

## USCG sues Massachusetts in anti-pollution bill squabble

**I**N A robust manoeuvre to protect its regulatory turf on oil pollution at sea, the US government has sued the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to strike down a state-level oil spill Bill enacted last summer in response to a 2003 spill in Buzzards Bay.

In a twist of American irony, the Massachusetts lawsuit came only eight days after legislators in the New Jersey state assembly, stung into action by last month's Athos I spill in the Delaware River, introduced a Bill that would supersede existing statutes and make double hull tankers mandatory in state waters from January 1, 2008.

### Example

Neither Massachusetts nor New Jersey appear to have heeded the example of Washington state, whose effort to enforce state-level legislation was defeated in the US Supreme Court in 2000 after a legal fight waged by the tanker industry.

The lawsuit against Massachusetts, filed on Tuesday by the US Department of Justice in the federal court in the state, validates the efforts of Intertanko and American Waterways Operators to nullify the state Bill. The suit names the state, governor Mitt Romney and the state Department of

Environmental Protection as defendants.

The two trade associations had stopped short of legal action themselves, but were expected to sue Massachusetts if the federal government had not acted.

The US Coast Guard had barely concealed its contempt for the Massachusetts law. The commandant, Admiral Thomas Collins, had warned bluntly in a letter to Governor Romney last September about the "potential for litigation".

### Gratification

Jonathan Benner, of law firm Troutman Sanders, counsel for Intertanko and AWO, expressed "gratification" at the federal action in Massachusetts.

Intertanko, meanwhile, said it was "monitoring" New Jersey developments, and added: "From the outset, the proposed bill seems to contradict federal requirements under the Oil Pollution Act of 1990."

The Massachusetts lawsuit invokes the supremacy clause of the US constitution, and asks the court to issue a declaratory judgement that asserts federal jurisdiction and invalidates those aspects of the Bill that conflict with federal law.

In particular, the lawsuit cites provisions on safety equipment, tug escorts, alcohol and drug testing of

crews, manning and watch standing, vessel routing and pilotage. Federal jurisdiction supersedes the state bill in these areas, the lawsuit asserts.

The Massachusetts law was inspired by an April 2003 incident in Buzzards Bay, when a single-hulled Bouchard Transportation barge struck an underwater ledge and spilt at least 55,000 gallons of fuel oil. Bouchard agreed a record \$10m fine under an agreement with the US Attorney's office.

However, state lawmakers crafted a Bill to address future incidents. It doubled the daily fine for oil spills to \$50,000 and set civil penalties for repeat offenders of up to \$2m, while offering incentives for double-hulled tonnage.

### Fines

The industry's opposition to the Bill had two prongs. While not disputing Massachusetts' right to impose financial penalties of its choice, the industry felt these heftier fines would have no incremental effect on safety.

However, on issues such as tug escorts, the industry asserted that Massachusetts could act only if the Coast Guard had not assumed jurisdiction in the area, which the agency had done in the state.

Rajesh Joshi  
Lloyd's List Correspondent

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

Vessel	Type	Flag	Class	GT	DWT	Bit	Casualty
<i>ALEXANDROS</i>	passenger	PAN	—	1,623	3,063	1970	Sent distress signal in 33 55 N 19 00 E after reporting water entering No 1 hold 04 Jan 2005. Still no contact 12 Jan.
<i>DIAMANT</i>	general	NLD	BV	998	1,497	1985	In collision with inland tanker <i>Monika</i> in dense fog at Km 754, River Rhine, near Kaiserwerth, Dusseldorf area, 12 Nov 2004. Severe bow damage and main engine and gearbox damage. Drydocked at Hansweert. Sailed Jan 7.
<i>ELIZABETH M.</i>	tug	USA	—	303	—	—	Sank at Montgomery Dam, Ohio River, Jan 9 while pushing six coal barges. Only pilot house above water. 6 of the 10 crew rescued. To be raised.
<i>GILIAN</i>	container	CYP	BV	10,835	14,092	1980	Had explosion in engine-room in lat 02 40S, long 107 12E, prev Jan 7. Taken in tow by tug, arrived Singapore Eastern Working Anchorage Jan 12.
<i>HENRIETTE</i>	general	NIS	BV	2,900	2,510	1971	Grounded N of Haugesund Jan 10. Refloated by own means and continued but holed and took water. Engine stopped. Towed to quay in Haugesund and drydocked. Heavy water damage in engine-room.
<i>LADY JOCELYN</i>	—	—	—	—	—	—	Lost power off Hervey Bay, Queensland, Jan 12. Began taking on water. Helicopter put pump on board. Towed back to Hervey Bay by another trawler.
<i>PATRIOTS</i>	fishing	USA	—	175	—	1978	Had electrical fire in engine-room about 130 nautical miles E of Nantucket, Mass, Jan 11. Crew extinguished fire. Reported Jan 12 under tow for New Bedford, Mass.
<i>RTC 503</i>	barge	USA	AB	9,185	—	1982	Touched bottom in East River, north of Roosevelt Island, 07 Jan 2005 while in tow of tug <i>Lucy Reinauer</i> . No 1 port cargo tank was punctured and a quantity of its cargo of home-heating oil was spilled.
<i>TRANSFER</i>	part container	ATG	GL	1,919	1,829	1972	Understood to have run aground on Lighthouse Reef, Belize, and crew abandoning in lat 17 24N, long 87 28W, Jan 7. Fuel being removed prior to refloating. Still aground Jan 12.
<i>UNION TOPAZ</i>	general	BRB	NV	1,543	2,362	1985	Had engine problems in lat 52 40.5N, long 03 38.7E, Jan 7. Towed to Rotterdam same day. Sailed 10 Jan.

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## The following reports are reprinted from Lloyd's List



### AL SAMIDOOON (Kuwait)

London, Jan 6 — Crude oil tanker Al Samidooon transitted the Suez Canal, southbound, on Dec 31, on passage Sidi Kerir for an unknown destination.

### ALBENNY (Norway)

Trondheim, Jan 11 — Owner of general cargo Albenny informs repairs are still being carried out, on and off, at Lysoysund. Time of completion still not known. — Lloyd's Agents.

### ALESSIA (Switzerland)

Montreal, Jan 11 — General cargo Alessia, loss of starboard anchor and chain off Quebec: The area is so deep and difficult to work in, generally the anchors and chains are not recovered. It is understood this is the case here because the vessel continued. The vessel is now out of Canadian waters. — Lloyd's Agents.

### ALEXANDROS (Panama)

London, Jan 11 — Following received from A&S Shipping Lines SA, Panama, dated Jan 10: General cargo Alexandros (1623 gt, built 1970) sailed Aqaba at 0415, Dec 28, for Sfax loaded with 2,800 tonnes of potash in bulk. Vessel cleared Suez Canal northbound at 2116, Dec 30. We have not heard from the vessel since the last communication received at 2134, Jan 4, when the master advised there were injured crewmen and water coming into No 1 hold. On Jan 5 we received a message from United States Coast Guard in Norfolk, Va, informing us that they received a distress signal from the vessel giving a position of lat 33 55N, long 19 00E, the last known position, which is near the Libyan coast. We have lost all contact with it and contacted Malta MRCC and the Libyan rescue station, who advised that, up until this time, there was no sign of the vessel. Alexandros had only 12 crewmen on board, 10 from Egypt, one Bulgarian and one Sri Lankan. Assistance is requested to search for the vessel and circulate Emergency Alert to vessels in the vicinity.

London, Jan 11 — Following received from A&S Shipping, Panama, dated today: Contact with general cargo Alexandros has still not been re-established. Malta MRCC have continued to search but their efforts have been unsuccessful to date.

London, Jan 12 — Following received from A&S Shipping, Panama, dated today: General cargo Alexandros: The master of the vessel reported at 1226, Jan 4, that vessel encountered heavy weather, winds south-westerly, force 8-9 (gale-strong gale), causing removal of the tarpaulins of the hatch cover and resulting in water ingress into holds. Two crew members were injured in their efforts to re-install the tarpaulins.

Up until 1200, Jordanian time, today, there is still no news of the vessel.

### ALGOWOOD (Canada)

London, Jan 6 — Bulk Algowood (22558 gt, built 1981), cargo coke, lost its port anchor while anchoring in 25-knot north-easterly winds in Prince Edward Bay, Lake Ontario, lat 43 58 30N, long 76 54 15W, at 0230, EST, Dec 23.

### ALIANCA SAO PAULO (Liberia)

Cuxhaven, Jan 7 — Tugs Oceanic, Parat, TOW 3, Wolf, Bugsier 12 and Bugsier 21 started to tow c.c. Alianca Sao Paulo around 1600, yesterday. Vessel was afloat at 1635 and sailed with tug-escort to Hamburg. — Correspondent.

Hamburg, Jan 7 — C.c. Alianca Sao Paulo, Rotterdam for Hamburg, ran aground off Scharhornriff, in the mouth of the River Elbe, yesterday morning. As at the time there was almost high tide tug assistance was urgently required. The first refloating attempt using a tug and a rescue vessel failed. At approximately 1700 hrs the vessel was refloated with the assistance of at least three tugs. — Lloyd's Agents.

Maassluis, Jan 8 — C.c. Alianca Sao Paulo arrived Hamburg at 0015, Jan 7, from Rotterdam — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

London, Jan 11 — A Cesam report, timed 1659, Jan 10, states: C.c. Alianca Sao Paulo was refloated under contract Hamburg Form signed with salvors Bugsier. At the time of the grounding, the ship was carrying approximately 1,000 containers loaded in Brazilian ports, of which around 50 are intended for Le Havre. The ship sustained damage requiring 19 days of repair and was declared in General Average. The provisional rate of contribution was fixed at 5%.

Hamburg, Jan 13 — C.c. Alianca Sao Paulo is still in dock for repairs at Blohm & Voss, Hamburg. Repairs are expected to be finalised Jan 21. Thereafter vessel is to continue its intended voyage to South America. — Lloyd's Agents.

### ALMUDAINA (Madeira)

London, Jan 7 — A press report, dated today, states: Keppel Shipyard and one of its safety officers were charged in court yesterday for crude oil tanker Almudaina blaze last May that killed seven workers. The Ministry of Manpower (MOM) brought two charges against the shipyard, owned by mainboard-listed Keppel Corp, and its safety officer Lim Yee Chien, 36, for contravening the Factories (shipbuilding and ship-repairing) Regulations. The company faces a fine of up to \$205,000 on the two charges, while Lim faces a maximum fine of \$200,000 and up to one year in jail. No plea was taken after the charges were read out to Lim and the company representative, Mr Chin Sze Kiong, 28, the shipyard's safety manager. On May 29 last year, two Malaysian and five Indian workers died after flammable oil sludge at the bottom of the tank caught fire inside one of the compartments of

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the Spanish-owned vessel, which is registered in Portugal. Yesterday, the shipyard was charged with failing to ensure that the tank was properly cleaned to eliminate the presence of crude oil sludge before 'hot work' - which involves sparks or exposed flames - was carried out in the tank. It was also charged with failing to provide sketches showing the exact locations where the hot work was to be carried out when it applied for a permit to carry out such work. Lim, the safety assessor, was charged with failing to make a proper inspection and assessment of the area, at which the hot work was to be carried out, to ensure there were no hazards. It was alleged that when he inspected the tank where the hot work was to be done, he had failed to ensure that it was adequately cleaned of crude oil sludge before endorsing the permit. Senior Counsel Steven Chong, who is representing the shipyard and Lim, asked for a six-week adjournment to make representations to MOM. He said MOM had not indicated when it will disclose the report of its investigations into the flash fire. MOM prosecutor Toh Tuck Yan told the court that the report was not ready to be disclosed and he needed to seek clearance from the Attorney-General's Chambers. The prosecution asked for bail for Lim to be set at \$50,000, citing the maximum punishment and that seven lives were lost, but the senior counsel said there was no basis for this. Magistrate Gilbert Low did not impose bail on Lim but ordered his passport to be impounded. The case will be mentioned again on Feb 17.

#### **AMORGOS (Greece)**

London, Jan 12 — A press report, dated today, states: Taiwan has suffered a big defeat in a high-profile international lawsuit, with a Norwegian court yesterday ruling that no damages would be awarded for ecological destruction caused by an oil spill near Kenting in 2001. The ruling said Taiwan will receive only NT\$9.53 million (US\$295,000) for miscellaneous fees relating to environmental monitoring in 2001 and 2002. The court declared that no money would be awarded for ecological restoration. The judgement said that bad weather in the ecological reserve could not guarantee the success of a proposal by Taiwan to transplant or grow new colonies of coral in Lungkeng, which bore the brunt of the oil spill from bulk carrier Amorgos off Kenting. The judgment also said Taiwan would share legal costs of nearly NT\$16.9 million. "We are very sorry about the result. They did not consider the evidence provided by Taiwanese experts," Leu Horng-guang, director-general of the Environmental Protection Administration's (EPA) Bureau of Water Quality Protection, told a press conference yesterday. A Norway-based insurance company representing the vessel's owner, Assuranceforeningen Gard (Gjensidig), paid out NT\$61 million for the cleanup in Lungkeng,

NT\$1.8 million for forest restoration, NT\$84.7 million for removal of part of the wrecked ship and NT\$123 million to local fishermen. But the government demanded more compensation for losses incurred by the fishing and tourism industries, as well as lost government revenue and the damage to the local ecology. Officials estimated that the government might receive an additional NT\$350 million. The court heard the case in early November. Five representatives for the plaintiff, including lawyers and ecological experts from Kenting National Park Headquarters and the National Museum of Marine Biology and Aquarium, appeared in court in Arendal, Norway, to explain how the spill had hurt the area. According to museum biologist Fan Tung-yung, a new investigation of ecological losses resulting from the spill had shown that the percentage of coral coverage in affected areas had fallen from 80% to 30%. EPA officials said yesterday that the value of coral reefs in the tropics had not been fully recognised by the court. "Taiwan needs to seek more professional assistance from the international community to highlight the value of coral reefs," Leu said. Leu said that the full 65-page judgment will arrive next week and that the government had one month to file an appeal.

#### **AN HUA JIANG (China)**

Zeebrugge, Jan 7 — General cargo An Hua Jiang arrived Flushing 1315, Jan 7, from Antwerp. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.  
Maassluis, Jan 10 — General cargo An Hua Jiang is still in port at Flushing. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

#### **ANDES (Greece)**

London, Jan 6 — following received from the managers of product tanker Andes, dated today: Andes, which was in contact with a marker buoy while under pilotage on the River Mississippi Jan 4, has received clearance from the United States Coast Guard and its classification society and is currently continuing a routine discharge operation, which is expected to be completed pm today. On completion of discharge, the vessel will prepare for permanent repairs that will take place afloat. In addition, it is felt prudent to carry out a diver inspection to be absolutely sure that no other damage was sustained at the time of impact. Once repaired, the vessel will resume normal trading.

#### **ANGLIAN EARL (Barbados)**

Falmouth, Jan 5 — Anchor handling tug/supply Anglian Earl is still in port at Falmouth under repair. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **ANJA FUNK (Antigua & Barbuda)**

See Baumwall.

#### **ANNTORO (Norway)**

Trondheim, Jan 11 — Kvernhusvik Shipyard, at Hitra, inform there is still no decision regarding possible repairs to general cargo Anntoro. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **APL ENGLAND (Singapore)**

London, Jan 10 — C.c. APL England (65792 gt, built 2001) arrived Vancouver Harbour, British Columbia, 0750, Jan 5, from Seattle. At 0405, PST, Jan 6, the vessel sustained a puncture in the forward double bottom tank in way of No.4 hold, when a 40ft container separated from its gantry and fell on the tank top.

London, Jan 13 — C.c. APL England sailed Vancouver Jan 9.

#### **ARKTIKA (Russia)**

Busan, Jan 12 — Permanent repairs to fishing Arktika are being carried out at Busan, but the expected date of completion is unknown at the present. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

#### **ATHOS I (Cyprus)**

London, Jan 11 — A United States Coast Guard press report, dated Philadelphia Jan 10, states: Crude oil tanker Athos I: Latest Updates: Over 1,500 responders are working in the command centre and along the Delaware River and 100 vessels are deployed in the response effort. Some 64,796 gallons of oil and oily liquid and 1,817 gallons of submerged oil have been recovered, and 6,699 tons of oily solids (cleanup materials and oil) have been collected. Forty-nine percent of the impacted shoreline has been grossly decontaminated. Thirty-six facilities have been grossly decontaminated with eight currently being decontaminated. Experts report 228 birds have been released and 172 birds are reported deceased. Oil has affected approximately 57 miles of shoreline from the Tacony-Palmyra Bridge to south of the Smyrna River in Delaware, mainly light patches of oil and a very light sheen.

Mobile, Jan 11 — Crude oil tanker Athos I is currently drydocked at Atlantic Marine and will sail sometime later this week. — Lloyd's Agents.

Mobile, Jan 12 — Crude oil tanker Athos I is now on dry dock. Repairs estimated to complete around Jan 17. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **ATLANTIS CHARM (Cyprus)**

London, Jan 10 — Tsavlis salvage company rescued bulk/c.c. Atlantis Charm, laden with fertiliser, immobilised due to a main engine failure approximately 680 miles north-west of the Cape Verde islands in late October. It was delivered safely to Las Palmas by tug Leopard after a 10-day tow.

#### **AURORA (U.K.)**

London, Jan 12 — Engine problems on P&O's passenger Aurora (76152 gt, built 2000) have delayed the start of a 104-day "Grand Voyage". The vessel set sail from Southampton on Sunday (Jan 9), only to drop anchor on the far side of the Isle of Wight. If problems with the propulsion system can be resolved then Aurora will finally set sail on a reduced voyage today. A spokesman said that following repair work and initial tests undertaken on Monday it was necessary to prove the durability of the repairs through further testing at

sea. Aurora therefore underwent tests yesterday. "Once testing has been completed P&O will be in a position to advise passengers of the necessary amendments to the forthcoming cruise itinerary. Passengers have been kept fully informed of the progress of the work and they are being invited to continue enjoying their stay on board on a complimentary basis. Drinks are being offered at dinner and at the bar free of charge."

London, Jan 12 — A press report, dated today, states: Passenger Aurora is still conducting sea trials off the Isle of Wight after technical problems with a propeller delayed a world cruise and the luxury vessel will continue to circle the island until lunchtime today. A spokeswoman for P&O said the ship needed to undergo sea trials for at least 24 hours. The company says a new start date for the voyage has not yet been confirmed. Passengers have been allowed to remain on board while the repairs and sea trial are being carried out.

London, Jan 13 — A press report, dated Jan 12, states: Passenger Aurora will not sail until next Tuesday (Jan 18) because experts cannot fix its motor immediately, but passengers can stay on board if they want, P&O Cruises said tonight. In a statement, the company apologised to the 1,752 passengers on the vessel docked at Southampton and promised compensation for the delay and any curtailing of their round the world trip which was due to take 104 days. Engineers will now fix the problem after saying they think they have found the cause of the broken motor.

#### **BAHLAWAN (Syria)**

Aleppo, Jan 13 — Our Lattakia office has reported that general cargo Bahlawan has been bought by Mr. Azam Makhlouf and was towed from stranding spot to Lattakia port basin and berthed near the port breakwater. Trying to contact the new owner after obtaining his address to learn whether he will repair the vessel or break it into scrap. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **BALUEIRO TERCERO**

Suva, Jan 12 — The situation of fishing Balueiro Tercero remains same as reported earlier, the vessel is still stranded on the reef. No attempt has been made to refloat it. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **BARGE BREAKAWAYS, OHIO RIVER, UNITED STATES**

London, Jan 7 — A press report, dated today, states: At least 27 coal barges were loose on the Ohio River yesterday following three days of rain that swelled the waterway. Sixteen broke free from an American Electric power plant along the Ohio River in Brilliant, Ohio. The U.S. Coast Guard in Pittsburgh says tugs were able to rein in three of those barges and push another onto the banks of the river before the remaining 12 reached the Pike Island Dam about 10 miles downriver. Eight barges got hung up along the lock system, but another four

went over the overflow dam and drifted toward Wheeling. Nine other barges broke away from a tug leaving the lock at Belleville in southern Wood County yesterday morning. Two crew members were able to avoid injury by moving from the detached barges to secured ones. Three of the barges sank, three were secured down river and three floating along the dam were recovered yesterday evening. Lock Master Dan Marcinko says the Belleville Locks and Dam will remain closed until dawn. In a separate incident, two barges broke free in Pittsburgh and floated about 10 miles before striking a CSX Bridge.

London, Jan 7 — A press report, dated today, states: Barges lost from tug Jon J.Strong (462 gt, built 1965) leaving the locking chamber of the Belleville Locks and Dam yesterday shut down Ohio River traffic. Cleanup was expected to continue into today, said officials. No injuries occurred during the 0845 hrs incident and the dam is believed to have sustained only minor structural damages, said Chad Diddle, lockman. "This could have become a real problem, but the barges did not hit head-on into the dam," he said. "Instead the sides of the barge hit. At this point we can only assess the damage visibly and things are fine." The tug, owned by B & H Towing Co., Paducah, Ky., was heading north and through the chamber when strong currents sent 9 of its 12 barges loose in different directions. Three of the barges went down river and were secured, Diddle said. Three of the barges sank under the tainter gates of the dam and spilled the load of iron ingots and coal to the bottom of the Ohio River. The other three were up against the dam pier houses waiting to be retrieved. One of the sunken barges caught under the gate of the locking chamber forcing it to stay open, he said. Both locks have been shut to traffic until the area is cleaned up. Owners of the boat were to arrive at the dam in Wood County to inspect the situation and their property, he said. A formal inspection of the locks and dam will be completed as well, probably once the high water has subsided, Diddle said. Three bridges in the Wheeling area were shut down after several barges broke loose in that area on the Ohio River. One barge hit a pier on the Fort Henry Bridge on Interstate 70 but the span did not appear to be damaged, said Lou Vargo, deputy director of Ohio County Emergency Services. The barges were later secured. Lt. Mike Anderson with the U.S. Coast Guard in Pittsburgh said 16 barges broke loose from American Electric Power Co.'s Cardinal plant in Brilliant, Ohio, yesterday morning, probably because of high water. The river is expected to crest tomorrow at 45 feet at the Belleville Dam, Diddle said.

London, Jan 11 — A press report, dated today, states: Salvage workers have started preparations to free four coal barges that became trapped against a dam on the rain-swollen Ohio River after they broke loose from a tug in Wood County. Chuck Minsker is a spokesman for the U.S. Army Corps of

Engineers in Huntington. He says that if the barges are not removed from the Belleville Locks and Dam within five to nine days, traffic on the river could come to a halt. Minsker says the dams can not be closed until the barges are out of there. The barges were among nine that broke loose from a tug on Thursday during heavy rain and flooding. Workers moved equipment to the site yesterday afternoon and are expected to begin salvage operations this morning. Corps officials do not believe the dam was damaged. Gov. Wise declared a state of emergency for 12 northern counties last week. The declaration allowed him to activate more than 600 National Guard troops to help residents and businesses clean up debris. Damage estimates are not yet available.

London, Jan 12 — A press report, dated today, states: Ohio Valley power plants could soon find their coal stockpiles dwindling if salvage crews have trouble removing four barges blocking five of Belleville Lock and Dam's eight dam gates. Work began at the Ohio River navigation complex yesterday afternoon, when tug James Garrett pushed a crane barge to the downriver base of the dam structure, and crew members began attaching cables and chains to a partially submerged barge blocking a gate near the West Virginia shore. Two other crane-equipped tows had arrived at the scene, and were moored to the lock chamber on the Ohio side of the river. The US Army Corps of Engineers closed the normally bustling lock complex to river traffic as a safety precaution while salvage work proceeds. But corps officials and towboat operators are more concerned about the ramifications of possibly losing the navigation pool between Belleville Locks and Willow Island Locks and Dam within five days if the barges cannot be freed from the gates. While high water has been responsible for Belleville's woes during the past week, low water is now becoming a major concern due to Belleville's inability to close most of its dam gates. The 33-mile-long navigation pool between Belleville and Willow Island yesterday morning had dropped 6 inches below its normal level of 12 feet. Corps officials yesterday afternoon closed the three functional gates at the dam and raised the level of the pool back to 12.6 feet in an effort to maintain the pool during salvage operations. But salvage operators said they needed the water level to drop in order to proceed, according to Peggy Noel, spokeswoman for the corps' Huntington District. "They were initially hoping to pull the barges out, but it looks like that won't be the case, and they will have to do some cutting," she said. "A cutting barge from Louisville is on the way, and work will be proceeding on a 24-hour-a-day basis." In a worst-case scenario, water in the pool would drop to a free flowing state, possibly as soon as five to nine days. "What they told me was that if the river's natural channel holds enough water, a really good tow person

could be able to navigate it," Noel said. But whether heavy tows of coal could navigate the stretch of river if the pool falls below 9 feet, the current minimum depth for navigation, remains to be seen. "The power plants along the river could have some major supply problems," said Noel. Allegheny Energy Supply's Pleasants Power Station and American Municipal Power's Gorsuch Generating Station are along the stretch of the Ohio between Belleville and Willow Island. So are a number of petrochemical plants, including Chevron Chemical, Marathon Ashland Petroleum, Shell Chemical and GE Plastics. Many power plants have moved toward a just-in-time delivery mode of coal supply, relying less on large stockpiles of coal and more on regular coal deliveries from barges. While Belleville Locks and Dam is closed to general river traffic, some tows bearing what is considered "critical needs" cargoes are being locked through. Those lockages are decided on a case-by-case basis by the Industry Traffic Control Centre, made up of representatives from inland waterway shippers, the Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Coast Guard. "We can still lock vessels through Belleville, but we want to keep traffic to a minimum when salvage work is in progress," said Noel. In addition to jeopardizing coal shipments to power plants, loss of the Belleville pool could also jeopardize municipal and industrial water supply intakes and treatment plants, and possibly cause slides along river banks. Belleville's woes began on Jan 6, when six barges broke loose from a tow being powered by tug Jon J. Strong just after it passed through the locks and headed upstream in high water from upstream flooding. One barge passed through the dam safely, one is floating on the upstream side of the dam, and four barges sank or partially sank, blocking five of the dam's eight gates.

#### **BAUMWALL (Gibraltar)**

Hamburg, Jan 10 — Ro/ro Baumwall (3999 gt, built 1995) struck a lock gate in the Kiel Canal Jan 9. Damage to the lock is estimated at Euros 4-500,000. The extent of damage to the vessel is unknown. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — Baumwall sailed Amsterdam 0355, Jan 8 for Helsinki.)

Hamburg, Jan 11 — Ro/ro Baumwall, coming from the North Sea, struck the centre lock side wall due to trouble with its controllable-pitch propeller, the vessel bounced back and struck and damaged the stern of general cargo Anja Funk (2488, gt, built 1971), which had already moored in the lock. Thereafter Baumwall passed by Anja Funk and rammed the lock gate. The examinations carried out by harbour police revealed damage/malfunction of the controllable-pitch propeller which was repaired on Jan 9. For examination purpose both vessels had moored at the Navy Dolphins in Brunsbuttel inner harbour. In the afternoon both vessels were able to continue their voyages: Baumwall for Helsinki and Anja Funk for

Ornskoldsvik. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — Anja Funk had sailed Rotterdam 2200, Jan 7 for Ornskoldsvik.)

#### **BBC CHINA (Antigua & Barbuda)**

London, Jan 10 — A Salvage team from Smit recently completed the partial wreck removal of general cargo BBC China. The vessel sustained heavy damage in a grounding on South Africa's Wild Coast. Damage was extensive and refloating was ruled out at a very early stage. BBC China grounded on Oct 16 while on passage from Port of Spain to Durban. The grounding site, Port Grosvenor, about 110 miles south of Durban, is in a remote and almost inaccessible area. BBC China came to rest on a steep, rocky shelf and was declared a constructive total loss in late October. Working under a Lloyd's Form, with Scopis invoked, Smit's team began by removing around 70 tonnes of heavy fuel oil and about the same amount of gasoil and lubricating oils. They then started to remove the containerised hazardous cargo by means of a heavy lift helicopter mobilised from Cape Town, transporting it to a reception area ashore. The South African authorities approved the plan for partial wreck removal. This involved the removal of BBC China's accommodation, cranes and other deck equipment, in order to reduce visual intrusion. Using a controlled explosion, the vessel's engine-room and tanks were then opened to the sea. With all pollutants and hazardous materials removed, the remains of this vessel will be allowed to disintegrate over time. A feature of this operation, completed on Dec 1, was the development of a detailed Environmental Impact Assessment. Special consideration was given to the use of explosives due to the large population of dolphins, together with humpback whales making their way south on migration. The environmental patrol aircraft Kuswag 8 flew repeated patrols over the area, including a mission to ensure the absence of whales and dolphins in the vicinity of the casualty when the controlled explosion opened it to the sea.

#### **BRAVE ZHEJIANG (Panama)**

See "Netherlands" under "Port State Control."

#### **BUNGA MAS TUJUH (Malaysia)**

Moji, Jan 11 — C.c. Bunga Mas Tujuh arrived Moji Jan 7 from Dalian and sailed same day for Osaka. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — Bunga Mas Tujuh subsequently arrived Osaka Jan 8 and sailed Jan 9, arriving Kobe Jan 9 and sailing Jan 9 for Xingang.)

#### **CAPE SYROS (Cyprus)**

Cadiz, Jan 13 — General cargo Cape Syros is still under repairs at Cadiz in the IZAR Cadiz Shipyards. The works will last at least a couple of weeks, according to surveyors. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **CCNI CHAGRES (Liberia)**

Vigo, Jan 10 — Bulk/c.c. CCNI Chagres (28148 gt, built 1998) is reported to have proceeded to Vigo to

check, during its normal commercial call, the condition and whereabouts of approximately 30 containers damaged by heavy weather on passage which may have affected reefer connections. Surveyors attending. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — CCNI Chagres, from Chile ports, passed Panama Canal Dec 28, with ETA Bilbao today.)

Vigo, Jan 11 — Bulk/c.c. CCNI Chagres: Following survey of containers at Vigo after heavy weather, temperatures seemingly correct and outwardly no damage signs. Vessel sailed 1845, Jan 10 to next destination Bilbao. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **CHIH CHING NO.2 (Taiwan)**

Suva, Jan 12 — After completion of repairs at slip-way, fishing Chih Ching No.2 returned to service May 3. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note: Chih Ching No.2 grounded Vunivau Reef, Suva Harbour Mar 23, and was refloated on high tide Mar 24.)

#### **CHRISTIAN (Singapore)**

London, Jan 7 — Following received from Singapore Port Operations, timed 0415, UTC: Tug Christian and barge Flora: Investigation is continuing on the disappearance of the vessels. Singapore Port Operations are awaiting reports from the vessels' owners.

#### **CIBELES (U.K.)**

London, Jan 12 — Following received from Coastguard Stornoway MRSC, timed 0815, UTC; Fishing Cibeles (240 gt, built 1970), ZNIS4, 19 persons on board, issued a distress alert at 2327, UTC, yesterday. Alert position lat 58 18.21N, long 12 47.40W, approximately 182 nautical miles west of Lewis, at 0532, UTC. Nimrod aircraft due on scene shortly to carry out search of given area.

London, Jan 12 — Following received from Coastguard Stornoway MRSC, timed 0845, UTC: Fishing Cibeles has been located adrift without power in lat 58 12N, long 12 32W. Vessel's local agent is trying to arrange with vessel's owner for towage of the vessel, possibly a sistership.

London, Jan 12 — A press release from the Maritime and Coastguard Agency, dated today, states: Fishing Cibeles, which was reported missing 180 miles west of the Isle of Lewis, has been located by a Nimrod aircraft. All 19 crew on the vessel have been accounted for. The vessel's owners and agents have organised crude oil tanker Aegean Spirit to take the vessel in tow. Aegean Spirit will arrive on scene at approximately 1500 today. Winds in the area are west-south-westerly gale force, with very rough seas.

London, Jan 12 — A press release from the Maritime & Coastguard Agency, timed 1422, UTC, today, states: The Coastguard Rescue Helicopter MU from Stornoway is now proceeding to fishing Cibeles 180 miles west of the Isle of Lewis to evacuate the 19 crew. Tanker Aegean Spirit has now arrived at the position of the vessel and is providing a lee to the vessel until the arrival of the helicopter. The weather

has abated slightly with westerly winds of near gale force 7 and rough seas. Simon Riley, District Operations Manager, Stornoway Coastguard said: "A decision has been made to evacuate the crew of this fishing vessel during daylight hours as the tanker is unable to take the vessel under tow and the nearest vessel that would be able to tow it, is a considerable distance from the Cibeles. Our prime concern is for the safety of the 19 crew."

London, Jan 12 — Following received from Coastguard Stornoway MRSC, timed 1830, UTC: Ten crew taken off fishing Cibeles by Coastguard helicopter and airlifted to Stornoway. Nine crew remaining on board to connect tow with trawler Bruix, ETA 2100, UTC. Aegean Spirit standing by casualty from 1330 hrs today, until tow connected.

London, Jan 13 — Following received from Coastguard Stornoway MRSC, timed 0057, UTC: Nine crew remain on board fishing Cibeles. Fishing Bruix arrived on the scene at 2130, yesterday. Crude oil tanker Aegean Spirit released at this time. Tow was connected at 2230 and both vessels are now underway to Killybegs.

#### **DELVINA (St. Vincent & Grenadines)**

See "United Kingdom" under "Port State Control."

#### **DIAMANT (Netherlands)**

London, Jan 7 — General cargo Diamant (998 gt, built 1985) which was in collision with the inland waterways tanker Monika (2217 dwt, built 1992), on the River Rhine in dense fog on Nov 12 has been repaired at Scheepswerf Reimerswaal in Hansweert. The vessel had sustained severe bow damage and also damage to its main engine and gearbox. Today the damage repairs have been completed and the vessel left the floating dock in Hansweert. The collision was on the River Rhine at km 754 near Kaiserswerth off the new Autobahnbrücke A44. The master of the empty inland tanker was injured and had to be taken to a hospital. Both vessels had heavy bow damage.

#### **DIAMOND DREDGE FIRE, NAMIBIA**

London, Jan 13 — A press report, dated Jan 12, states: A floating dredge and a floating treatment plant, used by Namdeb to mine diamonds under the sea, caught fire on Monday morning (Jan 10). Namdeb spokesperson Ndeshi Hangula-Shikwambi said the damage was extensive, but the exact cost has not yet been established. The plant is part of the dredging operations of Namdeb's Mining Area 1. The structure remains intact and afloat. Hangula-Shikwambi said the cause of the fire is not known and investigations are still underway. Rob Smart, Namdeb General Manager, said no one was injured in the fire and no significant environmental damage occurred, "thanks to the quick action of the staff aboard who were evacuated safely to the shore". The dredge and floating treatment plant is an innovative mining method used by Namdeb as

part of a process to mine areas that are below sea level. A dredge is used to remove the sandy overburden, and the diamond gravel contained in the overburden sand is removed by a floating treatment plant, which is attached to the dredge by means of a pipe and a floating walkway. The floating plant was launched in 1997 and employs 69 people. It recovers about 20,000 carats of diamonds a year, less than 1% of Namdeb's production.

#### **DOCTOR HOOK**

See Quickcat.

#### **ELIZABETH M. (U.S.A.)**

London, Jan 9 — A press report, dated today, states: Tug Elizabeth M. (303 gt, built 1951) sank on the Ohio River early today, killing three crew members. One person was missing and believed to be aboard the submerged boat. Six crew members aboard Elizabeth M. were rescued, and two of them were taken to a hospital, said Thomas Llewellyn, fire chief in Industry. The tug was headed north pushing six barges of coal when it went through the flood gates at the Montgomery Dam shortly after 0230 and was apparently pushed by strong currents against the dam, Llewellyn said. "It was shoving out of Montgomery lock and dam and something happened we have no idea and the boat went over the dam," said Don Grimm, president of tug owner Campbell Transportation Co. Two other tugs arrived to help in the rescue, pulling four people from the water and two from the boat, Llewellyn said. The missing crew member was believed to still be on the boat, which was almost completely covered by water. Further attempts to reach that person would have to wait until the waters recede somewhat. "The water is just absolutely too high. You can't do anything," Llewellyn said. Andrew Harman, the captain of a different tow boat who drove by to observe the submerged vessel, said he knew a pilot who worked on the boat but doesn't know what happened to the man. "The only thing sticking out of the water right now is the pilot house," said Harman. The Coast Guard was expected to arrive later today.

#### **ELIZABETH M. (U.S.A.)**

London, Jan 10 — A tug and the six barges of coal it was pushing sank early today after being swept over a dam spillway on the rain-swollen Ohio River, killing three crew members. Another person was missing and believed to be aboard the sunken boat. Three people were rescued by crews of other tugs and taken to hospitals after the 0230 hrs, accident. Fire crews arriving on the scene determined that the swift water was too dangerous to enter, said Chuck Ward, assistant fire chief in Industry. "The worst thing was, you could see two people in the boat screaming for help" over the rush of the water, Ward said. Two of the rescued crew members were treated at the Medical Centre, Beaver, and released; information was not available about

the third. Officials said they would attempt to reach the sunken vessel tomorrow provided that the water levels had receded. Tug Elizabeth M., was pushing six coal barges north on the river when it went through the lock at the Montgomery Island Dam. After it emerged on the other side, strong currents pushed the boat back against the dam, Industry Fire Chief Thomas Llewellyn said. Officials believe the barges were then pushed by the currents into the tug, forcing it through a gate in the dam, said Richard Lockwood, chief of operations of the Pittsburgh District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. "I would say the whole thing didn't take five minutes until he was through the dam," said John Anderson, the lockmaster. The river normally flows at about three to four mph, but the current was about 10 to 15 mph, today, because of recent rains and flooding, Anderson said. Don Grimm, president of tug owner Campbell Transportation Co. Inc. of Charleroi, said he didn't know exactly what happened. "We're concerned about the crew members and their families right now," he said. The tug sank in the churning water below the dam. Officials believe that three of the barges sank downriver, while the other three barges sank above the dam. Crews from two other tugs pulled four people from the water who had been aboard the barges and two from the boat, Llewellyn said. The two pulled from the boat and one pulled from a barge survived. The Coast Guard has restricted traffic along five miles of the Ohio River near the dam. There had been no restrictions when the accident occurred. One of the barges was partly visible in the water, though the other five were completely submerged.

London, Jan 11 — A press report, dated today, states: Tug Elizabeth M., that sank in the Ohio River in Beaver County trying to prevent six coal-laden barges from going over a dam, should have been able to do the job, officials said yesterday. The 2200-hp Elizabeth M., with its updated engines, had enough power, on paper, at least, to push the coal-laden barges through the fierce 12 to 15 mph current and away from the locks in Industry, Beaver County. "That's what it's designed to do," said Coast Guard Cmdr. Wyman Briggs. "The river, though rough, was navigable." Instead, the old towboat and three barges tumbled over the dam in the early hour darkness Sunday (Jan 9) killing three crew members. A fourth crewman was either carried off in the current or trapped in the wreckage, officials said. Swelled and strengthened by recent rains, the churning Ohio made recovery efforts impossible yesterday. The remaining three crew survived and have been released from local hospitals, said Peter H. Stephaich, chief executive of Campbell Transportation, Co., the Dunlevy, Washington County-based operator of the tow. US Coast Guard officials are investigating, but had yet to interview witnesses, including the rescued crewmen, and had few explanations for the accident. The Coast Guard has

spoken with three employees working at the lock at the time of the accident, said Karen Auer, spokeswoman for the US Army Corps of Engineers. Campbell also has launched its own investigation. Though there was a river advisory over the weekend, Coast Guard officials left it for towboat companies to decide whether to take on the currents. Many decided against it, traffic at the locks dipped from the norm of 15 vessels a day to four Saturday, Montgomery lockmaster John Anderson said. Officials believe some crew were on the barges, according to The Associated Press, which could explain the pilot's actions after the current began turning the tow from the Ohio's southern bank toward the centre of the river. Coast Guard officials said they don't know whether crewmen were on the barges when the pilot separated Elizabeth M. from the barges, swung around in the river and tried vainly to guide them upstream. Elizabeth M. was built in 1951 by Dravo Corp. on Neville Island. The vessel had recently been updated with new engines, new electronics and a refurbished hull and interior, Stephaich said. "She's been a very, very good boat," Stephaich said. Brown, foamy water swirled around the towboat yesterday as it remained lodged between two rows of sawtooth-shaped concrete "icebreaker" structures on the downstream side of the dam, with its pilot cabin still visible. The current, Anderson said, made any attempt to salvage the wrecked boat and search for the missing crewman "out of the question." The river at the dam receded from 83 feet yesterday morning to 75 feet by afternoon, but was expected to remain high with rain forecast for the next three days. A recovery will be possible once the water recedes to below 50 feet and the current slows to its normal 2 to 3 mph, Anderson said. Three barges remained pinned to the upstream side of the dam. Two others were found within a mile of the dam downstream. A location of the sixth barge had yet to be confirmed. The river remained closed for several miles around the dam while the search continued for the last barge. Each of the barges was carrying 1,000 tons of coal, all of which was dumped into the river along with about 8,000 gallons of fuel. No environmental hazards were posed by the accident, said state Department of Environmental Protection spokeswoman Betsy Mallison. A member of the American Waterways Operators, an industry trade group based in Arlington, Va., Campbell boasts a strong safety record, said AWO Vice President Anne Burns. "Safety is a primary concern of ours," Stephaich said.

London, Jan 12 — A press report, dated Jan 11, states: A survivor of the sinking of tug Elizabeth M. on the Ohio River criticized the captain's actions after two coal barges broke away in strong currents, saying he "made a big mistake," according to a published report. Jacob Wilds spoke to The Review newspaper of Liverpool, Ohio,

about events following the accident early Sunday (Jan 9), which ended with the towboat being swept back into and over a dam. Three crewmen died, and a fourth crew member is missing and presumed dead inside Elizabeth M., which is resting on the bottom of the fast-moving Ohio. Wilds and two other crewmen were pulled to safety. On Sunday, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers officials said that they believed the tow operator may have tried to swing the boat around to help crew members who may have been aboard the barges in currents of up to 15 mph. Neither the Coast Guard nor the boat operator has identified the captain, or even said whether he was one of the survivors. Published reports have said there was more than one licensed pilot aboard. Wilds said two of the towboat's six barges broke loose and the captain went downriver after them, and the boat was then pushed into and over the dam. He told the newspaper he blacked out before being rescued from the water by another boat. Meanwhile, the Ohio remained too high today for a salvage crew to recover the towboat, which is resting just below the dam gates on the dam's concrete substructure, with only the pilot house visible. Earlier today, Campbell Transportation president Don Grimm said that he hoped the boat could be recovered this week. When the water level permits, divers will strap nylon slings around the vessel and cranes would lift it, he said. Elizabeth M. is about 50 years old, but was rebuilt with a new hull and engine about five years ago and is worth about \$750,000, Grimm said. It is 108 feet long, 26.5 feet wide and about 27 feet high. Salvage workers will also use slings to raise the barges, each about 195 feet long, 26 feet wide and 12 feet deep. Each barge was carrying about 1,150 tons of coal from West Virginia to Braddock, Grimm said. Most of the coal has been washed away, Grimm said, but whatever can be salvaged would be. The coal poses no environmental harm, he said.

London, Jan 13 — A press report, dated today, states: The US Coast Guard re-opened the Montgomery Locks and Dam to limited barge traffic yesterday and offered a few hints about its investigation of a fatal towboat wreck. Investigators are focusing, among other things, on whether tug Elizabeth M. had enough horsepower to push its six-barge tow in a fierce current at the Industry, Beaver County, dam. The vessel, with a 2,200-horsepower engine, tumbled over the spillway Sunday (Jan 9), killing three crewmen. A fourth is missing and presumed dead inside the boat. Three survived. "There's different variables that you look at in terms of the power of the vessel, the number of tows it was pushing, the river conditions. That's a judgment that's typically made by the master (pilot)," said Coast Guard Cmdr. Wyman Briggs. It was not disclosed whether master pilot George "Toby" Zappone or his employer, Campbell Transportation Co., of Dunlevy, Washington County, made the decision to proceed upriver in a current three to

four times faster than normal. A river advisory was issued Saturday because of the swift current, but decisions about whether to pull tows off the Ohio River were left to the companies. That's usually the case in such conditions, though the Coast Guard sometimes closes rivers because of high water, ice or debris. The Coast Guard yesterday implemented temporary restrictions on night travel and transporting petroleum through the Montgomery locks. It also established guidelines for horsepower, based on the size of tows and river conditions, but officials did not elaborate. The Coast Guard also is requiring that an assist vessel guide towboats through the locks. Efforts to retrieve the vessel, still lodged between two rows of sawtooth-shaped concrete "icebreaker" structures on the downstream side of the dam and buffeted by roiling water, won't begin for several days, Briggs said.

#### **ENCHANTMENT OF THE SEAS (Norway (Int. Register))**

See "Outbreak of Norovirus on NIS Flagged Passenger Vessel" under "Miscellaneous."

#### **ERIKA (Malta)**

London, Jan 11 — The Paris Appeal Court was yesterday hearing the appeal of the Paris prosecutor's office against the refusal of an examining magistrate to allow a new investigation into the causes of the non specific tanker Erika sinking off the Brittany coast in December 1999. If the Appeal Court rules in favour of the prosecutor's office, the judicial investigation into the causes of the accident, which has already lasted more than five years, is likely to be extended by several months, if not years, to allow a new technical investigation to be carried out. If the court backs examining magistrate Dominique de Talance, the case could come to court late this year or early next, according to lawyers representing the 18 or 19 parties so far charged by the magistrate with endangering human life and causing marine pollution and related offences. Ms de Talance, who completed her judicial investigation at the end of March last year, says that the case should now go to court but the prosecutor's office argues that a new technical investigation is necessary because of a conflict between the findings of the two main investigations currently figuring in the Erika dossier. Investigators appointed by Ms de Talance concluded that the impending break-up of Erika was signalled by cracks in the deck which should have been spotted, notably by the ship's charterer, Total. An investigation carried out by experts appointed by the court of commerce in Dunkirk, Erika's last port of call before its sinking, concluded that the accident was caused by corrosion below the waterline which could not have been spotted. The preliminary findings of this investigation, carried out at Total's request but not yet completed, were submitted by Total for inclusion in the dossier in May.



London, Jan 12 — The Paris court of appeal will say on Feb 21 whether or not it considers a new investigation needs to be carried out into the causes of the break-up and sinking of non specific tanker Erika on Dec 12 1999. The court has been asked by the Paris prosecutor's office to allow a new investigation as a means of settling a conflict between the conclusions of the two main accident reports carried out by court-appointed experts. Examining magistrate Dominique de Talane refused a request from the prosecutor's office for a new investigation, saying that she did not believe a new report would settle the question, which she said should be decided directly by a court. The report she ordered found that the break-up of Erika was linked to cracking on the vessel's deck, which it said should have been spotted by Total as charterer. A second report carried out for the Dunkirk court of commerce at Total's request found the structural failure was the result of corrosion below the waterline which Total could not have been expected to detect in a pre-charter inspection.

#### **EUROPEAN HIGHLANDER (Bahamas)**

London, Jan 8 — Following received from Coastguard Clyde MRCC, timed 0848, UTC: Ro/ro European Highlander (21200 gt, built 2002), Larne to Cairnryan, 100 persons on board, reported in distress, in hurricane force 12 winds, and grounded in Loch Ryan in lat 54 57.6N, long 05 00.7W at 0640, UTC. Tug assistance being arranged, coastguard emergency plans activated. Plans are to refloat vessel and evacuate passengers when safe to do so.

London, Jan 8 — A press report, dated today, states: Ro/ro European Highlander, sailing from Larne, County Antrim, has run aground on rocks at Cairnryan Harbour in Scotland. A spokeswoman for ferry company P&O said no-one had been injured and there was no risk to the passengers and crew. Clyde coastguard John Griffiths said European Highlander, ran aground in winds of up to 100 miles-an-hour. "It's a fairly serious situation given the weather conditions," he said. "There are 100 people on board including the crew. We are monitoring the situation closely, there is no immediate danger. "The vessel is sitting on a shingle shoreline with its anchors out, and it will be some considerable time before a tug can get there due to the weather conditions."

London, Jan 8 — Following received from Coastguard Clyde MRCC, timed 1500, UTC: Ro/ro European Highlander is still aground. Tug assistance is being arranged and is due to arrive on scene tomorrow at about 0800, UTC. The coastguard will remain on scene overnight and the fire service has stood down. A pollution control aircraft has over flown the area and there is no pollution. The Girvan lifeboat is going to remain at Stranraer.

London, Jan 9 — At 0600, UTC, today, ro/ro European Highlander remains aground, awaiting tug assistance.

London, Jan 9 — A press report, dated today, states: A hundred people remained stranded last night on ro/ro European Highlander. P&O hoped to refloat the ferry around 2200 last night but called off the operation because it was unable to find a big enough tug to pull the vessel into harbour. The company laid on a free bar and food for the 43 passengers and 57 crew. There are no cabins on the vessel and all the passengers were spending last night sleeping on reclining seats. A tug from Greenock is due to arrive at 1000 this morning to tow the vessel into the harbour at Cairnryan. A lifeboat was due to stay close to the vessel overnight in case conditions worsened. P&O spokeswoman Sharon Toner said: "Everyone on board is well, the master is keeping them informed every half hour to an hour, they are being fed and there are refreshments. "It's a new vessel brought into service only recently so facilities are very comfortable and spirits are still high."

London, Jan 9 — A press report, dated today, states: Tug boats have arrived at Cairnryan ferry port off the south west coast of Scotland and are waiting for the tide before shifting the stricken ro/ro European Highlander with 43 passengers and 57 crew on board. Watch manager at Clyde coastguard Dave Eakin said: "All 100 people are well. We have had no complaints at all from them." Thanks to an easing of the weather to just 15 to 20 knots this morning, Mr Eakin said the two tug boats from Greenock should be able to refloat the vessel after pumping out extra water used as a ballast to stabilise the vessel, and with the help of the high tide at around 1045. He added: "We are hoping that the pull from the tug boats and a little help from the vessel will get it afloat." A P&O Irish Sea spokeswoman said that of the 43 passengers aboard, 23 were truck drivers and the others were car drivers and passengers.

London, Jan 9 — Following received from Coastguard Clyde MRCC, timed 0928, UTC: Ro/ro European Highlander: The tugs Point Gilbert and Flying Phantom are now on scene and connecting tow lines. Coastguard rescue teams, MCA surveyor and MCA counter-pollution officer on scene. The tow will commence once the lines have been connected, secured and de-ballasting is complete. Girvan lifeboat will be proceeding shortly and will stand by while towing operations are under way.

Ymuiden, Jan 9 — Wijsmuller Salvage B.V. together with Svitzer/Wijsmuller Group company Svitzer Marine Ltd. were contracted to assist by the owners of grounded ro/ro European Highlander. The Svitzer Marine Ltd. tugs Flying Phantom and Point Gilbert proceeded to the site from Greenock and are connecting up to do a refloating attempt. — Wijsmuller Salvage B.V.

Ymuiden, Jan 9 — Svitzer/Wijsmuller tugs Flying Phantom and Point Gilbert were able to refloat grounded ro/ro European Highlander at about 1030, UTC, this morning. Services continue

to be provided to the refloated vessel by Wijsmuller Salvage B.V. and Svitzer Marine Ltd. — Wijsmuller Salvage B.V.

London, Jan 9 — Following received from Coastguard Clyde MRCC, timed 1306, UTC: Ro/ro European Highlander now alongside, all cargo and passengers disembarked. MCA surveyor on board and Class surveyor arriving 1300, UTC. Divers inspecting the hull. A decision will be made whether to return to service or carry out necessary repairs following inspection. Search and rescue operations terminated.

Glasgow, Jan 11 — Ro/ro European Highlander sailed Stranraer Jan 10 for Liverpool, for drydocking. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **EVERLAST (Canada)**

Montreal, Jan 11 — Understand that the fracture to the hull of tug Everlast was of a minor nature. We further understand it was repaired and the vessel has departed. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **FAIR MARE (Liberia)**

London, Jan 6 — Crude oil tanker Fair Mare is reported to have arrived at Gadani Beach on Nov 4.

#### **FATHER F. (Cyprus)**

London, Jan 7 — Following received from Coastguard Brixham MRSC, timed 0931, UTC: Bulk Father F. remains at anchor. Repairs are almost complete and crew hope to reassemble the engine over the weekend. Representatives of Class and surveyors are due to attend the vessel tomorrow.

London, Jan 9 — Understood bulk Father F. began to drag anchor yesterday in strong winds. Vessel remains at anchor with repairs still not effected.

London, Jan 9 — Following received from Coastguard Brixham MRSC, timed 2338, UTC: Repairs to bulk Father F. now complete and awaiting inspection by surveyor tomorrow morning, before proceeding.

London, Jan 10 — Following received from Coastguard Brixham MRSC, timed 1113, UTC: The inspection to bulk Father F. has been satisfactorily completed and the vessel anticipates resuming its passage in two hours time.

London, Jan 10 — Following received from Coastguard Brixham MRSC, timed 1332, UTC: Bulk Father F. has resumed passage to China.

#### **FAWAZ S. (North Korea)**

See "Cyprus" under "Port State Control."

#### **FLORA (Singapore)**

See Christian.

#### **FLYING DOLPHIN XVII (Greece)**

London, Jan 13 — Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: Hydrofoil Flying Dolphin XVII (130 gt, built 1984) sustained damage to the starboard main engine while one nautical mile from the port of Glossa, Skopelos, at 1400, Jan 12. Following the incident vessel continued to the port under own power and disembarked

the 25 passengers. Later the vessel proceeded without passengers and under one engine to the port of Volos in order to carry out repairs. The passengers were forwarded to their destinations on other vessels.

#### **FRONT CLIMBER (Singapore)**

Ferrol, Jan 10 — Bulk/oil Front Climber completed repairs and sailed bound for Antwerp at 2315, Jan 7. — Lloyd's Agents.

Zeebrugge, Jan 11 — Bulk/oil Front Climber arrived Flushing 0325, Jan 11, from Roberts Bank. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

#### **FUYO MARU NO.3 (Japan)**

See "Japan" under "Weather & Navigation."

#### **GENERAL LEE (Panama)**

See under "Miscellaneous."

#### **GILIAN (Cyprus)**

London, Jan 7 — Following received from Singapore Port Operations, timed 0750, UTC: C.c. Gilian (10835 gt, built 1980), P3RR7, is being towed to Singapore, following "breakdown". (Note — Gilian operates on feeder service between Singapore and Jakarta and was last reported departing from Singapore on Jan 3.)

Piraeus, Jan 7 — C.c. Gilian had explosion in engine-room about 250 miles south-east of Singapore, in lat 02 40S, long 107 12E. A tug and salvage master have been mobilised from Singapore and are due on scene shortly to take vessel in tow. There was no fire as a result of the explosion. — Tsaviris Salvage (International) Ltd.

London, Jan 10 — Understood salvage services are being rendered to c.c. Gilian under Lloyd's Open Form by Tsaviris Salvage (International) Ltd.

Piraeus, Jan 10 — C.c. Gilian is presently under tow to Singapore, ETA late Jan 12 or early Jan 13. Four crew members who were injured have been evacuated. — Tsaviris Salvage (International) Ltd.

London, Jan 13 — Following received from Singapore Port Operations, timed 0850, UTC: C.c. Gilian arrived Eastern Working Anchorage, Singapore, at 1500 yesterday.

London, Jan 13 — Cesam reported at 1837, Jan 12: C.c. Gilian has been towed into Singapore and the Lloyd's Open Form contract terminated. The salvors require the delivery guaranteed to the amount of 10% of the value of the cargo before authorising its delivery.

#### **GLOBAL CHALLENGER (Singapore)**

Portland, Ore, Jan 7 — Reported that bulk Global Challenger (15660 gt, built 1998) ran aground 2215, LMT, while transiting up the Columbia River. Attempts to refloat shall be undertaken at high water this morning. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — Global Challenger sailed Fraser River Port Jan 6.)

Portland, Ore, Jan 7 — A report from Skamokawa, Wash, dated today, states: Coast Guard crews worked with

tug boat captains to free bulk Global Challenger this morning after it ran aground in the Columbia River near Skamokawa, Wash, the night before. Four commercial tugs managed to push it into the channel when high tide reached them around 1000 hrs. It reportedly missed a turn and ran aground around 2200 yesterday while travelling upriver. "There was heavy oil and diesel on board, but no cargo on board," said Lt. Tad Drozdowski with the U.S. Coast Guard. Drozdowski said investigators did not find any sign of leakage. The vessel is carrying 258,836 gallons of heavy oil and 56,339 gallons of diesel fuel, en route to Vancouver from Singapore. Drozdowski said it was moving at a speed of about 17 miles an hour when it ran aground.

London, Jan 10 — A press report, dated Jan 8, states: Bulk Global Challenger spent about 12 hours grounded in the sensitive estuary of the Lower Columbia River, next to a wildlife refuge filled with waterfowl, before tugs nudged it loose at high tide yesterday morning. Authorities feared an environmental disaster if the oil or fuel tanks had ruptured. But they were relieved to find no sign that the ship had leaked any oil while mired in sand and mud near Woody Island about 30 miles up the Columbia. Coast Guard crews checked over the ship's steering and other functions before allowing it to proceed to Longview, Wash., where divers were scheduled to more carefully inspect its hull for damage, Lt. Tad Drozdowski said. The ship was empty except for the oil, fuel and about 5,500 tons of ballast water when it headed up the river to collect a load of grain in Vancouver, said Coast Guard Capt. Paul Jewell. A local pilot had guided the ship across the treacherous bar at the mouth of the Columbia, and then handed it off to another pilot who was to direct it upriver. But Global Challenger veered out of the river's shipping channel and ran aground about 2200 Thursday (Jan 6) a few hundred yards from Woody Island. The Coast Guard was investigating the cause of the grounding yesterday. Early in the incident, Coast Guard officials had trouble communicating with the ship's Chinese crew to instruct them to empty ballast water from the ship to help it float free of the mud and sand, Jewell said. But four commercial tugs arrived and helped dislodge the freighter during high tide at 1015 yesterday.

Portland, OR, Jan 12 — Bulk Global Challenger was refloated at 1000, Jn 7, without damage. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **GLOBAL ISLAND (Madeira)**

London, Jan 8 — A press report, dated today, states: The Seafarers Union of Kenya (Suk) yesterday questioned the decision by the owners of general cargo Global Island, that sank in the Indian Ocean last week, to have it repaired in Dubai and not Kenya. They said Global Island was too old for such a journey and could have easily been repaired locally. The vessel's captain Beckert Wolfgang and crewmember Joseph Gitau are still

missing, while five crew members who were rescued by American Marines reunited with their families on Wednesday (Jan 5). Suk secretary general Abubakar Omar said the decision to take such an old vessel to Dubai for dry dock services was suspect. "We have also launched investigations to establish whether an article of service was signed between the employer and seafarers at the shipping office," Omar said. Meanwhile, the Seafarers Assistance Programme (Sap) wants a full probe into the sinking of the vessel in the shark-infested Somali waters. Sap Kenya Co-ordinator, Andrew Mwangura also demanded a report on the state of the vessel. Mwangura said the vessel was too old and could not go through the rough Somali Coast waters.

London, Jan 9 — A press report, dated today, states: The owner of general cargo Global Island which sank off the Somalia Coast, killing its German captain and a Kenyan sailor, has said the vessel was in good condition and had been issued with all the relevant statutory certificates. Mr Ben Evans attributed the misfortune that befell Global Island to rough seas following the Indian Ocean earthquake. He said all seven crew members had protective clothing and lifejackets. Evans said Captain Beckert Wolfgang and a seafarer, Mr Joseph Gitau, died when their liferaft was swept away by strong waves as they struggled to grab it. "The unusually rough seas encountered by the vessel can be attributed to the after shocks of the underwater earthquake that occurred in South-East Asia, giving rise to the awesome tsunami," Evans said. Evans spoke as the Merchant Shipping Office, the Seafarers Union of Kenya (SUK) and the Seafarers Assistance Programme (SAP) demanded to know whether the vessel was mechanically sound when it set sail for Dubai. The organisations also want to know if an article of service had been signed between the recruitment agents and the seafarers before they left for Dubai. SAP Mombasa co-ordinator Andrew Mwangura said it was suspected the vessel was too old to sail and should have been repaired locally or turned into scrap. "Though the master and the crew took all possible steps to keep the vessel afloat, by Jan 1, about 500 metric tonnes of water were already in the hold. The ballast pumps became overwhelmed as the water kept on increasing," Evans explained. The vessel was expected to arrive in Dubai on Jan 17 but sank on Jan 1. Four Kenyans and a Tanzanian returned to Mombasa on Thursday (Jan 6) after they were rescued by a US navy ship, USS Hue City, which was alerted by the vessel's Dubai agents. He said the lifeboat turned over as it was being lowered due to rough seas and all seven crew members initially clung together, holding the railing of the overturned boat. "When the liferaft opened itself as the vessel went down, five crew members managed to climb

aboard. Their efforts to help the master and Gitau were however thwarted by the ravaging waves," Evan added.

#### **GREAT MOON (South Korea)**

London, Jan 7 — Following received from Coastguard Humber MRSC, timed 2308, UTC, At 2230, UTC, bulk Great Moon (75905 gt, built 1984) reported in lat 53 54N, long 01 05.8E, with a crankcase problem. A decision regarding repairs is expected from the owners during tomorrow. Tug Lady Laura can be on the scene within six hours if required. Winds south-westerly force eight, forecast to increase to violent storm force 11. (Note — Great Moon sailed Immingham Jan 6 for Ponta do Ubu.)

London, Jan 10 — Following received from Coastguard Humber MRSC, timed 1000, UTC: Bulk Great Moon is still anchored in the same position awaiting engineers from the Far East.

London, Jan 10 — Following received from Coastguard Humber MRSC, timed 1105, UTC: Bulk Great Moon is still anchored in the same position. Vessel's owners have organised a work crew to go to the vessel to carry out repairs. At the moment the work crew cannot get to the vessel due to weather conditions.

London, Jan 11 — Following received from Coastguard Humber MRSC, timed 0840, UTC: At 0700, UTC, bulk Great Moon was still at anchor. Technical staff are now on board the vessel, having been taken out by a boat from Grimsby.

Hull, Jan 11 — As of 1100, UTC, bulk Great Moon had completed repairs and resumed its voyage for Ponta do Ubu. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **HANJIN PRETORIA (Liberia)**

London, Jan 6 — C.c. Hanjin Pretoria arrived at Honolulu today.

Honolulu, Jan 12 — C.c. Hanjin Pretoria is currently in port undergoing repairs, which are expected to be completed today. It is scheduled to depart Honolulu later today and is bound for Long Beach, California. — Lloyd's Agents.

Honolulu, Jan 12 — C.c. Hanjin Pretoria sailed Honolulu Jan 12 for Long Beach. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **HANSEATIC STAR (Gibraltar)**

Arendal, Jan 10 — General cargo Hanseatic Star is still effecting repairs at Arendal - some welding on bow part (repair after collision) and the gearbox is being installed today. It is anticipated that the vessel will depart later this week. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

#### **HAZNEDAR (Turkey)**

London, Jan 12 — A press report, dated Jan 10, states: State operated car ferry ro/ro Haznedar (1077 gt, built 1991) running on the route between Gelibolu and Lapseki ran aground in heavy fog early today. Haznedar, which had departed from Gelibolu, lost its way in the fog and ran aground below the town. Local vessels sailed to the site of the grounding and assisted in removing passengers. There were no casualties reported. Two tugs were called in to free the stranded ferry.

#### **HCH OCEAN (Hong Kong)**

Ymuiden, Jan 12 — At 1125, local time, today, Wijsmuller Salvage BV, together with partners Islands Shipping, refloated general cargo HCH Ocean (5106 gt, built 1982). The vessel had run aground in Komalu Bay, on the island New Ireland, in the Bismarck Archipelago in lat 03 35S, long 152 12E and was refloated by anchor handling firefighting tug/supply Pacific Hawk. The vessel is presently escorted to Rabaul for underwater inspections and redelivery. — Wijsmuller Salvage BV.

#### **HENRIETTE (NIS)**

London, Jan 10 — Information received from Sandnes, dated today, states: At 0830 hrs, today, general cargo Henriette (2900 gt, built 1971), underway from Iceland to Forsand, in ballast, grounded north of Haugesund. Vessel quickly refloated by own means and continued, but was holed and took water. After a few minutes the engine stopped and the vessel needed assistance from a Norske Veritas tug, which towed the vessel to quay (in Haugesund). The vessel is now drydocked. Heavy water damages in the engine-room.

#### **HIGH ENDURANCE (Liberia)**

Singapore, Jan 10 — Chemical/oil carrier High Endurance sailed Singapore Jan 8 for Fujairah. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **HOLIDAY (Bahamas)**

London, Jan 6 — A press report, dated today, states: Carnival Cruise Lines said yesterday that the engine problems that caused at least one cancellation of passenger Holiday's normal Mexican itinerary could be linked to a November incident in the Mobile River in which the vessel struck some pilings. Carnival said yesterday that the next Holiday cruise, scheduled to leave Mobile on Saturday, should make its normal Mexican port calls. Its current cruise, which left Monday bound for Key West, Fla., instead of Mexico, changed direction earlier this week and should arrive in Mexico today. Itinerary changes have been made in response to engine failure detected on Dec 30. The vessel still faces up to a week in dry dock for repairs, which would mean some future cruises would have to be cancelled. Carnival said it will contact customers to the best of its ability as further changes are required. Carnival spokeswoman Jennifer de la Cruz said there can be no conclusions about what damaged the vessel until the vessel is lifted out of the water and inspected in dry dock. On Nov 13, Holiday temporarily veered out of control and into a barge-loading facility at the Alabama state docks. Damage to the docks' facility has been estimated at \$100,000 to \$125,000, which the docks has said Carnival would pay. At the time, Carnival said only cosmetic damage had occurred to the ship, however, after further inspection, de la Cruz said the incident resulted in propeller damage. Holiday made nine voyages before the ship showed signs of

engine failure due to propulsion problems on its last cruise of 2004, which left Mobile Dec 30, de la Cruz said. Holiday's problem is with the port engine, she said. "Whether that incident ultimately damaged the shaft, which then ties into the port-side engine, I don't know," she said. Passengers on the Dec 30 cruise stayed about 50 miles off land for their cruise. The next cruise, which left Monday, was expected to journey to Key West, but while en route, the ship's engineers decided it could make the trip to Mexico as customers expected. About 1,240 took the Monday voyage, the smallest group since cruises started here in October. Early estimates are that about 100 people cancelled the day of the cruise. A spokesman with local shipbuilder and repairyard Atlantic Marine said his company is in discussions with Carnival about repairing Holiday in Mobile. "We expect to have the dry dock firmly scheduled in the next few days and at that time we will be able to provide information on what voyages will be cancelled," a company statement said.

London, Jan 11 — Passenger Holiday arrived and sailed Cozumel Jan 6.

London, Jan 12 — A press report, dated today, states: The propulsion problem detected Dec 30 on passenger Holiday has been fixed, and no voyages will be cancelled, Carnival said in a statement yesterday. "Following repair work on Holiday last week and extensive evaluation by professional technicians, the ship now appears to be operating normally," according to the statement.

#### **HYUNDAI HAWK (Panama)**

Jakarta, Jan 12 — Ro/ro Hyundai Hawk grounded at Sungei Pakning near Selat Bengkalis on Dec 28. The vessel then discharged part of the cargo to a barge and sailed to "Morong" for repair/inspection for any damage. No damage was found, so vessel returned to Sungei Pakning to reload part of the cargo, then sailed to Korea on Jan 2. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **IDAS BULKER (Panama)**

London, Jan 8 — Bulk Idas Bulker arrived Providence Dec 27 and sailed Jan 4.

#### **IRAN ARDEBIL (Iran)**

London, Jan 6 — C.c. Iran Ardebil arrived at Karachi on Jan 5, from Bandar Abbas and sailed today, bound for Jawaharlal Nehru.

#### **JIANG TONG (Cambodia)**

Yokohama, Jan 7 — General cargo Jiang Tong (1255 gt, built 1979) had fire in cargo holds while moored at the public berth of the north centre pier at Funabashi (? Chiba) at 1500, Dec 27. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — Jiang Tong arrived Chiba Dec 26 and sailed Dec 29 for Ningbo.)

#### **JIN MAN HE (St. Vincent & Grenadines)**

Shanghai, Jan 11 — General cargo Jin Man He was towed to Ningbo on Jan 7 and was then moved to the dry

dock of Ningbo Beilun Shipyard for repair. It was said that the vessel would be staying at the shipyard for ten days for repairs. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **JON J.STRONG (U.S.A.)**

See "Barge Breakways, Ohio River, United States."

#### **JONATHAN THOMAS (U.S.A.)**

See Napoleon.

#### **KEN EXPLORER (Liberia)**

London, Jan 10 — International salvor Tsavlis carried out three salvage operations during the autumn months in the Indian Ocean, North Atlantic Ocean and Gulf of Mexico. One was the particularly difficult and protracted salvage operation to lighten and refloat handymax bulk Ken Explorer. The vessel ran aground in the Gulf of Khambat while on a voyage from Chile to India, fully laden with copper concentrate. Salvage tugs Fairplay IX and SB-408 were mobilised to aid the casualty but initial attempts to refloat Ken Explorer failed due to severe damage and serious flooding sustained during the grounding. The enormity of the salvor's challenge, at a site affected by monsoon conditions, soon became clear. Ken Explorer was loaded with more than 43,800 tonnes of copper concentrates, a commodity that rapidly becomes liquid if its moisture content rises sufficiently and potentially destabilising to a vessel when seawater enters the cargo spaces. Tsavlis successfully transferred all bunkers, including approximately 1,100 tonnes of heavy fuel oil, and contaminated water from the vessel to a bunker vessel engaged from the United Arab Emirates. Despite continuing interruptions from bad weather and strong local tides that made it difficult for barges to remain alongside, the 24,000 dwt Patara and the 16,000 dwt Sheng Mu were brought in to act as storage vessels, while a tug-barge combination and a self-propelled barge acted as feeder vessels to transfer cargo. A large team was employed at the site but considerable damage was sustained to equipment due to the weather and swell conditions. Fenders and mooring ropes frequently broke and in one instance this resulted in a serious injury to one of the stevedores. The high acidity of the mixture of water and cargo resulted in the need to replace 30 pumps during the operation due to corrosion. Once 21,000 tonnes of cargo had been removed the casualty was successfully refloated, towed into deep water and anchored so that work could continue before being towed to Kadla, where underwater patching was performed. The rest of the cargo was eventually discharged at Jebel Ali in the United Arab Emirates.

#### **KIKUEI MARU NO.5**

See Medi Nagasaki.

#### **KISSHO MARU (Japan)**

See "Japan" under "Weather & Navigation."

#### **KOBEE III (Panama)**

Yokohama, Jan 13 — Hydrofoil Kobee III, en route from Hakata to Tsushima, sustained breakage of its blade due to contact with a whale. The vessel proceeded under own power and entered Namura Shipbuilding Co., Ltd. dockyard in Saga. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **LADY JOCELYN**

London, Jan 13 — A press report, dated today, states: Fishing Lady Jocelyn, 20 metres long, which came close to sinking has been towed safely back to Hervey Bay. According to emergency authorities the vessel lost all power yesterday morning while off the coast of Hervey Bay. The two people on board radioed for help when the trawler began to take on water. Just after 0900, AEST the Energex community rescue helicopter reached the trawler, followed soon after by a volunteer marine rescue boat. The chopper crew managed to winch aboard a pump to the trawler, enabling it to lower the water level on board. Marine rescue spokesman Bill Pedler says the rough weather made the situation difficult. "He was in danger of sinking and had he not been able to get a call out, he may well have sunk without anybody knowing." Another trawler from Hervey Bay met up with Lady Jocelyn in the early afternoon and towed it back to Hervey Bay.

#### **LAL BAHADUR SHASTRI (India)**

See "South-East Asia" under "Earthquakes."

#### **LT LLOYDIANA (Italy)**

London, Jan 7 — Understand c.c. LT Lloydiana, in tow of tug SmitWijs London, left Colombo this morning for Singapore.

#### **LUCY REINAUER (U.S.A.)**

London, Jan 7 — A press report, dated today, states: January 7, 2005 — A tug (Lucy Reinauer, 296 gt, built 1973), owned by Staten Island-based Reinauer Transportation, hauling a barge (tank barge RTC 503, 9185 gt, built 1982) ran aground under the Hell Gate Bridge last night, leaking oil into the East River, the Coast Guard said. The tug, which was hauling the barge with four million gallons of home-heating oil, was heading north through the Hell Gate waters when it hit rocks north of Roosevelt Island at 1920 hrs, a Coast Guard spokesman said. The amount of oil spilled into the river was not immediately known. Pollution and maritime inspectors rushed to the scene last night and were still investigating the impact of the accident.

London, Jan 7 — Following received from Coast Guard Boston, timed 0840, UTC: Tug Lucy Reinauer and tank barge RTC 503 touched bottom in the east River yesterday evening and as a result the No.1 port cargo tank of the barge was punctured. The amount spilt has not yet been determined. At the moment the tug and barge are anchored and boomed off. A diver survey is planned for 0600, local time. A Coast Guard overflight is also planned.

London, Jan 7 — Following received from Coast Guard Boston, timed 1640, UTC: Tug Lucy Reinauer and tank barge RTC 503: An overflight today revealed no pollution and a lightering plan has been submitted. At present we are awaiting the results of a diver survey.

New York, Jan 7 — A barge (tank barge RTC 503) fully loaded with heating oil ran aground in New York's East River but showed no sign of a spill, a Coast Guard official said this morning. "An overflight showed no report of any sheen," said Petty Officer Mike Hvozda. He said investigators did not smell any petroleum at the site, and that divers found damage but no leakage. Reinauer Maritime Group of Staten Island and East Boston owns the barge, according to Hudson Marine Management Services, which handles public relations for Reinauer. New York heating oil traders said the accident did not affect spot fuel prices. Filled with 130,000 barrels of No. 2 heating oil, the barge was heading into Long Island Sound en route to Rhode Island when tug Lucy Reinauer that was pushing it apparently had a steering malfunction, a Coast Guard official said. The barge hit ground late Thursday (Jan 6) and is now anchored in the East River as crews load its heating oil into another barge. — Reuters.

#### **LUJIN II (North Korea)**

Bucharest, Jan 12 — General cargo Lujin II, fire on board at Constantza: The source of fire was reportedly a short circuit of the GMDSS battery recharger. All the navigation bridge, including radars, corresponding wires, charts, windows and doors have been seriously affected by fire. Unconfirmed reports are that the vessel commenced repairs and they are expected to be completed in about one month. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **MAERSK GABARUS (Canada)**

Halifax, NS, Jan 10 — Tug/supply Maersk Gabarus remains under repair at Halifax. Understand that repairs may take six to eight weeks to complete. Upon completion of repairs it will return to its charter with Sable Gas offshore Nova Scotia. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **MAERSK MANDRAKI (Greece)**

See "South-East Asia" under "Earthquakes."

#### **MARAL SEGUNDO (Spain)**

Durban, Jan 12 — Fishing Maral Segundo completed repairs and departed Durban Harbour 0912, Jan 5. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **MARIETTE LE ROCH (France)**

Glasgow, Jan 11 — Fishing Mariette le Roch completed repairs and sailed Lochinver Jan 7. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **MARY NOUR (Panama)**

See "Cement Dispute, Mexico" under "Miscellaneous."

**MASTROGIORGIS (Panama)**

London, Jan 7 — Following received from Aarhus RCC, timed 1235, UTC: Bulk Mastrogiorgis remains in Kalundborg fjord undergoing inspections. It is not expected to sail until Monday (Jan 10) at the earliest.

London, Jan 10 — Following received from Aarhus MRCC, timed 1130, UTC: Bulk Mastrogiorgis has proceeded.

Piraeus, Jan 11 — Bulk Mastrogiorgis: Loucas G. Matsas Salvage and Towage Maritime Company terminated salvage services on Jan 7, after 28 days of accident free operation. The cargo removed for lightering was successfully reloaded and minor damages from the grounding were rectified by our divers. Mastrogiorgis has now resumed its voyage to its discharge port of Jeddah. — Loucas G. Matsas Salvage and Towage.

**MEDI NAGASAKI (Philippines)**

Yokohama, Jan 7 — Bulk Medi Nagasaki (29295 gt, built 2003), proceeding Tsugaru Strait, and fishing Kikuei Maru No.5, 9.7 gt, were in collision 10.5 miles, 225 degrees, from Shiokubimisaki lighthouse, at 1727, Dec 26. Medi Nagasaki sustained scratches and Kikuei Maru No.5 sustained dents. There were no injuries. Medi Nagasaki left for Muroran same day. — Lloyd's Agents.

**MIGHTY SERVANT 1 (Netherlands)**

London, Jan 13 — Semi-sub HL vessel Mighty Servant 1 passed Dover Strait Jan 11 for Invergordon.

**MIYUKI MARU**

London, Jan 13 — Following received from Thames Coastguard MRSC, timed 1252, UTC: Ferry Miyuki Maru (59 gt), two people on board, in lat 51 24N, long 00 33.3E, entrance to Chatham South Dock, River Medway, on fire. Fire services, lifeboats and river tugs tasked. Now alongside; all persons evacuated, no reported casualties. Fire continues.

**MONIKA (Germany)**

See Diamant.

**MSC RAFAELA (Panama)**

Maassluis, Jan 13 — C.c. MSC Rafaela (42307 gt, built 1996), outward from Antwerp, touched the quay at Boudewijnlock. Ship's plating cracked three to four metres above the waterline. No injuries to crew. The vessel left the lock for inspection at Antwerp dock No 1231. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

**MUIRNEAG (U.K.)**

London, Jan 10 — Following received from Coastguard Stornoway MRSC, timed 0550, UTC: Reported at 0436, UTC that ro/ro Muirneag (5801 gt, built 1979) had run aground in Stornoway harbour while berthing. Vessel refloated at 0547, UTC, and currently alongside at No.1 pier assessing damage.

**NANDO (Italy)**

See "Cap Ferrat, France" under "Pollution."

**NAPOLEON (Malta)**

London, Jan 10 — Tsavlis undertook salvage operations during October to refloat bulk Napoleon. The vessel grounded after a collision with a tug and barges (tug Jonathan Thomas with four barges) while outward bound from the Houston channel to Galveston. Tsavlis refloated Napoleon with the assistance of four subcontracted tugs on the same day under a Lloyd's Open Form agreement.

**NORMANDY (Bahamas)**

See Severn Fisher.

**NORTH VANGUARD (Norway)**

See Taipan Scan.

**NORTHERN EDGE (U.S.A.)**

London, Jan 9 — A press report, dated today, states: Vents that would have allowed water to drain from the deck of doomed scallop boat Northern Edge were closed and its engine door was open when it took on water and sank, killing five fishermen, according to a preliminary US Coast Guard report released yesterday. The 75-foot vessel sank Dec 20 about 45 miles south of Nantucket. Only one member of the New Bedford-based vessel's six-man crew survived. The initial report, based in part on that crew member's account, said that the boat's survival suits, which would have given the crew a better chance of survival in 40-degree seas, were located in the crew's quarters. Before sinking, the vessel loaded with 11,500 pounds of scallops listed sharply, and water filled the main deck. The closed vents prevented water from draining away; the open door allowed water into the engine-room, according to the report. Capt. Carlos Lopes; Ray Richards; Glen Crowley; Juan Flores; and Eric Guillen were lost at sea. The survivor, Pedro Furtado, told the Coast Guard that when he was getting into the liferaft, from which he was later rescued, he saw only one other crew member in the water. He said that man drowned. At that time, Furtado said, he didn't see the three other crew members or the captain. Furtado has sued the owners of Northern Edge, K&R Fishing Enterprises, claiming he was injured because the vessel was not seaworthy. The boat's owners have said the boat was "fit for the service in which it was engaged." The Coast Guard said Northern Edge's liferaft had been serviced and its emergency equipment replaced prior to the boat's final voyage.

**NYSA (Singapore)**

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

**OSIRIS (Netherlands)**

Maassluis, Jan 7 — General cargo Osiris is still under arrest at Rotterdam. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

**P&O NEDLLOYD OBOCK (Antigua & Barbuda)**

London, Jan 10 — Information received states: General cargo P&O Nedlloyd Obock grounded off Jeddah Jan 9. The vessel has been refloated today and is arriving alongside Jeddah port berth for underwater inspection.

**PAMELA DEWEY (U.S.A.)**

London, Jan 10 — Following received from Coast Guard Cleveland, timed 1510, UTC: Tug Pamela Dewey (536 gt, built 1975), carrying caustic soda, pig iron and salt for a construction company, grounded at Mile 249, Illinois River, 1348, UTC, Jan 9. Reported off ground/refloated by own means 2042, UTC, and proceeded.

**PASIR 1 (Singapore)**

London, Jan 12 — While on voyage from Spain to Seven Islands, bulk/oil Pasir 1 (44887 gt, built 1982) lost an anchor at 1200, UTC, Dec 16, in lat 43 46N, long 04 56W.

**PATRIOTS (U.S.A.)**

London, Jan 12 — A Coast Guard Boston press release, dated Jan 11, states: The Coast Guard Cutter Spencer responded to a distress call from fishing Patriots (175 gt, built 1978), with seven people onboard, stating they had an electrical fire in their engine-room approximately 130 nautical miles east of Nantucket, Mass, at 1800 today. Cutter Spencer, which was patrolling approximately 20 nautical miles away, was diverted to assist Patriots. Both an HU-25 Falcon jet and HH-60 Jayhawk helicopter from Air Station Cape Cod also responded to the call. Half an hour after initial notification, it was reported the decks were beginning to catch fire. The vessel was then directed to make preparations to abandon ship and they responded by donning survival gear and placing their liferaft in the water. By this time, fishing Hustler had responded to the distress call and was alongside Patriots. At 1851 hrs, with only one fire extinguisher remaining, the crew of Patriots was able to extinguish the fire. Spencer is currently on scene with Patriots and has conducted an at-sea boarding of Patriots. A Rescue and Assist team from Spencer is currently onboard. Patriots engine is out-of-commission and Spencer will take the vessel in tow at first light.

London, Jan 12 — Following received from Coast Guard Boston, timed 1424, UTC: Fishing Patriots reported engine-room fire last night, extent of damage unknown. Currently being towed towards New Bedford, Mass, where commercial tow to take over towage of vessel.

**POINTE DU CORMORAN (French Southern Territories)**

Maassluis, Jan 10 — Chem.tank Pointe du Cormoran: The vessels' agent states that the vessel will depart during the third week of January. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

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

**POLO M. (Bahamas)**

London, Jan 7 — Following received from Aarhus RCC, timed 1230, UTC: Bulk Polo M. is still anchored outside Fredericia transshipping cargo onto bulk Fonarun Naree. At present, about one-third of the total cargo on board has been transhipped. It may not be possible to remove all of the cargo onto the Fonarun Naree due to the available space on board. At 1430, UTC, today, the Fonarun Naree will depart for a safe anchorage nearby to shelter from approaching high winds and expected heavy seas as it is not felt prudent to continue the transshipping operation in these conditions.

London, Jan 10 — Wijsmuller Salvage and another Svitzer/Wijsmuller group member, Roda Bolaget of Sweden, responded when Greek-owned bulk Polo M. grounded in a storm off Gotland on Nov 22. A Lloyd's Open Form agreement with Scopio invoked was signed the same day Dutch personnel joined their Swedish colleagues to refloat the vessel. The major concern was pollution mitigation, as seven of the vessel's 12 double-bottom tanks had been breached, including a number of bunker tanks. Around 1,000 tonnes of heavy fuel, diesel and lubricating oils were transferred to the tanker Bittfjord and some 1,900 tonnes of the 26,000 tonnes of cement cargo was offloaded before refloating on Nov 30.

London, Jan 10 — Following received from Aarhus MRCC, timed 1130, UTC: Bulk Polo M. is still transshipping cargo.

London, Jan 12 — Following received from Aarhus MRCC, timed 1055, UTC: Bulk Polo M. is still transshipping cargo.

**POOLGRACHT (Netherlands)**

London, Jan 8 — General cargo Poolgracht arrived Davisville Dec 29.

Boston, Mass., Jan 11 — General cargo Poolgracht is still in Davisville, Rhode Island, and it would appear that it will be there for some time. The US Coast Guard will not allow it to continue the voyage without re-stowing all of the cargo. — Lloyd's Agents.

**QUICKCAT (New Zealand)**

Wellington, Jan 9 — Ferry Quickcat (456 gt, built 1986) and nine-metre chartered fishing boat Doctor Hook collided at 1035, Jan 4, in the Hauraki Gulf. The impact punched a big hole in the side of the aluminium fishing boat and Skipper Bruce New and his seven passengers were injured. No one on the ferry was hurt. Speaking from Auckland Hospital on Jan 4, the skipper said it was a "very scary moment" when he was alerted to the catamaran ferry approaching from behind. Quickcat was on its way to Waiheke Island with more than 300 people on board. The accident happened in the narrow Motuihe Channel between Motuihe and Motutapu islands, a popular fishing area. Mr Newbury, who suffered an injured shoulder, said his main concern was the safety of his passengers. A man and woman, both aged 74, suffered

minor head injuries and were taken by a coastguard boat to the marine rescue centre and by ambulance to Auckland Hospital. The woman had a gash in her head. Mr Newbury and five other passengers, including two children and a teenage boy, were taken ashore by the police launch Deodar 2 for treatment of minor injuries in hospital. The ferry, which had been sailing in clear conditions, immediately cut its engines and went back to help the stricken fishing boat. The skipper of the fishing boat was calling up for help, saying he had injured people on board, and that the boat was taking on water," a passenger said. The injured were taken on to the ferry and the crew appealed to passengers for help, collecting warm clothing, towels and a sleeping bag. A doctor on the ferry helped with medical treatment. After the injured were taken to Auckland, the ferry, which was not damaged, sailed on to Waiheke Island. Fullers Auckland operations manager Chris Douglas was "very relieved" that no one had been seriously hurt. He had spoken to the ferry's skipper, who he said was badly shaken. The Motuihe Channel was the narrowest point of the journey to Waiheke Island, Mr Douglas said. Mr Douglas did not know what had caused yesterday's collision, but said the Maritime Safety Authority had started an investigation. Fullers would also investigate. "As far as I know it's the first time there's been an accident with a private vessel," he said. Authority spokesman Steve Corbett said it was too early to tell whether either boat was at fault. "There are marine rules and regulations and protocols that are supposed to prevent this sort of thing from happening." Transport Accident Investigation Commission staff are also making inquiries before deciding whether to carry out a full investigation. Doctor Hook was severely damaged and had to be towed by the coastguard back to Auckland, where it was lifted out of the water. — Lloyd's Agents.

**REINE (Panama)**

Santo Domingo, Jan 12 — Ro/ro Reine is still awaiting a dry dock to complete repairs. — Lloyd's Agents.

**RIALTO (Panama)**

Barcelona, Jan 7 — C.c. Rialto arrived Barcelona Jan 1 and was "working" on Jan 3. It is understood that the vessel will be repaired by the ship's crew but repairs have not yet started. When they do begin repairs will take about two weeks. — Lloyd's Agents

**RMS MULHEIM (Antigua & Barbuda)**

London, Jan 6 — A press release from the Maritime & Coastguard Agency, dated today, states: At a hearing today in Camborne, the owner general cargo RMS Mulheim was successfully prosecuted following two separate incidents in two days. Rhein Maas Shipping (RMS), owners of RMS Mulheim and RMS Ratingen pleaded guilty to two breaches of Rule 5 of the Collision Regulations and two breaches

of the International Safety Management (ISM) Code. Camborne Magistrates fined Rhein Maas Shipping (RMS) a total of £20,000 plus full costs of £22,227.06. This prosecution follows an investigation by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency into two incidents involving RMS Mulheim on Mar 23, 2003, and RMS Ratingen on Mar 24, 2003. The Chief Officer of RMS Mulheim was alone on the bridge at night on Mar 24 when he became unconscious. This incapacity went undiscovered until the vessel ran aground in Sennen Cove, Cornwall. Attempts to salvage the vessel failed and the wreck of the vessel remains there to this day. The following day RMS Ratingen was approaching Shoreham to pick up a pilot prior to berthing for discharge. The Pilot spoke with the ship about an hour before arrival at 0135 hrs. As the Pilot went out to the anchorage he noted that RMS Ratingen was not responding to radio calls and was moving steadily through the anchorage at slow speed. When the Pilot boarded the vessel, by virtue of climbing over the gunwale, and made his way to the bridge, he found the master fast asleep in the pilot chair. He roused the master and pilotage continued without further incident.

**RMS RATINGEN (Antigua & Barbuda)**

See RMS Mulheim.

**ROSA TOMASOS (Bahamas)**

See "Columbia River, Washington, United States" under "Pollution".

**ROSEBANK (U.K.)**

Maassluis, Jan 10 — It is unknown when general cargo Rosebank "will be ready". — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

**ROSTOK (Russia)**

London, Jan 10 — An ongoing wreck-removal task requiring substantial resources is being run by a multinational consortium comprising Multiship Salvage, US-based Titan Maritime and Deltacons, a Romanian river engineering company. The Rostok Wreck Removal Consortium, funded by a European Investment Bank, has begun a three-month project to remove the wreck of general cargo Rostok from the Romanian River Danube. The vessel sank at Mile 31 of the Sulina Channel in 1991, blocking the fairway. Several incomplete attempts have been made to remove the wreck only partially restoring navigation. This latest operation will remove the wreck completely and fully reopen the waterway.

**RTC 503 (U.S.A.)**

See Lucy Reinauer.

**SANDETTIE (Netherlands)**

London, Jan 9 — Following received from Den Helder RCC, timed 1445, UTC: General cargo Sandettie (1786 gt, built 2004), Norway to Greece, and fishing Volharding (371 gt, built 1987) were in collision in lat 53 01.46N, long 04 08.6E at about 1322, UTC, today.

Sandettie has slight bow and scratching damage and may be leaking. Vessel is currently near Terschelling Island and is heading for Harlingen. Volharding has slight bow damage and is heading for Den Helder.

London, Jan 10 — Following received from Den Helder RCC, timed 1111, UTC: General cargo Sandettie arrived Harlingen 1900, UTC, yesterday. Volharding arrived Den Helder 1500, UTC, yesterday and cleared.

#### **SANKO ROYAL (Panama)**

London, Jan 12 — Bulk Sanko Royal (25676 gt, built 1995), from Portland, Oregon, came into contact with the dock while berthing at the Eurocan Terminal No.1, in Kitimat, British Columbia, in early hours of Jan 10. (Note — Sanko Royal sailed Portland 1230, Jan 7 and arrived Kitimat 0305, Jan 10.)

#### **SCHIEBORG (Netherlands)**

London, Jan 8 — Following received from Coast Guard Aarhus MRCC, timed 1832, UTC: Ro/ro Schieborg (21005 gt, built 2000), loaded with 10,000 rolls of paper, tank containers and machinery loaded in containers, is currently on fire in lat 55 54N, long 06 32.3E. The master stated they cannot fight the fire. There are 15 crew members on board who are going to be taken off by the local coast guard. (Note — Schieborg sailed Gothenburg Jan 7.)

Ymuiden Jan 8 — Wijsmuller Salvage B.V. together with SvitzerWijsmuller Group company Esvagt are contracted to assist ro/ro Schieborg, on fire and drifting in extremely bad weather off the Danish coast. The tugs/standby vessels Esvagt Omega and Esvagt Gamma are proceeding to the vessel, which reported an uncontrolled fire on board. The crew in the meantime has abandoned the casualty into liferafts. A Wijsmuller Salvage team, consisting of salvage and firefighting experts including first aid operational equipment has been flown in to Esbjerg to take charge of the follow-up operations. Esvagt Omega and Esvagt Gamma with an ETA of 0001, local time, will first concentrate on rescuing the crew in the liferafts. — Wijsmuller Salvage B.V.

London, Jan 9 — Following received from Aarhus MRCC, timed 0945, UTC: Ro/ro Schieborg was taken in tow by tug/supply Esvagt Gamma about one hour ago, with tow proceeding at two knots. Position at 0918, UTC, in lat 56 02.8N, long 07 35.9E, understood fire was still burning. The four crew with minor injuries are in a hospital in Esbjerg, the remaining crew are in a hotel in Esbjerg.

Ymuiden, Jan 9 — The SvitzerWijsmuller safety standby tugs Esvagt Omega and Esvagt Gamma during the night were able to take over the 15 crew members of the ro/ro Schieborg from their lifeboat despite the extreme bad weather conditions. The crew of Schieborg had abandoned earlier last night their burning and listing vessel. Esvagt Omega then proceeded to Esbjerg to bring the saved crew ashore for hospital treatment.

Esvagt Gamma remained near the drifting and abandoned casualty. The Wijsmuller Salvage B.V. team in Esbjerg this morning went enroute to the casualty by coastguard helicopter in order to possibly, if weather and circumstances would allow, assist in making a towage connection. While enroute Esvagt Gamma, despite the gale force winds and high seas, was able to connect up to the drifting and abandoned Schieborg. — Wijsmuller Salvage B.V.

Esbjerg, Jan 10 — At 1630, Jan 8, a fire erupted on ro/ro Schieborg off Hvide Sande, in lat 55 54N, long 06 23E. The 15 crew had to abandon ship and were rescued by tug/supply Esvagt Omega. All have been brought safely to Esbjerg. Schieborg is supposedly still on fire. Currently the vessel is being salvaged by Esvagt Gamma. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Jan 10 — Following received from Den Helder RCC, timed 1111, UTC: Ro/ro Schieborg ETA Emshaven tomorrow.

London, Jan 10 — Understand salvage services are being rendered to ro/ro Schieborg under Lloyd's Open Form by Wijsmuller Salvage BV.

London, Jan 11 — Following received from Den Helder RCC, timed 0820, UTC: Ro/ro Schieborg is being towed to Eemshaven by tug Esvagt Gamma with tug Simson in attendance. Simson which had been spraying water over Schieborg has stopped doing so due stability problems. A small amount of smoke is still coming from the vessel. A salvage crew is being flown out to the vessel from Wilhelmshaven. At 0804, UTC, Schieborg was in lat 54 19.5N, long 06 15.5E, speed three knots.

London, Jan 11 — Following received from Den Helder RCC, timed 1520, UTC: Ro/ro Schieborg: Situation is under control. There is some smoke still coming from some containers on board. Vessel is now due at Eemshaven pilot station at approximately 2200, local time, today. (See issue of Jan 12.)

London, Jan 11 — Ro/ro Schieborg, in tow of tug Esvagt Gamma, is in lat 53 53N, long 06 12E, at 1620, UTC, heading 179.4 deg, speed four knots.

London, Jan 12 — Following received from Den Helder RCC, timed 0810, UTC: Ro/ro Schieborg is at Eemshaven pilot station. Vessel will enter port at daylight.

London, Jan 13 — Following received from Den Helder RCC, timed 1027, UTC: Ro/ro Schieborg is still lying near Eemshaven pilot station. One of the two lines connecting the vessel to tug Esvagt Gamma broke last night, and the tug is waiting for the weather to improve in order to reconnect the second line and tow the vessel into port.

Bremen, Jan 13 — Local press reports stated today: Ro/ro Schieborg is floating with 15 degrees list in the estuary of the River Ems. It has on board a cargo of 10,000 tons of paper and timber. The cargo is smouldering in the weatherdeck and the loading deck. The crew is reported to have left the vessel, as they could not see anything in the heavy smoke. At

present, the vessel is in tow of two tugs, but could not be brought into safety, yesterday, at Eemshaven, due to bad weather. The tugs will continue to try to keep it afloat with the bow into the wind. The next attempt to bring the vessel into Eemshaven is scheduled for tomorrow when it is hoped that the weather will have ameliorated. — Lloyd's Agents

#### **SEA FOX (Latvia)**

London, Jan 6 — Following received from Coastguard Clyde MRCC, timed 1445, UTC: General cargo Sea Fox proceeded under escort of Barra lifeboat to Castlebay, where berthed at 1440, UTC, assisted by members of Barra Coastguard Rescue Team. Helicopters Rescue 137 and Rescue 177 have been stood-down. The coastguard tug has also been released.

London, Jan 6 — A press release from the Maritime & Coastguard Agency, dated today, states: At 1441 today, general cargo Sea Fox, carrying a cargo of timber, on passage from Riga to Liverpool with a crew of 10, tied up alongside in the port of Castle Bay, Isle of Barra. She managed to make into port under her own power. Barra RNLi Lifeboat was launched to the vessel and stood by her throughout the incident. Barra Coastguard Rescue Team were at the port to meet the vessel on its arrival. The vessel will remain at Castle Bay until it has been inspected by MCA Surveyors.

London, Jan 7 — Following received from Coastguard Clyde MRCC, timed 1619, UTC: General cargo Sea Fox lost two lots of cargo; the first was approximately 40 cubic metres of wood packets in lat 56 20N, long 07 15W; the second was 20 to 30 cubic metres of wood packets lost over the side somewhere between the above position and lat 56 55.5N, long 07 25.7W. Total amount lost was 60-70 cubic metres of wood packets. Master confirmed that he would report to Stornoway Coastguard when departing Castlebay and that his next port was Liverpool.

#### **SELENDANG AYU (Malaysia)**

London, Jan 10 — A US Coast Guard Anchorage press release, dated Jan 7, states: Salvage crews will attempt to remove more oil from bulk Selendang Ayu today as long as the weather permits. Crews did not remove any oil from the ship yesterday. There are three empty containers staged on the ship's deck, in addition to a cube half full of sludge from the bottom of one of the tanks. Crews used most of yesterday tapping into the next set of tanks. So far the number of dead birds is at 369. Dead otters are at five. Beach cleanup crews reached certain areas of Skan Bay and Humpback Bay yesterday. Yesterday's weather consisted of southeast winds at 25 knots, gusting to 35 with seas at five feet, cloud cover at 3,500-feet and visibility at more than six miles.

London, Jan 11 — A US Coast Guard Juneau press release, dated Jan 10, states: Officials and response teams with the bulk Selendang Ayu Unified Command continue to progress with

clean up efforts near Unalaska Island. Today's response activities will include over flights, shoreline assessment and cleaning, vessel lightering, water quality sampling and wildlife recovery operations. Today's weather calls for partly cloudy skies, temperatures in the 40s and 15-to-25 mph winds. The shoreline assessment team will work in Pumicestone Bay 6, Makushin Bay and Portage Bay segments. Clean up crews are expected to work in Skan and Humpback Bays, while the lightering team will continue to remove oil from tank No.4 starboard and begin preparations to access tank No.4 on the stern's port side. Crews will also continue to maintain boom and clean up shoreline areas, weather permitting. There are 880 gallons of Corexit 9500 dispersant in Dutch Harbour. Unified Command officials approved the dispersant's application plan for airborne and water use. Barge Kashega with two Marco skimmers and the Current Buster systems are onboard vessel Western Viking, on scene and ready for deployment. Saturday's shoreline clean up consisted of crews working in Skan Bay eight and 14, along with Humpback Bay 11 and segment 12. Crews collected 1,451 bags of oily waste. The total amount of oily solid waste collected to date is 9,185 bags (153.1 cubic yards). Saturday's salvage and lightering operations found crews removing 8,141 gallons of intermediate fuel oil (IFO) 380 from the No.4 IFO tank on the vessel's starboard stern section. It is believed that this tank contained an estimated 29,000 gallons of IFO. It is also located below four diesel tanks, three of which crews already pumped. The lightering team can transport as many as seven portable tanks daily from the wreck to Dutch Harbour. The total volume lightered from the vessel to date is 35,077 gallons of IFO/diesel as of Saturday. There is no change in the status of Selendang Ayu. The Coast Guard reported Jan. 5 that they located a hole in the starboard bow directly below the ship's name. The stern sections remains hard aground and is listing three degrees to port. The Unified Command is exploring all possible methods to ascertain the condition and contents of Nos 1 and 3 centreline tanks. Crews recovered 21 oiled bird carcasses Saturday, bringing the total number of dead birds to 536. To date, crews located 29 live, oiled birds and transported them for rehabilitation. The International Bird Rescue and Research Center officials report the release of 10 rehabilitated birds from Whittier. Officials also found five sea otter carcasses including two skeletons. Saturday, officials conducted a water sampling survey relating to the ongoing Unalaska Bay Water Quality Sampling Program. Teams are using a fine mesh tow net to sample for tar balls, tar patties, fresh oil, mousse, or other forms of whole oil. While towing the net about three miles offshore near Driftwood Bay, the tow net revealed light contamination and trace amounts of a substance appearing as oil. Crews could not analyse the substance because of its small amount.

London, Jan 12 — A US Coast Guard Juneau press release, dated Jan 11, states: Salvage crews will attempt to remove more oil from the bulk Selendang Ayu wreck today, weather permitting. Crews removed no oil from the vessel yesterday as crews welded a cofferdam to the deck above the No.4 intermediate fuel oil (IFO) tank to protect workers from waves during future operations. Crews also readied the No.4 tank on the vessel's stern for pumping and skimmed the settling tank off into the service tank for removal. Shoreline crews continued their clean-up efforts yesterday, working in the Skan eight and 14 along with Humpback Bay 11. Crews collected 1,540 bags of oily waste bringing the total bags collected to 12,312 (205 cubic yards). Work in these areas will continue today in addition to shoreline cleanup assessment teams surveying Reese Bay and Cape Wislow. Boat crews continued water sampling in Unalaska Bay yesterday with a fine mesh tow to sample for tar balls, patties, mousse and other indicators of fresh oil. Of the tows conducted, three yielded trace amounts of a residue on the net consisting of small dots a few millimeters in size. The substance appeared to be oil. Crews recovered 34 oiled bird carcasses yesterday, bringing the total number of dead birds to about 570. Sunday's lightering team removed 9,745 gallons of IFO from the No.4 tank on the starboard side of the stern. This tank is now empty, initially it was estimated to hold 29,000 gallons of IFO. To date the total volume lightered from the wreck is 33,768 gallons of IFO and 1,309 gallons of diesel for a total of 35,077 gallons. The 35,077 gallons is a mixture of oil and water. Weather conditions in Dutch Harbor consist of air temperature ranging from the high 30s to low 40s with mostly cloudy skies. Winds are 15 knots increasing to 25 knots with seas from three to four feet.

London, Jan 13 — A press report, dated Jan 12, states: Fuel removal resumed on bulk Selendang Ayu yesterday after crews built a steel barrier to protect workers from the fierce waves of the Bering Sea washing over the port side of the broken freighter. A salvage team recovered nearly 6,400 gallons of fuel oil after completion of a three and a half-foot-tall chute built over an opening leading to below-deck tanks. The chute, called a cofferdam, allows easier access for crews while shielding the working area on the listing port side, which is much more vulnerable to the crashing sea, said Coast Guard Petty Officer Thomas McKenzie. A small amount of fuel oil remaining on the starboard side also was removed yesterday. The total fuel and water recovered to date stands at nearly 41,400 gallons. The FBI is participating with the Coast Guard and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in a criminal investigation of the grounding. The National Transportation Safety Board also is investigating the grounding, as well as the Coast Guard helicopter crash, even though the agency generally doesn't

investigate crashes involving the military. "We're involved because civil fatalities were associated with the crash," said Scott Erickson, an NTSB air safety investigator in Anchorage. The "black box" data recorder from the helicopter was recovered Dec 28 and turned over to the NTSB, but Erickson said the agency's role is secondary to the Coast Guard investigation. He said he expects to file an ancillary report to the NTSB's marine investigation within a year.

London, Jan 13 — A US Coast Guard Anchorage press release, dated Jan 12, states: Salvage crews removed more than 6,000 gallons of oil from the bulk Selendang Ayu wreck near Unalaska Island yesterday and plan to remove more today, weather permitting. Crews removed oil from the port No.4 tank and the starboard No.4 tank. The starboard No.4 tank is now empty. Salvage crew members welded a cofferdam to the deck above the No.4 intermediate fuel oil (IFO) tank that protected workers from waves. Shoreline crews continued clean-up efforts yesterday, working in Skan Bay and Humpback Bay. A total of 12,312 bags of oily waste have been collected. Work is scheduled to continue in these areas today. Boat crews sampled water in Unalaska Bay Monday with a fine mesh tow to sample for tar balls, patties, mousse and other indicators of fresh oil. Of the tows conducted, three yielded trace amounts of a residue on the net consisting of small dots a few millimeters in size. The substance appeared to be oil. To date 29 birds have been captured and 10 were cleaned and released. The total number of dead birds is about 600. The total volume lightered from the wreck is 41,398 gallons. Weather conditions in Dutch Harbor today consist of air temperatures ranging from the high 30s to low 40s with mostly cloudy skies. Winds are 35 knots increasing to 25 knots with seas from four to five feet.

#### **SEVERN FISHER (Gibraltar)**

Belfast, Jan 11 — Passenger ro/ro Normandy (25745 gt, built 1982), at the commissioning quay Belfast for repair with Harland & Wolf, during southerly winds up to 48 knots, broke aft mooring lines and stern made heavy contact with port bow of product tanker Severn Fisher (6892 gt, built 1983), which was all fast at the steel delivery wharf, this morning. Tugs from Ferran Port Services and Svitzer Marine attended to push Normandy back alongside. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — Normandy arrived Belfast Nov 26. Severn Fisher arrived Belfast Jan 8 from Milford Haven.)

#### **SHUNPO MARU (Japan)**

Yokohama, Jan 7 — Lpg Shunpo Maru, 695 gt, (built 1994), Tokuyama for Himeji, ran aground onto laver nurseries 3,400 metres, 146 degrees, from Tangashima lighthouse at 0657, Dec 31. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **SILVA (Cambodia)**

Esbjerg, Jan 6 — General cargo Silva is still in port at Esbjerg. — Lloyd's Agents.



**SKANDIA**

London, Jan 13 — A press report, dated today, states: The skipper of stricken yacht Skandia is suing the designer and manufacturer of the vessel's hydraulic system, after the vessel was forced out of last month's Sydney to Hobart race. Skipper Grant Wharington has lodged a claim in the Victorian Supreme Court seeking unspecified damages. Skandia's crew was forced to abandon vessel after the hydraulic system controlling the keel failed in heavy seas in the Bass Strait. The vessel later capsized, sparking an expensive salvage operation.

**SNORRE A**

London, Jan 13 — A press report, dated today, states: Norway's Statoil can partly resume production at its Snorre and Vigdis oilfields in the North Sea after a six-week shutdown, the Norwegian Petroleum Safety Authority (PSA) said yesterday. Statoil had requested permission to restart the 75,000 barrels per day Vigdis satellite and subsea production equipment on Snorre, to restore just under 100,000 barrels per day of production. That is less than half of the fields' combined 205,000 bpd capacity, as work on Snorre A will continue. The fields have been shut since a Nov 28 gas leak beneath the Snorre A platform forced a helicopter evacuation of most of the workers. Statoil's spokeswoman Kjersti Morstøl said that work will resume gradually and it remains uncertain how long it will take to restore output to just below 100,000 bpd because the wells have been shut for so long. Statoil had said on Tuesday (Jan 11) that work to ensure safety at Snorre A would continue independently of the partial restart. It said that the damaged well beneath the Snorre A platform has been secured, but that a good deal of inspection work still needed to be done on the platform wells and that would require favorable weather. Bad weather has repeatedly delayed inspections of work to repair the damaged well at Snorre A.

**SOZIDANIE (Vanuatu)**

Las Palmas, Jan 12 — Fish factory Sozidanie has been towed to Greece for scrapping. — Lloyd's Agents.

**SPIRIT II (Honduras)**

Naples, Jan 13 — Product tanker Spirit II is presently moored at the Vigliena quay, Naples. The vessel has been detained as unseaworthy, and the wage claim by the vessel's crew is still ongoing. — Lloyd's Agents.

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

London, Jan 12 — A press report, dated Jan 11, states: New York's attorney general threatened today to sue the operator of idled passenger ro/ro Spirit of Ontario I for failing to refund hundreds of customers. Eliot Spitzer's office obtained about \$5,000 in refunds for nearly 50 people who had paid for passage on the catamaran ferry that travelled daily across Lake Ontario between Rochester and Toronto. Another 600 or so customers

then complained that Canadian American Transportation Systems had not given them refunds, Spitzer said. If the private operator doesn't respond in five days, a lawsuit alleging deceptive business practices and fraud could be filed that seeks about \$100,000 in refunds and penalties, he said. The company's lawyer, Adam Michael, declined to comment. The city of Rochester is hoping to buy the Australian-built ferry at a Feb 28 auction. The operator abruptly shut down Sep 7 after just 11 weeks of sailing with debts of \$1.7 million.

**SPRUCEGLEN (Canada)**

Thunder bay, Jan 12 — Bulk Spruceglen entered dry dock Dec 15 and sailed Dec 19 to load grain at Thunder Bay elevators. The vessel completed loading Dec 22 and sailed for Sorel. — Lloyd's Agents.

**STAR I (Panama)**

Port Said, Jan 10 — General cargo Star I (5934 gt, built 1981) struck the container quay at Port Said container terminal on Jan 4 and damaged both the quay and its bow. Port Said Port Authority estimated quay damage at \$400,000. Bow of vessel has an opening of about 50 by 40 cm. Port Authority arrested vessel until payment of damage to quay. Vessel is undergoing repairs to bow. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — Star I operates between Port Said, Haifa and Ashdod.)

Port Said, Jan 12 — General cargo Star I has repaired bow but is still under arrest by the Port Said Port Authority for the damage to quay. — Lloyd's Agents.

**STEPAN RAZIN (Russia)**

St. Petersburg, Jan 11 — According to Murmansk Harbour-master bulk/c.c. Stepan Razin is still lying in the same position and salvage operations are under way. The investigation is not yet finished. — Lloyd's Agents.

**STEWART ISLAND (Hong Kong)**

London, Jan 6 — Following received from Victoria, BC, RCC, timed 2125, UTC: Bulk Stewart Island just off Vancouver at 1600, UTC, today.

London, Jan 7 — Following received from Pacific Basin Shipping (HK) Ltd, owners of bulk Stewart Island, dated today: Stewart Island is now safely alongside at Lynnterm, Vancouver B.C. An Owners' representative, together with the engine maker are in attendance and working with the relevant authorities to investigate the incident and carry out repairs. Owners would like to express their gratitude to the Canadian Coast Guard, the team manning the Joint Rescue Coordination Centre, and the United States Coast Guard for their exemplary assistance in bringing the vessel to a safe berth. Owners also wish to specifically thank the efforts and professionalism of Crowley tugs Hunter and Protector, the master and crews.

**SULBY RIVER (United Kingdom)**

London, Jan 10 — General cargo Sulby River was reported Oct 1 still at

Bowling on the River Clyde in a sunken condition.

**SUOMENLINNA II (Finland)**

Helsinki, Jan 11 — Passenger Suomenlinna II: The State Technical Research Centre (VTT) decided to renew the trials as well as to adjust and repair the delays noticed in the vessels steering. The results of the first trials were viewed as unreliable due to the mentioned delays. One trial was conducted yesterday. According to the announcement given both by VTT and FMA, the vessel will most likely be returning to its route no earlier than the end of this month. — Lloyd's Agents.

**SUPERFERRY II (Greece)**

London, Jan 7 — Piraeus Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: Passenger ro/ro Superferry II (4986 gt, built 1974), performing the schedule Rafina-Andros-Tinos-Mykonos with 323 passengers on board, sustained damage to its rudder near the port of Gavriou, Andros Island, this morning. Following the incident, vessel returned to Rafina under own power, arriving 1145 hrs, and departure has been prohibited pending inspection of repairs.

Piraeus, Jan 10 — Passenger ro/ro Superferry II sustained damage, reportedly to its rudder, on the morning of Jan 7. At the time the vessel was performing the schedule Rafina-Andros-Tinos-Mykonos. The vessel returned to the port of Rafina and the 323 passengers were forwarded to their destinations on passenger/ro/ro Express Athina, which departed at 1700, Jan 7. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Jan 10 — Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: On Jan 8, while passenger ro/ro Superferry II (4986 gt, built 1974) was making manoeuvres to berth at Mykonos port, the vessel grounded by the bow in sandy shallow waters. Following the incident the vessel safely berthed at the port, under own power, and the 89 passengers were disembarked. At the time vessel was performing the schedule Rafina-Andros-Tinos-Mykonos with identical return voyage. After a survey by the marine inspectorate confirmed the vessels' seaworthiness, it departed at 2040 hrs and continued normal scheduling.

**SUVARNA SWARAJYA (India)**

See "South-East Asia" under "Earthquakes."

**SVEAFJELL (Norway)**

Trondheim, Jan 10 — Kvernhusvik Shipyard, Hitra, inform repairs to general cargo Sveafjell are completed. Vessel will possibly leave yard end of this week. — Lloyd's Agents.

**SVEN OLTSMANN (Antigua & Barbuda)**

London, Jan 11 — C.c. Sven Oltmann was reported still in port at Hamburg on Dec 31, where arrived Nov 11.

**TAIPAN SCAN (Antigua & Barbuda)**

Esbjerg, Jan 11 — Ro/ro Taipan Scan (7591 gt, built 1982) and supply North

Vanguard (2637 gt, built 1990) were in contact in Esbjerg at 1415, Jan 8. Both vessels were moored, but the moorings of Taipan Scan broke in heavy winds, and the vessel could not manoeuvre and as a result it struck the quayside and North Vanguard. As a result Taipan Scan's bulb has been pressed and propellers damaged. The vessel's pontoons were lost and they caused damage to the ship's hull. North Vanguard's forecastle was pressed. Crew of both vessels are safe. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — Taipan Scan arrived Esbjerg Jan 6 from Grangemouth, North Vanguard also arrived Esbjerg Jan 6.)

Esbjerg, Jan 12 — Ro/ro Taipan Scan is still in port at Esbjerg. Supply North Vanguard sailed Esbjerg Jan 11. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **TASMAN ENDEAVOUR (Hong Kong)**

London, Jan 6 — A press report, dated today, states: General cargo Tasman Endeavour (18451 gt, built 1994) struck the wharf while berthing at Ho Chi Minh port Jan 1. The vessel was making the call as part of the carriers' twice-monthly Asia/New Zealand/South Pacific "East Asia" service. As a result of the accident, the vessel sustained damage to the propeller and requires emergency drydocking to repair it, Tasman Orient Line said in a statement. General cargo Tasman Mariner will replace Tasman Endeavour and complete the southbound voyage.

London, Jan 7 — Following received from the owners of general cargo Tasman Endeavour, dated Hong Kong today: Tasman Endeavour, while under pilotage in the process of berthing at the Ho Chi Minh Container terminal; was forced to take evasive action to avoid contact with two barges. In taking such evasive action, the vessel hit a mooring buoy and caused minor damage to the propeller and wharf. Tasman Endeavour is currently on the way to Singapore for minor repairs to the propeller and bow.

Singapore, Jan 11 — General cargo Tasman Endeavour arrived Singmarine Floating Dock No.1, Singapore, Jan 10. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **TASMAN RESOLUTION (Marshall Islands)**

Wellington, Jan 9 — Part c.c. Tasman Resolution (18936 gt, built 1988) arriving from Whangarei, lost power while entering the port of Tauranga at 0550, Jan 1, and ran aground on Matakana Island at about 0555. Power was quickly restored and with the aid of two tugs and both anchors, dropped during the power outage, Tasman Resolution was refloated and berthed at Tauranga under its own power. No visible damage or pollution, but divers to carrying out an underwater hull inspection. Vessel sailed from Tauranga at 1400, Jan 4, for Subic Bay. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **TASMAN SPIRIT (Malta)**

Karachi, Jan 7 — The Pakistan Government has formed a special

committee headed by Pakistan's Attorney General with officials of the Pakistan Ministry for Shipping and Ports, to deal with the compensation issue with the P&I Club of crude oil tanker Tasman Spirit. The committee will compile claims of the different local agencies and port authorities to file a consolidated figure soon to the Club. Pakistan Minister of Port and Shipping Babar Khan Ghauri disclosed this at a press briefing in Karachi today. The minister said the Pakistan Government wants to resolve the issue amicably and in contact with the P&I Club. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

#### **TERNINGEN II (Norway)**

Trondheim, Jan 11 — General cargo Terningen II (809 gt, built 1982) grounded near Svolaer at 0850 today. Vessel refloated under own power, and proceeded to Svolaer where arrived 1025 hrs. Diver has now carried out temporary repairs to ballast tank. Vessel is hoping for decision by Maritime Authorities to be allowed to continue to Aalesund for discharging of the cargo of 377 tons salt fish, whereafter, probably yard for permanent repairs. — Lloyd's Agents.

Trondheim, Jan 12 — General cargo Terningen II left Svolaer 1155, today, with ETA Aalesund evening Jan 14. After discharging at Aalesund vessel will proceed to Kristiansund N to discharge the remaining cargo of salt fish. ETA Kvernhusvik Shipyard, Hitra, evening Jan 15 for permanent repairs. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **TOR III (North Korea)**

Mersin, Jan 11 — According to Kemer Port Management general cargo Tor III is still aground and the repairs, patching, on the vessel still continues. Also cutting operation of the vessel has started. For now, cutting of over (? other) parts of the vessel has finished. After hatch covers are cut the cargo in the holds will be discharged and delivered to the customs. Also understand demolition of the ship may be completed in two months depending upon weather conditions. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **TRANSFER (Antigua & Barbuda)**

London, Jan 7 — Following received from Coastguard Falmouth MRCC, timed 0620, UTC: Part c.c. Transfer (1919 gt, built 1972) sent out a distress alert in lat 17 24N, long 87 28W at 0438, UTC, reporting crew were abandoning ship. US Coast Guard are coordinating the rescue and are seeking confirmation of this report. Understand the vessel's owners received an email reporting the vessel had ran aground on a reef and crew were abandoning ship.

London, Jan 7 — Following received from Coast Guard Miami, timed 0925, UTC: Owners of part c.c. Transfer have arranged with salvors in Belize City to attend the vessel at first light and refloat the vessel. The vessel has sustained some damage to tank No.9, a nine ton sludge tank, with was empty. Owners are reporting that the grounding has had minimal impact on

the environment. The 11 crew remain on board, although there is one vessel on scene, standing-by, should the crew need to abandon. Vessel had departed from Belize City yesterday.

London, Jan 7 — Following received from Coast Guard Miami, timed 1645, UTC: Part c.c. Transfer remains aground. Co-ordination of the incident has been passed to Belize RCC.

Belize City, Jan 10 — Part c.c. Transfer arrived at the port of Big Creek on Jan 5, and discharged cargo from Mobile, Alabama. The vessel left the port on Jan 6 for the return to Mobile. However, it ran aground on the reef of Belize, near Lighthouse Reef in the northern waters of Belize. The Belize Port Authority has stated that presently all fuel is being removed from the vessel. Thereafter, attempts will be made to pull it off the reef. They have indicated that the vessel will be detained in Belize until an assessment of the damage to the reef/area has been done, and compensation paid to the Belize Government. — Lloyd's Agents.

Belize City, Jan 12 — Part c.c. Transfer is still aground. Understand from the Belize Port Authority that the vessel's owners have brought in a marine surveyor and the situation is being assessed. The Port Authority has reiterated that once the vessel is refloated, it will be detained in Belize pending examination/compensation for damage caused to the area, and also to confirm its seaworthiness to leave Belize waters. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **TROPICAL OCEAN (Singapore)**

See Viva 3

#### **TSUNAMI (Malta)**

London, Jan 6 — Following received from Cardiff Marine, Athens, managers of crude oil tanker Tsunami, dated today: Following the incident involving Tsunami at the ST Services terminal at Westwego on the Mississippi River on Jan 4, the vessel moved to the IMTT St Rose Terminal North of New Orleans, where full discharge of cargo will be completed at approximately 1600 today. It is expected that the vessel will then move to a designated repair berth at the Gulf States Marine Repair Yard for permanent repairs that are estimated to take some three days to accomplish. The vessel will then continue with its schedule. The managers confirm that there were no injuries, nor any pollution from the vessel as a result of the incident.

London, Jan 10 — Following received from the operators of crude oil tanker Tsunami, dated today: Tsunami completed repairs at 1200, Jan 9, but has delayed its departure due to fog. The vessel will pick up a pilot and sail as soon as the fog lifts.

London, Jan 12 — Following received from the operators of crude oil tanker Tsunami, dated today: Tsunami sailed Jan 10 for orders.

#### **UNION TOPAZ (Barbados)**

London, Jan 7 — Following received from Den Helder RCC, timed 1210, UTC: General cargo Union Topaz (1543 gt, built 1985), Rotterdam for Gunness,

cargo 20,100 tonnes of furnace bottom ash, reported engine problems in lat 52 40.5N, long 03 38.7E, at 0541, UTC, today. Vessel was taken in tow at 0857, UTC, bound back for Rotterdam, and is currently about eight miles west of Hook of Holland.

London, Jan 7 — General cargo Union Topaz, under tow, is now in the Rotterdam port area, continuing towards berth. Position at 1616, UTC, reported as lat 51 54N, long 04 16E, speed four knots.

London, Jan 10 — General cargo Union Topaz arrived Rotterdam Jan 7.

Maassluis, Jan 11 — General cargo Union Topaz sailed Rotterdam Jan 10 for Guinness Wharf. — Lloyd's Sub-agents. (Note — Union Topaz arrived and sailed Guinness Wharf Jan 11.)

#### **URKERLAND (Netherlands)**

London, Jan 7 — Understand general cargo Urkerland (852 gt, built 1989), owned by L. Hartman at Urk, was sailing through the Wemeldinge-Hansweert canal early Jan 6, on a ballast voyage to Sluiskil to load cargo, when, probably due to the strong winds, it ran into the shore near the Postbrug (bridge) and struck a dolphin. At first the vessel refused a tug, however, at about 0700, local time, tugs of salvors Polderman, Hansweert, and Multraship, Terneuzen, pulled the vessel off and towed the vessel to Hansweert. At Hansweert it went into the Scheepswerf Reimerswaal floating dry dock. Experts have investigated the damage, which was bow damage and bottom damage along several metres. The vessel will be repaired at Scheepswerf Reimerswaal, Hansweert, and they expect to have repaired the vessel by next Friday (Jan 14).

#### **URVAAG**

Trondheim, Jan 13 — Owners of fishing Urvaag inform no change in situation, vessel still at Averoy. No news as to time or place of scrapping. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **VENTURE SEA (Canada)**

Halifax, Jan 12 — Anchor handling tug/supply Venture Sea arrived Halifax Dec 29 with electronics damage after sustaining heavy weather damage from a rogue wave offshore Sable Island. Repairs were completed Jan 7. The vessel sailed Halifax at 2100, Jan 8, to resume operations offshore Sable Island. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **VICUNA (Chile)**

Santos, Jan 6 — Following received from sub-agents Paranagua: Chemical/oil carrier Vicuna: The superstructure was removed from the shipwreck on Dec 31 and stored at Pontal do Parana, a small port some miles east of Paranagua close to the Outer Roads used by the sea petroleum platform-manufacturers years ago. It will be cut into pieces and removed from the place. The shipwreck cutting process continues and the next big part to be removed will be the fore-castle/bow over the next few days. These huge pieces are removed by means of floating crane and barges.

Small pieces also being cut and stored at Pontal do Parana. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Jan 10 — In November, a team of salvors from Wijismuller Salvage responded when the chemical/oil carrier Vicuna exploded at Paranagua, Brazil. The vessel had a cargo of methanol and a number of crew members lost their lives in the blast, which destroyed the entire mid-section of the vessel, leaving only bow and stern, together with the double bottom. Wijismuller was contracted to carry out pollution prevention services. A large salvage spread was trucked to Paranagua, from the company's main South American base at Macae, just north of Rio. Mobilisation commenced before the contract was finalised and Dutch salvage personnel flew to the scene, reinforcing the response team already in attendance. More than 1,000 tonnes of heavy fuel oil and marine diesel was removed from the remains of Vicuna.

Santos, Jan 11 — Following received from Sub-agents Paranagua: Smit Tak is presently cutting the bow of chemical/oil carrier Vicuna and shall remove it from the shipwreck tomorrow or day after tomorrow. They will then commence to remove the machinery, the poop and then the central part that should be cut into three or four parts. The pieces will be removed to Pontal do Parana, where the superstructure is stored. It is reported that the shipwreck steel was bought by Gerdau, a Brazilian Steel Mill Co. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **VIVA 3 (Malaysia)**

London, Jan 11 — Following received from the operators of tug Tropical Ocean, dated Singapore, today: Barge Viva 3 was refloated Jan 6 or 7 and is now in Malaysian waters.

#### **VOLHARDING (Netherlands)**

See Sandettie.

#### **WALLY BLESSEY (U.S.A.)**

London, Jan 11 — A press report, dated Jan 10, states: A four-man crew has been rescued from burning tug Wally Blessey (87 gt, built 1980) in the Intracoastal Waterway near Port Isabel, Texas, the Coast Guard reported today. Wally Blessey was pushing a barge loaded with lube oil when a fire broke out in the engine-room just before it passed under the Queen Isabella Causeway late yesterday. The tug's master notified the Coast Guard at South Padre Island and two 27-foot rescue boats safely pulled the crew from the burning vessel within 12 minutes. The barge was disconnected and towed away by another tug. The Intracoastal Waterway was closed to traffic until about 0345 today, the Coast guard said. The Coast Guard Marine Safety Satellite Office at Brownsville is investigating the incident.

#### **WHITE STAR (Cayman Islands)**

Genoa, Jan 12 — Yacht White Star is still at Genoa, undergoing an international repair bidding exercise. Repairers have not been appointed yet by owners. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **ZEUS II (Panama)**

London, Jan 12 — A Coast Guard Seattle press release, dated Jan 7, states: The Coast Guard and civilian tug operators quickly answered the call for help from c.c. Zeus II (37479 gt, built 1984) which lost power near Edmonds, Wash., last night. The Coast Guard Vessel Traffic Service in Seattle was contacted by the pilot of Zeus II at 2030 hrs, who reported the vessel had lost steering and propulsion near Edmonds. Vessel Traffic Service monitored the rate of drift and closest point of land for the pilot as he handled the emergency. The pilot of the vessel contacted Foss Tug which dispatched two tugs from Shilshoal Bay, Wash. Tug David Foss arrived at Zeus II at 2106 hrs, and took the vessel in tow. Crew members onboard Zeus II evaluated the situation and discovered a clogged valve in the engine. The vessel was able to restart the engines and get underway under its own power. (Note — Zeus sailed Tacoma 1754, Jan 6 and subsequently arrived Vancouver, BC, 0800, Jan 7.)

London, Jan 13 — C.c. Zeus II sailed Vancouver Jan 8.

### Port State Control



#### **CYPRUS**

Limassol, Jan 7 — General cargo Fawaz S. (2592 gt, built 1968), which arrived Limassol Jan 2 from Novorossiysk, was today placed under detention. — Lloyd's Agents.

Limassol, Jan 11 — General cargo Fawaz S., under detention at Limassol since Jan 2, sailed on Jan 10, for Beirut. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **NETHERLANDS**

Maassluis, Jan 7 — Bulk Brave Zhejiang (39537 gt, built 1984) is currently under Port State Control detention at Rotterdam, where it arrived Jan 2 from Xingang. The agency hopes the vessel will leave Tuesday (Jan 11) or Wednesday. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

#### **UNITED KINGDOM**

Falmouth, Jan 12 — General cargo Delvina is still under Port State Control detention at Falmouth. — Lloyd's Agents.

### Seizures & Arrests



#### **ABDUL RAHMAN (Lebanon)**

Puerto Cortes, Jan 11 — General cargo Abdul Rahman is still here. The legal implications are difficult to resolve because apart from the first problem, lack of pre-arrival advise as

to the existence of dangerous cargo on board, the cargo interests also started legal action to recover their losses due to failure of the ship to discharge local cargo. At first the case was delayed because the whole judiciary system in Honduras closes during December. At the moment it is not clear when the ship may be released and allowed to sail. The local cargo was finally discharged. The cargo for Venezuela was transhipped, and only the dangerous cargo for Suriname is still on board. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **AL BATTANI (Egypt)**

Mexico City, Jan 13 — Understand from the Port Captain's office, that general cargo Al Battani was repaired to where it was seaworthy and sailed from Veracruz at 0815, local time Dec 9, for Houston. The vessel is now under the Panamanian flag and all of its certificates were issued by Panama. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **AQUA PIONEER (Malta)**

Maassluis, Jan 7 — General cargo Aqua Pioneer (1499 gt, built 1981) is currently under arrest at Moerdijk, where arrived Jan 3 from Thessaloniki. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

#### **BOKA STAR (Tonga)**

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

#### **FERROMINA HARVEST (India)**

Mumbai, Jan 13 — Supply Ferromina Harvest was released Dec 13, but is still in port at Mumbai. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **FILIPPOS (Paraguay)**

Rio Grande, Jan 11 — C.c. Filippos is still arrested at Porto Alegre, with no prospects of sailing at present. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **HERKULES II (Poland)**

Maassluis, Jan 7 — Tug Herkules II is still under arrest in the Rotterdam area. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

#### **JERBA (Tunisia)**

Bizerta, Jan 10 — General cargo Jerba is still at the Ml Bourguiba yard under arrest. There are no prospects of it being released. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

#### **MIDNIGHT EAGLE (U.S.A.)**

See "Torch Offshore Inc."

#### **MIDNIGHT EXPRESS (Vanuatu)**

See "Torch Offshore Inc."

#### **MIDNIGHT WRANGLER (Vanuatu)**

See "Torch Offshore Inc."

#### **OSIRIS (Netherlands)**

See under "Marine."

#### **OSTWIND (Antigua & Barbuda)**

Maassluis, Jan 7 — General cargo Ostwind is still under arrest at Vlaardingen. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

#### **SENTINEL (Comoros)**

Genoa, Jan 10 — General cargo Sentinel is still under arrest at Genoa.

Date of release is known at the moment. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **STAR I (Panama)**

See under "Marine."

#### **TORCH OFFSHORE INC**

London, Jan 11 — Torch Offshore's fleet of offshore construction ships could be up for sale if the New Orleans-based contractor decides to liquidate its assets after filing for bankruptcy protection. The troubled company had three vessels arrested by US marshals in late December based on actions taken by creditors and is facing an uphill battle to make its business profitable again. After seeing its liquidity worsen and having no joy from trying to get the pipelay vessels released, the management decided to go for Chapter 11 protection under the US bankruptcy code. "When we determined that it would be difficult to have these seizures released so that our vessels could go back to work, it was concluded that Chapter 11 reorganisation was the best course of action," said Torch Offshore chairman and chief executive Lyle Stockstill. "This decision will allow the company to restructure its balance sheet while we continue to operate our fleet of vessels." The newly converted barge carrier Midnight Express (19453 gt, built 1984) plus cable Midnight Wrangler (4671 gt, built 1983) and pipe layer Midnight Eagle (1670 gt, built 1977) were arrested at the request of support service provider C-Mar America after C-Mar sued Torch Offshore in Texas and Louisiana courts. Torch has other lawsuits pending and owes substantial sums of money, but does not have the ability to pay at present, especially with three vessels arrested. Its loan provider, GE Capital, filed a lawsuit in Texas for a \$14.5 million debt default. Cable Shipping has also filed a lawsuit to enforce a \$4.1 million payment for hire of laybarge Midnight Hunter. There could be another lawsuit from Adams Vessels for \$1.3m concerning a breach of payment for services to diving support Midnight Arrow. Midnight Wrangler is arrested in Texas, Midnight Eagle is tied up in Torch's Dulac, Louisiana base and Midnight Express is in New Orleans. Torch's situation is worsened by the low profit margins of Gulf of Mexico subsea construction work and the loss of key contracts, including laying of pipelines for Mariner Energy's Swordfish project, to competitors. "The company has been operating with a highly leveraged balance sheet for some time now, mostly due to the conversion efforts associated with Midnight Express," said Mr Stockstill. "Our liquidity issues were worsened by the competitive marketplace where we operate." Partially to Torch's rescue has come Regions Bank and Export Development Canada with a \$6.9m loan and a \$2m letter of credit. These should fund continuing operations after approval from the bankruptcy court. Other vessels in Torch's fleet are pipelay barges Midnight Brave and Midnight Rider. It also operates five offshore support vessels.

#### **VOYAGER (Netherlands Antilles)**

Maassluis, Jan 7 — General cargo Voyager is still under arrest at Rotterdam. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.



### Pipeline Accidents

#### **SUI, BALOCHISTAN PROVINCE, PAKISTAN**

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



### Pollution

#### **CAP FERRAT, FRANCE**

London, Jan 12 — The master and owner of an Italian tanker have been jointly fined E400,000 (\$540,000) for causing pollution in the Mediterranean Sea, despite the master's claim that he emptied vegetable oil not fuel oil into the sea. A court in Marseilles was told at a hearing at the end of November that chem.tank Nando (2808 gt, built 1979) was spotted by a French customs service aircraft in the act of tank cleaning in an environmental protection zone 23km off Cap Ferrat, near Nice, on May 12. The ship had previously loaded a cargo of sunflower oil in the Ukraine for delivery to the Italian port of Genoa but was en route for the Spanish port of Valencia to load a cargo of wine at the time of the alleged incident. Master Salvatore Mistretta claimed that he had dumped only vegetable oil, which French sources said would have been permissible even in the environmental protection zone. "In no case did the ship, which had only diesel fuel for its propulsion, deliberately empty hydrocarbons into the sea," his lawyer told the court. Experts from the French marine pollution research organisation Cedre said, however, that the ribbon-like form of the eight kilometre long, 100 metre wide slick, which figured on photographs taken by the crew of the spotter aircraft, was characteristic of fuel oil rather than vegetable oil. Rendering its judgment on Monday, the court ordered Captain Mistretta to pay E10,000 and the vessel's owner at the time of the incident, Diego Cali, E390,000. Three environmental organisations were each awarded E15,000 damages and the court ordered its judgment to be published in Lloyd's List and the French newspapers Le Monde and La Provence. The French environmental organisation, France Nature Environnement, said after the judgment that it was pleased that the court had not believed the master's version of events. It said that it was against dumping of all kinds in the Mediterranean and that the court's judgment would send a "strong signal"

to operators of vessels of all types to stop treating the Mediterranean "like a dustbin". Nando has changed hands since the incident. It is now known as Vinlandia and is owned by Leechcroft Investment of Gibraltar.

#### **COLUMBIA RIVER, WASHINGTON, UNITED STATES**

London, Jan 7 — A press report, dated today, states: The state Department of Ecology has fined a Greek shipping company \$12,000, saying the crew of its chem.tank Rosa Tomastos (23217 gt, built 2003) made mistakes that led to an oil spill in the Columbia River. Ecology estimates that 519 gallons of oil spilled from the vessel on Aug 30, 2003, when a fuel tank overflowed onto the deck and over the side of the vessel as it was being refueled at Hayed Island Anchorage west of Vancouver, Wash. Ecology investigators said the crew did not slow down the transfer of oil after the tank was 80 percent full, and alleged the chief engineer ignored the automated monitoring system that signaled the tank was getting full. "The crew members responsible for monitoring the fuel transfer were not keeping an adequate watch," Mike Lynch, an Ecology investigator said in a statement released today. "The watchman was busy loading supplies on the other side of the vessel, and the third engineer left his station to deliver an oil sample to the chief engineer in the engine-room." Some of the oil washed up on beaches near Frenchman's Bar and Caterpillar Island. There were no reports of any harm to wildlife. The vessel's master notified the US Coast Guard and hired a private contractor to handle the bulk of the clean-up, Ecology spokeswoman Mary-Ellen Voss said. The company, based in Piraeus, Greece, has 30 days to appeal the fine.

#### **UNALASKA ISLAND, ALASKA, UNITED STATES**

See Selendang Ayu under "Marine."



#### **COSTA RICA AND PANAMA**

London, Jan 12 — A press report, dated Jan 11, states: Costa Rica's President Abel Pacheco has declared a national emergency after three days of heavy rain led to flooding on the Caribbean coast. More than 7,000 people have been evacuated from their homes and there is one confirmed death. The authorities have been unable to reach some indigenous communities in the south of the country. The flooding has also affected neighbouring Panama, where 5,000 people have been evacuated. Helicopters there were said to be rescuing people from the rooftops of houses surrounded by floodwaters there, according to the National Civil

Defence System. Those evacuated are being sheltered in schools and other buildings. The Costa Rican authorities say the floodwaters had also damaged the country's bridge and road network. "In other countries these things are handled by armies and they have equipment like helicopters, but here we do it with volunteers and we have done everything possible," said President Pacheco, whose country has no formal armed forces. The country's emergency commission said temporary shelters had been set up in churches and other refuges. Rescue workers are still trying to reach some of the areas affected, including indigenous reserves in the region of Alta Talamanca.

#### **HURRICANE "FRANCES"**

Setubal, Jan 4 — Crude oil tanker Nysa was still under repair at Setubal on Dec 31. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **JAPAN**

Yokohama, Jan 13 — Oil removal operations to cement Fuyo Maru No.3 were carried out until Dec 17, followed by an excavating operation. On Dec 24 the vessel was towed to Mutsu Ogawara port in Aomori. After completion of temporary repairs, chem/oil carrier Kissho Maru set sail. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **NORTHERN EUROPE**

London, Jan 8 — A press report, dated today, states: Widespread flooding has hit the UK as high winds and torrential rain continue to lash the country. Homes have been deluged in parts of Wales, Scotland and northern England, with some houses evacuated. Carlisle in Cumbria is "awash" with water. Police say the city is cut off with no safe routes in or out. A spate of accidents has shut roads including sections of the M1 and M6. In Keswick, some flooded residents were evacuated with the help of mountain rescue teams using inflatable boats. A spokesman for Cumbria Fire Service said he was not yet aware of any casualties but the fire service was stretched to its limits dealing with the level of flooding. The M1 is closed northbound at junction 26, near Nottingham, after another lorry accident. The M1 southbound, at junction 27-26 is also closed. Major bridges around the country have been closed or restricted, and some train services have been severely disrupted. In Haydon Bridge, on the Tyne, 40 people were taken from their homes to temporary shelter in a village school after the River South Tyne burst its banks, although they were returning by midday today. In Llanrwst, several houses are flooded and two people were rescued from a car. The main A470 road is flooded either side of the town. Inflatable boats Motorists are being advised not to make journeys unless absolutely necessary. It is the worst weather Cumbria has seen in almost 40 years, fire officials said. About 50,000 homes are without power in the north and west of the county. Cumbria Police said Carlisle city centre was "awash" with flood water and they were asking anyone in the area who owned a

boat to help them. Spokesman Mike Head said: "We've had people phoning up reporting that the water is starting to creep up the stairs in their homes." Police in Cumbria are also warning of treacherous conditions on the roads, with overturned lorries on the M6, which is closed southbound between junctions 44 and 43. M6 drivers are also being told to take care between junctions 20 and 22 in Cheshire, while it is closed northbound between junctions five and six, near Birmingham. In Scotland, there are severe warnings between Kenmore and Dunkeld on the River Tay, between Dunkeld and Perth on the Tay, the River Isla from the Bridge of Ruthven to the Tay, and the River Teith at Callander. Central Scotland Police said a number of roads in the region remained closed or were passable only with care. Parts of the rail line between Inverness and Perth are also shut. In West Yorkshire, residents were evacuated overnight from a handful of properties after the River Wharfe broke its banks at Otley and Ilkley. And in neighbouring North Yorkshire, police said heavy rain was causing problems in the Wensleydale and Swaledale areas. In Northern Ireland, heavy gales have uprooted trees across the province, with Enniskillen and Downpatrick particularly affected. Widespread gales are expected to continue to affect central and southern Scotland and northern England throughout today. The winds are likely to remain over the next few days in central and southern Scotland, with heavy rain in northern England predicted to turn into squally showers.

London, Jan 9 — A press report, dated today, states: A storm with hurricane-strength winds swept across northern Europe, leaving at least three dead in Denmark and two killed in Sweden, police said. Key bridges and airports were closed, while all rail and ferry traffic was suspended. One motorist was killed when a tree crashed onto his car in Odense, 105 miles west of Copenhagen, police said. Details about four other reported deaths were not immediately available, but authorities warned the death toll could climb as the storm was predicted to move over the coastline through the night. Meteorologists described the storm yesterday as one of the worst to hit Scandinavia in years. The winds were clocked in some areas at more than 75 mph. Ferry traffic between Sweden, Denmark and Germany was heavily disrupted, with dozens of delays and cancellations, while floods inundated parts of Britain and left one ferry stranded. In the northern German state of Schleswig-Holstein, winds damaged houses and forced train and ferry links and highway bridges to shut down. Two 20-year-old men whose kayak capsized on a lake near the town of Landwedel were missing, police said. Airports in Copenhagen and Malmoe, Sweden's third largest city, were closed yesterday night with many inbound flights rerouted to Stockholm. Many roads in southern Sweden were flooded, and citizens were urged to stay indoors.

Bridges between the island of Funen, where Odense sits, and Zealand, where Copenhagen is located, were closed. Also closed was the bridge linking Copenhagen and Malmoe. In southern Sweden, virtually all trains were canceled, and more than 100,000 households were without power yesterday night, authorities said. Expecting the sea to rise to record levels, police issued warnings for people to stay indoors, and rescue teams piled thousands of sandbags and large paper rolls on the waterfront in downtown Helsinki near the president's palace. There were more than 100 flood warnings across England, Scotland and Wales, and thousands of homes had no electricity in central and southern England. Carlisle, in northwest England, was deluged by water when the River Eden burst its banks and cut off roads. Police asked boat owners to help them reach residents, and military helicopters were called in to evacuate at least 15 people from flooded homes.

London, Jan 10 — A press report, dated today, states: Flooding in Carlisle has left schools, roads and police stations closed and the city's court and hospital are running skeleton services. Three people were killed and two are missing after torrential rain and gales swept northern England and elsewhere. Many residents are unable to return to their homes, although engineers are managing to restore power supplies. Carlisle will have less rain today but could be affected by a fresh bout of heavy rain and gales by Wednesday (Jan 12). Schools in the city, as well as in nearby Wigton and Dalston, will be closed today. Both the fire station and police station were flooded and are operating from temporary headquarters. All of Carlisle's 65 buses have been damaged by water. Power had been lost in the whole of Carlisle and some of the surrounding countryside. It is being restored in some areas more quickly than others. Chief Constable of Cumbria, Michael Baxter, warned that Carlisle would be in "a state of emergency" for "at least three or four days". A 63-year-old man was crushed after a barn collapsed on his caravan in Cumbria and two elderly women died in flooded properties in Carlisle. In West Yorkshire and Morayshire two people have gone missing. By 0545, UTC, today, 24 flood warnings were in place in England and Wales, together with an additional 77 flood watches. There are two severe flood warnings of imminent danger to life and property - for the River Eden, Carlisle, and the River Caldew, in nearby Denton Holme. The Scottish Environment Protection Agency has issued eight severe flood warnings, 12 flood warnings and a further 25 flood watches.

London, Jan 10 — A press report, dated Jan 10, states: Finland got through the powerful winter storm that raged in Northern Europe during the weekend with little damage directly caused by the wind. However, while areas to the south and west of Finland bore the brunt of the storm, the winds in the southern part of the Baltic Sea

pushed sea levels along the south and southwest coasts of Finland to record highs, causing flooding in many areas on Saturday night and yesterday. Early on yesterday morning, the water level in Helsinki was 151 centimetres above average. The previous record in Helsinki was 136 centimetres. Senior citizens had to be evacuated from their homes in Virolahti and Pyhtä. At the Sörnäinen Harbour in Helsinki, hundreds of newly imported cars - mainly Audis and Volkswagens - sustained water damage when a protective barrier made of sand and stone was breached. Water cut a number of roads and highways along the coast, as well as in the centre of Helsinki, where the Market Square was flooded. Water had to be pumped out of many cellars near the shore. The record-high water level caused concern at the Loviisa nuclear power plant, which contains two of Finland's four commercial nuclear reactors. With water levels reaching 171 centimetres above the long-term average, the energy utility Fortum raised the level of alert at the plant, gearing up for a possible shutdown if the sea were to rise further. However, the water level came down in the afternoon. The water level was highest in Hamina and Kotka in the eastern part of the Gulf of Finland, where the surface was nearly two metres above normal. In Turku, in the southwest of Finland, the rising sea water caused considerable difficulties for ship passengers. Water flooded into the lobby of the Seaport Hotel in the harbour. According to Kimmo Kahma, special researcher at the Finnish Institute of Marine Research, yesterday set new records for water levels in the Gulf of Finland. He attributes the situation to a convergence of many factors: a deep low pressure system, winds of severe gale and storm force, and a shift in water in the main basin of the Baltic Sea. He says that the storm itself was related to the increase in differences in atmospheric pressure in the North Atlantic. The phenomenon, known as the North Atlantic Oscillation (NAO), has increased in intensity in the past 30 years, resulting in stronger westerly winds.

London, Jan 10 — A press report, dated today, states: Countries across northern Europe are recovering from a battering by storms which left at least 14 people dead. Hundreds of thousands of homes in Scandinavia, Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania were left without power. Seven people died in Sweden, four in Denmark and three in northern England, where flooding forced thousands to leave their homes. Meteorologists say that the storm was the worst to hit the Baltic states in 40 years. Airports, rail networks, bridges and roads were closed and dozens of North Sea ferry routes were cancelled. In southern Sweden, two nuclear reactors were temporarily shut down and 220,000 homes in the region were without electricity. Thousands of people in Carlisle, in the north-west of England, were moved into temporary accommodation as some 70,000 homes

lost power in the flooding. Many thousands of households in Denmark and Norway also suffered power cuts. The Baltic states suffered flooding in many coastal towns. Estonia suffered power cuts and Latvia's government declared an electricity crisis after 60% of the country's 2.4 million population were left without power. Today, 40% of the country was still without electricity. A Latvian government minister said power would be restored to nearly all cities and towns by the end of the day. Latvian schools are closed until Wednesday (Jan 12). In Sweden, at least four motorists were killed when trees were blown onto their cars and three other people died in winds that reached speeds of up to 94 mph. In Germany, two 20-year-old men whose kayak capsized on a lake near the town of Landwedel were missing and presumed dead. In Denmark, two died when uprooted trees were flung onto their vehicles and a further two were killed due to a dislodged roof. In northern England, a man was crushed after a barn collapsed on his caravan and two elderly women died in flooded properties, police said.

London, Jan 11 — A press report, dated today, states: Up to 10,000 households in the town of Hexham in Northumberland are enduring a third day without running water as a result of the weekend storms. Two water mains supplying Hexham and surrounding areas were washed away and repairs are unlikely to be completed until the end of the week. Schools in Hexham are expected to remain closed for the rest of the week. Meanwhile, thousands of residents evacuated from flood-stricken Carlisle are still unable to return home and thousands of homes in the Cumbrian city are still without electricity. A spokesman for Northumbria Water said some supplies would be restored by tomorrow and the rest by Friday (Jan 14). Power had been lost in the whole of Carlisle and some of the surrounding countryside. United Utilities said yesterday night that 3,000 homes were still without power, but a spokesman for Energywatch North West said that figure was closer to 7,000. The Met Office says gusts of up to 60mph will batter Carlisle until tomorrow. Southern Scotland, which has also been badly affected by floods, can expect gusts of up to 90mph before the end of the week. By 2230, UTC, yesterday, seven flood warnings were in place in England and Wales, together with an additional 30 flood watches. The Scottish Environment Protection Agency has issued three severe flood warnings, 15 flood warnings and a further 19 flood watches. In other affected areas: Bad weather has prevented West Yorkshire Police resuming their search for a missing man in the River Aire near Bradford. Police in Scotland are still searching for Andrew MacDonald, 42, of Forres, who may have been swept away in the River Findhorn on Saturday (Aug 8) morning. In Wales, about 50 properties in the Conwy Valley, Llanrwst and Trefriw areas have been flooded.

London, Jan 11 — A press report, dated today, states: A hurricane has left more than 1,500 inhabited localities without electricity in the Pskov Region of Russia, Itar-Tass was told today at the Press Service of the Russian Ministry for Emergency Situations. The hurricane had swept over Pskov Region on Jan 9. The wind velocity reached 28 metres a second. As many as 296 electric transmission lines were damaged and about four thousand transformer substations were de-energized. Twenty-four districts with a population of 67,000 were left without electricity. The electric supply system was restored in 1,906 inhabited localities only this morning. More than 32,000 people now have electricity in their flats again. It is planned to complete all the restoration jobs on Jan 20, ministry officials stated.

London, Jan 11 — A press report, dated today, states: More than 150,000 Swedes were without power today and police said another person was reported killed in fierce storms that struck northern Europe over the weekend (Jan 8-9), bringing the death toll to 17. In southern Sweden, seven people were reported killed in the weekend storm. Police said today that an eighth person was found dead and another remains missing. Two British men swept away in northern rivers have been missing since Saturday and there has been no word about their fate, British authorities said. Swedish utilities Sydkraft AB and Vattenfall AB said 150,000 households are still without electricity, and another 180,000 without phone service. The country's National Board of Forestry said the hurricane-strength winds felled more than 50 million cubic metres of trees, or about two years' worth of lumber. Four people were killed in Denmark by flying debris or falling trees. Another 10,000 homes in north-eastern England were without running water today because of the weekend storms that caused flooding. Meanwhile, police warned thousands of homeowners against returning to flood-damaged properties in the north-western city of Carlisle because of contaminated water and damaged electrical cabling. Three people died in the area after heavy rains and gale-force winds battered northern Britain during the weekend. About 13,000 homes in the Carlisle district remained without electricity today, according to power watchdog Energywatch North West. The weekend storm brought winds of 145 kph that ripped roofs from homes and wrought widespread property damage along the coast. Insurers put preliminary damage estimates at tens of millions of euros. In Russia, thousands were without power in the Pskov region, Itar-Tass reported. In the Baltic states, power was restored to thousands of residents in Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania. In Latvia, where heavy gusts tore the roofs off many homes in coastal regions, residents went about repairing their damaged property even as they braced for what meteorologists are predicting will be another unusually heavy storm to hit the region on

Thursday. Estonia's state forestry service on Tuesday estimated the storm toppled nearly one million cubic metres of timber, which could amount to almost \$39,31-million in damages.

St.Petersburg, Jan 11 — On Jan 9, flooding occurred in St.Petersburg, with water levels rising to 2.39 metres. The most affected region of St.Petersburg was the Petrogradskiy district. A lot of industrial facilities were flooded. Approximately 30 private cars were evacuated by rescue teams. According to officials, all shore cranes in St.Petersburg port stopped work when the electric supply was switched off following flooding of the berths. In addition, due to the river Seleznyovka overflowing in the Vyborg district of Leningrad region there was a suspension of traffic on the Skandinavia highway (Finland-Russia) between 1800, Jan 9, and 1200, Jan 10. On Sunday evening (Jan 9) the flood subsided, but further flooding is expected. A loss estimation is in progress. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Jan 12 — A press report, dated today, states: Two drivers have been killed and 60,000 people were left without power as gales reached speeds of up to 124mph in Scotland overnight. Winds blew over a lorry killing a motorist on the A1 near Burnmouth and in Tayside and a van driver was killed in a collision on the A90. Scottish Hydro Electric, the main power supplier in the north of Scotland, said a total of 60,000 customers had been cut off by the freak weather and some 150 major faults had been reported on the network across Scotland. A spokesman said: "We have had to stand our repair staff down for the night because it's simply too dangerous for them to work in these high winds." Many roads in rural areas have been closed and drivers are being urged to take extra care in the high winds. The storms have also left thousands of homes without electricity. The Tay Road, Erskine, Forth Road, Kessock and Skye bridges have all been closed to all traffic. The Western Isles has borne the brunt of the storm with gusts of 124mph recorded on North Rona, while winds reached 105mph on Barra. But the PA Weather Centre warned the storm would not peak until the early hours of Wednesday. Forecaster Joanne Grimshaw said: "There's no let up yet as it looks like the severe weather is going to continue until dawn. "It should peak by daylight and then ease off as the storms move north-eastwards towards Scandinavia." A spokesman for the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (Sepa) warned that rain falling on already wet ground could cause river levels to rise rapidly. "We would urge those living, working or travelling in areas where flood alerts are in force to remain vigilant and keep up-to-date with the latest flooding information through Floodline," he said. The ferry company CalMac suspended all its 26 routes between the Scottish islands and the mainland and advised passengers to listen to travel reports. P&O also cancelled all its ferries between

Scotland and Northern Ireland while NorthLink, which operates services from Aberdeen to Orkney and Shetland, had also confined vessels to dock. Trains have also been affected. First ScotRail has cancelled all its services until further notice. All schools and council offices in the Western Isles are to close today for safety reasons. All routine operations and non-urgent procedures at Western Isles Hospital in Stornoway scheduled for today have been postponed. (See issue of Jan 12.)

London, Jan 13 — Storms with winds up to 120 mph hit Scotland and Norway, disrupting port and terminal operations, halting crude oil loadings and forcing ferry operations to be abandoned. Two Scottish oil terminals and one in Norway were closed due to storms battering coasts. Tanker loading operations were affected in the Norwegian sector. Sullom Voe in Shetlands and Flotta terminal in the Orkney Islands are closed to tanker loadings, but production is still flowing through the northern North Sea pipeline system. A spokesman at Sullom Voe said the terminal will be closed until 1800 hrs today when it could be reopened if the weather improves. Shuttle tanker Loch Rannoch will call with Schiehallion crude and Teekay's suezmax African Spirit will be loaded with Brent export, said the spokesman. Norwegian state oil firm Statoil said oil shipments from the Mongstad terminal, north of Bergen, and offshore loadings at its Statfjord platforms were halted. Harsh weather has delayed repair and inspection work on two Norwegian production platforms since the start of this year at Statoil's Snorre and Shell's Draugen fields, closing in 345,000 barrels of daily oil output. Storms have affected Caledonian MacBrayne's ferry activities. The company that operates between Scottish ports and islands closed down almost all of its operations, keeping all ships in port except Hebridean Isles that left Kennacraig for Port Askaig on Islay. A British coastguard helicopter was called to stranded Spanish fishing Cibeles, 180 miles west of the Isle of Lewis to evacuate 19 crew. Teekay's Aframax Aegean Spirit assisted the rescue by providing a lee to the fishing vessel, said the Maritime and Coastguard Agency. Offshore operations involving drilling rigs were affected. Rig moves and cargo runs have been on hold as oil companies wait for a weather window. Charter rates for anchor handling vessels are boosted by the harsh weather as availability tightens. "The anchor handler market has tightened with no prompt availability and fresh requirements pushing the rates as high as the £30,000 level," said Aberdeen-based brokers. Dayrates for platform supply vessels are also rising to £25,000.

London, Jan 13 — A press report, dated today, states: Yesterday's storm which hit southern and western Norway caused problems for traffic by air, sea and roads, but no one was injured. Several large roofs were blown off both in eastern and western parts of

the country, and power lines suffered damage as trees and poles were blown down. In Agder counties 12,000 customers were without electricity most of the afternoon, and lines were down also in the Oestfold area. In Western Norway most flights had to be cancelled at Haugesund and Floroe airports due to the strong wind. Ferries and express boats had to remain in harbour in many districts, and even the coastal cruise liner Hurtigruten had to bypass stops. The ferries between Kristiansand and the Continent also had to cancel sailings yesterday morning. The wind had reduced in strength by Thursday morning, and was expected to die down by the afternoon.

## RUSSIA

London, Jan 10 — A press report, dated today, states: Air connection of the Kamchatka peninsula with the Russian mainland has been interrupted due to a cyclone that hit the south of Kamchatka, the air traffic service of the Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky airport told Itar-Tass today. Aircraft that were flying from Moscow and Krasnoyarsk to the peninsula have been sent to an alternate airdrome in Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk. Departures and arrivals of aircraft on all other routes linking Kamchatka with other regions of the country have been postponed till tomorrow. This is due to bad weather conditions at Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky airport. There is poor visibility there and the danger of icing has increased. The south of Kamchatka has been swept by a whirlwind. A storm warning has been issued to all operational services and the fleet working near the peninsula's coast. According to the Kamchatka hydrometeorology centre, the cyclone has brought a sharp warming to the peninsula by 10-15 degrees Celsius, which resulted in air temperatures of two-four degrees above zero. Wind velocity in the coastal areas reached 34 metres per second overnight. The situation on the roads is complicated due to ice-slicks. Meteorologists say that the peninsular will be affected by the cyclone for another day.

London, Jan 11 — A press report, dated today, states: Air transportation between the Kamchatka Peninsula and the mainland remains impossible today owing to a heavy snowfall. The airport of Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky is to remain closed to traffic until 1700, local time, 0800, Moscow time, or 0500, GMT. The condition of the runway of the Peninsula's main airport does not make it possible to receive airliners or send them off, a member of the airport's air traffic control staff has told Itar-Tass. Airliners, which are stranded at the airport of Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk, and which were to arrive at the Peninsula yesterday, are awaiting an opportunity to leave for Kamchatka. There have been delays in today's arrivals as well.

## TROPICAL CYCLONE "KERRY"

London, Jan 7 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated

today: At 0001, UTC, today, the centre of tropical cyclone "Kerry" was located near lat 16.3S, long 166.7E, approximately north of Noumea, New Caledonia, and has tracked southwestward, or 245 degrees, at 15 knots over the past six hours. The position is accurate to within 60 nautical miles and is based on the centre being located by satellite. Present wind distribution: maximum sustained winds: 35 knots, gusts 45 knots. Radius of 34 knot winds: 40 nautical miles in the north-east and north-west quadrants and 100 nautical miles in the south-east and south-west quadrants. The maximum significant wave height is 20 feet. At 0000, UTC, Jan 7, the centre is predicted to be near lat 18.1S, long 161.9E, with maximum sustained winds of 45 knots and gusts to 55 knots.

London, Jan 9 — A press report, dated today, states: The Bureau of Meteorology is monitoring tropical cyclone "Kerry" which is slowly moving towards the Queensland coast. The category three cyclone is about 1,200 kilometres east-north-east of Mackay and wind gusts near its eye are thought to be up to 170 kilometres-per-hour. The cyclone is expected to move slowly west for the next two days. Forecaster Gavin Holcombe says it will produce fresh to strong winds along much of the Queensland coast. "The winds along the coast are going to be strong but it's a combination of the cyclone and also the fact that we're going to have a big high moving into the Tasman Sea tonight and tomorrow," he said. "As a result the systems will maintain a strong ridge along the coast and also winds along a lot of the coast to the excess of 25 knots for at least another two to three days."

London, Jan 9 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: Tropical cyclone "Kerry" was located near lat 18.3S, long 159.2E at 0001, UTC, position accurate to within 25 nautical miles and is based on the centre being located by satellite. Present wind distribution: maximum sustained winds: 75 knots, gusts 90 knots. Radius of 64-knot winds: 20 nautical miles. Radius of 50-knot winds: 40 nautical miles south semi-circle, 20 nautical miles north semi-circle. Radius of 34-knot winds: 95 nautical miles south semi-circle, 85 nautical miles north semi-circle. At 0001, UTC, Jan 10, the centre is predicted to be near lat 18.5S, long 158.1E, with maximum sustained winds of 85 knots and gusts to 105 knots.

London, Jan 10 — A press report, dated today, states: The weather bureau is continuing to monitor tropical cyclone "Kerry" which is slowly moving towards the north Queensland coast. The category three system is still more than 1,000 km off the coast. Forecaster Gavin Holcombe says it is still too far away to pose a threat. "It's well away from the coast and as I said it's not having any direct affect," he said. "It may move in a little bit closer but all it will do is, we've got fairly strong winds along the east coast

present, it may strengthen those winds a little bit but at this stage we don't anticipate anything for at least 48 hours."

London, Jan 10 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: At 0001, UTC, today, the centre of tropical cyclone "Kerry" was located near lat 18.2s1 158.9E, approximately 500 nautical miles west-north-west of Noumea, New Caledonia, has tracked westward, or 270 degrees, at two knots over the past six hours. The position is accurate to within 60 nautical miles and is based on the centre being located by satellite. Present wind distribution: maximum sustained winds: 90 knots, gusts 110 knots. Radius of 64 knot winds: 25 nautical miles in all four quadrants. The maximum significant wave height is 38 feet. At 0000, UTC, Jan 11, the centre is predicted to be near lat 19.4S, long 159.0E, with maximum sustained winds of 85 knots and gusts to 105 knots.

London, Jan 11 — A press report, dated today, states: Central and southern Queensland could be buffeted by strong winds and heavy rain tomorrow if tropical cyclone "Kerry" continues moving towards the coast. The category three cyclone this afternoon is about 900 kilometres north-east of Bundaberg and moving south. Several beaches from the Sunshine Coast to the far north have closed due to the rough conditions. Weather forecaster Tony Witt says "Kerry" is generating wind gusts of up to 170 kilometres-an-hour.

London, Jan 11 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: At 0000, UTC, today, the centre of tropical cyclone "Kerry" was located near lat 19.2S, long 159.1E, approximately 450 nautical miles west-north-west of Noumea, New Caledonia, has tracked southward, or 225 degrees, at three knots over the past six hours. The position is accurate to within 40 nautical miles and is based on the centre being located by satellite. Present wind distribution: maximum sustained winds: 60 knots, gusts 75 knots. Radius of 50 knot winds: 10 nautical miles in the north-east and north-west quadrants and 30 nautical miles in the south-east and southwest quadrants. The maximum significant wave height is 28 feet. At 0000, UTC, Jan 12, the centre is predicted to be near lat 20.2S, long 158.6E, with maximum sustained winds of 40 knots and gusts to 50 knots. "Kerry" is forecast to continue tracking south-westward along the northeastern periphery of the strengthening low level steering ridge anchored south and west of the system. The cyclone is expected to weaken steadily and dissipate over the next 48 hours.

London, Jan 12 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: At 0001, UTC, today, the centre of tropical cyclone "Kerry" was located near lat 20.9S, long 160.3E. Movement past six hours 165 deg at three knots. The position is accurate to within 40 nautical miles and is based on the centre being located by satellite.



Present wind distribution: Maximum sustained winds 35 knots, gusts 45 knots. Dissipating as a significant tropical cyclone over water. At 0300, UTC, Jan 12, the centre is predicted to be near lat 21.1S, long 160.3E.

London, Jan 13 — A press report, dated today, states: The weather bureau says cyclone "Kerry," off the Queensland coast, has continued to move slowly southwards overnight and may be starting to take a more south-westerly path. The weak category one cyclone is about 1,000 km east of Rockhampton. Senior forecaster Jonty Hall says the "remains" of the cyclone should approach the coast between Fraser Island and Coolangatta late tomorrow or Saturday morning. Mr Hall says gale-force winds are likely to develop as the cyclone approaches, with 30 to 40 knot winds offshore and gusts of up to 100 km an hour in exposed parts of the coast. Emergency Services Minister Chris Cummins says householders should make secure anything that is not bolted down in their yards, clean out roof gutters, and make any other arrangements to minimise damage just in case the cyclone should head their way.

London, Jan 13 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: At 0600, UTC, tropical cyclone "Kerry," with a central pressure of 987hpa, centred near lat 23.6S, long 159.9E, moving south-south-west at six knots. Position good. Forecast maximum winds to 45 knots near the centre. Expect winds above 33 knots within 200 nautical miles of the centre in the southern semicircle and within 30 nautical miles elsewhere. Very rough seas and heavy swells. Forecast for 1800, UTC: Position near lat 24.6S, long 158.6E, with central pressure 987hpa. Forecast for 0600, UTC, Jan 14 : Position near lat 25.3S, long 157.3E with central pressure 987hpa.

#### TROPICAL CYCLONE "SALLY"

London, Jan 8 — Following received from the Meteorological Office: Tropical cyclone "Sally" located near lat 13.9S, long 100.2E at 0600, UTC, today. Movement past six hours 230 deg at five knots, position accurate to within 60 nautical miles, position based on centre located by satellite. Present wind distribution: Maximum sustained winds of 35 knots and gusts to 45 knots. Forecast for 0600, UTC, Jan 9: Position near lat 14.3S, long 97.3E, with maximum sustained winds of 35 knots and gusts to 45 knots.

London, Jan 9 — Following received from the Meteorological Office: Tropical cyclone "Sally" located near lat 15.0S, long 98.7E at 0600, UTC, today. Movement past six hours 230 deg at six knots, position accurate to within 60 nautical miles, position based on centre located by satellite. Present wind distribution: Maximum sustained winds 40 knots and gusts to 50 knots. Radius of 34-knot winds: 75 nautical miles south semi-circle, 40 nautical miles north semi-circle. Forecast for 0600, UTC, Jan 10: Position near lat 16.1S, long 94.2E, with maximum sustained winds of 40 knots and gusts

to 50 knots. Radius of 34-knot winds: 80 nautical miles south semi-circle, 40 nautical miles north semi-circle.

London, Jan 10 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: At 0600, UTC, today, the centre of tropical cyclone "Sally" was located near lat 16.4, long 99.1E, approximately 285 nautical miles south-south-east of Cocos, and has tracked south-south-east, or 155 degrees, at four knots over the past six hours. The position is accurate to within 60 nautical miles and based on the centre being located by satellite. Present wind distribution: Maximum sustained winds 20 knots and gusts to 30 knots. Maximum significant wave height is seven feet. "Sally" is dissipating as a significant tropical cyclone over water. At 0600, UTC, Jan 11, the centre is predicted to be near lat 18.0S, long 93.8E, with maximum sustained winds of 20 knots and gusts to 30 knots. This is the final warning on this system by the joint typhoon warning centre (navpacmetoccn). However, the system will be closely monitored for signs of regeneration.

#### TURKEY

London, Jan 13 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Turkey today re-opened the Bosphorus Strait to vessel traffic after heavy fog forced authorities to shut down the busy waterway for 15 hours, officials said. The Dardanelles Strait, which links the Marmara Sea to the Mediterranean, was opened to south to north traffic at noon after visibility cleared, a spokesman for the local traffic control said. "We have informed ships that we will be opening the strait to two-way traffic at 1900 hrs," he said. Authorities shut down both straits at 2250, GMT, yesterday, after fog strongly reduced visibility to around 50 to 60 metres.

#### UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

London, Jan 6 — A press report, dated today, states: Thick fog blanketed Dubai and Sharjah early yesterday morning, reducing visibility, which caused diversions of a total of 29 incoming flights to Dubai and Sharjah international airports to neighbouring airports. Of the 16 flights that were scheduled to land in Dubai airport, two were diverted to Sharjah at 0650 and 0720 hrs. A total of 13 flights were diverted from Sharjah to neighbouring airports in the UAE and Muscat. There were early morning flight delays as well. A total of 16 inbound flights to Dubai International Airport were diverted to Sharjah, Ras Al Khaimah, Fujairah, Muscat and other neighbouring airports, according to a Dubai Department of Civil Aviation (DCA) spokesperson. Dubai International Airport, she added, experienced some early morning flight delays due to foggy conditions between 0500 and 1100 hrs. Flight operations returned to normal by 1000, the spokesperson said. Meanwhile, Hariharan, section head of ground operations at Sharjah International Airport, told Khaleej Times that a total

of 13 flights to Sharjah had to be diverted to neighbouring airports due to low visibility at 200 metres yesterday. He added: "Initial fog set in at 0538 hrs. Two flights that were bound for Dubai were diverted to Sharjah. The flights landed at 0650 and 0720 hrs. The fog, however, set in again at 0737 hrs, causing the 13 flight diversions between 0737 until 1020 hrs. These were four passenger and nine cargo flights that were supposed to land in Sharjah. Egypt Air from Cairo was diverted to Abu Dhabi, while three Air Arabia flights were diverted to Muscat, Ras Al Khaimah and Al Ain. The Air Arabia flight, which took from Alexandria at 0505 hrs, was diverted to Muscat, arriving at 0920 hrs. It left Muscat at 1445 hrs and landed in Sharjah at 1530 hrs. Another flight from Khartoum departed at 0510 hrs and was diverted to Ras Al Khaimah airport, arriving at 0910 hrs. The Colombo flight, meanwhile, was diverted to Al Ain airport. Other flight diversions included nine cargo flights. Cargolux diverted to Al Ain; two Atlant-Souyz flights to Ras Al Khaimah and Fujairah; Singapore Airlines Cargo to Muscat; all three Lufthansa Cargo flights to Al Ain; Tubruk Air to Al Ain; and TXZ to Ras Al Khaimah. Clearance was given for landing at 1127 hrs. The first flight to have landed after the fog cleared was Uzbekistan Airways from Tashkent at 1137 hrs, he said.

#### UNITED KINGDOM

London, Jan 10 — A press report, dated today, states: Damage from the floods and gales that battered parts of The United Kingdom over the weekend, killing at least three people, will cost tens of millions of pounds to fix, say insurers. Several thousand people fled their flooded homes, and power was cut off in parts of Scotland and the north. More bad weather has been predicted by the Met Office. The Association of British Insurers, which represents about 400 companies, said the industry was prepared and premiums would not rise as a result of claims. Laurence Loghane, head of underwriting at Norwich Union general insurance, said: "We are not inundated with claims at the moment so we are easily managing." Jonathan Moules.

#### UNITED STATES

London, Jan 10 — A press report, dated today, states: Areas of the Sierra Nevada have been hit with steep snowdrifts stranding an Amtrak train, knocking out the Reno airport and shutting down major highways across the mountains. The string of moisture-laden storms has dropped up to 19 feet of snow at elevations above 7,000 feet since Dec 28 and 6 feet at lower elevations in the Reno area. Meteorologists said it was the most snow the Reno-Lake Tahoe area has seen since 1916. Storms also have caused flooding in Southern California and Arizona, deadly avalanches in Utah and ice damage and flooding in the Ohio Valley. The weather was blamed for at least eight weekend

deaths in Southern California, including a homeless man killed yesterday by a landslide. Along the storms' eastward track, avalanches killed two people Saturday (Jan 8) in Utah, authorities said. An avalanche yesterday afternoon knocked a 13-year-old boy from a ski lift at the Las Vegas Ski & Snowboard Resort, 45 miles northwest of Las Vegas. Dozens of people were looking for the boy yesterday night, said Clark County fire spokesman Bob Leinbach. A lull in the storm allowed the reopening yesterday of Interstate 80 over Donner Summit and US 50 over Echo Summit after the highways were closed off and on for more than a day. The highways connect Sacramento, Calif., to Reno. "The snowbanks along Interstate 80 are about 8 to 10 feet high. It's like you're going through a maze," said Jane Dulaney, spokeswoman for the Rainbow Lodge west of Donner Summit. About 25 motorists were rescued by National Guard members in Humvees after they became stranded overnight on US Highway 395 about 20 miles south of Reno, Nevada Highway Patrol Trooper Jeff Bowers said. Motorists had to wait up to six hours until rescuers could reach them after daylight yesterday. The California Highway Patrol reported 720 crashes last night, more than three times the number of accidents during the previous Sunday when roads were dry. More than 220 Amtrak passengers were back in Sacramento on yesterday after spending the night stuck in their train in deep snow west of Donner Summit, spokesman Marc Magliari said. One car of the California Zephyr, eastbound from Oakland, Calif., to Chicago, derailed in the snow Saturday evening. No one was hurt. Amtrak officials moved the passengers to other cars and the train reversed course and returned to Sacramento about 0600. Because of the derailment, a westbound Zephyr had to stop in Reno and its roughly 140 passengers completed their trip to California by bus. Service from several stations in Ventura, as well as trains from Los Angeles to Burbank, were cancelled for today. Reno-Tahoe International Airport was closed for 12 hours overnight for the second time in a week, and only the third time in 40 years, because plows could not keep up with the heavy snowfall, spokeswoman Trish Tucker said. Flash flood warnings were posted throughout Southern California. Residents of a mobile home park in Santa Clarita, northwest of Los Angeles, were evacuated yesterday after five feet of water spilled in from a creek. Authorities weren't immediately sure how many people were evacuated. A two-storey home collapsed in the Studio City area above the San Fernando Valley. A man and his two children were pulled from the rubble with minor injuries. Elsewhere, flooding along the Ohio River had chased hundreds of Ohio, West Virginia and Kentucky residents from their homes. Meteorologists predicted the river would reach its highest level in eight years at Louisville, Ky., this week at about five feet above flood stage.

Cincinnati was already more than two feet above its 52-foot flood stage yesterday, with forecasters expecting a crest at 57.5 feet. Ohio Gov. Bob Taft declared a state of emergency in 28 of Ohio's 88 counties this weekend, increasing to 49 the number of counties eligible for state assistance cleaning up from the storms, Ohio Emergency Management Agency spokesman Mark Patchen said yesterday. Ohio authorities believe carbon monoxide poisoning killed five people using generators for electricity since Friday. Indiana officials said some of the worst flooding since 1937 had isolated pockets across the southern part of the state, forcing hundreds of people from their homes. The storm that fed the flooding also knocked out power last week in parts of western and northern Ohio. Utilities said yesterday that about 66,000 customers remained without electricity, down from a peak of 250,000. More than 37,000 customers were still blacked out yesterday in Pennsylvania, and 56,500 were without power in Indiana.

London, Jan 11 — A press report, dated today, states: A huge mudslide crashed down on homes in a coastal hamlet with terrifying force yesterday, killing two people and leaving up to 12 missing as a Pacific storm hammered Southern California for a fourth straight day. Ventura County Fire Department Chief Bob Roper said as many as a dozen residents were missing in the mudslide that pummeled a four-block area of homes in tiny La Conchita, about 100 km north-west of Los Angeles. Nine people were injured, including a 60-year-old man who was buried for three hours. The mudslide brought the number of dead from the latest wave of storms to 11 in California. The storms have sent rainfall totals to astonishing levels, turning normally mild Southern California into a giant flood zone. Trees and vegetation were carried away, leaving huge gashes of raw earth on the bluff. Fifteen to 20 houses were hit by the slide. The destruction at La Conchita was the worst disaster of the storms to date, but mudslides and flooding were reported throughout the region, blocking road and rail travel and forcing a shutdown of interstate petroleum supply lines. Elsewhere, avalanches killed two people in Utah and one in Nevada. A sinkhole and rockslides on the tracks forced Amtrak to suspend train service between Paso Robles in central California and Los Angeles. To the north in the Sierra Nevada, the storm produced heavy snow during the weekend that stalled an Amtrak train, shut down the airport at Reno, Nev., for the second time in a week, and halted highway travel across the mountain range.

London, Jan 11 — A press report, dated today, states: Homes, community buildings and heavy equipment are in danger of freezing solid in the North Slope village of Kaktovik in north-east Alaska after a three-day Beaufort Sea storm knocked out electrical generators and power lines that normally keep the community warm. Winds to 70 mph

and temperatures to minus 20 degrees have created a domino effect of damage in the village of 300, North Slope Borough officials said yesterday. Since Saturday (Jan 9), power has flickered out at one building after another, including the school, where 50 people had gathered. The airport lights are out, most roads are impassable and many vehicles are too cold to start. The damage began late Saturday when the storm roared out of the west with winds to 60 mph. Power lines snapped and arced, which blew electrical transformers and tripped circuit breakers. The community's main generators still worked but by 2200 hrs power was out in about 60% of the village. The following morning, Harold Kaveolook School, which has its own auxiliary generator, opened as an emergency evacuation centre. About eight families took advantage, Packer said. Others moved in with friends and relatives. Around 1300, Sunday, blowing snow packed into the generator room and fried the generator's control board. School personnel restarted the generator, but it failed again shortly afterward. The evacuees then moved into the public works building, the last public building in Kaktovik with power and heat. In the meantime, the wind-blown snow had blocked roads and drifted over the airport runway. Snowplows and graders exposed to the cold couldn't be started, and fuel trucks couldn't move.

London, Jan 11 — A press report, dated Jan 10, states: Operators of two pipelines that bring gasoline from California refineries to neighbouring Western states have shut down the lines as a safety precaution because of record rainfall in California. Houston-based pipeline operator Kinder Morgan Energy Partners shut the line down yesterday. In a fax sent today, the company cited "pipeline washouts and other related difficulties." The pipelines - including one that supplies Arizona with about 70 percent of its gasoline, diesel and jet fuel - transports gasoline to Arizona and Nevada as well as military bases and airports. Kinder Morgan said there were no immediate supply issues and no known leaks. The company said the pipelines would be turned back on after they could be inspected and deemed safe. Because it has no gasoline refineries, Arizona must import all its gas; all the demand is filled by Kinder Morgan. What isn't piped in through Southern California is delivered through another line from El Paso that goes through Tucson to Phoenix.

London, Jan 11 — A press report, dated Jan 10, states: Winter storms that have pelted the state of Arizona over the past two weeks have caused an estimated \$3 million in damage, according to preliminary assessments by the Arizona Division of Emergency Management. The estimate comes as officials prepare for more rain forecast for the beginning of the week, although conditions were expected to level off. A flash flood watch will be in effect for parts of Yavapai, Gila, and Coconino counties until late tomorrow afternoon.

Cities within the watch areas include Prescott, Payson, Cottonwood, Camp Verde, and Cordes Junction. Also included were Seligman, Ash Fork, Tusayan, Valle and Supai. All three counties and Mohave County have declared a state of emergency and requested state funds, said Judy Kioski, a spokeswoman for the Arizona Division of Emergency Management. Maricopa and Apache counties have also declared a state of emergency but have not yet requested funds, she said. By yesterday, the emergency division had handed out 85,000 sandbags to outlying counties - 45,000 of those to Coconino County - and had another 40,000 on hand, Kioski said. She said assessors were still working in between storms to gauge the damage around the state. If damage estimates reach \$5.4 million, the state can ask for federal assistance, she said. However, Johndrow said that warmer temperatures over the weekend had helped to melt snow on peaks and could be less of a problem than expected. Over the weekend, creeks and washes in Arizona swelled slightly because of melting snow. Those effects were still being felt in isolated spots yesterday, as flooding on the Beaver Dam Wash destroyed four mobile homes on the Arizona Strip near the Nevada and Utah state lines. Four homes in the community of Beaver Dam broke up and floated away when hit by high water, said Byron Steward, a Mohave County Emergency management coordinator. "They are pretty much a total loss," he said. Another unoccupied home near the wash was threatened and homes in the nearby community of Littlefield also were damaged. There were no injuries.

London, Jan 12 — A press report, dated Jan 11, states: The pipeline that provides 70 percent of the Valley's gasoline, diesel and jet fuel remained closed today while crews assessed damage caused by torrential rains and flooding in California. Jay Thorne, a spokesman for pipeline owner Kinder Morgan Energy Partners, said the company was optimistic that it would be able to reopen its western pipeline today. But he added that there were "no promises." Kinder Morgan and AAA Arizona asserted that there is plenty of gasoline in storage to carry the Valley through a short interruption in supply. "There should be no shortages," Thorne said. Gas continues to flow through a smaller line from El Paso that generally supplies about 30 percent of the Valley's fuel and, at times, up to 50 percent of its gasoline. Thorne said today that the rain had subsided in California and that an aerial inspection of the line did not show any obvious problems. "Crews are now making their way to the sites to make physical inspections," Thorne said. He said the 20-inch pipeline is washed out in numerous places east of Colton, Calif.

London, Jan 13 — A press report, dated Jan 12, states: Lights and heat are gradually coming back on in the North Slope village of Kaktovik as electric linemen began repairing the

damage inflicted by a four-day storm. But as buildings warm up and broken water pipes thaw, flooding and fire have replaced freezing as the major concerns. It could take days or even weeks to fix leaks and get the community water plant operating normally, at a cost of millions of dollars, North Slope Borough officials say. Kaktovik gradually lost power Saturday and Sunday after a fierce storm and drifting snow blew down electric lines, shorted out transformers and extinguished emergency generators. With their homes freezing up, dozens of people gathered in the borough public works shop, which at the time was the only large building in town with heat and power. Repairs came quickly after an Alaska Air National Guard helicopter dropped off two borough linemen Tuesday afternoon. By 2000 hrs, power was restored to nearly half the village, said village Mayor Lon Sansalla.

London, Jan 13 — A press report, dated today, states: The torrential storm that caused the deadly mudslide in California is leaving a path of destruction in other Western states, bringing flooding that has gobbled up houses and roads and forced hundreds of people to flee. The heaviest flooding was concentrated in the area where Nevada, Arizona and Utah meet. No serious injuries were reported, but one man was missing in Utah. A skier was missing for a third day in the deep snow of rugged western Colorado. In California, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger on Wednesday surveyed the devastation caused by a huge mudslide that killed at least 10 people in the town of La Conchita. The overall death toll in California from the storms is 28 people. An estimated 100 homes were flooded and 350 had been evacuated in the Overton area. A police helicopter had to rescue five people, including two children, when they became trapped by rising water. As the storm moved east, it triggered blizzard or near-blizzard conditions in North Dakota; a blizzard warning was posted for some areas and a winter storm warning covered the rest of the state. Forecasters said wind chill factors fell to 30 below zero - and were to drop as low as 50 below overnight - in some spots. North Dakota ranchers took precautions to get their livestock out of the wind and fed them a little extra to stay warm; grocery shoppers stocked up on soda, bread, chips and milk. The National Weather Service said yesterday it will be the "flood of record" for the Santa Clara River. At its peak, the river was nearly 17 feet deep; it is normally 5 feet deep. Emergency officials sent 45 tons of sand, 2,000 sandbags and other assistance to Overton. Officials of Clark County, which includes Las Vegas, had declared an emergency in response to the flooding. Across Arizona, estimates of storm-related damages exceeded \$6 million, a state emergency management spokeswoman said.

## Earthquakes



### IRAN

London, Jan 11 — A press report, dated today, states: An earthquake measuring 5.8 degrees on the open-ended Richter scale jolted surrounding areas of Agh Qala City in Iran's north-eastern Golestan Province last night. According to seismological centre of Tehran University Geophysical Institute, the tremor had occurred at 2217, local time, 1847, GMT, and the epicentre of the tremor was in lat 37 13N, long 54 47E. There is no immediate report on damages, or casualties of the quake.

### SOUTH-EAST ASIA

London, Jan 7 — A press report, dated today, states: Damage to the Phangnga Naval Base could soar to two billion baht (£27.3m), far more than earlier estimates of 600 million baht, said navy deputy chief-of-staff Vice-Admiral Nopporn Achawakhom. The navy yesterday invited reporters to tour the 3,400-rai Phangnga Naval Base at Ban Thap Lamu in Thai Muang district after it was devastated by the Dec 26 tidal waves. Vice-Admiral Nopporn said the communication system and water and electrical supplies at the base were completely knocked out. The navy expected to restore them by 10-20% within a month or two. He had no idea when everything would be put back in place. He said damage was initially estimated at 670 million baht. But this figure did not include 300 million baht to renovate living quarters and buildings, 190 million baht to fix the communication system and 25 million baht in damaged vehicles. "In all, the total damage may be between 1-2 billion baht," Vice-Admiral Nopporn said. A frigate, Kra Buri, was grounded at Thap Lamu, inside the naval base. He said it will take about two months to salvage it. Damage to three patrol boats had yet to be assessed. A navy patrol boat, Tor 215, on a mission to provide security for Khun Poom Jensen, son of Princess Ubolratana, sank in the tsunami and has not yet been found. The vessel was estimated to be worth about 50 million baht. Rear Admiral Apiwat Sriwattana, Civil Affairs Department chief, said four navy soldiers died inside the base, as well as 12 children and seven other people. Two navy officers of the Third Fleet went missing. They were Capt Saravut Chumprasert, chief of the security team for Khun Poom at Khao Lak, and Warrant Officer Phadetchai Phoomsapap, a radio operator on Tor 215. Rear Admiral Prasit Jadbundit, Phangnga Naval Base commander, said the ordnance depot at the base was not damaged.

London, Jan 7 — A press report, dated today, states: Ports in the Indonesian Province of Aceh are resuming

operations. At Lohksuamawe (East Coast Aceh), operations are normal at the public berths (two jetties) and open yard. Operations are also normal with no congestion at Padang on the West Coast of Sumatra. Some congestion may be possible due to aid cargo at Belawan on the East Coast of North Sumatra. Operations are normal at the port and a 1500 square metre covered storage area is available.

London, Jan 7 — A press report, dated Jan 6, states: The financial cost to the Indian mainland from the devastating tsunami is more than \$1bn, the government says, quoting individual regions thus: Tamil Nadu \$613m; Kerala \$305m; Andhra Pradesh \$162m and Pondicherry \$115m. Costs to the remote Andaman and Nicobar Islands are still being assessed. The southern state of Tamil Nadu on the mainland has suffered the worst damage, incurring losses at some \$580m, officials say. The official death toll for all of India stands at 9,691, with thousands still missing. Unlike neighbouring Sri Lanka, the government has rejected offers of help from foreign governments, although it is accepting aid from foreign aid agencies. The main expense there will be rebuilding homes and buildings along the coast, most of which were completely destroyed or made uninhabitable. It is estimated that around 15,000 fishing boats need repairing or replacing. The Indian government says getting the fishing communities earning a living again is a top priority, so no expense will be spared. Officials hope to get Tamil Nadu's fishing fleets fully operation again within six months.

Mumbai, Jan 7 — C.c. Maersk Mandraki arrived Jawaharlal Nehru Jan 2 and sailed Jan 3 for Salalah. — Lloyd's Agents.

Ymuiden, Jan 10 — Early this morning Wijsmuller Salvage B.V. and Sri Lanka Shipping Co. succeeded in refloating the partly sunken and grounded general cargo Jaami in a controlled operation. The vessel, after sustaining hull damage, ended up aground off Colombo, with all compartments partly or completely flooded on Dec 26. Wijsmuller salvage teams, assisted by tugs Mahanuwara and Mahaweli from Sri Lanka Shipping, were able to patch the main damage to the hull, despite the weather, while the vessel itself more and more sank into the sandy sea bottom. Wijsmuller naval architects developed a special pumping sequence to allow the vessel to be refloated without cargo discharge, ensuring that the vessel would not capsize due to a negative stability caused by the "free surface effect" from all the flooded compartments. The refloating operation itself lasted close to 24 hours and required considerable pumping capacity and success was achieved when at 0235, local time, this morning Jaami was refloated. The vessel was anchored at Colombo anchorage to be further stabilised at around 0430, local time, today. — Wijsmuller Salvage B.V.

London, Jan 10 — A press report, dated today, states: A strong earthquake shook buildings and sent people scrambling from their homes in Banda Aceh early today. The Indonesian provincial capital of Aceh was devastated by a massive quake and tsunami two weeks ago. There were no immediate reports of injuries or damage from the quake, which the United States Geological Survey's website said struck off the northern coast of Sumatra island at 0513, local time. The magnitude 6.2 quake was 14 kilometres under the sea bed in the Indian Ocean, about 60 kilometres south-west of Banda Aceh, the USGS said.

London, Jan 10 — A press report, dated today, states: Sri Lankan Ports update: Colombo port is functioning smoothly. However, there is congestion due to naval relief vessels berthing inside port and a slight delay for container vessels. At Galle port, one berth is currently functioning and it is hoped that other berths at the port will be operational within 10 days. Vessel operations are now being conducted at Trincomalee, despite damage to the pier.

London, Jan 10 — A press report, dated today, states: Ports on the east coast of the Aceh Province are now operating normally. The port of Lhokseumawe is open and operating normally with berths available. Open storage also remains available. Trucks can also be arranged for aid deliveries to communities along the east coast at Lhokseumawe, Bireuen, Panteraja, Sigli and Banda Aceh area. The Lhokseumawe-Banda Aceh route is 280km long, along a paved road in good condition. Transit times for trucks are approximately six-seven hours each way. The port of Belawan (Medan) is reported to be operating normally with no berthing delays at this time. Open and covered storage are still available, as well as trucks. Medan Airport is fully operational for aid flights. There are long delays/cancellations to scheduled flights. Banda Aceh airport is also fully operational, but with delays due to congestion. On the west coast, following bridge repairs, the following route between Medan and Meulaboh is now reported open and suitable for trucks: Medan - Berastagi - Kabanjahe - Sidikalang - Kalakepen - Bakongan - Kandang - Tapktuan - Susoh - Kutanihong - Meulaboh. The estimated distance is 450km and truck transit times are estimated at 15-20 hours. Access to the western offshore islands of Simeulue and Nias is now possible by sea and by air.

London, Jan 10 — A press report, dated today, states: The Dec 26 tsunami that shattered India's Southern Coastline has made Chennai Port the deepest on the country's East Coast. A Bathymetry Survey conducted by National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT) has revealed the entry channel to Chennai Port has deepened - enabling the berthing of vessels of larger drafts. Sources of Chennai Port said the report states that four-five lakh cubic metres of

sediment was dredged due to the high current generated by the tsunami. This deepened the 17.4 m deep harbour by one-two metres, especially along Ambedkar dock and Bharathi dock, where the depth of the entry channel (previously 18.6 m) has deepened by a metre. Tuticorin Port is functioning normal with all shipping and cargo operations being carried out without any problems. The bulk storage yard is functioning normally and all cargo movements are being carried out without any hindrance. The Port and Customs offices are also fully attended and functioning normally. Cochin Port is working normal and all shipping movements and cargo operations are being carried out as usual. Port offices and Customs offices are fully attended and functioning normally.

Banda Aceh, Jan 10 — A U.S. military helicopter helping the tsunami relief effort crashed near Banda Aceh airport today, briefly disrupting aid operations, but military sources said no one was killed. A Reuters reporter on the scene said the body of the Seahawk helicopter was on its side intact in the midst of a rice paddy, but the rotors were smashed and dented, with some missing. The tail had nearly snapped off. Seahawk wing commander Capt. Larry Burt told reporters there were 10 personnel on board. "None died in the crash, they all survived." He said the helicopter had been landing to pick up supplies for tsunami victims. U.S. flights were suspended after the crash, which Burt said occurred at 0715 hrs, but resumed an hour later. Burt said the cause of the crash was under investigation. "We will not release details until we are confident. We will not compromise the investigation."

London, Jan 11 — C.c.Lal Bahadur Shastri, which sailed Visakhapatnam Jan 1, subsequently arrived Singapore Jan 6 and sailed Jan 7 for Hong Kong, where ETA today.

London, Jan 11 — A press report, dated today, states: Creative Holidays general manager Andrew Yell has returned from a fact finding mission in Phuket. Most of Phuket's hotels were at 100 per cent occupancy when the tsunami hit the Thai resort area on Boxing Day and Yell said the hotels that were still open were now at about 20 per cent capacity. Yell said the clean up effort at Phuket was progressing well. "I have never seen Patong Beach so clean," he said. "There are some odd things to be seen though; CDs and DVDs are everywhere and banana lounges and umbrellas are all over the place." He said one street in from Patong Beach, the damage to infrastructure was quite limited. However, the evidence of the water was everywhere. "In hotel rooms a fair way back from the water the water mark is half way up the walls," he said. "A lot of the properties look like they could do with a good hose down." Much of the damage at hotels had come from patio furniture being pushed through windows due to the force of the wave. He said the salt water had killed the lawns and plants in the gardens of the resorts, but that these were quickly

being replanted. He estimated that by the beginning of February, the holiday experience of tourist in Phuket would not be diminished. However, Yell could not gain access to the devastated area of Khao Lak where most hotels have been destroyed.

London, Jan 11 — A press report, dated today, states: With thousands of bodies still being pulled from the rubble and the death toll topping 157,000, the emergency phase of the tsunami disaster is far from over, the Red Cross warned, as donor countries convened in Geneva today for a UN conference. Markku Niskala, secretary general of the Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, said that some 2,600 bodies had been recovered on Saturday (Jan 8) alone around the town of Meulaboh on Indonesia's Sumatra Island. This "is an alarming figure and only indicates that the emergency phase definitely is not over yet", Niskala said. Indonesia's death toll rose to 105,262 today with more than 10 000 still missing, according to the social affairs ministry. In Geneva, pushed by unprecedented global sympathy for tsunami victims, about 250 representatives of governments, aid agencies and nations hit by the catastrophe were gathering for a conference chaired by UN emergency relief coordinator Jan Egeland. The task of the conference is to firm up worldwide pledges of more than eight billion dollars for the relief effort and turn promises into reality, while at the same time seek to better coordinate how, when and where the aid gets delivered on the ground. With some Islamic nations under fire for what is seen as a less than generous response to the tragedy, which involves some Muslim countries, Malaysia announced that members of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference have contributed \$118-million in aid. The 57-member OIC, of which Malaysia is current chairman, would channel the money through the UN, said Foreign Minister Syed Hamid Albar. On the ground, survivors around the region were slowly beginning to rebuild their lives, going back to sea to fish in Sri Lanka, and reopening businesses even in the worst hit area, Indonesia's Sumatra island.

Chennai, Jan 11 — Product tanker Suvarna Swarajya sailed Chennai Jan 5. — Lloyd's Agents.

## Political & Civil Unrest



### BOLIVIA

La Paz, Jan 11 — Anti-government protests in Bolivia today paralysed two cities and pushed authorities to meet a key demand — the cancellation of a water concession run by a foreign company. A two-day civic strike called by business, labour and neighbourhood groups to protest a rise in gas prices brought to a halt the normally bustling

Santa Cruz, Bolivia's richest and largest city with 1.2 million people. Streets were blocked and public transport was grounded. The government said it will not reverse the gas price increases decreed two weeks ago because it cannot afford the \$30 million in fuel subsidies needed to keep prices down. In El Alto, the poor combative city of 800,000 that overlooks the capital La Paz, protests continued for a second day against the gas price increases and also the city's water utility, owned by France's Suez Lyonnaise des Eaux. Protesters cut off roads leading into the capital and to the international airport outside El Alto. Late today, Bolivian President Carlos Mesa's government agreed to cancel the French company's concession in both El Alto and La Paz for failure to fulfill its contract. About 200,000 people in El Alto still don't have running water, although the contract stipulates 100 percent coverage, and the government said connection costs were too high. The company has denied any wrongdoing. Even with the government's gesture, El Alto's leaders said they would not end their strike. There have been no major episodes of violence in this week's protests. Mesa has said he would quit before people die in protests to push him out. Without his own political party, Mesa also said parliament has acted like a "lock" on his 15-month-old government. His Cabinet lashed out at the protesters, calling them "radical groups" from the right and left. "They are bent on destabilising government and democracy," said Carlos Agreda, vice minister of government coordination and the main negotiator with protesters. — Reuters.

### DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

London, Jan 7 — A press report, dated today, states: The security situation in the east of the Democratic Republic of Congo poses serious challenges for planned June elections, a UN report warns. The report from UN Secretary General Kofi Annan says rebel groups from Rwanda are still operating in the area. The UN's humanitarian chief Jan Egeland said yesterday that about 1,000 people are dying every day in DR Congo. A five-year civil war in the huge country left nearly three million people dead from hunger and disease. The war is supposed to have ended in 2002 but fighting has persisted in the east, by soldiers who were once rebels backed by Rwanda. In the report, which was to be presented to the UN Security Council yesterday, Mr Annan says the security situation in the east remains "extremely volatile". He says there are "serious challenges" to elections in June. The UN also says it is worried about the logistics of holding elections in a country which is so large, yet lacks basic infrastructure. Mr Egeland told reporters that credible estimates by the International Rescue Committee suggested about 1,000 people die every day in Congo - many from disease and malnutrition. He said while he was "increasingly satisfied" about the global

response to the Asian tsunami disaster, he was "getting increasingly nervous for all of the forgotten and neglected emergencies". Earlier this week 11 ministers lost their jobs in a wide-ranging government reshuffle - including six already suspended on corruption charges. Those ministers were accused in November of serious financial malpractice, along with the heads of a number of state-owned companies. The transitional government was set up in June 2003 to end a civil war and brought together former rebels and the political opposition. The new defence minister is a major figure within the former Rwanda-backed rebel group the Congolese Rally for Democracy (RCD) Adolphe Onusumba. The sacked ministers of defence and economy were RCD members who fell out with the party's leadership. The announcement came as Congolese President Joseph Kabila visited the city of Kisangani in the troubled east of the country, to oversee the set-up of military headquarters there.

London, Jan 8 — A press report, dated today, states: Renegade army soldiers in eastern Congo massacred at least 30 civilians, including women and children, to avenge the deaths of three of their troops, the United Nations said yesterday. Troops slaughtered the civilians Dec 17 in the village of Buramba because they suspected them of supporting Mayi Mayi militiamen in the area, the UN mission in Congo said in a statement.

### INDIA

London, Jan 7 — A press report, dated today, states: Police today said militants stormed a government building in Indian-controlled Kashmir, setting it on fire with 70 employees still trapped inside. Three people were killed in the fighting, an official said. Three militants made their way into a government tax building, hurling a hand grenade that set off a blaze, a police officer said on condition of anonymity. Government forces surrounded the building, said K. Srinivasan, Deputy Inspector General of the Border Security Force. Gunfire was exchanged between the militants and soldiers outside. "We are trying to storm the building from two sides with two objectives - one to put out fire and second to evacuate civilians safely," the security force inspector said. One paramilitary soldier, one civilian and one militant had been killed, he said. It was not immediately clear if any of the 70 employees had been hurt or killed.

### INDONESIA

London, Jan 11 — A press report, dated today, states: Indonesia's military chief extended a new cease-fire offer today to rebels in the tsunami-stricken Aceh province. Rebels in that area welcomed a proposal made by Gen. Endriartono Sutarto during a press conference in Banda Aceh, and said they hoped the government would keep its word. "For the time being, we are making this offer," Sutarto said. "We have to work together to help

Aceh." Speaking from Sweden, the rebels' spokesman, Baktiar Abdullah, said the cease-fire offer "has come a bit late, but still, it is something that is positive and good." However, he expressed skepticism about the proposal, noting that the government had sent thousands of additional soldiers to the region since the tsunami. Sutarto repeated claims that the guerrillas, who've fought for years for a separate homeland on Sumatra island's northern tip, had tried to hijack relief supplies. The Free Aceh Movement, known by its Indonesian acronym GAM, "is trying to stop food assistance and they are trying to rob the food away," Sutarto said. "If they ask for food, we will give it to them. They do not have to do this." The military has long been accused of rights abuses in Aceh and offered no evidence to back up the claim. The rebels denied it and said their supporters are among the thousands of victims of the disaster in need of help.

## IRAQ

Baghdad, Jan 6 — Seven U.S. soldiers were killed today when their Bradley Fighting Vehicle hit an explosive device on a road in northwestern Baghdad, the U.S. military said in a statement. The group was on a routine security patrol when the attack occurred at 1800, local time, said Captain Patricia Brewer, a U.S. military spokeswoman. "All of the occupants were killed," she said. Iraq's U.S.-backed government said today it was extending emergency powers equivalent to martial law for a further 30 days to try to safeguard Jan 30 elections, which are under threat from deadly attacks. More than 90 people, mostly Iraqi policemen, have been killed this week alone in the violent campaign targeting the U.S.-backed interim government, its security services and U.S. forces. — Reuters.

Baghdad, Jan 6 — Iraq's U.S.-backed government said today it was extending emergency powers equivalent to martial law for a further 30 days to try to safeguard Jan 30 elections under threat from deadly attacks by insurgents. The state of emergency, first imposed in November ahead of a major U.S. assault on the rebel stronghold of Falluja west of Baghdad, would stay in effect into February, Prime Minister Iyad Allawi's government said in a statement. Emergency powers allow the government to impose curfews, close borders and airports and detain suspects without following normal legal procedures. The emergency applies to all regions of Iraq except the Kurdish north, which has been relatively stable. In a separate development, Iraq police today said a female French journalist had been missing since yesterday and may have been kidnapped. French newspaper Liberation said the journalist was Florence Aubenat, who had been working for the paper in Iraq since December. — Reuters.

Baghdad, Jan 10 — Gunmen assassinated Baghdad's deputy police chief and a suicide bomber driving a

stolen patrol car killed three people at a police station today as insurgents pressed a campaign to wreck Iraq's Jan 30 election. The attacks at morning rush hour underlined the vulnerability of Iraq's fledgling security forces, raising fresh doubts as to whether they can protect voters in the first ballot since a U.S.-led invasion toppled dictator Saddam Hussein. The shooting of Brigadier Amer Nayef, the second-ranking police commander in the capital, came just six days after guerrillas assassinated Baghdad's provincial governor. Gunmen killed Nayef as he left his family home in the southern Dora area of the capital, police said. Minutes later, a suicide bomber who had apparently commandeered a patrol car and packed it with explosives blew himself up at a police station in southern Baghdad, killing three Iraqis and wounding several more, police said. With three weeks to go before the election, insurgents have stepped up their drive to cripple the U.S.-backed interim government and scare away voters. Iraqi leaders say Sunni-led guerrillas also want to provoke sectarian civil war. A senior U.S. commander said last week that four of Iraq's 18 provinces, including parts of the capital, were still too insecure to hold elections and predicted a surge of violence as the ballot approached. Insurgents have killed more than 100 Iraqis in the past week alone, mostly security force members they regard as collaborators with foreign occupiers. Bloodshed has also been heavy in the heartland of Saddam's once-privileged Sunni minority. Yesterday, gunmen assassinated the acting police chief of the northern town of Samarra. Later in the day, a suicide car bomb rammed into a police and army checkpoint in Yusufiya south of Baghdad, killing two policemen and two civilians. Interim Prime Minister Iyad Allawi, a secular Shi'ite, has rejected any postponement of the election, which is expected to cement the Shi'ites' newfound political dominance. Adding to mounting chaos, seven Ukrainian troops and a Kazakh soldier were killed yesterday when a bomb they had discovered exploded. It was one of the deadliest blows to America's allies in the country. A U.S. Marine was killed in action yesterday in restive western Anbar province, the military said. The death brought to 1,065 the number of U.S. troops killed in action in Iraq. In Seoul, the South Korean government said one or two of its nationals may have been abducted in Iraq. The Foreign Ministry said an Iraq militant group had posted an Internet message saying it had kidnapped two South Koreans and demanding that Seoul withdraw its 3,600 troops in 72 hours. "If this is not done, the judgment of Allah will fall on the two hostages," said the message, signed by a hitherto unknown group calling itself Organization of Holy War in Iraq. The government said there were no reports of missing South Koreans registered with the embassy in Baghdad. — Reuters.

Baghdad, Jan 10 — Sabotage has paralysed oil operations in Iraq's north, forcing a suspension in refining while export flows remain idle, oil officials said today. They said attacks in recent days on oil facilities, including export routes and domestic pipelines feeding power stations, have virtually brought Iraq's strategic fields to a halt. "The system is virtually down. We are looking at a week to get the refineries back up and more for exports to resume," said an oil official, who declined to be named. Oil facilities in the north have a diminished postwar output capacity of 700,000 barrels per day (bpd), including 500,000 bpd of exports through a pipeline that runs to Turkey's Ceyhan port. Flows through the line have been halted since it was attacked on Dec. 18. Sabotage has escalated over the past month, hampering repair operations, endangering the safety of North Oil Company employees and deepening a fuel and electricity crisis in most of the country. Oil Minister Thamir al-Ghaddban told Al Arabiya Television over the weekend that "total war" has been declared on Iraq's oil infrastructure by enemies of the pro-U.S. government. The minister was referring to mostly Sunni Muslim areas where the insurgency is strongest. Sabotage has been far less frequent in the mostly Shi'ite south and oil production has been relatively steady, although power cuts have occasionally disrupted exports from offshore Gulf terminals. Exports were running at 1.9 million barrel per day today, shipping data showed. Crude oil tanker Cosglory Lake was loading at 17,000 barrels per hour from berth one at the Basra terminal. — Reuters.

Tikrit, Jan 11 — A car bomb killed at least six people outside the police headquarters in Saddam Hussein's home town of Tikrit today. Hospital officials said the six dead and five wounded were all members of the police force in Tikrit. Yesterday, gunmen assassinated Baghdad's deputy police chief, and a suicide bomber in an explosives-packed vehicle resembling those used by police rammed into a police compound in southern Baghdad, killing at least three people. The shooting of Brigadier Amer Nayef, the second-ranking police commander in the capital, came just six days after guerrillas assassinated Baghdad's provincial governor. The al Qaeda-linked insurgent group headed by Jordanian militant Abu Musab al-Zarqawi has claimed responsibility for both of the assassinations. Washington is offering \$25 million for information leading to the death or capture of Zarqawi, who it regards as its number one enemy in Iraq. — Reuters.

Baghdad, Jan 11 — Gunmen attacked a minibus travelling through Iraq's notorious "Triangle of Death" region south of Baghdad today, killing eight people and kidnapping three, police in the area said. Police said it was not immediately clear who was in the minibus. Sunni insurgents regularly target Iraq security forces and Shi'ite pilgrims in the area. The lawless zone

of dusty towns just south of Baghdad, where the attack took place, is regarded as one of the most dangerous areas of Iraq. Travellers say cars are routinely stopped by insurgents setting up checkpoints to search for those they regard as collaborating with the Iraqi government and U.S.-led troops. — Reuters.

London, Jan 13 — A press report, dated today, states: Engineers have repaired a major pipeline linking Kirkuk's oil fields with the northern refinery of Beiji after a sabotage attack interrupted pumping for three weeks, an official with the North Oil Co. said today. The official said pumping to the refinery resumed two hours before Beiji's reserves would have run out. Since the Dec 23 attack, the refinery has depended on reserves usually kept for use during wars, the official said. Between 300,000 and 400,000 barrels a day will be pumped to the refinery, he said. He said the pipeline used for exporting oil to Turkey still needs another 10 days to be repaired. The line leading from the northern oil fields to the Turkish port of Ceyhan, a principal export route for Iraq, was attacked on Dec 21. Oil-rich Kirkuk is about 180 miles north of Baghdad. Insurgents have often targeted Iraq's oil infrastructure, repeatedly cutting exports and denying the country much-needed reconstruction money.

#### **IRAQ-KUWAIT**

Rijeka, Jan 10 — Ro/ro Star, ex Boka Star, is still under arrest at Rijeka. There are no prospects of the vessel sailing at present. — Lloyd's Agents.

#### **ISRAEL**

London, Jan 9 — A press report, dated today, states: A French officer serving with UN peacekeepers in Lebanon was killed by Israeli shelling today, shortly after a Hezbollah bomb attack killed an Israeli soldier and wounded three others near the southern border, Lebanese and UN officials said. Milos Struger, spokesman for the UN peacekeeping force in southern Lebanon known as UNIFIL, said a French officer was "killed by shelling from the Israeli side of the Blue Line," the border line drawn by UN troops following Israel's withdrawal from south Lebanon in 2000. UNIFIL has opened an investigation into the tragic incident," Struger said in a statement issued at UNIFIL headquarters in the Lebanese border town of Naqoura. The slain officer worked for the UN Observation Group Lebanon, a UN agency that monitors the 1948 Armistice Agreement between Lebanon and Israel, he said. Earlier, Hezbollah guerrillas detonated a roadside bomb that destroyed an Israeli military vehicle near the southern Lebanese border, killing an Israeli soldier and wounding three others, Lebanese security officials said. Israeli warplanes retaliated, firing missiles twice at Hezbollah's Tal el-Hamamseh observation post near the Israel settlement of Metullah, seven miles west of the attack area, and shelling another position at Rweisat, Lebanese

security officials said. Some 15 Israeli shells reportedly fell near the Lebanese village of Kar Chouba. It was not known whether the French soldier was killed during that attack.

London, Jan 11 — A press report, dated today, states: Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas has offered "the hand of peace" to Israel after his landslide victory in Sunday's (Jan 9) presidential election. Mr Abbas urged a resumption of talks based on the internationally-backed "roadmap" peace plan. President Bush has invited him to visit Washington - something he denied Mr Abbas' predecessor Yasser Arafat. Mr Bush also urged Israel to "fulfil its obligation on the withdrawal from the territories that they have pledged to withdraw from". Preliminary official results show that Mr Abbas won 62.3% of the vote in the poll to succeed the late Yasser Arafat. Mr Abbas' main rival Mustafa Barghouti got 19.8%. Admitting defeat, he said it was a victory for Palestinian democracy. Israel has welcomed the result of the Palestinian poll and urged Mr Abbas to clamp down on militant Palestinian groups. Israeli officials say Mr Sharon is prepared to hold security talks with the new Palestinian leader, but full-scale peace negotiations will have to wait. Mr Abbas has called on militant Palestinian groups, who boycotted the election, to end their armed uprising against Israeli occupation. A Hamas representative, Mahmoud Zahar, said that the new president would not succeed because Israel would not give him a chance. But Hamas says it will work with Mr Abbas, despite boycotting the poll.

Ramallah, Jan 12 — Israeli soldiers shot dead two wanted Palestinian militants in a West Bank raid today, in the first Israeli raid since the election of Mahmoud Abbas as Palestinian president. Soldiers surrounded a house in Qarawat Bani Zeid, a village north of Ramallah, and ordered out the occupants in an attempt to seize the Hamas militants, a military spokeswoman said. "After everyone left the house, the forces entered and two men opened fire on them. The troops returned fire and both (gunmen) were killed," she said, adding that both of the Palestinians were the wanted men. Palestinian residents said troops entered Qarawat Bani Zeid overnight and imposed a curfew, barring anyone from leaving their homes, and that later gunshots were heard from a house being surrounded by Israeli forces. Israeli soldiers arrested seven other wanted militants elsewhere in the West Bank, the army said. In the Gaza Strip, Palestinian witnesses said that an Israeli military jeep blew up when it struck an explosive near the Jewish settlement of Morag. Israeli sources said there appeared to be casualties at the site. Overnight, soldiers backed by tanks and helicopters raided an area near Gaza City and arrested four militants, including a member of Hamas, an Islamist faction that seeks Israel's destruction, the army said. Palestinian witnesses said Israeli helicopters fired several missiles at the

targeted area and raked an open field with gunfire during the raid. There were no reported casualties and Israeli forces withdrew just after daybreak. In a separate incident, Israeli police shot dead a Palestinian militant during a raid for car thieves in the West Bank town of Tulkarm yesterday, the army said. Finally, Palestinian Islamic Jihad militants carried out a deadly attack on Israeli troops in the Gaza Strip today, a group spokesman said. The Israeli army had no immediate comment. — Reuters.

#### **IVORY COAST**

London, Jan 11 — A press report, dated today, states: African leaders have ended a peace and security summit with a series of moves aimed at improving the chances of a peace deal in Ivory Coast. The African Union leaders called for the reinforcement of United Nations troops there and a strengthening of their peacekeeping mandate. South African President Thabo Mbeki is expected to travel to Ivory Coast today for further talks. The AU called for an extension of the deadline on a second round of UN sanctions, which would include the freezing of assets of people who are not engaged in the peace process. This is intended to give Mr Mbeki more time to convince all sides in the conflict that disarmament and constitutional reforms can make presidential elections feasible within 10 months. The summit, held in Gabon, also said a referendum on the country's controversial eligibility laws for the presidency could be an option to ease tensions. Mr Mbeki has been mediating in peace talks in Ivory Coast since the army attacked the rebel-held north in November. He said he was optimistic about meeting Ivorian President Laurent Gbagbo in Abidjan.

#### **NEPAL**

Kathmandu, Jan 7 — The Nepali army said today it had recovered the bodies of 24 Maoists taking to 54 the number of guerrillas killed in a gunbattle in west Nepal early this week. An army officer said some bodies were found buried by the fleeing rebels while others were scattered in the jungle in Kailali district, a Maoist stronghold 665 km west of Kathmandu where the deadliest fighting in more than two months took place. "More Maoists may have died because the rebels fled with their dead comrades after the battle," the officer said. One soldier also died in the battle on Wednesday (Jan 5). The Maoists, fighting to topple the constitutional monarchy and set up a communist republic, have not commented. Violence has surged ahead of a January 13 deadline set by the government for the rebels to begin talks to try to end the eight-year revolt in which more than 11,000 people have died. Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba says he will hold long-delayed elections by April if the Maoists fail to respond, but the rebels have vowed to disrupt the vote without resolving the conflict. The Maoists are demanding foreign

mediation in talks to discuss their demand for an assembly to prepare a new constitution to decide the role of monarchy in the future political set up. — Reuters.

#### PAKISTAN

Karachi, Jan 8 — At least two people, a Frontier Corps soldier and a civilian girl, were killed and many others injured when a gas pipeline blew up and caught fire during a gun battle between armed men and law-enforcement personnel in the Sui Township in Balochistan Province of Pakistan yesterday night. Local media has reported that dozens of rockets and mortar shells were fired from both sides during the two-hour clash," the sources said. A rocket hit the 16-inch diameter pipeline supplying raw gas from the field to the compressor plant owned by Pakistan petroleum Ltd, official sources said, adding that the main compressor and purification unit were safe. The gas supply was not affected, the sources said. Provincial Home Secretary Aftab Jamal told journalists that the firing had stopped and the fire in the pipeline had been brought under control. He said that many official vehicles were damaged. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Karachi, Jan 9 — Some unidentified persons again blew up a gas pipeline in the Sui gas field area of Pakistan Petroleum Limited in Balochistan Province of Pakistan by firing rockets late yesterday. The conduit, which supplied gas to Wapda for the Guddo Thermal Power Plant, caught fire as a result. According to local media reports, the gas supply was disrupted to the power plant as engineers switched off supply from the main plant to control the blaze. The personnel of the Frontier Corps and Defence Security Guards returned fire. Dozens of rockets and mortal shells were lobbed during the exchange. "A rocket hit one of the gas pipelines inside the fenced area of PPL purification plant," the sources said. However, the fire which the pipeline had caught had been extinguished, they said. It may be mentioned that unknown armed men and the law-enforcing agencies had also exchanged fire for two hours on Friday night which resulted in the killing of two men and injuries to six others. — Lloyd's List Correspondent

Karachi, Jan 10 — Pakistan state owned largest gas producer, Pakistan Petroleum Ltd (PPL), said considerable damage was caused to Sui gas field and its township in Balochistan Province due to rocket attacks by armed men at the Sui Township on Friday night (Jan 7). The company in a statement issued late yesterday night said at 2045 about 114-rockets were fired by armed men at security towers, offices, workshop and houses of Sui field, as result of which fire erupted on different sites of the field. Furthermore one guard was killed and two injured and one girl was seriously injured. Later, an armed man at 2045, Jan 8, again started firing at the field and continued it till 2350.

They fired more than 100 rockets. The Frontier Corps and the Defence Security Guards posted at the field also returned fire. However, due to attack, half of field plunged into darkness and telephone exchange became inoperative. The company has approached central and provincial governments to help it. Separately, according to local media reports, the gas supply to the Guddu thermal power plant, which was disrupted after a pipeline was hit by rocket and mortar fire on Saturday, could not be restored yesterday. Engineers of Pakistan Petroleum were reported to be repairing the pipeline. The gas supply to the power plant is expected to be restored today. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Karachi, Jan 11 — Pakistan fertilizer and power sectors have started suffering on account of short supply of gas from Sui gas field of Pakistan Petroleum Ltd (PPL), in Balochistan Province of Pakistan, due to ongoing exchange of heavy gunfire between armed men and law-enforcement, from last Friday (Jan 7). Federal Minister for Industries, Jehangir Tareen, in a statement, showed apprehensions that this short supply of gas from Sui field may affect urea fertilizer production, if not resumed soon. He said they have good stock of urea for January's consumption, but could not sustain it for a longer period. An official of state owned distribution company Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Ltd (SNGPL) said that the daily average supply of 460 MMCF from Sui field has been suspended, out of total supply of 584 MMCFD from the province and they have no alternate but to cut supply to industrial units from today. Supplies of 135 MMCF and 657 MMCF from Punjab and Sindh Provinces respectively are being provided and they are maintaining uninterrupted supply to other non-commercial consumers. — Lloyd's List Correspondent

Karachi, Jan 12 — Gas supplies to industrial users were suspended from Pakistan's largest gas field for a second day after as many as 15 people were killed in fighting with tribesmen, officials said today. President Pervez Musharraf, in a television interview aired late yesterday, warned tribal militants in the southwest province of Baluchistan to stop fighting or "they will not know what hit them". Gunmen from the Marri tribe stormed facilities operated by the state-run Pakistan Petroleum Limited (PPL) yesterday, overpowering military guards and damaging pipelines and a purification plant before being driven out by paramilitary frontier forces. "Three paramilitary soldiers were killed and five others were wounded in fighting on Tuesday evening as security forces ejected the troublemakers from the gas field," said military spokesman Major General Shaukat Sultan. Sultan said two civilians, including a child, died in the crossfire, while another security official said as many as 10 tribesmen had been killed. Officials had said the plant's compressor and several

pipelines had caught fire in that fighting. A PPL spokesman said a damaged pipe within the purification plant had leaked poisonous gas before it was shut off. "Therefore the plant has to be shut and supply of gas from the gas field temporarily stopped," the spokesman said. "It will take at least two or three days to assess the damage and do the repair work," he said. Another official said industrial users, particularly in neighbouring North West Frontier Province would be hit hardest because the company was giving priority to households. "The big industrial users are hit, like urea factories and power producers, but home users are being supplied gas," he said. "It is too early to assess the production losses, it will take time to calculate them," he added. The Sui field's average gas output is about one billion cubic feet per day — almost 45 percent of Pakistan's total natural gas production. — Reuters.

Karachi, Jan 13 — Pakistan industrial sector including fertilizer and power sectors are facing maximum impact of a shut down of Sui purification plant for the last two days. The plant reportedly met about 22% of the requirements of the country and its closure hit the country's economy hard. The plant was attacked by armed men earlier this week and caused huge damage to plant and other installations. The area plunged in to darkness and communication systems were interrupted as well. Pakistan state owned gas utility-Sui Southern Gas Co (SSGC) today said that in view of the shutdown of the Sui Purification Plant in Sui, Balochistan, there has been some reduction in the availability of natural gas throughout the country. As a temporary measure, and in order to overcome the current shortage, SSGC has been compelled to curtail the supply of gas to industrial customers: Coastal Power Plant, KESC Bin Qasim, WAPDA, Pakistan Steel and Fauji Fertiliser Bin Qasim. At the same time, to ensure minimum disruption of supplies in Balochistan, which is presently facing harsh winter conditions, SSGC has taken urgent measures to arrange a reverse supply of gas to Quetta. In a statement it urged its customers, particularly domestic customers in Sindh & Balochistan, to adopt urgent and necessary measures, to ensure the conservation of this vital energy source. He said, out of the total amount of natural gas that SSGC distributes through its transmission and distribution system, nearly 110 - 120 million cubic feet per day, comes from Sui. That constitutes nearly 10% of the total gas distributed in SSGC's franchise areas in Sindh and Balochistan. The remaining 90%, is supplied to the SSGC system from other gas fields in the area. Meanwhile, an official of Pakistan Petroleum Limited (PPL), which owned Sui Purification plant, said a team of engineers has arrived at Sui and it would start repairing all damaged pipelines soon. He said the temporary closure of the plant had led to decrease



of 460 MMCFD of gas to Sui Northern Gas Pipeline's distribution network and 110 MMCFD to Sui Southern Gas Pipelines. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

### PHILIPPINES

Manila, Jan 10 — Heavy fighting between Philippine troops and Muslim rebels today left at least 19 soldiers and guerrillas dead, breaking a 17-month truce just weeks before peace talks hosted by Malaysia were due to restart. Philippine and Malaysian officials said the battle on the southern island of Mindanao would not derail the talks aimed at ending a 35-year-old separatist rebellion that has killed at 120,000 people. The military said it was using howitzers to shell rebel positions while helicopters fired rockets and machineguns to retake an army outpost that was overrun yesterday night by some 200 Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) guerrillas. "We have lost six soldiers," Major-General Raul Rellano, the regional army commander, told Reuters. "The rebels are still holding one soldier but we recovered two others." Rellano said 13 rebels were killed in some of the heaviest fighting since the military and the rebels agreed to revive a truce in July 2003. The military said a band of fighters from the MILF, the largest Muslim rebel group in this mainly Roman Catholic nation, had joined up with Abu Sofia, a small kidnap-for-ransom gang, to avenge last week's killing of suspected kidnappers by soldiers. Rogue factions could break away from the mainstream MILF as the peace process moves forward, security analysts have said. The rebel leadership has denied any cracks in MILF ranks. The gunbattle came two days before the government and rebel ceasefire panels were due to meet in Davao City in Mindanao to discuss ways to strengthen the truce before the resumption of formal peace talks next month in Kuala Lumpur. Eid Kabalu, a spokesman for the MILF, said the rebels would ask a Malaysian-led team of truce monitors to investigate which side started the fighting. Kabalu said the two ceasefire committees should step in to avert an escalation of the conflict. Brigadier-General Alexander Yano, head of the government's ceasefire panel, said the fighting would not affect the scheduled peace talks in Malaysia. "This is not sanctioned by the hierarchy of the MILF," Yano told reporters. "We received reports that the motive for the attack was personal. It was an independent action by some of the MILF local commanders." Yano said he had been in contact with MILF officials and Malaysian officers leading the truce monitors to seek ways to contain the fighting and prevent any spillover to other areas. Malaysian Defence Minister Najib Razak said he did not consider the fighting to be a breakdown of the ceasefire. — Reuters.

### RUSSIA

London, Jan 9 — A press report, dated Jan 8, states: More than 100 police and security agents backed by five armored

personnel carriers surrounded a house today in the southern Russian region of Ingushetia and killed five alleged militants in a shootout, the Interior Ministry said. The suspects had resisted capture, opening fire with automatic weapons and throwing grenades, said Yuri Smolyaninov, a spokesman for the regional branch of the Federal Security Service, the main successor to the Soviet KGB. He said the special operation to eliminate the militants was completed by this afternoon. The alleged militants were suspected in the June attacks on Ingush police installations, in which about 90 people were killed, said a duty officer in the Russian Interior Ministry's southern regional branch in Rostov-on-Don. No casualties were reported among law enforcement officers or civilians, the duty officer said.

### SOMALIA

Nairobi, Jan 10 — The interim Somali government is to start relocating from the Kenyan capital, Nairobi, where it is currently based to Somalia within the next three weeks, sources said today. The government, other sources added, was likely to move to the Somali capital, Mogadishu. "The government has set the end of January as the tentative date to start the relocation to Somalia," Hussein Jabiri, director of communications in the interim prime minister's office, said. "It will be a gradual relocation." The prime minister, Ali Mohamed Gedi, named a new cabinet on Friday (Jan 7), nearly a month after his initial line-up of 76 was rejected by parliament. There are 42 ministers, 42 assistant ministers and five ministers of state in the new cabinet, Jabiri said. One of the Somali faction leaders, Hussein Mohammed Aydid, was made deputy prime minister in charge of home affairs and another influential politician, Mohammed Qanyare Afrah, was given the post of national security minister. Other prominent faction leaders who have joined the cabinet include Muse Sudi Yalahow, Usman Hassan Atto, Hassan Muhammad Nur Shatigadud and Adan Madobe. Abdullahi Shaykh Isma'il, another faction leader, was appointed foreign minister. — Reuters.

### SRI LANKA

London, Jan 9 — A press report, dated today, states: Two hand grenades hurled in a clash between Christians and Hindus killed at least three people and wounded 37 in a part of eastern Sri Lanka where international aid workers are helping tsunami victims, police said. No aid workers were injured or near the explosions, officials said. UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, in Sri Lanka to see tsunami damage, was in Colombo at the time of the blast. Two suspected assailants were arrested soon after the attack in a Tamil rebel-controlled area late Saturday, said V.H. Anil, a police officer in the eastern town of Valaichchenai. He said Christians were angry that Hindus had demolished a church and may have carried out the attack in retaliation.

### SUDAN

London, Jan 10 — A press report, dated today, states: Thousands of Sudanese are to take part in rallies celebrating the historic signing of a peace accord between the government and southern rebels. The deal was signed during a lavish ceremony attended by international dignitaries in Kenya yesterday. The biggest celebrations will be held in the capital, Khartoum, where many of the estimated four million refugees from the 20-year civil war live. The deal opens up the possibility they can return to their homes in the south. Following yesterday's signing in the Kenyan capital, Nairobi, Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir said the deal would usher in new prosperity for the country. Rebel leader John Garang told a cheering crowd that the peace deal would change Sudan "forever". Both sides will unify into 39,000-strong force if the south does not secede after six years. Starting in July, the south will be autonomous for six years and will then vote in a referendum to decide whether to remain part of Sudan, or become independent. Sudan's new oil wealth - currently producing about 320,000 barrels a day - is to be split equally between north and south. It is hoped that this time, the involvement of the international community will help keep the peace agreement on track.

United Nations, Jan 11 — More police, human rights monitors and African Union peacekeepers are urgently needed in Sudan's western Darfur region where fighting rages on despite a peace accord ending a separate conflict in southern Sudan, a senior U.N. official said today. Jan Pronk, the special U.N. envoy for Sudan, told the U.N. Security Council arms were flooding into Darfur, violence was spreading beyond camps for the homeless, banditry was on the rise and rebels were staging attacks near oil facilities. "We may move into a period of intense violence unless swift action is taken," Pronk said. "I do not exclude the possibility that the signature of the agreement (on the south) will be followed in the short term by an intensification of violence in and around Darfur." Pronk said he had asked the United Nations to send in 117 human rights observers and the African Union hoped to soon deploy 150 of a promised 800 police officers. But more help was quickly needed and possible options included police officers from the European Union, more AU peacekeepers, and a small civilian monitoring protection team similar to one now deployed in the south, Pronk said. U.S. Ambassador John Danforth backed Pronk's proposals. At the Security Council's urging, the African Union has pledged to deploy more than 3,000 troops and monitors in Darfur but to date has sent in only a third of these and says it needs more outside help to send more. The United States, which says genocide is taking place, wants the council to increase the pressure on the parties by imposing sanctions on their leaders. But some

members including Russia and China oppose such punitive measures. Pronk said sanctions, while still an option, should not be imposed now as Khartoum had just responded to international wishes by signing the peace agreement in the south ending Africa's longest civil war. A new incentive to work for peace in Darfur would now come from Western nations' decision to withhold development aid until the Darfur crisis was resolved, he said. But the parties must be made aware that "there is not much time left," Pronk added. "It is important for all parties in Darfur — the government and the rebels — to understand there is a limit to tolerance and ... sanctions are still something to be considered," Danforth said. — Reuters.

## Labour Disputes



### BANGLADESH / INDIA

London, Jan 7 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Strike in the largest Benapole land port passed the sixth day today with no sign of an early end to the deadlock that disrupted export-import and loss of substantial revenue earning of the exchequer. Customs Commissioner Dr Rafiqul Islam had a meeting with striking port users with no results. Leaders of five port users associations agreed to a tolerable 15 percent increase of port rent and fee, meeting sources told UNB. The associations went on strike saying the port authority raised port rent and fee by 600 percent with effect from Jan 1. They brought out processions and demonstrated in front of the Port office today and threatened to paralyze also Bhomra and Darshana land ports. Most exporters and importers were trying to reroute their consignments through other land ports where the rent and fee remained unchanged. Government revenue loss due to the strike is estimated at Tk 30 crore during the last six days.

Karachi, Jan 8 — Import and export through the Benapole Land Port near the border of Bangladesh and India was resumed on Friday afternoon (Jan 7) following an announcement made by the five striking organizations, calling off their week long strike after a fruitful meeting with the Bangladesh government's officials. Leaders of the five port users' organisations conveyed the decision to call off the strike to journalists at the end of a fruitful meeting with Tariqul Islam, who is also Minister in charge of Jessore district at the local Circuit House yesterday afternoon. According to the decision, the Bangladesh government decided to reschedule the charges for the use of godown and equipment of the port, leaders of a C&F striking organisation said. Minister for Environment and Forest

Tariqul Islam presided over the meeting. Shipping Secretary Ismail Zabiullah, Chairman of the Benapole Land Port Anwar Hossain, C&F Association leader Ali Reza Raju, Customs Commissioner Dr Rafiqul Islam, central BNP Mofikul Hasan Tripti, local BNP leaders Chowdhury Shahidul Islam Nayan and Kazi Monirul Huda, C&F Association leaders Shamsul Rahman and Nuruzzaman, and Deputy Commissioner of Jessore Abdul Wajed, among others, were present. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

### PAKISTAN

Karachi, Jan 8 — The National Transport Ittehad, Karachi (NTIK), an alliance of 18 transport organizations, observed a one day strike in Karachi port today to agitate against federal government on its recent increase in oil and diesel prices. They have kept away all means of public transport, buses, minibuses, coaches, trucks, trailers, and inter-city buses. Thin attendance was reported from almost all the government and private offices. The worst affected were the factories where the labourers mostly come by buses or mini buses. The decision was taken at a meeting, chaired by Saleem Khan Bangash, which was attended by the representatives from all member organizations, an NTIK release said. As a result, life in Karachi was partially paralysed. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

### UNITED STATES

London, Jan 10 — A press report, dated today, states: The Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission lost \$2.2 million in toll revenue during a seven-day strike in November by its toll collectors and maintenance workers. Nearly 2,000 employees represented by the Teamsters were on strike between Nov 24 and Dec 1. During the strike, commission managers staffed toll booths and motorists were charged flat \$2 tolls for passengers vehicles and \$15 for trucks, regardless of the distance they travelled.

## Awards & Settlements



### INCOMPLETE DECLARATIONS, UNITED STATES

London, Jan 11 — A press report, dated today, states: State Farm Mutual Insurance Co. agreed yesterday to pay \$40 million to thousands of car owners around the United States to settle allegations that it allowed automobiles that were total losses in crashes to be resold without noting the accident on the title. About 30,000 consumers may be eligible for payments ranging from \$400 to \$10,000, depending on the value of their vehicle, said New York Attorney General Eliot Spitzer. In most

states, insurance companies taking ownership of vehicles that are severely damaged must, when selling the repaired vehicle, declare on the title that the car is "salvage," because such a repair history affects the automobile's value.

### MEDICAL MALPRACTICE, UNITED STATES

London, Jan 12 — A press report, dated Jan 11, states: A Hicksville, Long Island couple have received a \$3.5 settlement of a lawsuit against Winthrop-University Hospital in Mineola. The family's suit claimed that doctors delayed in diagnosing a rare genetic disorder in their daughter in 1999, which caused her brain damage. The girl - Alexa Cardone - who is now five, was brought to the hospital when she was three weeks old. She was vomiting and unable to keep down food. Hospital spokesman - John Broder - says doctors performed a battery of tests to rule out common illnesses in babies before they began testing for rare diseases. But the Cardone family's attorney - Steven North of Manhattan - says the baby's illness was Propionic Acidemia - which could have been detected with a urine test. North says it took two weeks to diagnose the disease, leaving the baby girl with a permanent neurological disorder. Broder says the hospital decided to settle the case because of the case's complexity and the "emotionally charged environment" in the courtroom. North says Alexa will always be impaired and never be able to manage her own affairs. The settlement yesterday was reached just before a trial was to begin.

### PATENT DISPUTE, JAPAN

London, Jan 12 — A press report, dated Jan 11, states: Nichia Corp., a Japanese chemical company, agreed to pay about 840 million yen (\$8 million) to former employee Shuji Nakamura as settlement in a dispute over the patent for blue light-emitting diodes. The company said it will pay Nakamura, now a professor at the University of California at Santa Barbara, for his contribution to development of the diode. The settlement is the largest in Japan for an employee's invention and prompted companies to reassess reward systems, according to Kyodo News. Nichia originally paid 20,000 yen to Nakamura for the invention, announced in 1990, Kyodo said. The Tokyo High Court mediated the settlement after the Tokyo District Court last year ordered the company to pay 20 billion yen. The district court ruled the development to be worth about 60 billion yen. Nakamura said he is not satisfied with the settlement, though he accepted it on the advice of his lawyers, Kyodo reported. He left the company in 1999, Kyodo said.

### POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS, UNITED STATES

London, Jan 12 — A press report, dated Jan 11, states: A seven year old boy who was wrongly charged with a girl's death in 1998 was paid \$2 million

by the Chicago City Council today to settle his family's lawsuit. The unidentified boy and an eight year old friend, together made headlines when authorities charged that they knocked Ryan Harris, 11, off her bicycle with a brick, then suffocated her and sexually assaulted her. A few months later, prosecutors dropped the charges after finding sperm on the girl's body and charged a convicted sex criminal with the crime. The family of the seven year old said he suffered from post-traumatic stress and filed suit against the city and its police.

#### ROAD ACCIDENT, UNITED STATES

London, Jan 7 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: A jury in Billings has awarded \$3.9 million in damages to a Virginia woman who was injured in an automobile accident in Billings. Lisa Brotherton Pumphrey received the damages to cover past and future medical expenses and lost wages yesterday following a trial before District Court Judge Russell Fagg. Pumphrey, 28, was stopped at a Billings intersection on June 22, 2001, when her vehicle was struck from behind by a pickup driven by Rick Lee Pagitt, an employee of Empire Lath and Plaster of Billings. Pumphrey's car was pushed forward into another vehicle driven by her husband, Sean. Pumphrey's injuries included a herniated disc and displaced ribs, according to court records. Pumphrey said chronic pain from the injuries prevented her from pursuing her career as an attorney. She had completed one semester at a law school in Vermont when the accident occurred. Pumphrey's lawsuit asked the court to award damages to cover past and future medical expenses plus damages for the loss of future income.

London, Jan 10 — A press report, dated today, states: A jury has awarded \$5.7 million to a Dutchess County woman for injuries she suffered in a crash with a school bus on Sep 6, 2001. The jury deliberated just over three hours before returning the verdict on Friday (Jan 7) in State Supreme Court in Putnam County. It had been a three week trial. The crash involved 46-year-old Mihee Wells of Hopewell Junction. She was driving on Route 9D when a school bus came into her lane and hit her car head on. Wells spent two months in the Westchester Medical Centre, requiring surgery for a fractured neck and other injuries. Her attorney, Ark Pruzan of Mahopac said Wells, and her husband, Fred, sued the Hudson Valley Bus Company of Peekskill as well as the bus driver, 21-year-old Tina Celento of Cortlandt Manor.

### Railway Accidents



#### ANKARA, TURKEY

London, Jan 13 — A press report, dated today, states: A freight train lost

control of its brakes and derailed as it headed into the main train station in Ankara today, killing two train workers and injuring three others, railway officials said. Television footage showed several train cars lying on their sides following the crash in Ankara, which killed the train's chief and another worker, railway officials said. Three other workers were taken to a local hospital. There was no word on their condition.

#### BIEBER AREA, LASSEN COUNTY, CALIFORNIA, UNITED STATES

London, Jan 10 — A press report, dated Jan 9, states: A 20-car Burlington Northern Santa Fe railroad train derailed in northern Lassen County yesterday morning, leaving a conductor and engineer with minor injuries, authorities said. The cause of the derailment about 0510 hrs, is under investigation, said Steve Kulm, spokesman for the Federal Railroad Administration. The train was northbound near Bieber when it derailed. Kulm said he did not know what type of cargo the train held or if there were any spills.

#### CREVALCORE AREA, ITALY

London, Jan 8 — A press report, dated today, states: A passenger train and a freight train crashed head-on in fog-shrouded countryside in northern Italy, about 1300, yesterday, near Crevalcore, 25 kilometres north of Bologna, on a line running to Verona. At least 14 people were killed but authorities feared the death toll would climb. Some 80 people were injured, about a dozen seriously. The impact derailed one of the engines, while one carriage was thrust into the air and crashed down onto the other train. Fire brigades had earlier said up to 15 people were confirmed dead but later said there was confusion because some of the bodies were dismembered. Six hours after the crash, rescue workers using blow torches and metal cutters were still trying to reach part of the wreckage where they feared more passengers may have been trapped. "We expect to work through the night," said national fire brigades chief Mario Morcone. "We still have to lift a part of the carriage that was sent flying 10 metres up before it fell and we hope we don't find other victims in there," he said. More than 50 people were injured in the collision in the plains north of Bologna. It was Italy's worst train crash since 1980, when a rail crash killed 20. The freight train was carrying heavy iron construction girders, and the impact of the crash hurled girders like spears into one carriage of the inter-regional passenger train, which was carrying about 100 people. Rescue workers and emergency services battled time and fog to get to the wreckage, which was strewn across a field between the small towns of Crevalcore and Camposanto, north of Bologna. Medics treated the injured on the roofs of the tangled carriages. Mud in the fields alongside the track made it difficult for ambulances to reach the disaster scene and the injured had to be taken on

stretchers to roads. Fire brigade officials said thick fog in the flat countryside made it difficult to bring cranes close to the track. Italian railways and magistrates have opened an investigation into the cause of the collision.

#### FORT GARRY, WINNIPEG, CANADA

London, Jan 13 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Several Fort Garry homes and businesses were evacuated yesterday following the derailment of a CN Rail freight train carrying hazardous materials. No one was injured when 10 CN cars went off the track about 1130 hrs at a crossing near the corner of Pembina Highway and Kirkbridge Drive, a spokesman for the railway said. Some of the cars overturned during the crash, but only one spilled its load of calcium chloride, which isn't dangerous and is used as road salt, CN Rail's Jim Feeny said. The other tankers — hauling liquid propane gas, fertilizer and scrap metal — weren't punctured, he said. Investigators don't know why the cars jumped the track or how much cleaning up the derailment will cost, Feeny said. The southbound train was pulling 41 cars at no more than 40 km/h, the track's speed limit and was on its way to Emerson.

#### GRANITEVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA, UNITED STATES

London, Jan 9 — A press report, dated today, states: Investigators wearing protective suits and oxygen tanks yesterday discovered the body of a factory worker missing since a train carrying chlorine gas wrecked earlier this week, causing one of the nation's deadliest chemical spills in years. The worker was found inside the Avondale Mills textile plant in Graniteville, where five workers died after being overcome by the fumes. A total of nine people were killed and more than 250 sickened by the toxic vapors. The search for the worker delayed crews patching a hole in the train car that was carrying the chlorine gas when the wreck occurred Thursday (Jan 6) about 10 miles from the Georgia state line. Debris was moved away from the leaking railcar yesterday and about 40 tons of crushed lime was dropped on the ground to begin neutralizing the chlorine, authorities said. Thom Berry, spokesman for the state Department of Health and Environmental Control, said crews would start removing chlorine from two additional railroad tankers in the next couple days. More than 5,400 residents have been forced to evacuate their homes and will not be permitted to return until Tuesday (Jan 11) at the earliest, officials said. The National Transportation Safety Board is investigating what caused the freight train carrying 42 cars to collide with a parked train at a crossing next to the plant, where 400 workers were on the night shift making denim and other fabrics. State and federal environmental officials have conducted air quality tests since the crash and found either low levels of chlorine or none within blocks of the site. Levels at the crash site were higher.

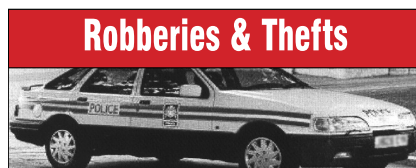
London, Jan 11 — A press report, dated Jan 10, states: Crews worked today to neutralise and remove chlorine gas still leaking from a railcar damaged in a train wreck that killed nine people last week and injured hundreds more. A day after patching a breach in the car, crews mixed the toxic gas with sodium hydroxide to turn it into liquid bleach, making it safer to pump it out of the railcar, said Thom Berry, state Department of Health and Environmental Control spokesman. The gas killed nine people, including six workers at a nearby textile plant, and sickened more than 250 after the Norfolk Southern Corp. (NSC) train slammed into parked railcars early Thursday (Jan 6). Thousands of nearby residents were expected to remain evacuated until Wednesday (Jan 13) at the earliest. Two other cars containing chlorine gas remain at the crash site, but are not leaking, officials said. They will be emptied before being moved, Berry said. Of the more than 250 people who received treatment after being exposed to the gas, 33 remained hospitalised today, including at least two in critical condition, officials said. An overnight curfew remained in effect for people who refused to leave their homes in the affected area. Investigators determined that the three-man crew that parked a two-car train on a side rail failed to switch the tracks back to the main rail. That sent the oncoming train hurtling into the parked train. Graniteville, about 10 miles from the Georgia state line, is in an area where rail switches are controlled manually, said Debbie Hersman, a National Transportation Safety Board spokeswoman. The investigation showed the crew on the moving train applied its brakes before hitting the parked train, she said. Part of the continuing investigation will focus on the recent work history of the crews involved in the crash. The New York Times reported on its Web site today that investigators said yesterday night they were looking into whether the crew was distracted or fatigued when it was time to reset the railroad switch.

**GRANT COUNTY, KENTUCKY, UNITED STATES**

London, Jan 5 — A press report, dated today, states: Debris from a partial tunnel collapse caused a CSX train to derail, injuring two railroad employees this morning, the Grant County Sheriff reported. The accident occurred about 0330 hrs, off Eagle Tunnel Road between Glencoe and Elliston. Two employees on the train were trapped for a short time and suffered minor injuries. Both were transported to St. Elizabeth-Grant County Hospital. The train, consisting of two engines and 41 cars, was southbound from Toledo to Cincinnati. It was carrying a cargo of automobiles. The train was not hauling hazardous materials. Debris on the track caused the lead engine and 10 cars to derail. CSX is investigating the accident.

**LUBUMBO-NEGANEGA AREA, ZAMBIA**

London, Jan 6 — A report from LaSalle, dated today, states: A report from Zambia, dated today, states: The Railway Systems of Zambia has suspended its passenger transport between Livingstone and Chililabombwe following the derailment of an acid-carrying train. The derailment spilt the chemical in Lubumbo-Neganega area in Southern Province. And two cranes that were rushed to the area to lift the capsized tanks have reportedly also overturned as the company recorded a total of three derailments recently. RSZ acting managing director, Moses Sakala, who confirmed the derailment in Kabwe yesterday said the railway firm had put measures in place to deal with the situation. In a response to a press query on the matter, Mr Sakala said RSZ technicians were on the ground working around the clock as they made necessary railway diversions to allow the trains to start moving. "The derailments have affected the normal movement of trains. However, RSZ personnel are already on site dealing with each derailment using own as well as hired equipment. Where necessary, diversions have been constructed so as to permit train movement. We expect the situation to normalise by the end of today," he said in his statement. Four of the tanks on the Copperbelt-bound train which was carrying acid belonging to Konkola Copper Mines (KCM) derailed and three of them tipped over, spilling the highly-hazardous chemical onto the surrounding areas. But Mr Sakala said, RSZ had taken all required measures to deal with any potential environmental problem the mishap might cause. A highly-placed source in Kabwe said the railway firm had recorded three derailments since the beginning of this year and expressed concern at the development. Mr Sakala attributed the many number of derailments to the poor state of the line inherited from Zambia Railways. He said the rain season was another contributing factor.



**PAINTINGS, MUSEUM, HOORN, THE NETHERLANDS**

London, Jan 11 — A press report, dated Jan 10, states: A series of 17th Century paintings worth 10 million euros (£7m) have been stolen from a Netherlands museum. Up to 20 Dutch paintings and numerous silver items were taken during the break-in yesterday night at Westfries Museum in Hoorn. "The heart of our collection is gone, including top artworks of national importance," a museum spokesman said. "They were mostly

unique pieces which are irreplaceable." Police believe its alarm system had been disconnected. Among the stolen works were paintings by Jan van Goyen, Jacob Waben, Matthias Withoos, Jan Rietschoof, Jan Linsenand Herman Henstenburg. The security system at the 125-year-old museum had been checked on Thursday (Jan 6), its spokesman said. Employees discovered the theft this morning when they found smashed display cases, broken doors and empty frames. The stolen paintings, which constituted the core of the collection, are believed to be too well known to be sold on the open market.



**ACCIDENT AT COAL MINE, GUIZHOU PROVINCE, CHINA**

London, Jan 13 — A press report, dated today, states: Twenty-three bodies have been found in a mine in south-western China's Guizhou province that was flooded last month while 80 miners were working underground. "At present, 23 were found dead and 13 are still missing," An Yuanjie, director of the propaganda department of the State Administration of Work Safety, said. Xinhua news agency said the missing miners' chances of survival were slim, although rescuers were still carrying out searches. Thirty-six workers were trapped inside the Xujiaba Tianchi mine in Sinan county after water rushed in on Dec 12. Forty-four workers managed to escape. "Rescue efforts were fruitless for a time because the water level underground was deep," Xinhua quoted work safety official Xiao Wenru as saying. The small township-run mine was legally registered with the provincial government.

**CEMENT DISPUTE, MEXICO**

Tampico, Jan 10 — Storage ship Mary Nour is still in port and its situation has not yet been resolved. There is no date of departure programmed. — Lloyd's Agents.

**COLLAPSE OF BUILDING, BANGKOK, THAILAND**

London, Jan 11 — A press report, dated today, states: Three firefighters remained trapped, last night, under the rubble of a seven-storey building in Bangkok, which collapsed after catching fire on Sunday (Jan 9). They were among the 11 firemen who had rushed to the building, located about 100 metres from the Twin Towers Hotel, in Pathumwan district in the heart of Bangkok. Two firemen are confirmed dead. As the four upper floors of the building, that housed an auto parts office, began to collapse, most managed to escape. At the scene of the fire yesterday, Bangkok Governor Apirak Kosayodhin said that since October last year, meetings had

been held with 3,000 building owners to inform them of rules and regulations. New buildings have been found up to standards. "It is the older buildings like this one, around 15 years old, that are not up to standards," he said. "Some of them have been illegally modified. Some of them have too much weight. That was the main reason this building collapsed."

#### **FUEL LEAK FROM REFINERY, GEELONG, VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA**

London, Jan 13 — A press report, dated today, states: Firefighters have controlled a major fuel leak at Shell's Corio refinery in Geelong in Victoria. A Country Fire Authority (CFA) spokesman says thousands of litres of fuel have spilled onto the ground within the refinery. He says the crews have contained the leak and it is no longer posing a threat.

#### **GENERAL LEE (Panama)**

London, Jan 12 — A Coast Guard Norfolk, Va, press release, dated Jan 11, states: The Captain of the Port of Hampton Roads has denied entry to general cargo General Lee (1614 gt, built 1975) after a Coast Guard boarding team determined the master was intoxicated. A Coast Guard Sea Marshal team boarded General Lee at 0600 today offshore. The vessel was targeted for both security and safety boardings using the Coast Guard's standard risk assessment procedures. The Sea Marshal team boarded the vessel while a team of safety inspectors waited on a nearby Coast Guard vessel. After the team detected alcohol on the breath of the master they conducted a field sobriety test, which he failed. The master refused to cooperate with a chemical test using a breathalyser. Under U.S. regulations, a person refusing a chemical test when directed by a law enforcement officer based on reasonable cause is considered intoxicated. The vessel has been directed to remain at anchor offshore until completion of the safety exam, which will not be conducted until the master is found to be sober based on a chemical test administered by the Coast Guard. The Coast Guard plans to seek civil penalties against the operator of the vessel.

#### **INFESTATION OF LOCUSTS, AUSTRALIA**

London, Jan 5 — A press report, dated today, states: A fresh wave of locusts could be set to swarm regional NSW, state Primary Industries Minister Ian Macdonald said today. A plague of locusts has engulfed regional NSW over several months, causing authorities to spray insecticide over more than one million hectares of farmland. The campaign has resulted in the retention of almost A\$900 million in crops and pastures, Mr Macdonald said.

#### **OUTBREAK OF "BIRD FLU"**

London, Jan 6 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Two children from Vietnam's southern region have just been hospitalised after exhibiting symptoms of bird flu, local newspaper

Labor reported today. A 14-year-old boy and a nine-year-old child from Tra Vinh province were admitted to the provincial hospital after having high temperature, cough and sore throat. The two patients had close contacts with fowls and ate sick chickens, the hospital's doctor Le Minh Dung said. The boy, Le Quang Vinh, and the child, Thach Phung are now in an isolation treatment area. Vinh is in critical condition. Several outbreaks of bird flu have recently been detected in Tra Vinh. Notably, three outbreaks in the province killed over 1,000 ducks whose samples were tested positive to the bird flu virus strain of H5. Testing by the Hospital of Tropical Diseases in Ho Chi Minh City on Dec 28 showed that a 16-year-old girl from southern Tay Ninh province is infected with bird flu virus H5N1. The patient now needs respiratory assistance in the hospital. According to Vietnam's Department of Animal Health, the relapse of bird flu has been seen in 23 communes in 20 districts in 11 localities, mainly in the southern region. In early January 2005 alone, the country detected five outbreaks in the four southern provinces of Tien Giang, Hau Giang, An Giang and Ca Mau, and culled over 8,000 fowls. (See issue of Dec 24.)

London, Jan 13 — A press report, dated today, states: An 18-year-old woman has died of bird flu in Vietnam, becoming the country's fourth fatality from the disease in the past fortnight, a doctor said today. "Tests were positive for the 18-year old woman who died on Monday," the doctor from Ho Chi Minh City's Pasteur Institute said. The woman from the rural southern Mekong Delta province of Hau Giang died in hospital in nearby Can Tho city. A 16-year-old girl from southern Tay Ninh province died last Friday in hospital in Ho Chi Minh City after contracting the virus. Two boys, aged six and nine, died on December 30 and January 4 respectively after being infected with H5N1. They were both from Mekong Delta provinces. Doctors also confirmed today that an 18-year-old woman from southern Tien Giang province and a 35-year-old woman from Tra Vinh, also in the south, had been infected with the lethal H5N1 strain of avian influenza. They are in critical condition in a Ho Chi Minh City hospital. Doctors are awaiting results of tests on an 15-year-old sister of the woman from Tien Giang. Since late 2003, at least 24 people in Vietnam have died after being confirmed to have contracted the H5N1 strain. The real figure is thought to be higher as tests were not carried out on some suspected cases. Around 102,000 birds have been culled in Vietnam since late December to try to contain the latest outbreak of the disease, which has been detected among poultry in 13 of the country's 64 provinces and cities, according to the agriculture ministry.

#### **OUTBREAK OF NOROVIRUS ON NIS FLAGGED PASSENGER VESSEL**

London, Jan 9 — A press report, dated Jan 8, states: Nearly 120 passengers

and crew members became sick with a stomach virus on board passenger Enchantment of the Seas (74136 gt, built 1997) that returned to port today after a five-day Caribbean cruise, Royal Caribbean International officials said. The outbreak of a Norwalk-type virus aboard Enchantment of the Seas sickened 108 passengers and eight crew members, said company spokesman Michael Sheehan. It was traced to a man who had symptoms two days before boarding the vessel Monday (Jan 3), he said. A special cleaning of the 1,950-passenger vessel was expected to delay a scheduled departure today for a few hours, officials said. Symptoms of Norwalk-like viruses include nausea, vomiting and diarrhea and last up to 48 hours. No special medical treatment is required. (Note — Enchantment of the Seas sailed Port Everglades Jan 3.)

London, Jan 12 — Passenger Enchantment of the Seas sailed Port Everglades Jan 8.

#### **POWER OUTAGE, MALAYSIA**

London, Jan 13 — A press report, dated today, states: Power disruption in the Klang Valley, Selangor, Negeri Sembilan, Melaka and Johor was caused by a breakdown of the switch gear at the Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz power plant in Kapar, Selangor. "What happened today puzzled us and we are investigating it," the Tenaga Nasional Berhad (TNB) Deputy Chief Executive Officer Datuk Abdul Hadi Mohd Drus told a press conference. He said the power disruption started at 1215 hrs causing a loss of 1,700 megawatt load. The electricity supply was restored in stages from 1340 hrs around Kuala Lumpur. Abdul Hadi said the supply to all the affected states was restored in three hours. The power supply was restored in parts of Kuala Lumpur, Putrajaya and as well as Melaka by 1430hrs.

#### **VIETNAMESE FISHING VESSELS FIRED ON BY CHINA**

London, Jan 13 — A press report, dated today, states: Chinese border guards have killed eight Vietnamese fishermen who strayed into Chinese waters, a Vietnamese official said. The guards opened fire on two fishing vessels during the night of Jan 9, he said. "Chinese officials informed us that eight Vietnamese fishermen were killed and we are trying to verify the information," said Do Hong, secretary of the People's Committee of Hoa Loc village, in Thanh Hoa province, where the victims were born. "They also told us the incident was connected to fishing disputes in a litigious maritime zone." One of the boats returned to port on Tuesday (Jan 11) with one dead crew member and three injured, while the other vessel which set sail with 16 crew was being held on China's Hainan island. Do said he had been told that the incident took place off the Thanh Hoa coast in the Gulf of Tonkin, about 200 km south of Hanoi. China and Vietnam have several times agreed to speed up implementation of accords to resolve disputed land and sea borders. Both sides said they would conform to

the Beibu or Tonkin Gulf demarcation agreement and the fisheries cooperation agreement and pledged "not to take extreme action or make use of force" on fisheries-related issues.

## Fires & Explosions



### APARTMENT BLOCK, SALFORD, GREATER MANCHESTER, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Jan 7 — A press report, dated today, states: A luxury apartment block in Greater Manchester had to be evacuated after a fire broke out yesterday. About 60 firefighters were called to The Edge development, near Blackfriars Road in Salford, to tackle the blaze. All the residents are believed to have been led away unharmed and taken to the nearby Lowry Hotel. The Fire Service believe scaffolding surrounding the partially-finished 19-storey block caught fire, quickly rising to the top of the building. An investigation is due to be opened to find out the cause of the fire.

### CHEMICAL FACTORY, SELBY, YORKSHIRE, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Jan 12 — A press report, dated today, states: Emergency planners were put on standby during a chemical fire in Selby after an acid cloud spread across the area. Fire crews were called to a chemical factory on Bawtry Road just after midnight when a CCTV operator spotted smoke coming from the building. The area was cordoned off but there was no need for an evacuation of nearby homes, North Yorkshire Police said. The chemical substance in the smoke, phenol sulphonic acid, dissipated in the high winds, a spokesman said. At one point smoke from the fire was reaching as far south as Barby, he added. The blaze was put out in the early hours of the morning and no-one was injured. Fire crews were damping down at the scene this morning.

### COAL MINE, HENAN PROVINCE, CHINA

London, Jan 9 — A press report, dated Jan 8, states: Four fire-fighters have been confirmed dead when they extinguished a fire in a coal mine in Mianchi County of central China's Henan Province yesterday afternoon. As the coal mine was an abandoned one, nobody worked underground when the accident occurred. But the high flame posed a threat to a neighbouring mine. A coal mine rescue team in Sanmenxia City was sent to put out the fire and four rescuers died in a gas blast led by the fire. Investigation on the cause of the fire and gas blast is still underway.

### COAL SILO, ASHTABULA, OHIO, UNITED STATES

London, Jan 12 — A press report, dated Jan 9, states: A conveyor at the top of a coal silo caught fire yesterday,

causing about \$50,000 worth of damage to the \$1.5 million conveyor and structure. Ashtabula Fire Department personnel responded at 0930 hrs, to a fire at Norfolk & Southern Coal Dock on Bridge Street and Pedros Drive. Fire-fighting personnel located the fire to be in an area of belt burning at about the 130-foot level on the conveyor. The conveyor, loaded with coal, had burned through and was stopped. Two firefighters had to climb the conveyor and use foam to extinguish the fire. After extinguishing the fire, firefighters found a large area of coal burning at the top of the silo transfer. That fire was also extinguished and firefighters cleared the scene at 1142 hrs. The cause of the fire was more than likely due to a faulty conveyor roller or bearing said Lt. Ronald Deemer of the Ashtabula Fire Department. Heat built up and caught the equipment and coal on fire.

### CONCRETE PLANT, ENID, OKLAHOMA, UNITED STATES

London, Jan 10 — A press report, dated, Jan 9, states: Enid fire officials are looking at a suspected arson in a major fire yesterday morning that caused an estimated \$1.6 million damage at Dolese Brothers Co. concrete plant. At this time, we're leaning toward an arson, said assistant fire marshal Ken Helms of the Enid Fire Department. No injuries were reported. Warren Rhodes, Enid Fire Department inspector, said material evidence gathered at the scene indicates the fire was intentional. Major damage was reported on the west end of the plant to the wall and ceiling estimated at \$100,000. Damage to the building's contents, including equipment, was estimated at \$1.5 million, according to the Enid Fire Department report. The fire department received an 0542 hrs, emergency call reporting smoke in the area of Dolese, 1411 W. Chestnut. Upon arriving at the location and seeing smoke, firefighters had to cut a gate lock to get in the commercial property. They saw flames shooting through a roof of a building before they made entry through a southwest corner door. Firefighters pulled hose lines into the building and quickly extinguished the burning roof. They remained at the scene, extinguishing hot spots in some of the equipment inside the building and several areas of the roof.

### FACTORY, NARAYANGAJ, BANGLADESH

Karachi, Jan 8 — At least twenty-two workers were killed and fifty others injured in a devastating fire that broke out in a 100% export oriented Bangladeshi private sector garment manufacturing unit-Shan Knitting and Processing Mills Ltd at Chowdhuribari Jelepara bridge area under Siddhirganj thana in Narayangaj in central Bangladesh last Thursday night (Jan 6). It was reported that the fire originated from the calendering section at the first floor of the four-storied building at about 2115 and soon engulfed the whole building trapping people working inside. Fire brigade

units from Hajiganj, Mondolpara, Postagola and Demra rushed to the spot and extinguished the fire at 0600 after about nine hours. The fire fighters recovered twenty-two bodies from inside the garments factory. The injured persons were sent to different hospitals and clinics at Dhaka and Narayanganj. An official of the garments factory said that there are in all seven hundred workers in the garments factory and that there was about four hundred workers performing their duties in the finishing and dying section on the night shift during the incident. He said it is tough to assess the extent of damage caused by the fire instantly. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

### FIREWORKS FACTORY, XIANGFEN COUNTY, SHANXI PROVINCE, CHINA

London, Jan 13 — A press report, dated Jan 12, states: Twenty-five people were killed and nine injured in a fireworks factory explosion in Xiangfen County, North China's Shanxi Province, on Tuesday afternoon. Five were critically wounded and four are in a relatively stable condition, according to local hospitals. "The clean-up work is almost done, and there have been no new casualties," said Niu Jianhua, an official with the Shanxi Provincial Administration for Work Safety. He led the rescue work. Niu said all victims were factory workers, mostly female workers from the county and neighbouring counties. All the injured were taken to Xiangfen County People's Hospital before five were transferred to Lingang People's Hospital in Linfen City for better burns treatment. The county of Xiangfen is under the jurisdiction of Linfen. "One male and four female workers are in a critical condition," said Doctor Jia, at Lingang People's Hospital. The fireworks factory, in Jing'an village, employs 210 staff and was operated inside a cave. Dozens of female workers were busy making fireworks in cave-workshops in time for the peak season Spring Festival which begins on Feb 9, when a huge blast was heard, said Li Jie, an official with the Linfen Administration for Work Safety. A chain of blasts was sparked from one workshop to another, setting light to finished fireworks and inflammable raw materials kept in store in other caves, he said. The main entrance of the factory was totally destroyed. The blast is being blamed on work safety violations, Li said, although the factory does have a complete set of legitimate documents all required by different local authorities to permit production. It also holds certificates that say its storage and transport methods are safe, he said.

### FUEL STORAGE DEPOT, RUGBY, WARWICKSHIRE, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Jan 12 — a press report, dated today, states: around 100 firefighters were called to tackle a major blaze at a fuel storage depot, it emerged today. crews worked for more than five

hours to contain the blaze, which started at Watson Petroleum in Hunters Lane, Rugby, Warwickshire, last night. The county fire service said water was drawn from the nearby River Avon after 160,000 litres of diesel and kerosene went up in flames. Crews were mobilised from most fire stations in Warwickshire, as well as units from the West Midlands, Northamptonshire and Leicestershire. Warwickshire police said members of the public were originally advised to stay indoors in case of toxic fumes but that fire officers investigating the blaze later established there was no danger. A force spokesman said 12 people were evacuated for a short time but that no one was injured as a result of the fire. Police were called to manage the area surrounding the blaze, which started at 2100 hrs and closed Leicester Road and Newbold Road for a time. Speaking at the scene, county fire officer William Brown, said: "This was an exceptional incident that was dealt with by the combined efforts of a number of brigades within the region. It was a good example of partnership working. Environment agency officers worked with Severn Trent Water Authority to protect local waterways after several oil containers were damaged by fire."

#### **GAS FIELD, DOARABAZAR, BANGLADESH**

Karachi, Jan 8 — A fire broke out at Tengratila gas field in Doarabazar upazila of Sunamganj district in Bangladesh last night (Jan 7) triggering panic that drove people of the villages nearby from their homes for safer places. According to local media reports, thirty foreign nationals, Chinese, Australian and Canadian, working at the gas field also moved to safety. The fire started at 2215 as drilling of a gas exploration well was going on by a Canadian company Nico in collaboration with Bangladesh Petroleum Exploration & Production Co. The fire was brought under control at 2330. An official of the company said during drilling some gas leaks in the well were noticed at about 1930 yesterday and action was taken to avert a severe blow out from the well. Gas soon spread around and started coming out in bubbles, proving the method worked," he said. "The major threat is over," the official claimed at midnight. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Karachi, Jan 12 — Bangladeshi Authorities on Jan 11 issued a 'red alert' banning movement of people in a one kilometre area around the fire ravaged Tengratila gas field in northeastern district a day after fresh fire and spewing gases caused panic in the neighbourhood. According to local media reports, a tight police vigil was enforced to bar people's movement as bubbles in the muddy soil around the gas field indicated presence of ignitable gases although the fresh fire suddenly spread vertically and went out automatically giving a sense of relief to the officials and local residents. The main flames of the well, however, still rage but with reduced intensity and

height. Meanwhile, a meeting between the local people and Canadian Niko, which was exploring the Tengratila field with the state-run BAPEX, has formed a 10-member committee comprising representatives of local administration, villagers and Niko to assess the damage within the one kilometre periphery of the well. A Petrobranga statement said the commercial reserve in the fire-ravaged Tengratila gas field was expected to be unaffected despite the severe fire, which was likely to take several more weeks to be extinguished. The gas field, developed under a joint venture by Bangladesh Petroleum Exploration and Production Company (BAPEX) and Canadian Niko Resources Limited, was abandoned in 1982. But experts from the two companies resumed a joint exploration at the field last year, believing it contains at least 300 billion cubic feet of gas. The fire broke out at about 2200 on Friday (Jan 7) when the drilling of a gas exploration well was going on. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

#### **LISTED BUILDING, GLASGOW, SCOTLAND, UNITED KINGDOM**

London, Jan 10 — A press report, dated today, states: Fire swept through a building in the centre of Glasgow last night causing the roof to collapse. The alarm was raised at 2030 hrs, as flames were spotted coming from the fourth floor of the building on the corner of West Nile Street and Bath Street. The floor where the fire started was vacant and derelict, according to Strathclyde Fire Brigade. Firefighters attempted to put out the fire from street level and were not able to enter the building more than an hour after arriving at the scene. Last night a spokeswoman for Glasgow City Council said it looked likely that the listed building would have to be demolished today. She added that parts of West Nile Street and Bath Street would be closed, leading to serious traffic congestion in the city centre.

London, Jan 11 — A press report, dated Jan 10, states: Part of a listed building in the centre of Glasgow is to be demolished after fire broke out. The blaze started at about 2130, GMT, yesterday on the fourth floor of the building, on the corner of Bath Street and West Nile Street. Firefighters took nearly three hours to put out the fire, which closed both streets causing traffic congestion. A council spokeswoman said the top three floors of the building will be demolished as they were structurally unstable and in imminent danger of collapse. Road closures affecting Bath Street and West Nile Street will remain in place until early next week.

#### **NIGHTCLUB, BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA**

London, Jan 11 — A press report, dated Jan 10, states: Officials in Argentina today raised the death toll from a tragic nightclub fire on New Year's Eve to 189 and said some 177 people remained in hospital. The ceiling of the Cromagnon nightclub in Buenos

Aires caught fire after someone in the crowd fired a flare into the ceiling. Many of the 2000 people attending a concert by the rock group Los Callejeros were unable to escape as safety exits were chained shut.

#### **PREMISES, MUSKOGEE, OAKLAHOMA, UNITED STATES**

London, Jan 7 — A press report, dated Jan 6, states: Replacement costs "for a whole complex of buildings" at the Yaffe Iron & Metal Co. Inc. damaged or destroyed by a Dec 28 furnace explosion, will exceed \$1 million, an insurer said Wednesday. "Every building on the property was damaged and two burned to the ground — the furnace and a storage building," said Perry Hewitt with Beckman Insurance Co. in Muskogee. "The furnace no longer exists. Three warehouses suffered major damage, as well as the office." The blast rocked Muskogee, killed two workers and injured two others, damaged homes in an eight-block radius and sent concussions that could be felt as far as 45 miles away. Fourteen others were injured in the immediate area. The cause of the explosion is still unknown. Bob Yaffe, chairman of the board, said the company probably will replace the demolished furnace, but the decision isn't final. The dollar amount of damage to homes and businesses in the area still is not known, Hewitt said, adding that some people are filing claims with their own insurers, who, in turn, will file for reimbursement from Yaffe's insurers. More than 300 landlords and homeowners have contacted Beckman, and teams of insurance adjusters from as far away as Houston, Dallas and New Mexico are trying to assess the damage, Hewitt said. And that number, in excess of 300, could be conservative before it's over, because some people still haven't contacted an insurer, Hewitt said. The U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration is investigating the cause of the accident and whether any safety violations had a bearing on the blast.

#### **PREMISES, PORT HARCOURT, NIGERIA**

London, Jan 10 — A press report, dated Jan 7, states: A fire which broke out in the early hours of yesterday gutted dozens of homes and businesses in the city of Port Harcourt, apparently causing no casualties but leaving about 10,000 people homeless, a police spokesperson said today. Ireju Barasua of Rivers State police said: "The fire started around 0300 yesterday at the Mile Two, Diobu area of the city. Dozens of houses and shops were burned. I think some 10,000 people must have lost their homes in the inferno. Dozens of vehicles and properties valued at millions of naira were also destroyed. The fire could have been caused by an electrical fault in one of the affected buildings. We are suspecting an electrical fault, worsened of course by the hamantan haze."

Barasua said no-one was injured in the inferno. She said: "We are pleased to announce that there were no casualties, except that valuable properties were destroyed. Fire fighters battled for several hours before they could extinguish the blaze. We contacted some oil companies, including Agip, which assisted in no small measure to put out the fire."

#### **SHOPPING CENTRE, AUSTIN, TEXAS, UNITED STATES**

London, Jan 11 — A press report, dated Jan 10, states: The Austin Fire Department is investigating an early morning fire that damaged a North Austin shopping centre. The three-alarm fire caused more than \$1 million in damage to the Spectrum Shopping Centre on Burnet Road when it broke out about 0230 hrs. Firefighters say it was contained to the roof of the centre. No injuries were reported. Eight businesses were damaged in the fire, five from heavy smoke.

#### **SUPERMARKET, MAR DEL PLATA, ARGENTINA**

London, Jan 11 — A press report, dated today, states: Sixteen firemen suffered preliminary symptoms of asphyxia while fighting a fire which broke out in the warehouse of the Plaza Veja supermarket in Mar del Plata early yesterday morning. Last night five, including one with burns, were still in the hospital. The fire broke out at 0700 hrs, before the supermarket opened to the public, and the few workers on the premises at the time were able to escape without injury. The fire brigades were able to bring the flames under control only in the early afternoon, after having overcome great difficulties created by a series of firefighting system failures in the market. The sidewalks around the hypermarket, which occupies an entire city block, had been built over the hydrants needed to draw water from the mains, so the firemen had to break them to begin work. The fire hoses inside the hypermarket did not work because they are electrically powered and the power had been cut when the fire broke out. The emergency lights did not work either.

#### **TEXTILE MILL, KARACHI, PAKISTAN**

Karachi, Jan 7 — A big fire broke out in a privately owned textile mill, Murtaza Textile Mills in Korangi Industrial Area in Karachi, Sindh Province of Pakistan, at 1000, yesterday, according to central fire brigade station sources. As a result, considerable damage caused to machinery and goods. About a dozen vehicles of different fire stations took part in fire fighting operation that ended late at night. No one was injured. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

#### **WAREHOUSE, BURGOS, SPAIN**

London, Jan 13 — A press report, dated today, states: Seven people have died in an explosion in the central Spanish city of Burgos. The explosion happened in a warehouse where

machinery and fuel were being stored, Burgos mayor Juan Carlos Aparicio told Spanish National Radio.

#### **WAREHOUSE, KALININGRAD, RUSSIA**

London, Jan 7 — A press report, dated today, states: The fire at a warehouse of the Baltic Fleet has been brought under control. Nobody was hurt, the Kaliningrad regional emergencies department told Itar-Tass. Ten teams of firemen fought the blaze that spread over 600 square metres on the second floor of the three-storey brick building. Firemen are continuing working at the site. There are a large amount of uniforms for servicemen and bedding in the warehouse. What caused the fire is not known so far. There was a fire outbreak at the site yesterday, but it was promptly extinguished. Why the fire broke out again today has yet to be established.

#### **WAREHOUSE, OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA, UNITED STATES**

London, Jan 11 — A press report, dated Jan 10, states: Oklahoma City firefighters fought a four-alarm blaze this morning at a warehouse in northeast Oklahoma City. The fire started inside the Komota Industries warehouse building at Northeast 23rd Street and Santa Fe Avenue at about 0100 hrs, yesterday, officials said. According to Maj. Brian Stanaland, the blaze spread quickly throughout the building, which stretches north for almost one block. Stanaland said crews originally tried entering the warehouse to put out the flames before they realised it was too dangerous. He said firefighters were initially planning to fight the blaze with small, hand-held hoses but decided instead to fight the blaze from the outside using larger hoses. Komota Industries employs about 15 people. No one was inside at the time of the fire. Fire investigators said they are still trying to determine what may have caused the blaze. An exact damage estimate was not immediately available.

#### **WAREHOUSE, PURFLEET, UNITED KINGDOM**

London, Jan 10 — A press report, dated today, states: Commuters are being warned of rush hour chaos as some of the M25 remains closed after a warehouse fire. The fire began yesterday morning at the Eagle Global Logistics warehouse on the Dolphin industrial estate, Purfleet. Initially the Dartford tunnel and bridge and the M25 between junctions 30 and 2 were shut, although two lanes of the Dartford Crossing are now open. Junction 31 is closed and police said drivers should avoid the area. A 27-mile diversion was in place yesterday. More than 40 firefighters battled to contain the fire, which started shortly before 0900, GMT. Nearly half the roof of the building collapsed and it was still well alight at 1100, GMT. Firefighters would be damping down the fire for the next two days, police said.

London, Jan 10 — A press report, dated today, states: One of the busiest stretches of the M25 around London has been partially reopened following a massive fire. Police have decided to open two lanes running in both directions between junctions 30 to 2, including the Dartford tunnel and bridge. Rush hour jams were predicted earlier as the section of the M25 was expected to be closed for most this morning. The road was shut down yesterday after a warehouse fire sent plumes of thick black smoke billowing across the motorway at the Dartford Crossing reducing visibility to nil. The Highways Agency said police had decided it was now safe to open two lanes either way and the third lane would also open when they are satisfied about its safety. A spokeswoman said: "The M25 anti-clockwise and clockwise between junctions 30 Thurrock in Essex and junction 2 Dartford, Kent, including the Dartford Crossing bridge and tunnel, have two lanes running in both directions. Two lanes will remain open for a couple of days and the third lane will be reinstated in each direction when the police believe it is safe to do so." She added that junction 31 remains closed. Around 44 firefighters battled to contain the fire at the Eagle Global Logistics warehouse on the Dolphin Industrial Estate at Purfleet, Essex. Nearly half the roof of the building collapsed. Firefighters would be damping down the fire for the next two days, police said.

#### **WILDFIRES, AUSTRALIA**

London, Jan 6 — A press report, dated today, states: Firefighters are battling up to six blazes around Perth, from Yanchep in the north to Kwinana in the south. At least one fire is threatening property. The Yanchep National Park north of Perth has been evacuated as firefighters try to contain two bushfires. Fire and emergency services spokesman Bill Rose says another big fire is burning north of the city in Eglington, near Pipidiny Road. "There were properties under threat and firefighters have been able to keep the fire away from those properties," he said. There is another bushfire at Whiteman Park, east of Perth, and there are fires in the southern suburbs of Kwinana. Firefighters believe most of them, especially those in Yanchep, have been lit deliberately.

London, Jan 6 — A press report from Australia, dated Jan 7, states: A blaze is continuing to burn out of control in the Yanchep National Park, north of Perth. Almost 1,000 hectares has burnt out already. Seventy personnel and 45 appliances, including heavy earth moving equipment, are being used to create fire breaks. Two other fires at Whiteman Park, north of Perth, and Kwinana, south of Fremantle, are now under control. Crews will continue to monitor the area throughout the night.

London, Jan 9 — A press report, dated today, states: At least five people are now confirmed dead as fires continue to rage across lower Eyre Peninsula in South Australia towards coastal



townships. Emergency service workers are describing the situation as pandemonium, with the fire sweeping across a line covering virtually the entire width of the lower Eyre Peninsula. The State Emergency Service (SES) says boats have been deployed to save people jumping into the sea to escape the flames. Police say the death toll has now risen to five, but there are unconfirmed reports of even more deaths. The latest reports suggest the fire is now within about two kilometres of Tumby Bay, a popular coastal resort. Krista Saint John from the Country Fire Service says the fire has reached the coast of the lower Eyre Peninsula. "The fire has damaged some property in the Louth Bay area and we believe water services in the area have been affected," she said. "Residents of Koppio were self-evacuating towards the Tumby Bay area as a precaution. "There is still some active fire around the Wanilla area however we are not aware of property damage there, the main property damage has been around the Louth Bay area." Gordon Hartley from the local SES says horrendous conditions of hot weather and strong winds have made the fire all but uncontrollable. "People who got out of the road of the fire, got into the water," Mr Hartley said. "We just don't know how deep they're in there, so if they get exhausted we might have to drag them out of the water." Regions either affected or under possible threat include Wanilla, Wangary, White Flat, Louth Bay and North Shields, all north to north-west of Port Lincoln. The manager of the Tumby Bay Hotel says accommodation in the town is booked out by people evacuating areas threatened by the fire and those who are unable to reach Port Lincoln due to road closures. Steve White says the local football club and sports stadium have opened their doors to people fleeing the fire. He says the hotel is trying to get food together for CFS volunteers. There is also a fire burning at Mount Osmond near Adelaide. The Metropolitan Fire Service (MFS) says the blaze has almost been contained, and efforts are now being directed towards protecting homes at Eagle on the Hill. The MFS says no homes have sustained any structural damage. Up to 20 homes were under threat earlier this afternoon in the Mount Osmond area. An MFS spokesman says fresh fire crews are being sent to the area, to support 250 firefighters already at the scene. About 70 fire trucks and four aircraft are helping fight a blaze in Victoria's south-west this afternoon. An estimated 2,000 hectares of grass has been burnt in the Carrumbellic and Derrinallum area, west of Skipton. The Hamilton Highway was closed between Darlington and Derrinallum but has since been reopened. Craig Lapsley from the Country Fire Authority says the fire is in a fairly remote area. He says the potential for a loss of livestock is there.

London, Jan 11 — A press report, dated today, states: confirmed death toll from South Australia's bushfire crisis had climbed to eight, police said

tonight. That toll was expected to rise further, SA Police Chief Inspector Malcolm Schluter told Sky News. A number of people remained unaccounted for, he said. "The latest death toll has reached eight," Insp Schluter said. "Another three people have been found burnt to death in a vehicle in a little place called Poonindie, which is about 21km north of Port Lincoln, right on the seaside." He said property damage was significant across the entire fire path. "There's significant property damage to housing and out buildings and farms pretty well across the fire path." Insp Schluter said the fires broke out yesterday, and were contained fairly well overnight. Firefighters have been brought in from Adelaide, and extra resources have come from every which way.

London, Jan 11 — A press report, dated today, states: The Metropolitan Fire Service says the Mount Osmond fire in South Australia has now been contained. Earlier today the fire threatened homes in Mount Osmond, but there have been no reports of serious damage in that area. MFS spokesman Bill Dwyer says crews are keeping a close eye out for any break in the containment lines. "Firefighters will be on scene for the rest of the night," he said. "What they're intending to do as we speak is put a 30-metre perimeter blackened out, which means the fire can't burn through that area. "Crews will remain on scene throughout the night and make sure that there are no hot spots."

London, Jan 12 — A press report, dated today, states: Police in South Australia say the number of people missing after the fatal Eyre Peninsula fires has reached 14 as they try to determine how many people were killed in the disaster. The death toll from the fires stands at nine people, including two children. Police say reports are still coming in from concerned friends and relatives whose loved ones are missing after the fires. Police say most of their enquires are positive, but it is slow going as the fire knocked out telephone communication in some areas. Meanwhile, investigations are continuing to confirm whether a 10th person has died. Prime Minister John Howard has offered his condolences, saying the fires are a terrible reminder of the ever present threat of bushfires and their devastating effect in this country and offered his condolences and sympathies to the victims of the bushfires. Nine people have lost their lives in the blazes, including two children. Grave concerns are held for at least six people who are still missing. The fires swept across the Eyre Peninsula just after midday, ACDT, yesterday. Gale force winds fanned the flames over 40,000 hectares.

London, Jan 12 — A press report, dated today, states: Firefighters brought Australia's deadliest bushfires in 20 years under control today after nine people died in the blazes. Up to 15 more people were missing, emergency officials said. Large areas of southern Australia are on alert for more

outbreaks after fires raced in a line across the Eyre peninsula, about 250 km west of the South Australia state capital Adelaide. The South Australian Country Fire Service said the Eyre peninsula fires had been brought under control earlier today. State police said the body of a woman had been found in a home in the tiny coastal hamlet of North Shields. South Australian Police Commissioner Mal Hyde declared the fires a major emergency, meaning emergency aid and recovery must be provided for 48 hours. The fires burned out about 100,000 hectares, including grazing land. Property damage has been described as significant and estimates of livestock losses have been put at 10,000. Fire alerts remain this week for South Australia, neighbouring Victoria and New South Wales.

London, Jan 13 — A press report, dated today, states: South Australian police say they have accounted for all those reported missing in the bushfires on the lower Eyre Peninsula and are now working to confirm the amount of damage caused by the fires. Tuesday's (Jan 11) fires badly disrupted communications to the lower Eyre Peninsula, leaving police and dozens of volunteers to the task of checking properties after calls from concerned friends and relatives. However, police are now able to account for all residents, and have turned their attention to surveying damaged areas. The damage bill of the bushfire is expected to run into the tens of millions of dollars, with 80,000 hectares burnt in total. Nine people died in the fires and 117 people were injured. The fire has also killed 30,000 animals and destroyed 80 buildings and 80 cars. But South Australian Police Commissioner Mal Hyde says the tally of property destroyed is likely to dramatically rise as teams move through the fire area. Commissioner Hyde also says officers are dealing with some reports of looting of properties. He has also announced a full inquiry into the way authorities have handled the bushfire. Commissioner Hyde wants the cause of the bushfires to be determined by the South Australian coroner. The State Government today trebled its emergency assistance fund to \$6 million with promises of more if needed. The Government will also provide \$10,000 to each farmer, along with assistance for fencing and access to long-term no interest loans. Premier Mike Rann says a government office has been set up at Port Lincoln and another will open in Cummins. He says ministers will be assigned to the area. Fire crews are continuing to work to contain a bushfire in the Great Lakes area north of Newcastle, New South Wales. The Rural Fire Service (RFS) says the fire began in remote bushland at Booral yesterday and is now burning across 600 hectares. The RFS Assistant Commissioner Mark Crossweller says 40 firefighters are at the scene. "There is about a kilometre of back-burning and active fire that they're working on at the moment," he said. "Once we've completed that kilometre of edge, bearing in mind of course that the fire

has a perimeter of some 10 kilometres, which is quite substantial, then we should be able to declare that fire contained. "Then we will watch over the next 24 to 48 hours what could be further hot, dry conditions to make sure those containment lines hold." The ACT Government has offered a helping hand to South Australia as it recovers from this week's bushfire in the Eyre Peninsula.

London, Jan 13 — A press report, dated today, states: Firefighters have been battling a blaze near Jindalee in southern New South Wales. About 100 personnel in about 20 trucks were trying to control the fire, a Rural Fire Service spokeswoman said today. There were reports of one damaged property. "It seems as though there were five separate ignitions from a train on a rail line but only two of those are causing any concern," the spokeswoman said. Fire had burnt across about 1,000 ha and three fixed-wing aircraft were either on site or heading there for water bombing operations, she said. Total fire bans are in force for the lower central west plains and parts of the Riverina.

London, Jan 13 — A press report, dated today, states: The South Australian Government today tripled its financial assistance to victims of the Eyre Peninsula bushfire to \$6 million. SA Premier Mike Rann said the amount of emergency assistance funding would continue to be reviewed and increased. Mr Rann and SA Emergency Services Minister Patrick Conlon were to make an aerial inspection of the fire zone later today. The fire, which has now been contained, has burnt about 80,000 ha of farm and scrubland.



#### **ABORTED TAKE-OFF, SULAWESI ISLAND, INDONESIA**

London, Jan 10 — A press report, dated today, states: An Indonesian aircraft with 155 passengers on board had to abort take off when it blew a tyre while accelerating down the runway early today at an airport on Sulawesi island, officials said. The Macdonnell Douglas MD-28 aircraft operated by budget carrier Lion Air managed to stop before the end of the runway and there were no injuries, Hamzah, an administrator at the Wolter Mongonsidi airport in Kendari, said. "All 155 passengers and the crew of eight were safe and sound, no one was injured," Hamzah said. He said that the Lion aircraft was bound for Makassar in south Sulawesi when the drama occurred.

#### **ACCIDENT, CRAIG AIRPORT, FLORIDA, UNITED STATES**

London, Jan 13 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: A private aircraft landing at Craig airport this

morning went about 300 feet off the runway, damaging some of the airport's electronic equipment. The Federal Aviation Administration and Jacksonville Airport Authority confirmed that the eight-seat aircraft overran runway 32 in heavy fog about 0815 hrs. None of the four people on board the KingAir 350 were hurt, but the aircraft did knock out three antennas of the eight-antenna array of the airport's instrument landing system located beyond the runway. Craig Airport remains operational in good weather, but not in fog or other conditions that require the pilot to use the instrument landing system.

#### **AIRCRAFT GROUNDED AT KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA**

London, Jan 7 — A press report, dated today, states: A Japan-bound Malaysia Airlines aircraft was grounded Wednesday (Jan 5) after maintenance crew members found hydraulic oil spilled on the instrument panel in the cockpit, a newspaper reported today. Quoting unidentified airline sources, the newspaper said the plane, an Airbus A330, was scheduled to leave for Osaka from Kuala Lumpur International Airport at 2355 hrs, Wednesday. However, about four hours before departure, MAS engineers found an "oily substance" on the instrument panel and a small can during inspection. The newspaper quoted its news sources as saying that MAS does not use the brand of hydraulic oil found, which is used by most foreign airlines. The aircraft was the fourth MAS aircraft to be grounded under "unusual circumstances" in the past two years. The previous cases involved electrical wires that had been tampered with. In the Wednesday incident, the aircraft was reported to have been parked less than 10 metres from the security post. "None of the aircraft from other airlines parked beside the A330 was affected," one of the sources said. The latest incident would cost MAS thousands of ringgit as the aircraft will be grounded for about a week for further inspection and maintenance, the source was quoted as saying. The discovery led to a 35-minute delay and 179 passengers had to fly on another aircraft, the paper said. Police said they will continue to investigate the incident.

#### **AIRCRAFT PUT BACK TO MIAMI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, FLORIDA, UNITED STATES**

London, Jan 8 — A press report, dated Jan 7, states: An American Airlines Boeing 757 that took off from Miami International Airport this morning had to abort its flight to San Juan, Puerto Rico because pilots could not retract the landing gear, an airport official said. The aircraft landed safely at MIA around 0955. Debra Gawron, an MIA spokeswoman, said the aircraft was Flight 861, with 190 people aboard. She said the aircraft's crew noticed that a door in the landing gear compartment would not close. The incident began around 0915.

#### **CRASH, KAMPALA, UGANDA**

London, Jan 8 — A press report, dated today, states: Six people were killed today when an Antonov transport plane registered in the Democratic Republic of the Congo crashed after taking off in Uganda's Entebbe airport, some 40 km south of Kampala. Minister of works, housing and Communications John Nasasira said the Antonov plane with six people on board crashed into a village, 10 km northwest of the airport, where it had taken off at 0948 GMT. "It crashed about 12 minutes after taking off and investigations into the possible cause of the accident have been instituted. All six people are feared dead," the minister added.

London, Jan 11 — A press report, dated Jan 10, states: The Antonov cargo plane that killed six Russians on Saturday (Jan 8) was conducting illegal trade operations without the knowledge of the Ugandan Civil Aviation Authority (CAA). Sources at the Old Airport said yesterday the Antonov 12, owned by Service Air, had been carrying passengers and goods to and from DR Congo without permission from the Defence ministry, CAA and the Uganda Air Cargo Corporation. At the time of the plane crash on Saturday afternoon in Bukalaza forest in Buwaya, the cargo on board included two vehicles: a Jeep Cherokee and Toyota RAV4, 20 tonnes of beans and an assortment of Vodaphone-labeled T-shirts headed for Congolese capital Kinshasa. However Service Air, whose Antonov plane was headed to Kinshasa, submitted a flight plan to CAA, claiming that they were carrying humanitarian relief aid to the war-ravaged northeastern DRC. "In the Flight Plan submitted to us, they indicated that they were taking relief aid to the DRC," said CAA Public Relations Manager, Mr Ignie Igunduura. A source at the UPDF-manned base said officials had been receiving US\$300 for each illegal flight to and from the DRC. Air Navette, Showa Trade, and Volga Atlantic are the only registered companies licensed to operate at the military airport, but over the last couple of months, the base has hosted a number of strange and mostly DR Congolese registered planes that have come in the guise of refuelling. The UPDF Airforce spokesman, Lt Naboth Mugisha, declined to comment on whether the plane was authorised to use the airport. Meanwhile, CAA investigators were by yesterday gathering pieces of the plane from the scene to ascertain the cause of the crash 12 minutes after take off. Two of the victims were identified as a Russian pilot Vladimir Emelyanov and his co-pilot Vivality Smetankir. The other four crew members had not yet been identified.

#### **CRASH, LITTLE ROCK AREA, ARKANSAS, UNITED STATES**

London, Jan 11 — A press report, dated today, states: Authorities in Pulaski County, Ark., called off their search yesterday for a single-engine plane and a passenger that left from

Pueblo and later crashed into the Arkansas River near Little Rock National Airport, killing at least one person. Strong currents in the river and darkness forced rescue crews from the sheriff's and fire departments to call off the search for the Cessna 182 and a passenger late in the afternoon, said Sgt. Terry Hastings, a Little Rock police spokesman. Dive teams were expected to resume their search this morning. Divers recovered the body of an older man from the river a short time after the crash, Hastings said. Mark Malcolm, the Pulaski County coroner, said authorities believe they have a tentative identification of the victim but are withholding his name until they are able to locate the second person on the plane. The Federal Aviation Administration said the plane was registered to Herbert Kirby, 70, of Pueblo, and that the craft was being flown from Pueblo to Little Rock. Kirby's firm, Kirby Fiberglass Inc., said he was flying to Destin, Fla., on a business trip and was scheduled to stop in Little Rock for refuelling. About 1230 hrs, the Cessna's pilot radioed to the control tower that he was having problems with the aircraft and had trouble seeing through the fog over the airport, the police sergeant said. "A short time later, he disappeared off the radar," he said. The plane plunged into the Arkansas River on the north end of Little Rock National Airport. The FAA told authorities that two people were on board the plane, which prompted the search for the second person on the plane.

#### **CRASH, MOORABBIN AIRPORT, MELBOURNE**

London, Jan 10 — A press report, dated today, states: A light aircraft was extensively damaged after its undercarriage failed during a flying class at Melbourne's Moorabbin Airport this afternoon. Neither of the two people on board were injured but the aircraft sustained serious damage after the crash landing shortly before 1500, AEDT. Airport manager Phil McConnell said today's accident happened during touch-and-go practice by a twin-engine Beech Barron owned by the Royal Victorian Aero Club. A man was practising circuits with an instructor, Mr McConnell said. For an unknown reason, the landing gear failed and the aircraft landed on its belly, damaging the underside of its body and the two engines, which seized on landing. The runway where the aircraft crashed was closed for an hour, but the airport's other runway was able to continue operating. Emergency services were dispatched but were not needed, Mr McConnell said. The Australian Transport Safety Board has also been contacted, but may not conduct an investigation because of the minor nature of the incident.

#### **CRASH, QUEENSLAND, AUSTRALIA**

London, Jan 7 — A press report, dated today, states: A man died when the crop duster he was flying crashed on a remote property in western

Queensland. A police spokesman said the man was found dead by police in the cockpit of the aircraft after it went down at 2100, AEST, yesterday on a property south of St George, near the NSW border. The spokesman said Australian Transport Safety Bureau officials were due to arrive on the scene to start investigations today. No further details were available about the deceased man, the spokesman said.

#### **CRASH, RAWLINS AREA, WYOMING, UNITED STATES**

London, Jan 13 — A press report, dated Rawlins, Wyoming, states: An air ambulance crashed, killing three people, and the sole survivor was rescued after calling authorities on his cell phone and guiding them to the wreckage by describing the sirens and other sounds he could hear. Timothy Baldwin, a medic, spent about 90 minutes on his cell phone directing rescuers to the site. He then waited 2 1/2 hours more after his battery died. The aircraft went down in snow and fog Tuesday night (Jan 11) while on its way to pick up a victim of an automobile accident. The pilot and two medics were killed. Rescuers had difficulty tracing the aircraft's emergency transmitter and had to rely on Baldwin's description of the sirens and train whistle he could hear to figure out whether they were getting closer to the wreckage. Baldwin had to be pried out of the aircraft, and reached the hospital early yesterday in critical condition. The cause of the crash was under investigation. Although the aircraft crashed just 3 1/2 miles from the airport, rescuers did not reach it for four hours because it had gone down in the middle of rough, snow-covered prairie.

#### **CRASH, TIPPDAH COUNTY, UNITED STATES**

London, Jan 6 — A press report, dated today, states: One person was killed in the crash of a medical helicopter from North Mississippi Medical Center in Tippah County. Tippah County authorities said the wreckage was found today. The location was not immediately released. The victim was identified as the pilot of the air ambulance. Authorities said the helicopter was sent from the Tupelo hospital to Tippah County last night to pick up an individual injured in a traffic accident. Authorities said the flight crew noticed a problem with the helicopter. The patient and two members of the flight crew returned to Tupelo in an ambulance. The pilot remained with the helicopter until a mechanic arrived to make repairs, authorities said. The helicopter took off shortly after 2300 hrs, but never returned to the medical center.

#### **EMERGENCY LANDING, ANDAHUAYLAS AIRPORT, PERU**

Lima, Jan 7 — A press report, dated today, states: An Antonov aircraft had to make an emergency landing yesterday at a distant and remote airport in Andahuaylas. It appeared that the pilots knew that they had a problem, possibly with their landing gear, as they made many circles

around the airfield until carrying out an emergency landing. Two police officials are reported injured, but it does not state if the Antonov was piloted by the police and or the Peruvian Airforce officials. Understood that the undercarriage is damaged as well as the respective landing gear.

#### **EMERGENCY LANDING, DRAKENSBERG, SOUTH AFRICA**

London, Jan 10 — A press report, dated Jan 9, states: KwaZulu-Natal agriculture MEC Gabriel Ndabandana and five others are stranded on the Drakensberg after bad weather forced their helicopter to make an emergency landing, SABC news reported today. The group were on their way to attend the funeral of a five-year-old boy who died at a farm in Bergville when the pilot was forced to make an emergency landing, the report said. Police spokesperson Vish Naidoo said a team was currently hiking up the mountain to take food and blankets to the pilot and crew.

#### **EMERGENCY LANDING, EVANSVILLE, INDIANA, UNITED STATES**

London, Jan 8 — A press report, dated today, states: An aircraft made an emergency landing at Evansville Regional Airport yesterday after losing an engine. The jet was headed to Chicago from Memphis with about 15 passengers. They said the flight was a little bumpy but the situation was handled smoothly. Evansville Regional Airport spokesperson Nelson Bailes says emergency crews responded quickly in case of an emergency. Bailes said, "Obviously when they have an in air emergency like that, you never know what is going to happen but the crew did a great job, the aircraft landed without incident." The passengers were rerouted.

#### **EMERGENCY LANDING, NATRONA COUNTY INTERNATIONAL COUNTY AIRPORT, WYOMING, UNITED STATES**

London, Jan 7 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Emergency crews at Natrona County International Airport mobilised early this morning when the pilot of an approaching UPS aircraft reported that a flap on one of the wings would not extend, according to Chance Warne, operations manager and chief of emergency services at the airport. The 727 carrying a full load of cargo and 17,000 pounds of fuel landed without incident at about 0615 with no one injured, Warne said.

#### **EMERGENCY LANDING, ULYANOVSK-VOSTOCHNY, RUSSIA**

London, Jan 13 — A press report, dated Jan 12, states: An An-124-100 Ruslan cargo aircraft belonging to Libyan Arab Airlines made an emergency landing at Ulyanovsk-Vostochnyy [Ulyanovsk-East] international airport yesterday. The first deputy head of the region's Emergencies Ministry directorate,

Aleksandr Moshkov, revealed today during a meeting between the governor, Sergey Yermakov, and heads of regional safety organizations and services. According to the Emergencies Ministry, "the airliner was heading for Perm, but two hours before landing one of its four engines caught fire and the crew sought clearance to land at the nearest airfield". The aircraft jettisoned about 100 tonnes of fuel before landing on the outskirts of Ulyanovsk. "Assistance from the emergency services was not required. The Ruslan's fire protection system dealt with the flames while the aircraft was still airborne," Moshkov explained. The aircraft continued on its way a few hours later, after the engine had been repaired.

#### **INCIDENT AT GOA AIRPORT, INDIA**

London, Jan 7 — A press report, dated today, states: A Canadian Regional Jet (CRJ-200) aircraft of Sahara Airlines suffered damage after its right side landing gear collapsed shortly after landing at Dabolim airport, according to airport sources today. None of the four crew members, including two cabin crew, were injured in the incident that occurred last night, damaging the wing and flaps of the aircraft, the sources said. The aircraft had gone to Goa to ferry passengers back to Mumbai, airport sources said. The jet, which had blocked the runway around 2230 hrs, was removed after 0600, today and taken to the bay with the help of Navy personnel, the sources added. Officials of the Director General of Civil Aviation have left for Goa to probe the incident.

#### **N1266T**

London, Jan 11 — A press report, dated today, states: Lake County sheriff's deputies found the wreckage of a small plane that crashed yesterday night. The crash happened in the area around state Roads 44 and 441 in Leesburg, Fla. Sources said that one person was killed in the crash. The cause of the crash is under investigation.

London, Jan 11 — Piper PA-28-140 (Cherokee), N1266T, crashed near Leesburg, Florida, at 0455, Jan 11. The one person on board was killed.

#### **N136LN**

London, Jan 11 — A press report, dated today, states: Three people were on board a helicopter that crashed into the waters of the Potomac River late yesterday. The wreckage of a medical helicopter sits in the shallow Potomac River waters after crashing late yesterday. Maryland State Police said one person has been found alive and is hospitalized in critical condition. Another person has been found dead, and divers are currently searching for the third victim. D.C. Fire and Rescue officials said all three people were members of a medical helicopter crew. Investigators said there were no patients on the helicopter. Investigators said there were two men and a woman on the helicopter when it crashed. The man who survived was

found clinging to the tail section of the aircraft when rescuers first arrived. The accident happened after 2300, yesterday, just south of the Woodrow Wilson Bridge near the Maryland side of the river. Public safety personnel from Maryland, D.C., and Virginia all responded to the scene. Maryland State Police said the helicopter had just left Washington Hospital Center and was on its way back to its home base in the Stafford, Va., area. There is no word yet on what caused the crash.

London, Jan 11 — Eurocopter EC 135, N136LN, crashed into the Potomac River, Washington DC, at 1104, Jan 10, while on a flight from Washington to Fredericksburg, Virginia. Two of the three persons on board were killed and one was seriously injured.

London, Jan 12 — A press report, dated today, states: Investigators are looking at whether construction cranes caused the helicopter (N136LN) crash last night in the Potomac River that killed a paramedic and injured a nurse. The pilot is still missing. "We have interviewed the survivor, and he believes the helicopter may have hit something," said Maryland State Police Sgt. Robert A. Moroney. An Alexandria Fire Department Marine Operations boat found a survivor clinging to the tail of the aircraft in shallow water about 10 minutes after receiving the emergency call at 2300 hrs. Investigators also are looking into other potential causes, including weather conditions, pilot error or birds becoming entangled in the helicopter blades. The body of a paramedic was found with the rear helicopter section, also in shallow water. Divers have yet to find the pilot with 30 years experience. He was in the front section of the helicopter that broke loose and crashed into deep water, south of the Woodrow Wilson Bridge, which carries Interstate 95 between Virginia and Maryland. Potomac Construction Company officials reported finding no damage to three of the five cranes on and near the bridge, said Ellen Engleman Connors, chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board. The helicopter is being examined at the agency's Ashburn, Va., facility. Federal investigators today will re-examine the cranes and other cranes adjacent to the Washington Harbor site in Prince George's County, which is close to where the helicopter crashed. Some of the cranes are about 300 feet high. Helicopters operating in the area are required to fly below 300 feet because of the takeoffs and landings at Andrews Air Force Base. Investigators hope four frames from a police-camera video mounted on the new Woodrow Wilson Bridge will provide clues. "They are fairly poor quality," Mrs. Engleman Connors said. But the helicopter "appeared to be losing altitude in the last frame." The helicopter crew apparently had no radio communications before the crash, but investigators still plan to check airport records. The helicopter was returning to its home base in Stafford, Va., after taking a patient to Washington Hospital Centre. The helicopter was

found in about one to two feet of water. There was not much intact of the aircraft.

#### **N2467X**

London, Jan 12 — A press report, dated Jan 11, states: A single-engine Cessna crashed upon take-off at Huntsville International Airport yesterday night, killing both people aboard, authorities said. Airport spokeswoman Cindy Maloney said the six-seater plane took off around 1830 hrs and turned east before crashing into a heavily wooded and swampy area. She said it took rescuers about an hour to reach the wreckage, which had fallen about a mile and a half from the runway. Maloney said the names of the victims had not yet been released and investigators could not discern their genders because the wreckage was partially submerged. She said a storm was approaching the airport at the time of the crash but it was uncertain whether the weather contributed to the accident. NTSB investigators were looking into the cause of the crash, Maloney said.

London, Jan 12 — Cessna T206H N2467X crashed near Huntsville, Alabama, at 0017, Jan 12, while on a flight from Huntsville to Fulton-Atlanta, Georgia. The aircraft was destroyed. The two persons on board were killed.

#### **N2823H**

London, Jan 8 — A press report, dated today, states: Four people have died after a single-engine plane crashed yesterday night in Greenwood County, authorities said. Investigators found four bodies after receiving reports around 1900 of an aircraft going down in the county, said Greenwood sheriff's Maj. Lonnie Smith. A State Law Enforcement Division helicopter located the aircraft's wreckage near the Bradley community, Smith said. Smith said he had not been to the scene of the accident and could not give more details. The aircraft, a Piper PA-28, was headed from McCormick to Bennettsville, Federal Aviation Administration spokesman Christopher White said. White said he did not know when the aircraft departed. The aircraft is registered to an owner in McCormick County, according to the FAA Web site. The Web site lists the registration as pending. The National Transportation Safety Board will investigate the accident, White said.

London, Jan 10 — Piper PA-28-181 (Cherokee Archer II), N2823H, with four persons on board, crashed at 2356, UTC, Jan 7, seven miles south of Greenwood, South Carolina. The aircraft was destroyed and all four persons on board died.

#### **N41WE**

London, Jan 12 — Beechcraft King Air E90 N41WE crashed near Rawlins, Wyoming, at 0443, Jan 12, while on a flight from Steamboat Springs, Colorado, to Rawlins. Three of the four persons on board were killed and the fourth was seriously injured.

**N45173**

London, Jan 11 — A press report, dated today, states: A 69-year-old West Texas man has died when the small plane he was piloting crashed near Coleman Municipal Airport. Gabriel D. Rosales of Coleman was the lone occupant of the single-engine Cessna that went down about four miles east of the airport yesterday, investigators said. No cause for the 1230 hrs crash has been determined. The Federal Aviation Administration and the National Transportation Safety Board are investigating, Coleman County Sheriff Wade Turner said.

London, Jan 11 — Cessna 150M, N45173, crashed near Coleman, Texas, at 2030, Jan 10, while on a flight from Coleman. The one person on board was killed.

**N501B**

London, Jan 10 — A press report, dated today, states: Officials say the pilot of a single-engine plane died after it crashed into a tree in thick woods near Knoxville and hung precariously for five hours. The pilot was identified as Patrick Young of Seymour and the passenger was his wife, Dorothy. Authorities said Patrick died of a heart attack after he was rescued. His wife is in the trauma unit at UT medical centre. Officials said the Beechcraft Bonanza crashed around 2200 hrs Saturday (Jan 8) night during a landing attempt, hitting a couple hundred yards short of the runway at Sky Ranch Airport. A number of agencies worked for several hours to get the couple down from the tree. The cause of the crash is being investigated.

London, Jan 10 — Beechcraft Bonanza A35, N501B, operated by co-owner Susan D. Grubbs, with two persons on board, crashed at 0300, UTC, Jan 9, at Cox Skyranch, South Knoxville, Tennessee. The aircraft was substantially damaged. One crew died and one was seriously injured.

**N51256**

London, Jan 10 — Cessna 150J, N51256, operated by Andy Miller, with one person on board, crashed at 1515, UTC, Jan 8, at Marana, Arizona. The aircraft was destroyed and the pilot was killed.

**N7654Y**

London, Jan 11 — A press report, dated today, states: Authorities are still trying to figure out what caused a fatal plane crash last night at Charleston International Airport. Emergency crews were called around 1940 hrs. The pilot was the only person on board and was pronounced dead at the scene. His identity, flight plan and destination have not been released. The plane was registered to G-J air of Charleston. An airport spokesman says it was a small twin-engine Piper. "Flights were suspended for about an hour while rescue crews secured the scene. Everything is now back on schedule" the spokesman said.

London, Jan 11 — Piper PA-30 (Twin Comanche), N7654Y, crashed near

Charleston, South Carolina, Jan 10 following take-off from Charleston. The aircraft was destroyed. The one person on board was killed.

**N858FT**

London, Jan 11 — Boeing 747-123, N858FT, operators Polar Air Cargo of Purchase, New York, sustained minor damage resulting from an under-cowl fire in the No 4 engine during initial climb after take-off at the Ted Stevens International Airport, Anchorage, Alaska, for Osan Air Base, South Korea, at approximately 1741, Alaska Standard Time, Dec 29. The aircraft dumped fuel, returned to Anchorage, and landed without incident. During an examination of the aircraft on Dec 30, fire damage to the engine was noted, but no evidence of a catastrophic failure. The three flight crew were not injured.

**N9336H**

London, Jan 12 — A press report, dated Jan 11, states: A small aircraft crashed into a utility pole while trying to make an emergency landing on a golf course today, killing one person and injuring the other aboard. The pilot reported a loss of oil pressure and engine trouble, so he tried to put Cessna 172 down at Dubsdread Golf Course, north of downtown Orlando, shortly before 1700 hrs, police spokesman Sgt. Brian Gilliam said. But the aircraft struck a power pole, immediately stopping in a shower of sparks. That collision may have been fortunate because it appeared the pilot was about to overshoot the fairway and crash into a parking lot. One man on board died in surgery at Orlando Regional Medical Centre after suffering head and chest injuries, Gilliam said. He was a flight instructor at Showalter Flying Service in Orlando. Another Showalter pilot was in fair condition. The two friends had taken the aircraft out for a pleasure flight, Gilliam said. Witnesses told police that it appeared the engine was off before the aircraft crashed, Gilliam said. Witnesses rushed to the aircraft and pulled out one of the occupants. The other person had to be extricated by rescue personnel. The aircraft had been bound for Orlando Executive Airport, about eight miles away. The Federal Aviation Administration and National Transportation Safety Board plan to investigate. Power was cut to about 900 customers, Orlando Utilities Commission spokesman Sheridan Becht said. Most had their service restored within 45 minutes.

London, Jan 12 — Cessna 172M (Skyhawk) N9336H crashed near Orlando, Florida, at 2147, Jan 11, while on a flight from Orlando. The aircraft sustained substantial damage. One of the two persons on board was killed and the other was seriously injured.

**N9474E**

London, Jan 12 — A press report, dated Jan 11, states: National Transportation Safety Board officials will begin searching today for the cause

of a Civil Air Patrol single-engine Cessna that crashed in Ouachita Parish killing both pilots on board last night. Civil Air Patrol spokeswoman Suzann Ford said the deaths are the first fatalities in the 63-year history of the Louisiana Wing of the Civil Air Patrol. Ford says the pilots were performing routine training exercises and practicing multiple approaches to the Monroe Regional Airport when the crash occurred.

London, Jan 12 — Cessna 182R (Skylane) N9474E crashed near Monroe, Louisiana, at 0210, Jan 11, while on a local flight from Monroe. The aircraft was destroyed. The two persons on board were killed.

## Product Recalls



### BICYCLE ATTACHMENTS, CANADA AND UNITED STATES

London, Jan 10 — A press report, dated Jan 7, states: A British Columbia, Canada, company is recalling 80,000 bicycle attachments because the hitch may come loose, potentially leading to serious injury or death, the Consumer Product Safety Commission said today. Norco Products Ltd. has received two reports of hardware falling out of the hitch assembly, and one report of a minor injury, the CPSC said. The product resembles a children's bike without the front wheel and has an elongated top tube that stretches to attach to the seat post of an adult bicycle, creating a tandem. The recall involves the Adams Trail-A-Bike or Adams Slipstream sold under the following models: Starter, Folder, Shifter, Shocker, Ultimate Tandem, Deluxe Folder, Me 2 and Original. "Trail-A-Bike" or "Slipstream" is printed on the top tube of the bicycle attachment and "Adams" is printed on the chain guard. The attachments, sold at independent bicycle stores nationwide from Jan 1996 through to Oct 2004 for \$125-295, were made in China. The product was sold for use by children ages four to seven.

### GENERAL MOTORS CORP. VEHICLES, UNITED STATES

London, Jan 12 — A press report, dated Jan 11, states: General Motors Corp. is recalling 98,221 Chevrolet and GMC pickups, vans and sport utility vehicles because the steering wheels and brakes may not work properly, federal safety regulators said today. All the vehicles involved are from the 2000 model year. They are the Chevrolet C/K and Silverado pickups and Suburban SUV and the GMC Savana van, Sierra pickup and Yukon XL SUV. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, a hydraulic pump driveshaft can fracture in the vehicles, which causes immediate loss of power steering assist and can result in loss of braking assist. Drivers still can steer

and use their brakes but with more difficulty. GM plans to notify owners of the recall next month. Dealers will repair the vehicles for free.



**CHINA**

Beijing, Jan 10 — Ports in north and east China are jammed by ships carrying iron ore, with vessels waiting

as long as two weeks before being allowed to berth, industry and port officials said. The frequent arrivals are partly due to buyers wanting to get in their shipments before the busy Lunar New Year railway season in February coupled with the already-busy winter coal transport season. ‘Sometimes we have to wait as long as two weeks before the ship can berth,’ said an official at a major steel company in the central inland province of Hubei. China, the world’s top steel producer, is hungry for the raw material, with 2004 imports at more than 200 million tonnes after it posted record monthly imports in November of 19.9 million tonnes. ‘There are too many iron ore ships arriving. Sometimes there are

three or four a day, but we do not have so many berths,’ said one official at Qingdao port. He said ships had to wait at least a week. In the port of Tianjin, one agent said ships with iron ore from Australia and India had to wait for more than a week.— Reuters

**INDIA**

See “South-East Asia” under “Earthquakes.”

**INDONESIA**

See “South-East Asia” under “Earthquakes.”

**SRI LANKA**

See “South-East Asia” under “Earthquakes.”

Port Delays

Country/Port	Date of report	No.of vessels waiting and/or days delay
<b>Australia</b>		
Abbott Point	10-12-Jan-2005	Coal: One vessel at anchor; 13 vessels due by 10/2; up to 3 days delay expected.
Albany	10-12-Jan-2005	Grain: 4 vessels due by 20/1, 2 to load barley, 2 wheat; 1-4 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Brisbane	10-12-Jan-2005	Grain: 2 vessels due by 21/1, both to load wheat; no delays expected.
Darlymple Bay	10-12-Jan-2005	Coal: Due to heavy seas and strong winds, berthings have been cancelled. No berthings until 11/1 and 12/1. At present, there are 35 vessels anchored; vessels are berthing in order of cargo availability; average berthing delays 10-15 days.
Dampier	10-12-Jan-2005	Iron ore: Shippers are experiencing some grade/stockpile problems. Cyclone watch: there are no significant tropical lows evident and no indications that a tropical cyclone will form within the next 3 days; Parker Point: One vessel loading at berth, 4 at anchor; 5 vessels due by 19/1; 1-7 days delay expected; East Intercourse Island: One vessel loading at berth, 5 at anchor; 5 vessels due by 25/1; up to 5 days delay expected.
Esperance	10-12-Jan-2005	Grain: 2 vessels due by 20/1, 1 to load barley, 1 wheat; up to 1 day’s delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Geraldton	10-12-Jan-2005	Grain: 9 vessels due by 23/1, 4 to load barley, 4 wheat, 1 lupins; up to 11 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Gladstone	10-12-Jan-2005	Grain: no vessels; no delays expected.
Hay Point	10-12-Jan-2005	Coal: Due to heavy seas and strong winds, berthings have been cancelled. At berth No. 1, a part-loaded vessel was sent to anchor at 10.00 hrs. 9/1; at berth No. 2, a vessel completed loading and sailed 10.00 hrs. 10/1. The part loaded vessel is due to reberth 11/1 at 12.30 hrs. to complete; a vessel is due to berth at berth No. 1 at 09.00 hrs. on 11/1. At present, there are 7 vessels anchored, with average berthing delays of up to 4 days.
Kwinana	10-12-Jan-2005	Grain: 11 vessels due by 24/1, 8 to load wheat, 1 barley, 1 wheat/barley, 1 oats; up to 17 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Melbourne	10-12-Jan-2005	Grain: One vessel due 18/1 to load wheat; no delays expected.
Newcastle	10-12-Jan-2005	Grain: Eight vessels due by 4/2, 6 to load wheat, 1 barley, 1 canola; up to 6 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Port Adelaide	10-12-Jan-2005	Grain: No. 27 berth: 4 vessels due by 31/1, 2 to load barley, 2 wheat; up to 1 day’s day delay due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Port Hedland	10-12-Jan-2005	Iron ore: BHP Iron Ore Pty. Ltd., Mt. Newman (Nelson Point), “A” berth: One vessel loading at berth, 6 vessels due by 19/1; no delays expected; “B” berth: One vessel loading at berth; 6 vessels due by 20/11; up to 1 day’s delay expected; BHP Iron Ore Pty. Ltd., Goldsworthy (Finucane Island): 1 vessel loading at berth; 1 vessel due 14/1; no delays expected; Westyard “D” berth: 1 vessel loading at berth, 1 at anchor; 5 vessels due by 18/1; up to day’s delay expected.
Port Kembla	10-12-Jan-2005	Grain: 6 vessels due by 1/2, 3 to load wheat, 1 barley, 2 canola; up to 1 day’s delay expected.
Port Lincoln	10-12-Jan-2005	Grain: 7 vessels due by 29/1, 4 to load wheat, 2 barley, 1 canola; up to 3 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Port Walcott	10-12-Jan-2005	Iron ore: Two vessels loading at berth, 8 at anchor; 11 vessels due by 20/1; 1-8 days delay expected; shippers request that load plans be submitted as early as possible (8 days) so they can coordinate stockpiles more effectively; shippers advise that all stores, air freight and bags can no longer be delivered to the vessel or taken off at berth, but must be delivered/removed by launch.
Portland	10-12-Jan-2005	Three vessels due by 3/2, 2 to load wood-chips, 1 barley; no delays expected.

## Port Conditions

### Brazil

Rio Grande	11-Jan-2005	Three vessels berthed of which 1 rice loader, 1 wheat loader, 1 soya meal loader; 5 vessels waiting in roads; 31 vessels due over the next 10 days.
Santos	11-Jan-2005	Seventeen vessels berthed of which 1 bulk fuel oil loader, 3 chemical products loaders/dischargers, 6 sugar dischargers, 3 bulk pellets loaders, 1 bulk wheat discharger, 1 full container loader/discharger, 1 bulk fertiliser discharger, 1 bulk sulphur discharger; 30 vessels waiting in roads; 85 vessels due over the next 7 days; Private terminals: Terminal 37: 1 full container loader/discharger; Tecondi: 1 full container discharger; Termares: no vessels; Rodrimar: 1 full container loader/discharger; Cosipa: 1 bulk coal discharger, 2 steel products loaders, 1 full container discharger; Ultrafertil: 1 bulk fertiliser discharger; Cargill: 1 bulk sugar loader; Santos Brasil: no vessels; Cutrale: no vessels; Dow: 1 chemical products discharger.
Sao Sebastiao	11-Jan-2005	Seven vessels berthed, 4 waiting in roads; 6 vessels due over the next 10 days.
Vitoria	11-Jan-2005	One cellulose loader berthed; Terminal Vila Velha: 1 malt discharger, 1 granite loader, 2 general cargo loaders/dischargers, 1 pig-iron loader; Tubarao: 3 iron ore loaders, 1 fertiliser discharger; Praia Mole: 2 coal dischargers, 3 steel products loaders; Portocel: no vessels; Ubu: 1 iron ore loader; 19 vessels waiting in roads; 11 vessels due over the next 7 days.

### Bulgaria

Bourgas	10-Jan-2005	Twelve vessels in port operating, of which 6 loading (1 baryte concentrate, 1 bulk ammonium nitrate, 1 barley, 1 coke, 1 steel sheets, 1 coils), 6 discharging (2 sugar, 1 billets, 2 zinc concentrate, 1 coal); 11 vessels waiting in roads, of which 6 to load (1 cigarettes, 2 coils, 3 empty), 5 to discharge (1 wheat, 3 coal, 1 sugar); 7 vessels due, of which 5 to load (1 metals, 1 scrap, 2 coils, 1 copper concentrate), 2 to discharge (1 machinery, 1 billets).
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### Chile

Valparaiso	10-Jan-2005	Three vessels berthed, 5 berths vacant; 2 vessels anchored; 14 vessels due this week.
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### Egypt

Alexandria	10-Jan-2005	Thirty-three vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 25 general cargo, 3 bulk carriers, 4 tankers, 1 passenger vessel; 11 vessels dry-docked; 21 vessels at inner anchorage, 6 at outer anchorage.
Damietta	10-Jan-2005	Twenty-four vessels berthed (loading/discharging), of which 14 general cargo, 4 bulk carriers, 1 tanker, 4 containers, 1 reefer; 4 vessels at outer anchorage, 1 at inner anchorage.
Suez Canal	10-Jan-2005	Twenty-two vessels transiting Northbound, 30 Southbound.

### Israel

Ashdod	11-Jan-2005	No labour problems. Two general cargo vessels loading at berth, 13 vessels discharging at berth (9 general cargo, 4 bulkers), 3 vessels loading/discharging at berth (2 containers, 1 car carrier); 9 general cargo vessels waiting at anchorage to load, 11 general cargo vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge, 3 container vessels waiting at anchorage to load/discharge; 1 vessel under repairs/dry-docked, 2 awaiting orders; 16 vessels due, with 2-3 days delay expected.
Haifa	11-Jan-2005	No labour problems. One bulker loading at berth, 2 vessels discharging at berth (1 general cargo, 1 bulker), 9 vessels discharging at berth (5 containers, 1 car carrier, 3 tankers); 3 bulkers waiting at anchorage to discharge, 1 container vessel waiting at anchorage to load/discharge; 3 vessels under repairs/dry-docked, 1 awaiting orders; 13 vessels due, with 2-3 days delay expected.

### Pakistan

Karachi	10-Jan-2005	One rice vessel loading at berth, 4 vessels discharging at berth (1 crude oil, 1 palm oil, 1 DAP, 1 general cargo), 3 container vessels loading/discharging at berth; no vessels waiting at anchorage; no vessels bunkering; 1 vessel under repairs/dry-docked, 1 awaiting orders; 2 vessels due (1 containers, 1 crude oil), with no berthing delays expected.
Port Qasim	10-Jan-2005	Three vessels discharging at berth (1 HSD, 1 palm oil, 1 canola seeds), 1 container vessel loading/discharging at berth; 1 iron ore vessel waiting at anchorage discharge.

### Poland

Gdansk	10-Jan-2005	Six vessels in port operating, all loading at berth (1 tanker, 4 bulkers, 1 general cargo), 1 general cargo vessel in roads; 9 vessels under repairs/dry-docked; 22 vessels due.
Gdynia	10-Jan-2005	Five vessels in port operating of which 3 loading at berth (2 coal, 1 bulker), 2 discharging at berth (1 general cargo, 1 tanker); 16 vessels under repairs/dry-docked; 32 vessels due.

## Port Conditions

### Russia

**Novorossiysk**      10-Jan-2005      Eleven vessels in port operating, of which 7 loading (1 HBI, 1 bulk NPK, 2 scrap, 2 bulk urea, 1 diesel oil), 4 discharging (3 bulk sugar, 1 equipment); 5 vessels waiting in roads, of which 2 to discharge bulk sugar, 3 to load (1 urea, 1 ammonium sulphate, 1 diesel oil); 62 vessels due, of which 58 to load (2 bulk ammonium nitrate, 1 tin plates/coils/steel billets/steel sheets/pipes, 1 slabs/coils, 1 sodium sulphate, 1 pipes, 1 zinc, 2 HBI, 1 wheat, 8 aluminium, 4 slabs, 10 coils, 1 pipes/equipment, 2 scrap, 3 DRI, 2 steel sheets/coils, 1 cartons, 1 bulk urea, 3 copper, 3 pig-iron, 1 bulk NPK, 1 onions, 2 paper, 1 bulk cement, 1 WRIC, 1 steel billets/WRIC/steel sheets, 1 steel billets, 2 UAN solution), 2 to discharge (1 citrus, 1 construction materials), 2 to discharge/load containers. Oil terminal: 1 tanker berthed loading fuel oil; 3 tankers in roads, all to load crude oil; 6 tankers due, all to load crude oil.

### Spain

**Cadiz**      11-Jan-2005      Seventeen vessels in port of which 9 operating (3 Ro/Ros, 2 containers, 1 cereals, 1 sand, 2 other vessels), 8 vessels under repair; no delays.

### Turkmenistan

**Aladja**      13-Jan-2005      Oil products: No vessels.  
**Okarem**      13-Jan-2005      Oil products: Four vessels in roads, all to load crude oil.  
**Turkmenibashi**      13-Jan-2005      Oil products: Three vessels loading at berth (2 gasoil, 1 gasoline); 2 vessels in roads of which 1 to load gasoil, 1 to discharge crude oil.

### Ukraine

**Illichevsk**      13-Jan-2005      Oil products: One vessel due 14/12 to load fuel oil.  
**Mariupol**      13-Jan-2005      Fourteen vessels in port operating of which 13 loading (4 steel, 1 pig iron, 2 fire-clay, 1 coal, 1 coke, 2 sulphur, 1 sunflower beans, 1 equipment), 1 discharging/loading containers; 7 vessels in roads, all to load (1 steel, 2 sulphur, 3 fire-clay, 1 coal); 48 vessels due of which 45 to load, 3 to discharge.  
**Odessa**      13-Jan-2005      Nineteen vessels in port operating of which 10 loading (7 metal, 1 pig iron, 1 general cargo, 1 barley), 7 discharging (1 meat, 1 passenger vessel, 1 baggage, 2 citrus, 1 sand, 1 oil), 2 discharging/loading containers; 4 vessels in roads of which 3 to load metal, 1 to discharge citrus; 73 vessels due of which 30 to load (26 metal, 2 pig iron, 1 wheat, 1 other), 14 to discharge (12 citrus, 1 baggage, 1 oil), 29 to load/discharge containers.

### United States

**Beaumont, TX**      14-Jan-2005      Louis Dreyfus terminal: no delays expected..  
**Galveston, TX**      14-Jan-2005      ADM-Farmland terminal: 2 days delay expected.  
**Houston, TX**      14-Jan-2005      LDC Dreyfus terminal: no delays expected; Cargill terminal: 2-3 days delay expected.  
**Kalama, WA**      14-Jan-2005      Kalama export terminal: 4 days delay expected; United Harvest terminal: no delays expected.  
**Los Angeles/Long Beach**      14-Jan-2005      Vessel traffic flow at Los Angeles/Long Beach Harbour remains normal. There may be a slight "bump" in the "vessels in port stats" later this month, due mainly to the reduced work schedule in effect for Christmas Eve (24 December), under the PMA-ILWU contract, and also a "no work schedule" for Christmas Day (25 December). But the ramifications of that should be minimal.  
**New Orleans**      14-Jan-2005      Mississippi River terminal berthing delays: Cenex-Harstates/Myrtle Grove: 6-7 days delay expected. Cargill-Westwego: 1-2 days delay expected. ADM/Ama: 7-8 days delay expected. Bunge/Destrehan: 3 days delay expected. ADM/ Destrehan: 7-8 days delay expected. ADM/Reserve: 7-8 days delay expected. Cargill/Reserve: 2 days delay expected. Peavey/Paulina: 3 days delay expected. Zen-Noh/Convent: 1-2 days delay expected. Cargill/Baton Rouge: no delays expected. Mississippi River mid-stream buoys - estimated berthing delays based on new vessel presented as load-ready and weather permitting: Mile 121.5 ADM (Gemini) - Destrehan: 3 days delay expected; Mile 158.0 Cargill (K2) - Convent: 2 days delay expected; Mile 180.0 Cooper (America) - Darrow: 3 days delay expected. Nine-day forecast for Carrollton Gauge/New Orleans: expected to increase to 14.2 ft. by 23/12. Mississippi River recommended draft restrictions: SW Pass to Pilottown - 47 ft. for all vessels; Pilottown to Nola - 47 ft. for all vessels; New Orleans (Mile 233.5) to mile 180 in. - 45 ft. for all vessels (vessels with drafts up to 47 ft. have been handled but are approved by pilots on a case-by-case basis based on current river conditions); Note: Motiva Convent dock no. 1 is restricted to a maximum draft of 38 ft, (fw) until dredging is completed. Dock no. 2 is restricted to 30 ft, (fw); Mississippi River Gulf outlet: 31 ft. for all vessels; Vessels with drafts up to 47 ft. have been handled up to Mile 180 in the past, but are approved by pilots on a case-by-case basis, based on current river conditions.



## Port Conditions

Portland, OR	14-Jan-2005	Grain terminal: 2 days delay expected; CLD Irving terminal: 4 days delay expected; CLD, O Dock terminals: no delays expected.
Seattle, WA	14-Jan-2005	Louis Dreyfus (Pier 86) terminal: 4 days delay expected.
Tacoma, WA	14-Jan-2005	Temco terminal: 3 days delay expected.

### Yemen

Hodeidah	13-Jan-2005	All berths are occupied; 3 vessels berthed (1 bulk soya, 1 wheat flour, 1 sugar); no vessels anchored; expected waiting times: general cargo: up to 2 days delay; bagged cargoes: up to 3 days delay; bulk cargoes: 2-3 days delay; no delays for containers.
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