Rail Track Corporation has predicted. Track crews are presently clearing the remaining wreckage from the Sunday morning (Nov 21) derailment of a Pacific National train near Glenalta in South Australia that forced the closure of the line. ARTC general manager of operations Denise MacMillan said the accident damaged a four km-long section of track as well as affecting ballast and trackside infrastructure. "There is a significant amount of damage to signalling," Ms MacMillan said. It is now understood that the "point of origin" of the incident was a passing loop at Bel Air, about four km out from the Glenalta station, where the train eventually stopped, ARTC said. The track is likely to reopen about 1800-1900 hrs, today once short-term repairs to the rails and ballast are completed. The track will operate with low-speed limits and without its conventional signalling until long-term repairs are finished. "There will be an alternative safety system in place," Ms MacMillan said. The cause of the accident is still under investigation. — Lloyd's List Daily Commercial News.

BUNDEBERG AREA, QUEENSLAND, AUSTRALIA

London, Nov 20 — A press report, dated today, states: It is business as usual for Queensland's rail services, with Tilt Train services between Brisbane and Cairns resuming last night. A major statewide rail strike was narrowly averted in the aftermath of Tuesday's (Nov 16) derailment,

which occurred north of Bundaberg. Train drivers claimed they were being victimised after Queensland Rail, QR, and police revealed the train was speeding when the accident happened. Both QR and Police Commissioner Bob Atkinson have defended their controversial decision to release information while the investigation was still underway. They say the release of the information was in the public interest. The sister train to the one that derailed left Brisbane's Roma Street station for Cairns has been cleared for travel by safety regulators.

ELKO, GEORGIA, UNITED STATES

London, Nov 23 — A press report, dated today, states: A Norfolk Southern Railway train headed south pulling 62 cars loaded with automobiles derailed just south of Elko early yesterday. Neither the conductor nor the engineer, the only people on board, were injured in the 0545 derailment in extreme south Houston County near the Dooly County line, said Susan Terpay, a Norfolk Southern Railway spokeswoman. In all, 30 of the rail cars, carrying 10 to 15 automobiles each, derailed starting at car No. 18, she said. All 30 derailed cars were on their sides early yesterday, she said. The derailment occurred in a very rural area of the county. Railroad crews and private contractors were expected to work "through the night and around the clock" to reopen the railroad line, which is the main route from Macon to Valdosta to Jacksonville, Fla., Terpay said. In all, about 1,600 feet of track was expected to be repaired before the line can reopen, which may happen sometime today, Terpay said. Terpay declined to release damage estimates from the train derailment. Why the train derailed was not known late yesterday, but company investigators are on site, Terpay said. The first priority, Terpay said, is to get the railcars out of the area, the tracks repaired and line reopened for train traffic, she said. Outside contractors were brought in with heavy cranes to lift the railcars, Terpay said. Railcars that can be moved by rail will be placed back on the tracks and moved that way, while others too damaged will be hauled away, she said. The train was powered by three locomotives.

HARBIN, HEILONGJIANG PROVINCE, CHINA

London, Nov 20 — A press report, dated today, states: A Beijing bound passenger train carrying more than 1,000 passengers was derailed yesterday night in Harbin, capital of north-east China's Heilongjiang Province, but no death was reported. Railway authorities in Harbin said no casualty was reported among the passengers, but a witness said at least two train attendants were sent to hospitals for emergency treatment. The K340 passenger train was en route from Jiamusi city in Heilongjiang Province to Beijing when its engine, a baggage car and a passenger compartment were derailed at 2232, after the train was hit on the side by a

cargo train that had deviated from its own rail route. Following the accident railway authorities in Harbin organized emergent rescue work, including repairs on the distorted railroad, resumption of communication and replacement of the damaged engine and compartments. The train set off from Harbin again at 0116 today, two hours and 44 minutes behind schedule.

KRANTZBERG, NAMIBIA

London, Nov 23 — Following received from LaSalle, Quebec, dated Nov 22: A TRANSNAMIB goods train derailed between Karibib and Usakos at around 0100 hrs on Friday (Nov 19) because of heavy rain. Reggie du Toit, Head of Train Operations, told "The Namibian" that heavy rains in the vicinity of Krantzberg station outside Usakos caused a washaway that destabilised the railway line. A small river close to the line that was in full flood washed away sand alongside the line. When the train rolled over, the weakened section of the line collapsed and 12 of the 34 wagons derailed. Two of the wagons were carrying copper from Tsumeb; the rest were empty containers. The wagons were right behind the two locomotives. Fortunately the locomotives did not derail and nobody was injured. Du Toit said on Friday morning that as soon as the wagons were removed from the line, they would be able to repair it within an hour. He expected rail traffic to have returned to normal by 1800 hrs, on Friday. Du Toit said railway lines were regularly inspected by maintenance teams to detect washaways.

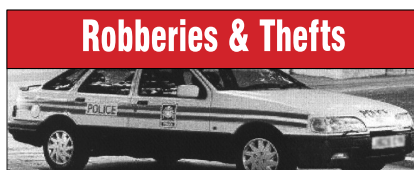
NOTUS, IDAHO, UNITED STATES

London, Nov 23 — A press report, dated today, states: A train derailment has closed Highway 20-26 near Notus in Idaho. Officials say the train has about 50 cars and 11 of them were severely damaged. The freight train bound for Nampa from Le Grande, Oregon, derailed at a highway crossing near Notus about 1300 hrs. Firefighters on scene say they were dealing with a diesel spill from the derailment. They say they're trying to stop it from running into the Boise River. "The chief threat that we have is that the cars that were impacted. We've got about 23-thousand gallons of diesel fuel that we've got to deal with and some fire suppression obviously some of the cars caught fire," said Notus Fire Chief Brad Trosky. Officials had no estimate on when the road would be reopened. Traffic was being detoured on county roads. The train was carrying onions and french fries.

TEJGAON, DHAKA CITY, BANGLADESH

Karachi, Nov 25 — Bangladesh Railway said two bogies of a passenger train Noakhali Express derailed on the level crossing at Tejgaon in the Dhaka city, Bangladesh at 0640, yesterday. As a result, traffic came to a halt for more than three hours. Several express and goods trains also failed to reach their destinations on schedule due to the

accident. Later, using giant cranes, Bangladesh Railway removed the derailed bogies. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.



JEWELLERY, CHALFONT ST. PETER, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Nov 23 — A press report, dated today, states: Ozzy Osbourne has told of his struggle with a burglar who escaped with jewellery worth about £2m from his Buckinghamshire mansion. Osbourne told the Sun newspaper he had the masked raider in a headlock as he tried to stop him. The burglar broke free before jumping 30 ft from a first floor window at the house in Chalfont St Peter. Police said a "large amount" of jewellery was stolen in yesterday's raid, in which two burglars were involved. Among the jewellery taken were two gold wedding rings and a 24-carat sapphire "survival ring."



FLIGHT RESERVATIONS

London, Nov 23 — A press report, dated today, states: An All Nippon Airways computer system went down for about one and a half hours yesterday afternoon, causing cancellations of three domestic flights and delays in 52 others nationwide, ANA officials said. About 10,000 passengers were affected by the computer glitch which occurred at around 1620 hrs in a system that manages domestic flight reservations, the officials said.



COLLAPSE OF CRANES ONTO SHOPPING CENTRE, SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA

London, Nov 21 — A press report, dated today, states: A union safety inspector is visiting the site of a crane accident in Sydney's north-west, in which two large cranes have fallen onto the side of a shopping centre. A crane driver has received minor injuries, but no one else has been hurt. A Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union spokesman says a 200-tonne crane was being used to dismantle a smaller crane when both

collapsed. The union has voiced concerns that work on the site was being rushed to meet an end-of-year construction schedule. Brett Nicholson, from the ambulance service, says the accident happened just after 1100, AEDT, near the Norwest shopping centre in Baulkham Hills. "Fortunately the crane driver was the only person injured and he suffered minor injuries - a laceration to his arm," he said.

ILLEGAL DUMPING OF CONTAMINATED CARGO IN SOUTH CHINA SEA

London, Nov 23 — A press report, dated today, states: The head of a shipping company was convicted today of directing the illegal dumping of 442 tons of fuel-contaminated wheat from bulk *Juneau* into the South China Sea. Rick Dean Stickle could get up to five years in federal prison and a \$250,000 fine. Stickle, chairman and chief executive of Sabine Transportation Inc. of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, was indicted after crew members reported the crime to the Coast Guard. Sabine pleaded guilty last year to dumping the oily grain and agreed to pay \$2 million in penalties. Sabine's president and three other employees also pleaded guilty and testified against their former boss. The wheat was pumped and shoveled overboard as *Juneau* headed home to Portland, Ore., in 1999. The wheat was contaminated with diesel fuel that had leaked into the vessel's cargo hold. The leak was discovered when the grain shipment that was intended for distribution by the humanitarian group CARE was being unloaded in Bangladesh. The defence argued that crooked and incompetent underlings thought they had Coast Guard approval to dump the tainted wheat, and that some of the problems with the shipment were not brought to Stickle's attention.

ILLEGAL DUMPING OF WASTE OIL AT SEA

London, Nov 20 — A press report, dated today, states: The South Korean chief engineer of ref *Baron* (4457 gt, built 1990) has agreed to plead guilty for covering up illegal dumping of oily waste water into the Pacific Ocean, according to documents filed in US District Court this week. Lee Jong-chul has admitted in a plea agreement that crew members on *Baron* emptied oil sludge directly overboard from the vessel instead of processing it through a device designed to clean the water. The plea agreement also says that Lee admitted telling the first engineer to hide the hose used to discharge the waste. *Baron*, that transports fish from Alaska to markets in Japan and China, is operated by two South Korean freight companies already on probation for previous environmental violations. They were part of a group of four freight companies fined \$5 million two years ago for the same environmental crimes. The terms of probation included provisions that the companies could not break any more US laws. It also ordered the companies to set aside

\$500,000 to develop an environmental program. Consequences for breaking probation could include additional fines and criminal prosecution, prosecutors said. The *Baron* case is the first freight oil dumping one in Alaska since the four companies pleaded guilty to charges of environmental crimes in 2002. "This demonstrates the old practices are slow to change," said assistant US attorney Kevin Feldis. Prosecutors are still investigating the companies and whether others were involved in the dumping, he said. And the first engineer, Kim Jong-sok, has been charged separately in a criminal complaint in US District Court with destroying the hose used to discharge oil and with lying to investigators. Kim hasn't entered a plea yet. Another company, Fairport Shipping Ltd., also was indicted this week on charges related to dumping oily sludge back in 2001 and 2002. According to the indictment, a representative for Fairport Shipping told the chief engineer on ref *Aashi*, (3696 gt, built 1990) to buy fake certification showing oily sludge had been lawfully removed from the vessel, to hide a hose used to discharged the oily waste, to lie in its oil record book about how it processed oily waste and to lie to investigators. Fairport Shipping faces one count of concealment of a material fact, two counts of lying and two counts of failing to maintain an oil record book, which is used to track oil waste produced on board. According to Lee's plea agreement, filed Monday (Nov 15), *Baron* docked in Dutch Harbour in January, March and in June this year. The US Coast Guard boarded *Baron* on Jul 1 to execute a search warrant and discovered oil residue in piping that usually only has water and sediment. Lee admitted to prosecutors that he knew the first engineer was emptying the vessel's bilge tanks and sludge tanks that held fuel oil and lube oil sludge into open ocean instead of processing oil waste through the vessel's oil water separator.

MAYSORA (Bahamas)

London, Nov 19 — A press report, dated today, states: More than 3,000 Australian cattle were currently stranded on board livestock *Maysora* (33400 gt, built 1989) moored at the Jordanian port of Aqaba, animal rights protesters said today. Animals Australia executive director Glenys Oogjes said a dispute between importers over space in an Israeli feedlot had left 3,300 cattle stranded for the past three days aboard *Maysora*. The vessel left Fremantle on Oct 30. Ms Oogjes said the cattle were now pawns in a territorial dispute between importers. "Once again we have a clear example of the endemic problems of the live export trade," Ms Oogjes said. But a spokesman for Agriculture Minister Warren Truss denied the animals were stuck, saying he was aware the vessel had left Fremantle with 8,500 cattle and some 20,000 sheep

onboard. "The vessel has sailed to Jordan to unload stock, mainly for Israel, and all of the stock have been unloaded apart from about 3,300 cattle," he said. "They are now occupying space on the boat where there were previously 8,500 cattle so you can appreciate they've got a lot more room and there's plenty of food and water onboard. "There's no suggestion there's been a refusal of the animals, it's merely a logistical issue and they will either be unloaded when that's resolved, or alternatively, they'll be unloaded into a Jordanian feedlot which is available now if there's a suggestion that their welfare is any way being compromised." But Ms Oogjes said Animals Australia had received advice that this was not a viable option. "Lawyers of the importer informed our Israeli colleagues that he cannot unload the animals onto Jordanian soil as they would not then be accepted in Israel," she said. "Apparently they are seeking to resolve the matter in court, but in the meantime 3,000 Australian cattle remain in limbo."

London, Nov 22 — A press report, dated today, states: The live export industry and the Federal Government are playing down an incident that left more than 3,000 cattle stranded on livestock *Maysora* off the coast of Jordan. The cattle, destined for Israel, have been at the centre of a dispute over feedlot space at the port of Aqaba. About 20,000 sheep and 5,000 cattle sailed on *Maysora* three weeks ago but the ship was refused permission to unload 3,300 of the animals. The Federal Government says a back-up plan has now been enacted and the remaining animals, which were loaded at Fremantle, are entering a different feedlot at Jordan. They are understood to be in good condition, in temperatures ranging from five to 29 degrees Celsius. There have been no deaths on board since the first unloading. The port dispute has been significant enough for the industry's animal welfare counsellor, Kerin Johar, to be despatched from Dubai to inspect the vessel.

SKIPPER K. (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

Cadiz, Nov 23 — According to information received from the consignees, Condeminas, general cargo *Skipper K.* (6030 gt, built 1980), which arrived Cadiz Nov 12, has been sold after the crew came out on strike. It seems that, during the inspection prior to loading operations, the crew went on strike, arguing that their salaries had not been paid in the last five months, and with no provisions on board. They asked the owners for an amount close to Euro360,000. Therefore, with the crew on strike, the vessel was declared off hire, and the owners, Sea Experts SA, sold the vessel to Steering Navigation SA. At the moment, the vessel remains at Cadiz Port with the crew waiting for the new owners to pay the expressed amount and a new crew that will substitute the actual one. — Lloyd's Agents.

Fires & Explosions



ABATTOIR, YOUNG, NEW SOUTH WALES, AUSTRALIA

London, Nov 21 — A press report, dated today, states: A fire at an abattoir in Young, north-west of Canberra, is expected to have a significant impact on its operations. The fire began at the abattoir on Olympic Way just before 2300, AEDT, yesterday. While fire crews were able to keep it contained to a single building, the asbestos roof posed a significant threat to firefighters. Hazardous materials units were brought in from as far away as Goulburn to deal with the threat and the fire crews were forced to don protective breathing apparatus. Investigations are now under way into what caused the fire, which is expected to significantly hamper the abattoir's operations. No one was injured in the fire, which took crews more than five hours to put out and extensively damaged the building.

CHEMICAL PLANT, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH, UNITED STATES

London, Nov 24 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Experts are still trying to figure out what caused an explosion at Thatcher Chemical in Salt Lake City. Last night a tanker was off-loading a chemical at one of the buildings on site when an explosion caused about 10-thousand gallons of the chemical to spill. The chemical is sodium thiocarbonate a base chemical and is not explosive on its own. Crews were able to contain the chemical spill. And no one was injured.

COAL MINE, CHINA

London, Nov 22 — A press report, dated today, states: A mine fire Saturday (Nov 20) in northern China has killed at least 57 people, and three other miners remain missing, official media reported today. The bodies of 49 miners, most of whom succumbed to suffocation, were lifted to the ground by 0730, today, Xinhua News Agency reported. The location of eight more bodies has been identified, while three other miners remain missing, it said, quoting an official with the leading group in charge of the rescue operation.

MINE, BAITA, SHAHE CITY, HEBEI PROVINCE, CHINA

London, Nov 21 — A press report, dated today, states: Rescuers are attempting to save 60 miners trapped when five iron ore mines caught fire in north China's Hebei province. State media reports that the fire was initially reported at 1030, local time, in a privately-run mine in Baita township, Shahe city. It rapidly spread to four nearby iron ore mines, trapping 75 miners. Xinhua news agency reports that rescuers have saved 15 of the

miners but 60 remained trapped. The 80-strong rescue team is headed by provincial governor Ji Yunshi. An investigation has been launched into the cause of the blaze.

Beijing, Nov 22 — Rescue workers have recovered the bodies of 33 Chinese miners killed when fire swept through a group of iron mines in the northern province of Hebei, state media said today. The China Daily newspaper said 45 people had been rescued and 28 were still trapped. Fire broke out at a mine on Saturday morning (Nov 20) and quickly spread to four nearby pits, trapping dozens of people. The most likely cause was an electronic cable catching fire, Xinhua news agency reported. — Reuters.

London, Nov 22 — A press report, dated today, states: The death toll in the five iron mines that caught fire Saturday morning (Nov 20) in Shahe City in north China's Hebei Province has risen to 57, said an official with the leading group in charge of the rescue operation. The bodies of 49 miners killed in the fire, most of whom succumbed to suffocation, were lifted to the ground by 0730, today, and the location of eight other dead miners has been identified and will be transported to the surface soon. Miners killed in the disaster were either locals or from the underdeveloped Guizhou Province in south-west China and Shaanxi Province in northwest China. Preliminary investigation shows that the fire broke out due to electronic cable self-ignition in one iron mine. The fire spread quickly to four other iron mines which were all connected. Heavy smog soon trapped 106 miners. Up to now, 46 miners have been rescued alive. But three other miners remained missing. Search for the missing miners is still going on.

London, Nov 23 — A press report, dated today, states: The death toll in Saturday's (Nov 20) fire in five iron mines in Shahe City of Hebei Province has risen to 61 and rescuers are still searching for the missing, an official said today. As of this morning, 61 miners were confirmed dead, 51 were alive and four were still missing, said Hu Chunxing, chief of the city information office. Preliminary investigation shows that the fire was caused by the self-ignition of electric cables in one mine, and spread quickly to the four other mines which were all connected. Heavy smog soon trapped 116 miners. Hu said the poor management of the mines made it difficult to get the accurate number of miners who were working when the fire broke out. The number was estimated at no less than 116. The identification of more than 50 victims have so far been recognized and their families are on their way to the mines, said Hu. The miners killed in the disaster, most of whom succumbed to suffocation, were either locals or from underdeveloped Guizhou Province in south-west China and Shaanxi Province in north-west China. City government officials are busy with the aftermath and insurance companies have begun the work of compensation to some of the miners who had taken insurance policies.

PREMISES, AL MAREIJA, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

London, Nov 22 — A press report, dated today, states: Two Indian men were seriously injured and major damage was caused to four commercial outlets and many vehicles when a huge explosion devastated a goldsmith's workshop as a result of a gas leak at dawn yesterday. The explosion occurred in the old Al Mareija neighbourhood. Police said the explosion took place at around 0415 hrs as gas leaked extensively at a gold shop in an area where many residential buildings are located. Residents in the building and neighbouring apartments were suddenly woken up by the sound of a huge explosion that shook the area. The ground floor of the building was smoked out, window panes cracked and the doors of the workshop were blown off. The walls inside were cracked from top to bottom and such was the impact of the explosion that air-conditioning units were blown away. Anything glass that was close to the source of the explosion was broken. Several vehicles parked around the building were extensively damaged. Those injured in the accident were passers-by, said Colonel Saleh Ali Al Mutawa, the Sharjah Police Chief. Police and civil defence units, including fire and explosives experts, were rushed to the accident site. Investigations revealed that the explosion occurred as a result of a gas leakage from a cylinder used in the workshop. There are two other similar workshops and a restaurant in the building. The explosion affected neighbouring shops, causing cracks in the concrete columns. Equipment used in the manufacture of furniture and gold ornaments in the neighbouring shops was destroyed. The ceiling of the workshop was heavily damaged, said Col. Mutawa. Damage was caused to many apartments in the residential buildings near the accident site. Col. Mutawa, who was with the investigation teams, said the gas cylinder that caused the explosion appeared to have been left by the workers without it being properly closed. "This is a very serious incident, especially in a gold manufacturing shop or restaurant using gas cylinders in their business," said the police chief.

PREMISES, BROCKWAY, PENNSYLVANIA, UNITED STATES

London, Nov 23 — A press report, dated Nov 22, states: Ridgway, Horton Township, and Fox Township Fire Departments were called to assist their neighbour, Brockway, late Friday night (Nov 19) for a fire that raged through Apple Tractor Company, which is just outside Brockway on US 219. Brockway Fire Department was called into action around 1030 hrs, and local companies responded shortly thereafter. According to Brockway Fire Chief David Umbaugh, fire destroyed the large two storey building which currently housed Apple Tractor Company, that sells and services heavy equipment. A fuel tank was stored in the south side of the building, but quick action by the fire department prevented the tank from

overheating and exploding. The fire was contained to the inside of the building. At one point the fire was a fiery inferno, and water had to be relayed from three fill sites and transported to the fire by means of a pumper relay, as there were no hydrants in the area. Firefighters worked frantically through the night to control the superheated blaze. By Saturday morning, the only thing left of Apple Tractor was a desk, chair, file cabinet, and a scorched Rolodex on the desk. Umbaugh reported that fire companies were on scene for over 12 hours, and the fire was still smoldering at 1430 hrs. No injuries were reported, and the fire is under investigation by the Brockway Fire Department and the Pennsylvania State Police Fire Marshall. The building and equipment were a total loss, with damage listed at close to \$1 million.

PREMISES, SUMMITPOINTE, CALIFORNIA, UNITED STATES

London, Nov 24 — A press report, dated Nov 23, states: A raging fire destroyed a three-storey hillside home in the prestigious Summitpointe community Sunday afternoon (Nov 21), causing more than \$2 million in damage. Stoked by winds as strong as 50 mph, the blaze took three hours to control, and resulted in a total loss of the home. Fire personnel remained on scene today watching for hotspots and investigating. Milpitas Fire Chief Bill Weisgerber said the investigation of the cause of the fire will be lengthy, primarily due to the poor structural integrity of what remains of the home. Owner Robin Hays said she believed the source might be related to a power outage in the area, and a power surge when the electricity was restored. Pacific Gas and Electric spokesman Jeff Smith confirmed there were outages in Milpitas affecting about 6,300 customers during different periods Sunday. The outages were caused by branches that fell on power lines, Smith said.

SHOPPING COMPLEX, SOUTH NORMANTON, DERBYSHIRE, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Nov 25 — A press report, dated today, states: A Derbyshire shopping complex is reopening today after a huge fire forced it to close a month ago. Eight shops were destroyed and many more damaged in the blaze at the McArthur Glen centre in South Normanton on Oct 28. The repair bill is expected to run into millions of pounds. An electrical fault caused the fire which is thought to have started in the Marks and Spencer store and spread through the roof space to other shops.

TRANSFORMER SUBSTATION, MADRID, SPAIN

London, Nov 19 — A press report, dated today, states: A serious blackout plunged the central and southern part of Madrid into darkness following a fire at a transformer substation yesterday. The blackout left 250,000 residents without electricity and threw public

transport into chaos after part of the subway service was suspended. Two people have been slightly injured in the fire, according to the police. A spokesperson for the municipal government said the blackout was due to a technical problem, instead of a terrorist act.

WILDFIRES, AUSTRALIA

London, Nov 21 — A press report, dated today, states: Emergency service crews have contained a bushfire near Mandurah, about 70 kilometres south of Perth. The fire burned through 450 hectares of bushland today, causing major roads in the area to be closed. Fire and Emergency Services spokesman Bill Rose says at the height of the fire some homes were at risk, but they have now been saved.

London, Nov 24 — A press report, dated today, states: Firefighters are battling a fierce blaze in the Fitzgerald River National Park on the Western Australia's south coast. The fire started on private property this morning and burnt through crown land into the national park. It is not known at this stage what sparked the blaze. The Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM) is working with the Shire of Jerramungup and local volunteers to control the fire, but it is proving difficult because it is burning in an area with an extremely high fuel load. So far the fire has burnt out 1,000 hectares of land, but CALM fears it could burn six times that under the current conditions. Efforts are focused on preventing the fire spreading to neighbouring farms, but there are also concerns about a number of rare species found in the national park.

London, Nov 25 — A press report, dated today, states: Firefighters hope to bring a bushfire in north-western Victoria under control tomorrow. Fire crews from the Department of Sustainability and Environment today battled the fire, which burnt through about 580 hectares in the Murray Sunset National Park south-west of Mildura. Four planes and a helicopter waterbombed the blaze, while firefighters and bulldozers boosted containment lines on the ground. The fire is deep inside the national park, about 53km south-west of Werrimull. A DSE spokesman said firefighters hoped to have completed building containment lines around the blaze tonight.



ACCIDENT, SOEKARNO-HATTA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, INDONESIA

London, Nov 22 — A press report, dated today, states: Batavia Air aircraft travelling from Jambi to Jakarta skidded on the southern runway of the Soekarno-Hatta International Airport

at 1200, Saturday (Nov 20). No casualties nor fatalities were reported during the incident. "Right after the incident, the aircraft was taken to a hangar," the officer in charge at the airport, Aidil, was quoted as saying by Antara. He added that the aircraft skidded after it had landed, so that no major dangers had been posed.

ACCIDENT, YEAGER AIRPORT, WEST VIRGINIA, UNITED STATES

London, Nov 24 — A press report, dated today, states: There were some problems last night for a United Airlines jet that took off from Dulles Airport and landed in West Virginia. Authorities say flight 7877 landed safely at Yeager Airport in Charleston, but it couldn't reach the terminal. Airport Director Rick Atkinson says once the aircraft landed about 1915, its landing gear wouldn't turn. He said the flight crew apparently didn't know about the problem before the landing. The aircraft was towed off the runway to the terminal ramp, where 27 passengers exited. There were no injuries. The runway was closed for about 35 minutes, Atkinson said. No flights were cancelled, but some outbound flights were delayed. Some incoming flights were put in a holding pattern until the runway re-opened.

CANCELLATION/DELAYS OF FLIGHTS, JAPAN

See "Flight Reservations" under "Computer Systems."

CRASH, BAOTOU, INNER MONGOLIA REGION, CHINA

London, Nov 21 — A press report, dated today, states: A China Eastern Airlines Bombardier CRJ200 commuter plane crashed into a frozen lake seconds after take-off in Inner Mongolia today, killing all 53 passengers and crew, state media said. The Bombardier CRJ200, operated by two pilots, had taken off from Baotou en route to Shanghai, Xinhua news agency and China Eastern Airlines Corp. Ltd. said. The weather was clear at the time, with the temperature around 43 to 45 Fahrenheit, when the plane crashed into the lake in the giant Nanhai Park, an airport official said. "Witnesses said that the plane broke into flaming fragments, a house beside the park was damaged by the falling aircraft and several yachts nearby were scorched," Xinhua said. The fire had been put out at the lake and about 100 firefighters and police were breaking the ice to search for bodies. State television showed pictures of rescuers pulling debris from below the broken ice. Seventeen bodies had been found, China News Web site said. The park, 1.2 miles from the runway, had been cordoned off by police. Airport officials had been called to an emergency meeting, staff at the airport said. An official said there had been one foreigner on board, but his nationality was not immediately known.

London, Nov 23 — A press report, dated today, states: Investigators have ruled out the possibility of sabotage in

the airliner crash that killed 54 people in North China on Sunday (Nov 21). Flight Mu5210 from Baotou to Shanghai, fell to the ground about 12 seconds after it took-off from Baotou airport at 0820, local time, Sunday. According to investigators, there is no evidence so far suggesting man-made destruction in the incident, said Xu Li, a senior official with General Administration of Civil Aviation of China (CAAC), the nation's civil aviation watchdog. Xu made the remarks at a conference on the air tragedy yesterday in Baotou of North China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region. Efforts are still under way to determine the cause of the accident, he said. The 50-seat regional CRJ-200 jet, carrying 47 passengers and six crew members, crashed shortly after it took off from Baotou. One man on the ground was also killed. The remains of the victims have been found. Compensation for the victims is in progress. Twenty-five of the 47 victims were confirmed to have purchased 26 insurance policies before boarding the doomed flight, with each premium worth 400,000 yuan (US\$ 48,000), Zhi Pengfei, director of the Insurance Supervision Bureau of the autonomous region, told Xinhua. The first sum of compensation has been paid to the families of a victim. Experts from the rescue and salvage bureau at the Ministry of Communications have arrived at the accident site to help in a search for the so-called black box, the Xinhua News Agency reported. According to a statement from Bombardier Aerospace, the aircraft manufacturer, an expert team has been sent to China to help in the accident investigation, Xinhua reported. Supplied by Canadian-based Bombardier Aerospace and owned by China Eastern Airlines, it was scheduled to be bound for East China's metropolis Shanghai. While working to handle the plane crash, CAAC urged its aviation sectors to intensify safety checks yesterday to ensure safe flights. The administration had dispatched investigative teams across the country to carry out checks into all CRJ-200 airliners in service, Xu said. All CRJ-200 flights will be suspended during the check out period, he said. Airlines must strengthen flying skills and aircraft maintenance to ensure safer flights, an urgent notice released by the CAAC said yesterday. Airports must intensify security check measures to tighten management of restricted areas, the notice said. Air control departments have also been asked to pay additional attention to safety supervision to ensure air traffic safety.

London, Nov 24 — A press report, dated today, states: The second black box of the crashed CRJ-200 aircraft was found this morning in Baotou City of Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region. The second black box, or the flight data recorder, was found at 1249, today. The first of the two black boxes, the cabin voice recorder (CVR), which was found at 1140, had received some damages and need to be taken to Beijing for further study, said experts at the site of

the air crash. Fifty-five people died in the crash, one more than was originally announced, Chinese investigators said today. In addition to 53 people on board the aircraft, two people on the ground were killed by fragments from the wreck, said Xu Li, deputy director of the general office of the China Administration of Civil Aviation, at a press conference held today in Baotou, a city in north China's Inner Mongolia. Earlier reports said that just one person on the ground had been killed. The newly identified victim was a woman who was doing morning exercises when the aircraft crashed in city's Nanhai Park.

CRASH, BEARLEY, WARWICKSHIRE, UNITED KINGDOM

See G-TGRR.

CRASH, DJERMAYA AREA, CHAD

London, Nov 24 — A press report, dated today, states: A small aircraft carrying three Italian tourists and their pilot crashed in western Chad, killing all aboard, Italy's honorary consul said today. The aircraft went down late yesterday near Djermaya, 28 miles east of the capital, N'djamena, and an investigation into the crash has begun, said the consul, Hermana Favaretto. The daily newspaper Le Progres reported that they were among 12 tourists who had flown from the capital to Chad's north before making a stop at Biltine, 311 miles north-east of N'djamena. The first group of tourists flew back to N'djamena safely and the aircraft returned for the other three, the newspaper said. It did not say why they had been left behind.

CRASH, LAKE HAVASU AREA, ARIZONA, UNITED STATES

See N6111C.

CRASH, LEESBURG AREA, VIRGINIA, UNITED STATES

London, Nov 25 — A press report, dated Nov 24, states: A small plane that took off from Naples, Fla., crashed today in a rural area about 50 miles from Washington, D.C., killing two people, authorities said. The plane crashed about four miles from the Leesburg (Va.) airport and was destroyed, said Federal Aviation Administration spokesman Jim Peters. The victims were identified as Richard Meyer, 84, and his wife Geraldine, 83, who were headed for a visit with their daughter and her family in McLean, Va. Authorities said the plane had last stopped in North Carolina. The cause of the crash was under investigation and the National Transportation Safety Board was expected to get involved. It was rainy in the area. "Just prior to being cleared to land at Leesburg, the pilot was talking to controllers at the FAA facility in Warrenton, Va.," Peters said. The Potomac Tracon facility handles all takeoffs and landings in the Washington area. "The pilot of the Cessna did not indicate to the controllers at Potomac any problems as he was making his approach to Leesburg," Peters said. "The aircraft is

in a small patch of woods adjacent to a single family residence. The residence was not damaged," said Doug Rambo, spokesman for the Loudoun County Department of Fire and Rescue. He estimated the house was about 30 yards from where the fuselage came to a rest.

CRASH, PERKINSVILLE, ARIZONA, UNITED STATES

See N133JW.

CRASH, ROCKHAMPTON AIRPORT, QUEENSLAND, AUSTRALIA

London, Nov 25 — A press report, dated today, states: The Australian Transport Safety Bureau (ATSB) will investigate this morning's crash landing at Rockhampton airport in central Queensland. The crew of the light aircraft were not injured. The aircraft, which is operated by PAL Air Express, was bringing mail to Rockhampton when the crew reported landing gear problems while approaching the city about 0300, AEDT, today. Emergency crews were placed on stand-by and as the aircraft landed, the wheels collapsed. The aircraft was badly damaged but the pilot and co-pilot, the only people on board, were not injured. They are expected to be interviewed by the Australian Transport Safety Bureau later today to determine the cause of the problem.

CRASH, SINAI PENINSULA, EGYPT

London, Nov 25 — A press report, dated today, states: An Egyptian patrol aircraft crashed into a mountain in the central Sinai Peninsula last night. The pilot made an emergency landing at a nearby airfield. According to security sources in Cairo, there were 35 Egyptian policemen onboard at the time of the crash, 14 of whom were hurt. Among those on the plane were members of a police unit that tries to locate areas used for drug cultivation in Sinai. The circumstances of the crash are as yet unclear. According to some reports, people on the ground fired at the aircraft, from various directions, using light weapons.

EC-GAU

London, Nov 25 — Robinson R22 helicopter, EC-GAU, registered to and operated by Aerea, struck the ground following a loss of engine power in the vicinity of Madrid, at 1650, UTC, Nov 10. The flight instructor and the dual student reported no injuries, and the helicopter sustained substantial damage to the tail boom and skids. The local instructional flight departed Cuatro Vientos Airfield, Madrid.

EMERGENCY LANDING, GLASGOW, SCOTLAND, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Nov 22 — A press report, dated today, states: Fifty passengers and crew on a flight from Glasgow to Southampton were at the centre of a full-scale alert yesterday after smoke was reported in the cockpit of the aircraft. The airport's major incident

procedures were triggered after the crew of the British Airways flight BA7856 reported that the smoke could have been caused by hydraulic problem onboard the aircraft. The Embraer 145, which took off at 1610 hrs, returned at 1642 hrs. A spokesman for the airport said: "There was smoke in the cockpit. "The pilot thought the aircraft's hydraulic system may have overheated so he decided to turn back. "The passengers disembarked safely. There were no injuries." The spokesman said arrangements were being made to get passengers on two later flights to Southampton.

EMERGENCY LANDING, GREENVILLE-SPARTANBURG INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, UNITED STATES

London, Nov 24 — A press report, dated Nov 23, states: A Boeing 757 flying from Atlanta to Norfolk, Va., made an emergency landing at Greenville-Spartanburg International Airport early this afternoon when the pilot reported smoke in the cockpit, airport officials said. About 179 passengers were evacuated from Delta flight 1870 shortly after noon, airport spokeswoman Rosylin Weston said. The airport's fire department responded by inspecting the plane with its thermal imaging camera, but no fire could be found, Weston said. Delta spokesman Anthony Black said he could not confirm whether there was smoke in the cockpit, but said an indicator light came on in the plane, prompting the pilot to make the emergency landing. The aircraft was turned over to Delta maintenance for further inspection, where officials determined a new part was needed, although he could not confirm what that part was. The aircraft was scheduled to return to the air about mid-afternoon, Black said. "The captain can receive an indication about a number of things," Black said. "Whatever the situation warrants, he has to elect to make that decision out of safety for the passenger and crew. He elected to do that."

EMERGENCY LANDING, HEATHROW AIRPORT, LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Nov 19 — A press report, dated today, states: Passengers today told how they feared they were going to die when an engine on their aircraft burst into a huge ball of flames. The Cathay Pacific flight from Heathrow to Hong Kong turned round four hours into the flight and landed back in London today. Passenger Dr Robin Singh, who was overlooking the wing, said: "It was a 20ft ball of flame. The wing caught fire and then it was coming towards the window. People started screaming. I thought 'this is it' as it was reaching the window - I thought it was going to engulf the plane." By the time flight CX250, with 322 passengers on board, touched down, the flames had subsided. Passengers were told the aircraft was being re-routed, but to their amazement realised it would not be landing at the nearest airport. Dr

Singh said: "We were flying over Russia, but they said we were going back to London, four hours away. When I asked why, they said it was because the service centre was there." A spokesman for Cathay Pacific confirmed one of the engines had been in trouble. He said: "The reason the pilot came back to London was because there were three working engines and at no time was the safety of the passengers or staff in danger." Passengers were put up in a hotel, where they were today awaiting replacement flights.

EMERGENCY LANDING, INDIRA GANDHI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, INDIA

London, Nov 23 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Passengers had a scare as an Indian Airlines aircraft made an emergency landing at the Indira Gandhi International Airport, yesterday. The flight IC-858 Singapore-Jaipur had to be diverted to Delhi as it developed a technical snag. The Airport Authority was informed and CISF, police, and fire were asked to be on alert. However, the aircraft safely landed at the Airport at around 1700 hrs. There were 152 passengers on board. They were later shifted to another aircraft, which flew them to their destination in Bangkok. Officials said all the passengers were safe, and no harm was reported to the Aircraft. Inquiry is being conducted into the incident.

EMERGENCY LANDING, LISBON, PORTUGAL

London, Nov 19 — A press report, dated today, states: An Iberia airliner with 288 people aboard made an emergency landing at Lisbon airport today because of smoke in the cabin and nine people, including two Israeli women, were injured during the evacuation of the plane, officials said. There was no immediate explanation for what caused the smoke, a spokeswoman for Iberia airline said. Lisbon airport was closed for about four hours because of the incident. Eight people suffered minor injuries during the plane's evacuation and one woman broke her leg, said Rui Oliveira, a spokesman for airport operator ANA-Aerportos de Portugal. They were evacuated to a Lisbon hospital. The plane had left Madrid bound for Mexico before being forced to land in Lisbon, he said.

EMERGENCY LANDING, SAKHALIN, RUSSIA

London, Nov 19 — A press report, dated today, states: A Mi-2 helicopter with six persons on board, has made a forced landing in Sakhalin, Emergency Situations Ministry's NewsInfo reported. The helicopter established a regular radio communication at 1700, local time, Nov 17. An An-2 airplane was sent to search it, which found the Mi-2 helicopter at the Pursh-Pursh river outlet. Meantime, the Emergency Situations Ministry informed that none of the six persons that were on board were injured as a result of the incident.

EMERGENCY LANDING, WINNIPEG INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, CANADA

London, Nov 24 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: An aircraft carrying 19 people made an emergency landing in Winnipeg today after the crew thought it might have mechanical problems. The city's international airport was placed on emergency standby around noon when a warning light came on in an Air Wisconsin flight from Chicago to Winnipeg. An airport spokesman says the emergency landing and standby were precautionary measures and the plane touched down without trouble. The Air Wisconsin aircraft is operated by United Airlines.

G-DERB

London, Nov 25 — Robinson R-22 Beta helicopter, G-DERB, was substantially damaged during landing at Biggin Hill Airfield, at 1400 UTC, Nov 15. The pilot and passenger were not injured.

G-TGRR

London, Nov 24 — Robinson R-22 Beta helicopter, G-TGRR, owned by Tiger Helicopters Ltd, on a flight from Shobdon for Wellesbourne, was destroyed when it crashed in Bishopton, Warwickshire, at 1537, UTC, Nov 11. The pilot was killed. The flight departed Shobdon and was destined for Wellesbourne.

N133JW

London, Nov 18 — Cessna 337B (Skymaster), N133JW, crashed near Perkinsville, Arizona, Nov 16 while on a local flight from Sedona, AZ. The aircraft sustained substantial damage. The three persons on board were killed.

N234AA

London, Nov 22 — A press report, dated today, states: An American Airlines MD-80 undershot a runway at Denver International Airport by 1,000 feet yesterday, wiping out runway lights and damaging the aircraft's left landing gear and engine. None of the 103 passengers and five crew members aboard Flight 1115 from Dallas-Fort Worth was injured, American Airlines spokesman Tim Kincaid said. The aircraft landed safely and taxied normally to the gate but is out of service while crews repair the damage, he said. "It's a very unusual event," Federal Aviation Administration spokesman Donn Walker said. The aircraft landed about 1038 hrs on a paved surface short of Runway 35L. DIA spokeswoman Sally Covington said the runway was closed while an investigation continued. Airport operations were normal and no delays were expected. The FAA was investigating, Kincaid said.

London, Nov 23 — McDonnell Douglas MD-82, N234AA, operated by American Airlines, landed short of the runway at Denver International Airport, Colorado, at 1738, Nov 21, following a flight from Dallas-Fort Worth, Texas. No injuries reported.

N6111C

London, Nov 18 — Beechcraft Bonanza A36, N6111C, crashed near Lake Havasu City, Arizona, Nov 13 while on a flight from El Monte, California, to Lake Havasu City. The aircraft sustained substantial damage. The two persons on board were killed.

N85VT

London, Nov 22 — A private jet aircraft, owned by Jet Place Inc. of Tulsa, Okla., three people aboard crashed early today, near Houston's Hobby Airport, authorities said. The Gulfstream G-1159A jet went down about 0615 hrs one and a half miles south of the airport, Federal Aviation Administration spokesman Roland Herwig said. There were three people on board and their fate was unknown, said Roger Smith of Houston Airport System. Herwig said the flight had originated at Dallas Love Field.

London, Nov 23 — Gulfstream G-1159A, N85VT, crashed on landing at Houston, Texas, at 1214, Nov 22, following a flight from Dallas, TX. The aircraft was destroyed. The three persons on board were killed.

VH-CSH

London, Nov 22 — A press report, dated today, states: Two men are dead and a woman seriously injured after a private helicopter crashed into power lines in central western NSW. The helicopter with three people on board came down on a property adjacent to the Golden Highway at Dunedoo, about 90km from Dubbo, about 1500 hrs, a NSW police spokeswoman said. Two men were dead and their bodies trapped in the wreckage when paramedics arrived, according to a NSW Ambulance Service spokesman. A woman was stabilised at the scene and flown by the NRMA Careflight helicopter to Dubbo Base Hospital. She was in a serious condition with abdominal and limb injuries, the spokeswoman said. The cause of the crash was not known. Police said it was understood the helicopter was engaged in land surveying work.

London, Nov 23 — A press report, dated today, states: Two men were killed yesterday when an anti-locust helicopter crashed into powerlines, the third such crash in six weeks. The two, a pilot and a Rural Lands Protection Board employee, were in a Bell 206 chopper that crashed 12km west of Dunedoo near Dubbo in New South Wales. They had been spotting swarms as part of the campaign against NSW's locust plague. A 24-year-old female passenger was trapped in the wreckage but later flown to Dubbo Base hospital in a serious condition. She suffered multiple fractures to her legs, a fractured skull, facial and abdominal injuries.

London, Nov 23 — A press report, dated today, states: Investigators could take a year to determine the cause of a helicopter crash in which two people died in central western New South Wales, a transport safety official said today. The Bell 206 helicopter was

taking part in routine locust control spotting when it touched power lines and crashed at a Golden Highway property in Dunedoo yesterday. Australian Transport Safety Bureau investigators today arrived at the Dunedoo crash site to inspect the damage. The ATSB senior transport safety investigator for aviation, Bill Fry, said it was too soon to speculate on why the chopper crashed, and it could be up to a year before the cause was known. A team of four investigators were on site, Mr Fry said, including two licensed aircraft maintenance engineers with expertise in helicopter operations. They would compare notes with an off-site research team who were gathering weather and other information in preparing the ATSB report, he said.

London, Nov 24 — The Australian Transport Safety Bureau has been advised of a fatal aviation accident involving Bell 206 Helicopter, VH-CSH, conducting locust control work, which occurred near Dubbo, New South Wales at about 1430, local time, Nov 22. The Bureau has been advised that regrettably, two occupants of the helicopter suffered fatal injuries and a third occupant was seriously injured. The ATSB will be conducting an on-site investigation.

Product Recalls



CHILDREN'S PYJAMA SETS, UNITED STATES

Washington, DC, Nov 18 — The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in co-operation with J.C. Penney Corporation, of Plano, Texas, today announced voluntary recall of about 41,300 Okie Dokie Alligator Football Pyjama Sets. Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed. The heat-sealed patches on the front of the garment can detach, posing a possible choking hazard to young children. There has been one report of a patch detaching. No injuries reported. The recalled pyjama shirts are heather grey with red or blue sleeves with heat-sealed alligator and football patches on the front. The collar tag reads "Okie Dokie." The pyjama pants are red or blue with cartoon pictures of alligators, footballs, and stars, and the word "football." They were sold in infant sizes 12M to 24M and toddler sizes 2T to 5T. This recall does not include the pyjama sets with the alligator and football silk-screen images on the pyjama shirts. Sold at J.C. Penney stores nation-wide from June 2004 through September 2004 for about \$22. Manufactured in Hong Kong. Consumers should immediately stop using the pyjama sets and return them to the store where purchased for a refund. — Consumer Product Safety Commission.

ELECTRIC PICTURES, UNITED STATES

Washington, DC, Nov 18 — The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in co-operation with Chicago Imports Inc., of Chicago, Ill., today announced voluntary recalls of 55,600 Electric Pictures. Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed. These pictures have inadequate construction, incorrect wiring, and use flammable materials, all of which pose fire and electric shock hazards to consumers. No incidents/injuries reported. The recalled electric pictures are framed artwork that utilize electric lights and sound and feature moving background scenes, including waterfalls, snow, beach scenes, city skylines, and religious figures. Some of the pictures contain battery operated clocks. The paintings come with wooden, glass mirror, or plastic frames. The pictures come in four different sizes: 99cm x 48cm; 65cm x 47cm; 35cm x 35cm; and 33cm x 19cm. Sold at discount, dollar and general merchandise stores nationwide from October 2001 through April 2004 for between \$20 and \$150, depending on the size of the picture. Manufactured in China. Consumer should unplug the electric pictures immediately and return them to Chicago Imports for a refund. — Consumer Product Safety Commission.

EXERCISE PRODUCTS, UNITED STATES

Washington, DC, Nov 23 — The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in co-operation with Fitness Quest Inc., of Canton, Ohio, today announced voluntary recall of about 460,000 Ab Lounge, Ab Lounge 2, and Ab Lounge Ultimate Exercisers. Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed. When opening or folding up these exercise machines, consumers can catch their fingers in the hinges. This can result in lacerations, crushing, or amputation to finger tips. This does not occur while users are exercising. Fitness Quest has received 15 reports of injuries, including lacerations, crushing and amputations to finger tips. The recall includes the Ab Lounge, Ab Lounge 2, and Ab Lounge Ultimate exercisers. The machines have the name Ab Lounge or Ab Lounge 2 printed on the upper front fabric of the seat. The recall involves machines with the following serial numbers: Ab Lounge machines: ALX-000001 through ALX-037999, and all machines that start with serial numbers 03 44 through 04 36. Ab Lounge 2 machines: AL2X-000001 through AL2X-059060, and all machines that start with serial numbers 04 03 through 04 36. Ab Lounge Ultimate machines: all machines that start with serial numbers 04 28 through 04 34. The serial number is located on a label on the bottom of the front frame. Ab Lounge exercise products with straight brackets that do not fold are not part of this recall. Sold at Infomercial, Internet, catalog, and discount

department and sporting goods stores, including Wal-Mart and Dicks Sporting Goods, nation-wide since October 2003 for between \$100 and \$210. Manufactured in China and Thailand. Consumers should stop using these exercisers and contact the firm for a free repair kit. The firm is contacting all consumers who purchased the Ab Lounge directly from Fitness Quest via infomercial or website. Due to the large number of repair kits required to meet demand, these consumers may experience a delay of a few weeks before they receive their kits. Any consumer who owns an Ab Lounge purchased at a retail store should stop using the equipment and contact Fitness Quest immediately to receive the repair kit. — Consumer Product Safety Commission.

GAS COOKTOPS, UNITED STATES

Washington, DC, Nov 17 — The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in co-operation with Maytag Corp., of Newton, Iowa, today announced voluntary recalls of about 1,170 Jenn-Air Downdraft Gas Cooktops. Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed. The recalled cooktops have switches located too close to the gas tubing leading to the grill burner. Electrical arcing can cause the tubing to leak gas and ignite, resulting in a fire hazard to consumers. Maytag has received four reports of cooktops catching fire during use as a result of a gas leak. There have been no reports of injuries. The recall includes built-in Jenn-Air model JGD8348CDP downdraft gas cooktops. They have serial numbers xxxxxxxEA through xxxxxxxER. The cooktops were manufactured by Maytag between Jan 1, 2004 and Sep17, 2004. The model name and serial number are printed on a label on the vent fan housing, which is visible in the cabinet under the cooktop. Sold at appliance stores nation-wide from January 2004 through September 2004 for about \$2,000. Manufactured in the U.S. Customers who have purchased one of these recalled cooktops should contact Maytag to schedule a free, in-home repair. Consumers should stop using the grill or burners activated by the two left hand controls until the repair is completed. The center and right hand burners can be used. — Consumer Product Safety Commission.

GENERAL MOTORS CORP MOTOR VEHICLES, CHINA

London, Nov 24 — A press report, dated today, states: GM, General Motors' 50-50 joint venture with Shanghai Automotive Industry Corp, has applied to the Chinese quality regulator to recall 27,168 Buick Regal sedans due to possible brake problems. The affected 2.0-litre Buick Regals were produced between December 17, 2002 and September 28, 2004, Shanghai GM said in a statement yesterday. No fatal accidents have been reported because of the problems, the company said. The company stressed the recall would not include its 2.5 and

3.0-litre V6 Buick Regals as they have not been found to have such problems. Shanghai GM said its 198 service stations across China would offer free repairs to owners of the affected 2.0-litre Buick Regals.

GENERAL MOTORS CORP MOTOR VEHICLES, UNITED STATES

London, Nov 23 — A press report, dated today, states: The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration said General Motors Corp. is recalling 178,798 Saturn Ion sedans because the daytime running lamps and front turn signals may stop working. No injuries have been reported due to the defect. The recall involved Ions from the 2003 and 2004 model years and will begin Dec 17.

HONDA MOTOR VEHICLES, UNITED STATES

London, Nov 23 — A press report, dated today, states: American Honda Motor Co. is recalling 257,616 Accord sedans because the driver's air bag may not deploy properly, federal regulators said yesterday. Accords from the 2004 and 2005 model years are involved in the recall, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration said. At least one person has alleged an injury due to the defect, according to NHTSA's records. The air bag can tear while it's deploying and may not offer adequate protection. Owners will be able to get free repairs beginning Dec 6.

ISUZU MOTOR VEHICLES, JAPAN

London, Nov 18 — A press report, dated today, states: Isuzu Motors Ltd. has notified the ministry that it will recall 2,335 of its Forward trucks for replacement of defective front hub bearings which could make the vehicles unworkable due to overheating or cause fire. The trucks were made between August 2000 and May this year, but the defective parts were supplied by Mitsubishi Fuso Truck & Bus Corp. which has been involved in a series of defect cover ups. Isuzu is also recalling 328 Giga trucks to replace faulty hydraulic pipes in the power steering mechanism to prevent fire. The trucks were manufactured between September and early November this year.

KAWASAKI MOTORCYCLES, AUSTRALIA

London, Nov 23 — A report from Product Recalls, Australia, dated today, states: Kawasaki Motors Pty Ltd are recalling the following: Kawasaki Motorcycle Model KLX110-A4, imported during the period June 2004 to October 2004. On some eligible units a wrong O-ring was installed on the shock absorber. Consumers should contact authorised Kawasaki Dealer. Market/recall coverage national.

KUBOTA UTILITY VEHICLES, UNITED STATES

Washington, DC, Nov 23 — The following product safety recall was conducted voluntarily by Kubota in co-operation with the CPSC. Consumers

should stop using the product immediately unless otherwise instructed. About 16,000 Kubota RTV900 Utility Vehicles. Distributor Kubota Tractor Corporation, Torrance, Calif. The front hood of the RTV900 utility vehicle can come off during operation, striking the driver or passenger and causing serious personal injury. Kubota has received reports of two personal injuries to the face and/or back while people were operating the vehicles. The RTV900 Utility Vehicles are four-wheel, off-road vehicles with cargo boxes. They are designed for two people to sit side by side. "RTV900" appears on the side of the front hood. The serial number range for the affected vehicles is 10001 through 25883. Sold at Kubota RTV900 Dealers nation-wide between January 2004 and October 2004 at a suggested retail price of between \$9,899 and \$11,199. Manufactured in U.S.A. Remedy: Stop using the recalled vehicles and contact the nearest Kubota RTV900 Dealer to schedule an appointment to have the hood inspected and, if necessary, replaced free of charge.

MITSUBISHI MOTOR VEHICLES, JAPAN

London, Nov 25 — A press report, dated today, states: Mitsubishi Fuso Truck & Bus Corp said yesterday it will recall a total of 136,000 trucks and buses for free repairs of defective front and rear wheel hubs. The vehicle maker said it will report the recall plan to the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport around mid December.

SPORT UTILITY VEHICLES, UNITED STATES

London, Nov 22 — A press report, dated today, states: A recall notice may guide officials from Chevrolet this week as they examine what role a burned sport utility vehicle played in a fatal fire in a home day care in Aurora. A 3-month-old boy died Thursday (Nov 18) when rescuers couldn't reach him in time. A cause of the blaze has not been determined, but Aurora fire officials said they think it started in the attached garage. Bankruptcy filings show that LaResha and Derek King owned a 2002 Chevrolet Tahoe. Firefighters dragged a Tahoe out of the garage. In March 2003, some 2002 Chevy Tahoes were recalled because a part in the running board could malfunction and "cause a fire," according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. The running boards, built by Southern Comfort and put on more than 3,500 vehicles, contained "certain courtesy light or lights that might overheat. This overheating condition can cause the running board to melt or cause a fire." LaResha King had an unlicensed day care in her home. She was watching Reginald "Donovan" King, no relation, who died of smoke inhalation. Aurora fire officials could not be reached late yesterday to comment about the progress of the investigation. In general, the recall would be something to look into, Denver Fire Department Lt. Phil Champagne said.

TOYOTA MOTOR VEHICLES, JAPAN

London, Nov 18 — A press report, dated today, states: Toyota Motor Corp. is recalling a total of 544,172 vehicles in 12 models, including the Prius and the Vitz, for replacement of defective parts, Japan's transport ministry said Thursday, Kyodo News Service reports. The brake lights in the vehicles, manufactured between January 1999 and August this year, could fail to work due to faulty switches, the Japanese automaker said in a report to Japan's Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport. The vehicles could also fail to operate as a result of defective fuel pumps, Kyodo said. The 12 models include the Corolla Fielder, the Raum, the Estima Hybrid and the Harrier as well.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

London, Nov 24 — Three Abu Dhabi oil terminals were closed for vessel berthing operations early this morning due to adverse weather conditions, strong winds and high swell. Ruwais terminal was the first to close, at 0245, local time, followed by Das Island and Zirku Island at 0300, local time. The weather forecast is not promising for today or tomorrow.

UNITED STATES

London, Nov 19 — A press report, dated Nov 16, states: With the start of serious holiday shopping just days away, toy companies and other purveyors of seasonal merchandise are living through a nightmare, merchandise that's stranded on board cargo ships amid the gridlock at two West Coast ports. The backlog, the result of an ever-growing flood of cargo from Asia into the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach, means some toys and other merchandise will be in short supply this season, even as manufacturers and retailers take steps to ease the problem. Some retailers have cancelled orders with MGA Entertainment over the past month because his company missed delivery deadlines, and he predicted MGA Entertainment's fourth-quarter results will suffer. It's not just imported goods that are causing the pileup. With U.S. exports increasing there's more outbound cargo for the ports to handle. More dock workers are being hired, allowing the ports to become 24-hour operations, but there's still a labour shortage, and some ships wait at least a week to be unloaded.

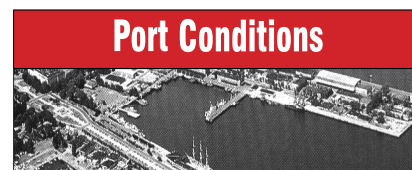
London, Nov 19 — A press report, dated today, states: The huge floating traffic jam outside Southern California's ports has cleared, maritime officials said yesterday. Yesterday afternoon, 60 vessels were in the process of being unloaded at the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach. That was down sharply from the peak of 94 vessels that were queued up Oct 11, according to the Southern California Marine Exchange. Port officials and shipping lines expect another surge of cargo after global tariffs that have kept a tight cap on Chinese exports of textiles and apparel expire on Jan. 1.

By some estimates, an increase of millions of metric tons of cargo from China can be expected.

London, Nov 23 — A press report, dated today, states: A traffic jam of vessels that caused freight to be backed up at the nation's largest port complex has been cleared, officials said, but the timely flow of cargo remains bottlenecked by delays in moving cargo out of jammed port terminals. The number of cargo vessels forced to remain anchored outside the twin ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach declined about 85 percent over the past week, said John T. Smith, who monitors vessel movements at the ports for the Marine Exchange. Now, only a few vessels are anchored outside the ports. In recent months, around 40 vessels were stationed offshore waiting to enter because it would take a week or more to load and unload berthed vessels. Last week, vessel turnaround times didn't exceed five days. "It has cleared out considerably," Smith said. The addition of more dockworkers to service the vessels combined with the diversion of vessels to other West Coast ports has helped break the cargo vessel logjam, Smith said. The peak holiday shipping period has also begun drawing to a close, adding to the decline in vessel traffic. "The Christmas rush has dissipated a little bit," Smith said. In a

statement, the Pacific Maritime Association, which represents the port marine terminal operators, hailed the break in the harbour delays, declaring holiday goods would not be delayed any further because of port congestion. Patty Senecal, vice president of the harbour trucking and warehouse company Transport Express Inc., said the port terminals remain jammed waystations for 20- and 40-foot-long steel containers stacked four or five at a time. "The ships may be gone, but the congestion is not gone," said Senecal, whose company hires truckers to ferry goods from the ports to their final destination. "The problem is now on the docks, at the gates," she added. "Now the challenge is on my side, everyday we're dealing with endless congestion and delays." Trucking firms like Transport Express have complained that delays at the terminals are tough on drivers paid by the job, because they often must wait for hours idling before they can pick up their cargo. That's blowing delivery deadlines. PMA president and chief executive Jim McKenna acknowledged congestion at the port terminals could still cause some cargo delays. Improvements need to be made to the railway system that feeds into the port to ease the cargo logjam on the ground, McKenna said. Plans to expand the hours trucks can

pick up cargo at the terminals should also help, he said. But that won't happen until next year. In all, 3,500 temporary workers were hired in recent weeks to help battle the logjam, McKenna said.



FINLAND

See under "Labour Disputes."

IRAQ

See "Basrah, Iraq" under "Pipeline Accidents."

ITALY

Genoa, Nov 16 — Port situation Nov 16: Genoa: Three container vessels waiting for berths, average berthing delay is between half and one day. Savona and La Spezia: No vessels awaiting berths. — Lloyd's Agents.

SYRIA

Lattakia, Nov 6 — Waiting time is presently 24 hours at Lattakia and five days at Tartous. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

Port Delays

Country/Port	Date of report	No.of vessels waiting and/or days delay
Australia		
Albany	22-24-Nov-2004	Grain: 3 vessels due by 6/12, all to load wheat; 2-5 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Brisbane	22-24-Nov-2004	Grain: 1 vessel due 3/12 to load wheat; up to 1 day's delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Dalrymple Bay	22-24-Nov-2004	Coal: Minor delays have been experienced due to heavy weather. However, berthing and loading of vessels continues.
Dampier	22-24-Nov-2004	Iron ore: Parker Point: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 3 anchored; 8 vessels due by 10/12; 1-6 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; East Intercourse Island: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 2 anchored; 9 vessels due by 12/12; up to 5 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; shippers will always consider a shift to a lay-by berth for loaded vessels awaiting HW; cargo shortages are evident, delays are anticipated and vessels may berth out of turn.
Geraldton	22-24-Nov-2004	Grain: 5 vessels due by 22/12, 3 to load wheat, 2 unknown cargo; up to 6 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Hay Point	22-24-Nov-2004	Both berths have been closed for berthing due to strong winds and heavy swell since 23/11. Kwinana Grain: 9 vessels due by 2/12, all to load wheat; up to 35 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Melbourne	22-24-Nov-2004	Grain: 1 vessel berthed loading wheat, 1 waiting to load SBM; 4 ves sels due by 14/12, 3 to load wheat, 1 unknown cargo; up to 2 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Newcastle	22-24-Nov-2004	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. Three vessels due by 22/12, all to load wheat; up to 1 day's delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Port Adelaide	22-24-Nov-2004	Grain: No. 27 berth: 4 vessels due by 3/12, 2 to load wheat, 2 barley; up to 1 day's delay expected due to berth congestion.
Port Giles	22-24-Nov-2004	Grain: 3 vessels due by 2/12, 2 to load barley, 1 wheat; up to 1 day's delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.

Port Conditions

Port Hedland	22-24-Nov-2004	Iron ore: BHP Iron Ore Pty. Ltd., Mt. Newman (Nelson Point), "A" berth: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 3 anchored; 6 vessels due by 30/11; 1-4 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; "B" berth: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 2 anchored; 3 vessels due by 25/11; 1-6 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; BHP Iron Ore Pty. Ltd., Goldsworthy (Finucane Island) "C" berth: 3 vessels due by 23/11; up to 4 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; Westyard "D" berth: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 3 anchored; 2 vessels due by 25/11; up to 5 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; Due to heavy demand for product, acute cargo shortages are still being experienced at wharf stockpiles. Vessels will continue to berth as product becomes available.
Port Kembla	22-24-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	22-24-Nov-2004	Iron ore: 2 vessels berthed and loading, 2 anchored; 17 vessels due by 9/12; up to 2 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability. Every effort will be made to ensure that vessels berth in order of arrival; however, due to product constraints, this may not be possible. Shippers advise that stores, air freight and crew baggage can no longer be delivered to vessels or taken off at berth. With immediate effect, all stores, airfreight and bags must be delivered/removed by launch.
Portland	22-24-Nov-2004	Grain: 1 vessel berthed to load wheat; 2 vessels due by 30/11, both to load wheat; 1-5 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Azerbaijan		
Baku	22-Nov-2004	Oil products: Bay of Baku: no vessels; Azerneftiyag terminal: no vessels; AzerTrans terminal - Nobel avenue: 1 vessel berthed discharging crude oil; 1 vessel in roads to discharge gasoil; Sangachal district: 1 vessel in roads to discharge crude oil; Transserve terminal: closed.
Brazil		
Paranagua	22-Nov-2004	Eleven vessels berthed of which 2 fertiliser dischargers, 1 container discharger, 3 reefer loaders, 1 pellets vessel, 2 sugar loaders, 2 other loaders/dischargers; 5 vessels waiting in roads, of which 2 to load (1 pellets, 1 other), 3 to discharge (2 fertiliser, 1 other); 33 vessels due over the next 7 days.
Rio Grande	22-Nov-2004	Three vessels berthed of which 1 phosphate discharger, 1 urea discharger, 1 rice loader; 5 vessels waiting in roads; 28 vessels due over the next 10 days.
Santos	22-Nov-2004	Twenty-six vessels berthed of which 3 bulk fertiliser dischargers, 4 chemical products loaders, 1 bulk pellets loader, 1 bulk wheat discharger, 2 full container loaders/dischargers, 14 sugar loaders, 1 other loader; 22 vessels waiting in roads; 97 vessels due over the next 7 days; Private terminals: Terminal 37: 2 full container loaders/dischargers; Tecondi: 1 full container loader/discharger; Termares: 1 loader; Rodrimar: no vessels; Cosipa: 1 steel products loader, 2 bulk coal dischargers, 1 other loader; Ultrafertil: 1 bulk fertiliser discharger; Cargill: 1 bulk sugar loader; Santos Brasil: 3 full container loaders/dischargers; Cutrale: no vessels; Dow: no vessels.
Sao Sebastiao	22-Nov-2004	One vessel berthed, 1 waiting in roads; 10 vessels due over the next 10 days.
Vitoria	22-Nov-2004	No vessels berthed; Terminal Vila Velha: 2 containers, 1 pig-iron loader, 1 wheat discharger; Tubarao: 3 iron ore loaders, 1 soya bean vessel; Praia Mole: 2 coal dischargers, 3 steel products loaders; Portocel: 1 cellulose loader; Ubu: 1 iron ore loader; 26 vessels waiting in roads; 9 vessels due over the next 7 days.
Bulgaria		
Bourgas	22-Nov-2004	Five vessels in port operating, of which 3 loading (2 coils, 1 containers), 2 discharging (1 containers, 1 iron/concrete); 5 vessels waiting in roads, all to load, of which 4 empty, 1 for bunkers; 14 vessels due, of which 7 to load (1 coils, 2 metals, 1 sulphur, 1 chemicals, 1 containers, 1 baryte concentrate), 7 to discharge (1 containers, 1 equipment, 1 LAB, 1 zinc ash, 1 iron ore, 1 coal, 1 copper cathodes).
Egypt		
Alexandria	22-Nov-2004	Thirty-eight vessels berthed (loading/discharging) of which 28 general cargo, 4 bulkers, 3 tankers, 1 containers, 2 passenger vessels; 11 vessels dry-docked; 17 vessels at inner anchorage, 8 at outer anchorage.
Damietta	22-Nov-2004	Twenty-two vessels berthed (loading/discharging) of which 15 general cargo, 3 bulk carriers, 4 containers; 6 vessels at outer anchorage, 2 at inner anchorage.
Suez Canal	22-Nov-2004	Twenty-six vessels transiting Northbound, 21 Southbound.
Israel		
Ashdod	16-Nov-2004	No labour problems. Four general cargo vessels loading at berth, 11 general cargo vessels discharging at berth, 4 vessels loading/discharging at berth (2 containers, 1 car carrier, 1

Port Conditions

		<p>tanker); 2 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (1 general cargo, 1 bulker), 2 container vessels waiting at anchor to load/discharge; 2 vessels under repairs/dry-docked, 1 awaiting orders; 18 vessels due, with 2-3 days delay expected.</p> <p>Haifa 16-Nov-2004 No labour problems. Seven vessels discharging at berth (3 general cargo, 4 bulkers), 5 vessels loading/discharging at berth (2 containers, 1 car carrier, 2 tankers); 1 bulker waiting at anchor to discharge, 8 vessels waiting at anchor to load/discharge (7 containers, 1 car carrier); 3 vessels under repairs/dry-docked, 1 awaiting orders; 16 vessels due, with 2-3 days delay expected</p>
Kazakhstan		
Aktau	22-Nov-2004	Oil products: 3 vessels berthed, all loading crude oil; 11 vessels in roads, all to load unknown cargoes; 2 vessels due by 22/11, both to load unknown cargo.
Pakistan		
Karachi	22-Nov-2004	Two vessels loading at berth (1 rice, 1 chrome ore), 11 vessels discharging at berth (1 chemicals, 1 coal, 1 DAP, 3 urea, 1 jute, 1 SBM, 1 phosphate, 1 rape seed, 1 general cargo), 1 container vessel loading/discharging at berth; 3 vessels waiting at anchorage to load (2 containers, 1 rice), 5 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (2 containers, 1 crude oil, 1 MEG, 1 fertiliser); no vessels bunkering, none under repairs/dry-docked, none awaiting orders; 4 vessels due (2 containers, 1 rice, 1 MOL), with no berthing delays expected.
Port Qasim	22-Nov-2004	Four vessels discharging at berth (1 MEG, 1 wheat, 1 VCM, 1 iron ore); 1 container vessel waiting at anchorage to load, 7 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (1 containers, 2 wheat, 1 rape seed, 2 palm oil, 1HSD oil).
Poland		
Gdynia	22-Nov-2004	Five general cargo vessels loading at berth, 4 vessels discharging at berth (1 general cargo, 1 grain, 1 bulker, 1 tanker); 1 grain vessel awaiting orders; 16 vessels under repairs/dry-docked; no vessels waiting at anchorage, none waiting in roads; 47 vessels due.
Russia		
Novorossiysk	22-Nov-2004	Sixteen vessels in port operating, of which 15 loading (1 bulk cement, 1DRI, 1 scrap, 1 pipes, 1 flowers, 1 coils/copper, 1 coils/steel sheets, 1 coils, 1 bulk urea, 1 slabs, 1 equipment, 1 bulk ammonium nitrate, 1 beetroot, 1 UAN solution, 1 diesel oil), 1 discharging bulk sugar; 5 vessels waiting in roads, all to load, of which 1 DRI, 1 wheat, 1 steel heets, 2 coils; 87 vessels due, of which 81 to load (6 copper, 9 pig-iron, 5 HBI, 8 bulk ammonium nitrate, 2 bulk NPK, 6 coils, 5 aluminium, 4 DRI, 3 bulk urea, 1 pipes/steel sheets/scrap, 3 wheat, 1 WRIC/coils/slabs, 5 steel billets, 1 steel billets/steel sheets, 2 tin plates, 3 scrap, 1 bulk peas, 1 bulk NPK/bulk urea, 1 pig-iron, 1 flowers, 1 zinc, 1 diesel oil, 1 bulk NPK/bulk ammonium nitrate, 1 equipment, 1 sodium sulphate, 4 steel sheets, 1 WRIC/steel billets, 2 pipes, 1 lead/zinc), 5 to discharge (2 bulk sugar, 2 zinc ore, 1 citrus), 1 to discharge/load containers. Oil terminal: 3 tankers berthed, all loading, of which 2 crude oil, 1 fuel oil; 5 tankers in roads, all to load, of which 4 crude oil, 1 fuel oil; 13 tankers due, all to load, of which 12 crude oil, 1 fuel oil.
Sri Lanka		
Colombo	22-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. Occasional evening rains being experienced at present. Four container/feeder vessels loading at berth, 13 vessels discharging at berth (9 containers/feeders, 1 bulk cement, 1 bagged cement, 1 bagged soya meal/general cargo, 1 bagged fertiliser, 1 bulk palm oil); 3 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (1 bulk cement, 2 bagged maize); 1 vessel under repairs, 5 dry-docked, 1 under arrest, 2 awaiting orders from principals, 1 at new tanker berth; 7 vessels due (6 containers/feeders, 1 bagged fertiliser), with 1 day's delay expected for general cargo/bagged cargoes.
Ukraine		
Ilechevsk	22-Nov-2004	Nine vessels in port operating, of which 7 loading (6 steel products, 1 oil), 2 discharging/loading containers; 4 vessels in roads, of which 3 to load (1 oil, 2 steel products), 1 to discharge steel products; 20 vessels due, of which 12 to load (8 steel products, 1 vegetable oil, 1 diesel oil, 2 wheat), 8 to load/discharge containers.
Mariupol	22-Nov-2004	Eleven vessels in port operating, all loading, of which 5 steel, 2 fire-clay, 3 coal, 1 sulphur; 2 vessels undergoing survey (1 ammonium nitrate, 1 pipes); 3 vessels in roads, all to load steel; 53 vessels due, of which 48 to load (23 steel, 1 pig-iron, 18 coal, 3 fire-clay, 2 ammonium nitrate, 1 sunflower beans), 5 to discharge (1 containers, 3 equipment, 1 zinc).

Port Conditions

Odessa	22-Nov-2004	Oil products: 3 vessels berthed, all loading, of which 1 crude oil, 1 LPG, 1 fuel/crude oil; 3 vessels in roads, all to load crude oil; 6 vessels due by 25/11, all to load, of which 3 fuel oil, 1 LPG, 2 crude oil.
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United States

Houston	23-Nov-2004	Cargill terminal: 3-4 days delay
Kalama, WA	23-Nov-2004	Kalama export terminal: 2 days delay; United Harvest terminal: 2 days delay.
New Orleans	23-Nov-2004	Mississippi River terminal berthing delays: Cenex-Harstates/Myrtle Grove: 1-2 days delay expected; Cargill-Westwego: 2 days delay expected; ADM/Ama: 6-7 days delay expected; Bunge/Destrehan: 4 days delay expected; ADM/Destrehan: 6-7 days delay expected; ADM/Reserve: 6-7 days delay expected; Cargill/Reserve: 2 days delay expected; Peavey/Paulina: 2 days delay expected; Zen-Noh/Convent: 3 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: 2 days delay expected; Mile 158.0 Cargill (K2) - Convent: 2 days delay expected; Mile 180.0 Cooper (America) - Darrow: 7 days delay expected.
Portland, OR	23-Nov-2004	Columbia Grain terminal: 3 days delay.
Tacoma, WA	23-Nov-2004	Temco terminal: 2 days delay.
Vancouver, WA	23-Nov-2004	United Harvest terminal: 2 days delay.

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