

IMO tackles question of standardised safety targets

REALITY bites at the International Maritime Organization this week, as the sub-committee on ship design and equipment attempts to translate regulatory aspirations to enhance safety and protect the marine environment into workable legislation.

With some 80 documents submitted and the topics to be dealt with to include large passenger ship safety, mooring and towing equipment, life-saving appliances, the high-speed craft code, protective coatings standards, exhaust gas cleaning systems, ballast water management and IACS unified interpretations, it is hard at the outset to envisage all areas of debate being fully explored in the five day session, which opens today.

However, key topics stand out as requiring urgent attention.

Standards

Among them will be performance standards for shipboard protective coatings, which are due to become mandatory under the revised Solas Chapter XII, thus demanding entry into force in July 2006.

Draft performance standards submitted by BIMCO, International Association of Classification Societies, the International Chamber of Shipping, Intercargo and Intertanko for coating of ballast and similar spaces in double-side spaces for bulk carriers will be based on concepts of a 15 year "target useful life".

Drawing on the work of the Tanker Structure Co-operative Forum and based on experience from manufacturers, shipyards and ship operators, the 15-year figure has been arrived at because, its proponents argue, it implies a ship needs only one re-coating during its lifetime. A 20-year mandatory minimum standard life expectancy is considered "unpractical".

However, a submission from South Korea aims to probe the basis for the target, and express a preference for a performance expectation based on agreement over life expectancy between the yard concerned, the owner and the manufacturer.

Coating

Delegates will also be invited to consider whether the matter of coating ballast tanks in all bulk carriers and/or oil tankers should be addressed in the future. It will also look to establish specifications and procedures for the coating application process by shipbuilders in order to prevent premature deterioration of the coating system and consider recommendations that a detailed checklist may be needed to inspect surface preparation.

A series of papers from Japan will suggest that legislated standards will only be workable if test procedures for coating qualification and surface preparation are introduced to verify them.

Japan will also argue that the draft proposal includes some "environmentally

unfriendly requirements". It will suggest, for example, that aspirations to minimise the number of coats should figure in the standard, to provide an incentive for the use of VOC-free (volatile organic compound-free) or solvent-free paints.

Deliberations

Also significant will be the outcome of deliberations over the protective location of fuel tanks. Here, the session should be enlivened by a discussion over whether coming regulations should be based on a goal-based standard or a performance-based standard.

It is understood that a German submission, which has attracted some interest, will try to combine the two approaches.

The ballast water issue has also by no means been put to bed, with Brazil to argue that tests are still needed aboard a representative sample of the world's shipping fleet to evaluate and approve ballast water management systems, to verify which technologies actually comply with the Ballast Water Convention.

Meanwhile, nestling in 'any other business' will be the UK's considered response to the May 2004 decision by IMO administrations at the Maritime Safety Committee meeting to move away from making double-hull bulkers mandatory.

Hugh O'Mahony
Lloyd's List Editorial

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

Vessel	Type	Flag	Class	GT	DWT	Bit	Casualty
ARIADNI	ro-ro/ container	CYP	GL	4,322	6,182	1982	Reported engine trouble about 40-45 miles off Trapani Feb 16. Tug on scene & towing to Trapani, ETA 17 Feb.
ARION	passenger	GRC	—	11,152	4,800	1972	Grounded in lat 38 34.6N, long 25 51.4E, Feb 11 following damage to steering gear. Passengers taken off, crew safe. Water ingress into engine-room. Some oil, fuel & cargo to be offloaded. Heavily aground. LOF signed. Still aground Feb 17.
CEC ASIA	general	BHS	GL	4,150	5,196	1997	Reported Feb 14 grounded north of Cayo Guillermo. Salvors proceeding. Still aground Feb 15. LOF signed Feb 14.
CELTIC CARRIER	general	GBR	LR	1,892	2,887	1984	Drifting in lat 50 36.54N, long 00 29.92E, Feb 13 due gearbox/engine failure. Taken in tow for Dover. Alongside Dover Feb 13. Undergoing inspection/repairs which ETC 3-4 days.
EFC 9296	barge	USA	—	764	—	1992	Sank while being pushed by tug C.S.S. <i>Arkansas</i> following collision with bulk <i>Rodon Amarandon</i> at Mile 180, River Mississippi, Feb 10.
ELANTA	general	VCT	BK	3,012	5,112	1981	Grounded 100 m off coast of Cape Megalos Limnionas Feb 15. Tugs expected on scene. Bad weather delaying salvage. Still aground Feb 17.
FRITIND	general	BHS	LR	1,094	1,519	1978	Sinking about 6 miles off Hook of Holland in lat 52 03N, long 03 58E, Feb 14. One vessel on scene with lifeboat & helicopter. Towed to Calland Jetty No.1, Europoort. 2 holes in side; losing diesel oil. Leakage stopped.
JM 2	general	PRK	—	1,387	1,355	1969	Reported listing in lat 41 17N, long 29 08E, Feb 12. Subsequently grounded at Kumoy Pilavkaya. Salvage under way.
JUI TAI NO.8	general	TWN	—	2,808	5,177	1985	Reported Feb 13 missing after departing Hualien Feb 10. Search & rescue operations discovered artifacts from vessel ESE of Suao.
KESTUTIS	general	KOR	LR	3,972	4,152	1993	Reported Feb 14 in lat 52 31.05N, long 03 28.25E, with generator problems. Salvage being arranged by owners. Taken in tow for Amsterdam for Ymuiden, where arrived Feb 15.
MSC AL AMINE	general	MAR	GL	8,631	10,340	1983	Grounded at Korbous, Ain Oktor, due all power lost Feb 15. Bunkers leaked & caused some pollution. Authorities responding to spill. LOF signed.
SEA REY	general	VCT	LR	1,059	1,559	1978	Listing 40-42 deg and subsequently sank in lat 35 24N, long 21 55E, Feb 14. Reportedly sustained engine failure.
SWING	general	NLD	BV	2,774	4,130	1999	Reported ballast wing tank damage & leaking in lat 49 29.7N, long 03 38W, Feb 14. Subsequently arrived Le Havre Feb 14 under own power. Awaiting permission to carry out some repairs before proceeding Rotterdam/Gdansk shipyard.
VOYAGER	passenger	BHS	GL	24,391	2,293	2000	Reported Feb 14 drifting in lat 39 26N, long 05 40E, due flooded engine-room & no power. Two tugs proceeding to tow her. Restored power & proceeding Sardinia on 2 of her 4 engines. Docked Cagilari Feb 15 for inspection/repairs.

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The following reports are reprinted from Lloyd's List



AKKOC 1 (Turkey)

London, Feb 14 — Following received from Ankara MSRCC, dated today: General cargo Akkoc 1 is still lying in the same position, awaiting the port authority's authorisation to begin welding operations prior to refloating. The vessel is expected to be in dry dock in three to four days.

AL FAHAD (Saudi Arabia)

Jeddah, Feb 15 — Understand from owners of passenger ro/ro Al Fahad that the vessel is still in the same position. — Lloyd's Agents.

ALGA (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

Aarhus, Feb 15 — General cargo Alga is still at Aarhus, awaiting release and authorisation for towage by the Danish maritime authorities. The vessel is expected to be taken in tow by tug Asterix on Feb 21, bound for Kaliningrad. — Lloyd's Agents.

ALIANCA SAO PAULO (Liberia)

London, Feb 12 — C.c. Alianca Sao Paulo sailed Hamburg 0630, Feb 11, for Antwerp, where it arrived at 0625 hrs, today.

AMIRANTE (Malta)

London, Feb 15 — General cargo Amirante (2201 gt, built 1977) touched head of Brunsbutt Locks of the Kiel-Canal on departure. No injuries. (Note — Amirante passed Brunsbuttel East Feb 12.)

ANNA MARIE (U.S.A.)

London, Feb 14 — A press report, dated Feb 13, states: Three fishermen were rescued yesterday morning after their 72-foot vessel began taking on water about 18 miles south of Oregon Inlet, the Coast Guard said. Authorities got a radio call at about 0300 hrs from the captain of the vessel reporting that fishing Anna Marie (113 gt, built 1980) had lost its shaft packing and was quickly taking on water. The engine of the Morehead City-based vessel was completely swamped, the Coast Guard said in a news release. A Coast Guard helicopter arrived at 0418 hrs and lowered two pumps to the vessel. The fishermen used rags to stem the leak. After the flooding was controlled, the boat was towed to Diamond Shoals, near Cape Hatteras. Anna Marie's sister ship, fishing Alice Marie, also based at Morehead City, was scheduled to rendezvous with the crews and tow the boat to Fort Macon.

London, Feb 14 — Following received from Coast Guard Norfolk, Va., timed 1015, UTC: Fishing Anna Marie, official number 617732, was successfully and safely towed into Fort Macon by its sister ship Alice Marie.

ARATERE (New Zealand)

London, Feb 11 — A press report, dated today, states: Ro/ro Aratere has been released from detention but is not allowed to carry passengers until further notice. Maritime Safety Authority director Russell Kilvington refused yesterday to lift the detention order, saying that the vessel had arrived from Spain six years ago in an unsatisfactory condition and that it had continued to have problems. The order was put on the Toll-owned vessel on Wednesday night (Feb 9) after the steering failed on entering Wellington Harbour, with about 188 passengers on board. Mr Kilvington said Toll management were advised to withdraw the vessel from service immediately and warned that, if it continued with its scheduled 0200 hrs sailing to Picton, it would be detained. Toll chose to reload with freight and sail to Picton despite the warning, he said. If the company refused to comply with the detention order and sailed out of Picton before it was given the all clear, the vessel could be put under arrest, he said yesterday afternoon. However, by 1930 yesterday, Toll and the authority had negotiated a deal under which Aratere would be allowed to operate as a cargo vessel. Conditions imposed on the vessel include a requirement to undergo a technical risk assessment, having an authority official on board to observe the vessel while sailing and a review of emergency and contingency plans. The cargo-only restriction would remain until the authority was satisfied all the conditions had been met. The vessel's rudder failed to respond to a course alteration while entering Wellington and was stopped immediately. Once stopped, the vessel was then turned 360 deg using engines and starboard rudder, positioned and safely berthed at the Wellington terminal. The incident was reported to the authority within 18 minutes of it happening. A test of the rudder showed it was operating normally, so monitoring equipment was placed on the rudder and Aratere completed an all-freight return crossing to Picton. An independent surveyor inspected the vessel yesterday and recommended it be returned to full service. However, Mr Kilvington said he was concerned the fault had not been found and, because of the vessel's troubled history, would not give it full clearance. "It might not be a safe ship," he said.

Wellington, Feb 16 — A press report, dated today, states: Ro/ro Aratere has been given new reporting conditions for operating in Marlborough Sounds. Marlborough Harbour-master Alex Wijngaarden said yesterday he had told owners Toll Shipping that officers on Aratere must contact Picton harbour radio before the vessel enters Tory Channel with estimated times of arrival for specified waypoints. Variations of more than five minutes to estimated arrival times and any problems must also be advised. "This is so we have a better idea of where

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the vessel is," he said. The Maritime Safety Authority detained Aratere in Picton for almost 24 hours last week after it failed to respond to a course change on entering Wellington Harbour, because of an unidentified rudder fault. It was allowed back into service but forbidden to carry passengers until conditions had been met, including a risk assessment for the vessel. Mr Wijngaarden will await the assessment before deciding on any "extra measures". The passenger ban will probably be in place for several weeks. — Lloyd's Agents.

ARIADNI (Cyprus)

London, Feb 16 — Following received from Rome MRCC, timed 1538, UTC: Ro/ro/c.c. Ariadni (4322 gt, built 1982), Gioia Tauro for Algeria, reported engine trouble about 40-45 miles off Trapani this morning. A tug arrived on scene at about 1430, UTC, and took the vessel in tow for Trapani, ETA tomorrow morning. (Note — Ariadni sailed Gioia Tauro Feb 14 for Algeria.)

ARION (Greece)

London, Feb 11 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 0550, UTC: Passenger ro/ro Arion (11152 gt, built 1972), with 20 passengers, grounded in lat 38 34.6N, long 25 51.4E, north-west of Chios Island, at 0430, local time, today. Passengers taken off by helicopter, all crew safe. Understand vessel has sustained some damage.

London, Feb 11 — Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: During the early hours of Feb 11, passenger ro/ro Arion, on schedule Piraeus-Chios-Mytilene, ran aground on the north-west coast of Chios, following damage to the steering gear. From the grounding there was water ingress into the engine-room, but no pollution reported yet. The master requested assistance and tug Matsas Star is expected to arrive in five hours. Additionally two super puma helicopters were despatched to collect the 17 crew and 12 drivers of the trucks on board. The passengers were safely rescued and taken ashore by the Coast Guard this morning.

London, Feb 11 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 2155, UTC: Passenger ro/ro Arion is still aground in the same position. Tug Matsas Star is in close proximity to the vessel. Divers will inspect the keel area at first light tomorrow morning in order to assess the level of damage.

Piraeus, Feb 11 — Passenger ro/ro Arion, laden with trucks of various cargoes, grounded in lat 38 34.6N, long 025 51.04 E, north-west of Chios Island, today. Crew and passengers were evacuated by Navy helicopters as the vessel flooded and developed a port list. Salvage tug Matsas Star sailed on speculation from Lavrion Salvage station with a team of divers and salvage equipment. LOF contract was later awarded to Loucas G. Matsas Salvage and Towage. Arion is heavily aground and the oil removal operation is hindered by weather conditions prevailing in the area.

South-west nine, Beaufort Scale (strong gale). Oil booms have been deployed around the casualty. Tug Pegasus sailed to casualty's site with additional antipollution equipment and material. Special antipollution crafts Argo and Ahina have been contracted by salvors and mobilised/towed from Piraeus by tug Amazon. — Loucas G. Matsas Salvage and Towage.

London, Feb 12 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 1106, UTC: Passenger ro/ro Arion is still aground in the same position. Tug Matsas Star remains in close proximity to the vessel. It is understood that some oil, fuel and cargo will be off-loaded in order that divers can assess the level of damage to the vessel's bottom.

London, Feb 15 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 1100, UTC: Passenger ro/ro Arion remains aground in the same position. Tugs are on scene and salvage operations are continuing.

London, Feb 15 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 1930, UTC: Passenger ro/ro Arion is still aground, with salvage efforts postponed by bad weather.

London, Feb 16 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 1126, UTC: Passenger ro/ro Arion is still aground. No refloating attempt will be made today, due to continued bad weather.

London, Feb 17 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 1050, UTC: Passenger ro/ro Arion: Vessel is still aground. Weather in the area remains bad and is hindering salvage operations.

ASPEN (Panama)

Managua, Feb 11 — General cargo Aspen is still in San Juan del Sur. Sending the vessel to Corinto for discharge of cargo, 4,500 tonnes of cement, and effecting repairs to the hatch covers is being considered. At the same time there will be an inspection of any possible damages there might be in the hold. — Lloyd's Agents.

Managua, Feb 15 — General cargo Aspen is still in port at San Juan del Sur, and the starboard engine repairs have reportedly been completed. There is currently a dispute over port expenses which is preventing the vessel from sailing. — Lloyd's Agents.

ATHOS I (Cyprus)

London, Feb 13 — A Delaware River Oil Spill Joint Information Centre report, dated Feb 12, states: Crude oil tanker Athos I: Latest Updates: Four hundred and thirty-one responders are working in the command centre and along the Delaware River. Some 117,750 gallons of oil and oily liquid has been recovered, 12,068 tons of oily solids (cleanup materials and oil) have been collected. Seventy-eight percent of the heavily oiled areas, 54% of the medium oiled areas, and 34% of the lightly oiled areas have been grossly decontaminated. Thirty-eight facilities have been grossly decontaminated with seven currently being decontaminated. Experts report 378

birds have been released and 181 birds are reported deceased. Oil recovery operations are continuing, weather permitting, throughout the winter months. Once the gross decontamination is completed, the next step will be a detailed assessment of the contaminated areas to finalize the cleanup plan. The Unified Command anticipates cleanup operations will continue through spring and into the summer. Investigation into the cause of the spill continues. Final results of the investigation are not expected to be released for several months.

London, Feb 16 — A Delaware River Oil Spill Joint Information Centre report, dated today, states: The claims process for uncompensated damages and removal costs related to the discharge of oil from crude oil tanker Athos I into the Delaware River near Paulsboro, NJ, on Nov 26 will now be handled by the National Pollution Funds Center. The managers of the vessel have already incurred cleanup costs over \$100 million, well beyond their financial obligations under the Oil Pollution Act of 1990. As a result, they have requested that third party claims now be referred to the funds centre for payment through the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund, which was established in 1990 to help facilitate cleanup activities and compensate for damages from oil spills. The vessel managers intend to continue funding the cleanup costs at this time. "From the moment our vessel struck the uncharted object obstructing the anchorage we have been thrown into a ship owner's worst nightmare. But throughout the dark night we have been assisted by some talented and hard working people," said Harry T. Hajimichael, General Manager, Tsakos Shipping And Trading SA, managers of Athos I. "The Captain of the Port and the men and women of the U.S. Coast Guard, members of the State response forces, animal rescue specialists, our crew and our own contractor response team have laboured diligently since the incident occurred. We have met our responsibilities and more, and remain committed to supporting the enormous response efforts of so many people along such a beautiful waterway." With about 400 responders working in the command centre and along the affected shoreline, clean up efforts are continuing. Approximately 117,750 gallons of oil and oily liquid and 12,068 tons of oily solids have been recovered. 38 facilities along with 78% of the heavily oiled areas, 54% of the medium oiled areas, and 34% of the lightly oiled areas have been decontaminated. Funds centre personnel will provide a claims presentation at 1600, Feb 22 and again at 1730 hrs at the Independence Seaport Museum at Penn's Landing in Philadelphia. Claimants are invited to attend either presentation. A claims workshop will also be held on the evening of Mar 8. Claims that have been received so far will be denied by the responsible party and returned to

the claimants. Claimants should resubmit their claims to the National Pollution Funds Center. The centre will accept and adjudicate for uncompensated damages and removal costs resulting from the oil spill. Damages may include: damage to natural resources; damage to, or loss of, real or personal property; loss of subsistence use of a natural resource; loss of government revenue; loss of profits or earning capacity; and increased cost of public services.

ATTILIO IEVOLI (Italy)

London, Feb 14 — Poor bridge management, with the master distracted by his mobile telephone from navigational duties, led to the grounding of laden chem.tank Attilio Ievoli in the west Solent (on June 3, 2004), a Marine Accident Investigation Branch report has concluded. The grounding occurred when the master of Attilio Ievoli elected to take the vessel through the west Solent and Needles channel between the Isle of Wight and the Hampshire coast after dropping the pilot, who had taken the ship from Fawley. There is no pilotage service available for this channel, with larger and deep draught ships invariably using the passage to the east of the island. Additionally, the company instructions provided for ships to use the east Solent, but the master hoped to save four hours by the "short cut" on his way to Spain. After the pilot had been dropped the master was conning the vessel on autopilot and the ship evidently drifted northward out of the channel until it grounded, causing bottom plate indentation forward but no hull penetration. The ship was laden with toluene and styrene monomer, but there was no leakage of cargo or bunkers and the vessel eventually refloated on the tide. The report suggested that there had been poor bridge team management and an inappropriate division of tasks between master, second officer, cadet and the vessel's chief engineer, who had been occupying one of the two seats at the navigational console. It appeared that the second officer, who discovered that the ship was to the northward of the track, tried to alert the master, who was occupied on his mobile phone at the critical moment. Recommendations by the MAIB included the provision of VTS and pilotage for the western Solent, better buoyage and others relating to bridge team management.

AURORA (U.K.)

Bremen, Feb 11 — Understand from the Lloyd Yard at Bremerhaven that passenger Aurora has entered the dry dock and will stay there for three to four months. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Feb 15 — A press report, dated today, states: The cost of scrapping the world cruise of passenger Aurora has risen to £26.25m, it was revealed today. P&O parent company Carnival originally said the cancellation of the 103-day cruise, because of propulsion problems,

would cost about £22m. The firm says that estimate has risen as the £200m vessel will not now be used for any replacement cruises. The vessel is undergoing ten weeks of work in Germany before its next scheduled cruise begins on Apr 22. P&O Cruises managing director David Dingle said that work on Aurora was due to be completed on Apr 19 with the vessel expected back in Southampton Apr 21 in time for its scheduled two-day cruise to Bruges in Belgium. Mr Dingle added: "The Bruges cruise is sold out and bookings are good for the 17-day Venice cruise leaving Southampton on Apr 24. "The problems with the ship last month have not had an impact on bookings and there continues to be strong customer support for Aurora." Aurora is being repaired by German company Lloydwerft in Bremerhaven.

AYAX (Finland)

London, Feb 11 — Following received from Turku MRCC, timed 1034, UTC: Tug/icebreaker Ajax (288 gt, built 1963) and pontoon Partner (698 gt, built 1984) grounded near the Aland Islands, in lat 60 05.95N, long 20 44.75E, at 1544, UTC, Feb 10. The vessels were refloated with tug assistance at 0830, Feb 11, with no damage and proceeded on voyage.

BALUEIRO TERCERO (Spain)

Suva, Feb 13 — Fishing Balueiro Tercero: Situation still remains the same. — Lloyd's Agents.

BAUMWALL (Gibraltar)

London, Feb 16 — Ro/ro Baumwall sailed Hamburg 1435, Feb 4, bound for Kaliningrad, where it arrived Feb 6.

BETTY WOOD (U.S.A.)

Miami, Feb 14 — Tug Betty Wood is at North Florida Shipyard, Jacksonville, following port crankcase explosion. Repairs have just been started and a lot of wiring and lesser work to the port engine is needed. It is anticipated it will be two weeks before repairs are completed. — Lloyd's Agents.

BOTHNIABORG (Netherlands)

London, Feb 14 — Ro/ro Bothniaborg (12460 gt) is reported to have contacted the Brunsbittel Locks in the Kiel Canal. Vessel, on voyage from Cuxhaven to Sodertalje, passed Brunsbittel eastbound at 1256, Feb 12.

London, Feb 16 — Ro/ro Bothniaborg arrived and sailed Sodertalje about Feb 14.

C.S.S. ARKANSAS (U.S.A.)

See Rodon Amaranon.

CAPE FLATTERY (Hong Kong)

London, Feb 10 — A press report, dated today, states: As work continued yesterday in 4- to 6-foot seas to refloat grounded bulk Cape Flattery, the Coast Guard said its investigation of how it got stuck will not be complete for several weeks. "We will be

interviewing crew, looking at ship's logs, all the factors that go into that," said Coast Guard Chief Petty Officer Steve Carleton. "The main issue right now is to offload that cement (aboard the ship), with safety a primary concern for the vessel, the environment and the workers." As of 1400, yesterday, crews removed 2,790 cubic yards, roughly half of the total needed to refloat the vessel just outside Barbers Point Harbour. As cement has been removed during the past few days, the vessel is weighted with sea water for ballast and held by tugboats to keep it from moving, said state Department of Health emergency response spokesman Curtis Martin. When enough cement is unloaded, the ballast water will be slowly removed in hopes that the boat will lift off the reef, he said. That phase of the operation will be delicate, Martin said, since the lightened vessel could bounce on the reef, damaging either the vessel or the reef. Two barges and two cranes, 14 salvage crew with Titan Marine Services and additional subcontractors are working on the project — not including Coast Guard, state and federal agency staff, Carleton said. One of the barges holds 1,300 cubic yards, and the other holds 250 cubic yards, he said. Once the vessel is removed from the reef, marine biologists will conduct an environmental damage assessment, he said. All the cement aboard the vessel is bound for Hawaiian Cement, said company President Carl Simons. The cement offloaded from the vessel probably cannot be used in regular jobs, but might be usable for some soil stabilization projects, he said yesterday. Hawaiian Cement has a sufficient supply of cement stored to continue current contracts even if the entire load on Cape Flattery is not deliverable, Simons said.

London, Feb 10 — A Coast Guard Honolulu press release, dated Feb 9, states: Operations to off load the cement dust cargo from bulk Cape Flattery will continue today. Salvage crews continue the removal of cement off of Cape Flattery today. The crews began off loading at 1430 yesterday and worked through the night. They have removed more than 1,000 tonnes of cement since yesterday. Weather and safety issues permitting, offloading operations will continue throughout the day today. Shortly after midnight one of the tugs assisting in operations made contact with Cape Flattery resulting in a one inch crack near the waterline. It was immediately noticed and repaired. Pollution control vessel Hawaii Responder is enroute to stand by on-scene in case oil is reported in the water. There are still no reports of any pollution in the water.

London, Feb 11 — A press report, dated today, states: Teams freed bulk Cape Flattery this morning that was stuck on a reef off Kalaeloa for more than a week. The vessel was freed just before 0230 hrs. Several factors, including the high tide and three tugs pulling it, helped to free the vessel,

according to officials. Tugs then towed the freighter to a safe place about one mile offshore. The Coast Guard will inspect the vessel before it's allowed to enter port. Divers were sent underwater to check the vessel for scrapings and possible punctures. So far, there are no reports of pollution in the waters where the vessel was grounded.

London, Feb 11 — Following received from Coast Guard Honolulu, timed 2145, UTC: Bulk Cape Flattery was refloated this morning. Vessel remains at anchor about one mile from its grounding position. Vessel is undergoing an inspection before it is permitted to enter port. No initial signs of damage to the vessel or any pollution.

London, Feb 11 — A Coast Guard Honolulu press release, dated today, states: Bulk Cape Flattery was successfully refloated at 0222 today with the assistance of three tugs. The vessel was towed by tugs to safe anchorage about one mile offshore. Assessments of the internal spaces on the vessel and the hull will be conducted prior to the ship being allowed to enter port. Efforts to refloat the vessel required the removal of all but enough fuel oil to operate the vessel's engines and the removal of about 9,000 tonnes of the granular cement cargo. The Pollution patrol vessel Hawaii Responder, operated by the Marine Spill Response Corporation, remains on scene, standing by to respond to any reported pollution in the water. There are no current reports of pollution. A helicopter overflight of the area will be conducted this morning to verify that there is no oil in the water.

London, Feb 12 — Following received from Pacific Basin Shipping Ltd, managers of bulk Cape Flattery, timed Hawaii 0700, local time, Feb 11: Cape Flattery was successfully refloated around 0222, local time, today. This was achieved with the assistance of three tugs and followed a lightering operation that removed roughly 8,000 tonnes of its cement cargo. Cape Flattery is now safely moored alongside Pier No.7, Barber's Point Harbour. There was no pollution. The refloating operation took advantage of improved weather conditions that had allowed safe cargo lightering operations to continue throughout the run up to high tide. It was the high tide that finally determined the timing of the refloating.

London, Feb 12 — A press report, dated today, states: Biologists, stunned at the extent of reef damage after their initial survey yesterday, said it may take years of work to help the Barbers Point reef recover from the grounding of bulk Cape Flattery. They saw big coral heads partly crushed and knocked over, schools of fishes feeding on pulverized sea urchins, fan corals shattered, and a vast, grey pavement where cement being offloaded from the stricken vessel spilled into the sea and hardened in place. "A lot of damage. Suffice it to say that there was

considerable damage, in terms of the damaged and broken corals under the ship, the concrete that has solidified on the bottom and the peripheral damage, which includes large coral heads smashed and toppled," said John Naughton, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries biologist. The vessel ran aground Feb 2 while attempting to enter the Kalaeloa Barbers Point Harbour. The Coast Guard is conducting an investigation. Naughton said a team of eight divers and staff went to the site yesterday after the vessel was floated off the reef at 0222, local time. The marine survey showed damage extended much farther from where the vessel was aground than anyone expected, Naughton said. The men said they cannot estimate the size of the damaged area. Naughton said teams of divers next week will begin a detailed assessment. He said a lot of unexpected damage around Cape Flattery may have been caused by the vessel's anchor and the movement of steel cables used by tugs that attended the vessel. "We can't imagine what else could have done it," Naughton said. Nearly all the vessel's fuel oil and roughly 9,000 tonnes of cement were offloaded. Observers on shore reported seeing large quantities of cement spilling into the ocean during the offloading, apparently causing the rock-hard fresh concrete field biologists found next to the grounding site. As the fuel and cargo were removed, the vessel pumped seawater aboard as ballast to keep it from moving on the reef. When the ballast water was pumped off yesterday morning, the tide was coming in, and Coast Guard Chief Petty Officer Steve Carleton said "it just popped off the reef." Tugs brought Cape Flattery to a point about a mile from shore, where it anchored while divers checked the condition of the hull, and specialists probed the internal tanks for damage. The vessel's original crew of 23 remain on board. The vessel was allowed into the harbour after the Coast Guard's captain of the port concluded it was safe. There have been no signs of any fuel leaking from the vessel, before or after the refloating.

Honolulu, Feb 14 — Bulk Cape Flattery was pulled from its grounded position on Feb 11 and taken offshore for an underwater damage assessment and then brought into Barber's Point Deep Draught Harbour to offload the remainder of its cargo of cement. At this time the cargo has not been offloaded pending disposition with consignee. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Feb 16 — A press report, dated Feb 15, states: Biologists are trying to figure out how to save the coral reefs that were damaged by bulk Cape Flattery. The vessel ran aground two weeks ago off Barbers Point. The coral reef is blanketed with cement that fell into the ocean as it was being offloaded. "We know the damage starts from where the vessel was," said Dave Gulko, reef specialist. "And we suspect there is damage from tow lines that were attached to the anchor and some

peripheral damage." Biologists are spending this week diving and documenting the damaged reef. They plan to do some emergency restoration to save the large coral colonies and prevent further damage.

London, Feb 17 — A press report, dated Feb 16, states: A survey of the coral reef where bulk Cape Flattery grounded off Kalaeloa Harbour shows extensive damage, according to biologists who inspected the area. The damage is being blamed on the vessel, which ran aground on the reef as it tried to enter Kalaeloa Harbor on Feb 2 and sat on the reef for nine days before it was freed. For more than a week, tug crews tried to refloat the vessel. Eventually crews lightened the load of cement and fuel, but that caused other problems as rough seas and wind sent cement spewing into the air and ocean. "There was peripheral damage in addition to the scar that occurred both along the top of the ledge and down along the slope of the ledge," said Dave Gulko, of the Department of Land and Natural Resources. Biologists said the damage spans an area the size of a football field. They said more damage could still be found. In the next few weeks, divers will try to right some of the coral heads that were knocked down. Scientists said it will take years before the reef is completely restored. "For different species it will take different lengths of time. There are rapidly growing species that could regenerate in five to 10 years," said Steve Kolinkski PhD., of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Experts say the reef continues to be damaged by broken coral and chunks of cement being washed over the reef in wave action. "There is an invasive algae in that region we're real worried that algae may potentially colonise the newly scoured environments," said Kevin Foster, of the US Fish and Wildlife Service. The Coast Guard is sending the vessel's owner a bill for \$250,000 for its services. There is no word yet on whether the state will put a price tag on the environmental damage.

CAPE SYROS (Cyprus)

Cadiz, Feb 15 — Understand that general cargo Cape Syros is still under repair at the IZAR Cadiz facilities. The vessel was supposed to be sailing a few days ago, but it seems the repairing is taking longer than expected. The surveyor in charge informs that they expect Cape Syros to sail in a couple of days. — Lloyd's Agents. (See issue of Feb 1.)

CAPTAN SALIM (Syria)

See "Cyprus" under "Port State Control."

CEC ASIA (Bahamas)

Havana, Feb 14 — General cargo CEC Asia (4150 gt, built 1997) is currently aground north of Cayo Guillermo. Salvors Antillana de Salvamento are proceeding to assist. — Lloyd's Agents.

Havana, Feb 15 — General cargo CEC Asia is still aground. Salvors are preparing to carry out refloating operations under Lloyd's Open Form signed Feb 14. — Lloyd's Agents.

CELTIC CARRIER (U.K.)

London, Feb 13 — Following received from Coastguard Dover MRCC, timed 0400, UTC: General cargo Celtic Carrier (1892 gt, built 1984), Goole for Bilbao, cargo 2,701 tonnes broken glass, reported drifting in lat 50 36.54N, long 00 29.92E, at 0350, UTC, with gearbox failure. Wind 290 degs at 10 to 25 knots. (Note — Celtic Carrier

sailed Goole 1920, Feb 11 for Bilbao.)

London, Feb 13 — At 0543, UTC, general cargo Celtic Carrier was in lat 50 36.007N, long 00 30.394E, drifting 162 degrees at 0.4 knots, not under command.

London, Feb 13 — Following received from Coastguard Dover MRCC, timed 1130, UTC: General cargo Celtic Carrier expected to complete repairs around 1100, UTC, but vessel is currently still showing on radar as being in the same location.

London, Feb 13 — Following received from Coastguard Dover MRCC, timed 1525, UTC: General cargo Celtic Carrier has been taken in tow by tug Anglian Monarch and the vessels are proceeding to Dover. Once off the port, harbour tugs will take over and tow the vessel into port.

London, Feb 14 — At 0025, UTC, today, general cargo Celtic Carrier was anchored in lat 51 06.724N, long 01 19.275E.

London, Feb 14 — Following received from Coastguard Dover MRCC, timed 0846, UTC: General cargo Celtic Carrier was reported alongside at Dover cruise terminal at 2214, UTC, Feb 13.

Dover, Feb 14 — General cargo Celtic Carrier, while on voyage from Goole to Bilbao, sustained engine failure on Feb 13, off Beachy Head. The vessel was towed by Coastguard tug Anglian Monarch to the port of Dover limits where the Dover Harbour Board tugs Doubty and Dauntless continued towing it to berth. Celtic Carrier arrived safely at Dover at 2142, UTC, same day and berthed at Cruise Terminal 2. It is undergoing inspection/repairs of the main engine and the duration of its stay is approximately three/four days. — Lloyd's Agents

CMA CGM PASTEUR (Liberia)

See "Germany" under "Weather & Navigation."

DAE BO SAN (North Korea)

Yokohama, Feb 15 — General cargo Dae Bo San sailed Nanao on Feb 9 bound for Rashin in Korea. — Lloyd's Agents.

DANICA GREEN (DIS)

Istanbul, Feb 15 — General cargo Danica Green, Piraeus for Constantza, passed Istanbul Feb 14. — Lloyd's Agents.

DETTIFOSS (Antigua & Barbuda)

Maassluis, Feb 15 — Repairs to c.c. Dettifoss are expected to be completed around Feb 28. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

DIEPPE (France)

Le Havre, Feb 16 — Passenger ro/ro Dieppe will proceed to IZAR Shipyard, Corunna, tomorrow for repairs which are expected to take 42 days. — Lloyd's Agents.

DIPLOMAT (Bermuda)

London, Feb 13 — Following received from Coastguard Falmouth MRCC, timed 0740, UTC: Passenger ro/ro Diplomat, ZCDD4, (ex European Diplomat 16776 gt, built 1978) is "not under command" and drifting at three knots, south-easterly, in lat 49 55.4N, long 05 52.2W. Vessel reports a cylinder head problem, which has resulted in a loss of cooling water, and will take at least two hours to repair. Two tugs are proceeding. Vessel is operating between Cherbourg and Rosslare.

London, Feb 13 — Following received from Maritime and Coastguard Agency, timed 1045, UTC: Falmouth Coastguard MRCC were contacted at just before 0600, UTC, this morning from Bermuda flagged passenger ro/ro Diplomat, with 72 passengers and 33 crew onboard, which had broken down and was drifting near to Wolf Rock, west of the Cornish peninsula. The vessel was en route between Rosslare and Cherbourg when it began to have engine problems and the Coastguard sent tug/supply Anglian Princess to stand by the vessel. It arrived near to the ferry at approximately 0900, UTC. A further tug, anchor handling tug/supply Neftegas 57 is also standing by, if required. Sennen Cove lifeboat was requested to launch and stand by. The Celtic Link ferry is currently drifting at between three-four knots in an east-south-easterly direction. Mick Quinn, Falmouth Coastguard watch Manager said: "We are monitoring developments on board the ferry at this time and the crew are giving us regular reports of the work going on in the engine-room. The crew have suggested they will be able to resolve the problem later this morning. Fortunately, the ferry's rate of drift took it past Wolf Rock and we have our tug and a lifeboat on scene to assist, if necessary. The weather is a little bumpy on scene, with winds of force 8 (gale) from the north-west".

London, Feb 13 — Following received from Coastguard Falmouth MRCC, timed 1103, UTC: Situation of passenger ro/ro Diplomat remains unchanged. Vessel is still drifting and the chief engineer has indicated that the problem will not be resolved "before 12 o'clock".

London, Feb 13 — Following received from Coastguard Falmouth MRCC, timed 1352, UTC: At approximately 1115, UTC, passenger ro/ro Diplomat succeeded in starting up one engine. It was then decided to proceed into Falmouth Bay, to restart the second engine. However, on passage, the

second engine was successfully restarted and vessel has now resumed its passage to Cherbourg.

London, Feb 13 — A press report, dated today, states: Passenger ro/ro Diplomat, Rosslare for Cherbourg, drifted for more than four hours off the southeast coast of England this morning after one of its engines broke down. Diplomat, which is operated by Celtic Link Ferries, had more than 100 people on board. It was escorted at reduced speed to Falmouth for a full inspection. Falmouth Coastguard, which was alerted at around 0530 hrs, said the emergency took place in high seas and gale force winds. This afternoon, a spokesman for Celtic Link Ferries, which recently acquired the vessel from P&O, said the engine had been fully repaired and the vessel was back en route to Cherbourg.

DREPANO (Greece)

Piraeus, Feb 11 — General cargo Drepano is still laid up at Eleusis. — Lloyd's Agents.

EFC 9296 (U.S.A.)

See Rodon Amarandon.

ELAND (U.S.A.)

London, Feb 15 — A press report, dated Feb 14, states: Supply Eland spent two days stuck in the sand on the coast of Newport Beach, California, after getting too close to shore. The vessel grounded on the morning of Feb 6 while waiting to tow a dredging line from the Santa Ana River basin to an offshore dump site. According to Jeff Browning, who towed the vessel off the sand on Feb 8, a combination of factors caused the vessel to run aground. Surf, wind and waves pushed the vessel, which Browning said was already "a little too far in," towards the shore, dragging the anchor. After a day of pushing the vessel further aground while trying to free it himself, the vessel's master, Captain Vern Scovell, contacted the Long Beach office of Sause Bros, a Coos Bay-based marine towing company. "By Monday (Feb 7), everyone was there," Browning said. "The State, Fish and Game, the Coast Guard, lifeguards and police." Early the following morning, two tugs kept Eland from being pushed further into the shore during low tide. A third tug was added as the tide came back in, and at about 0630 hrs, the tugs began to pull the vessel out of the sand. The vessel was freed by 0800 hrs. According to Browning, the vessel had sustained some damage from the incident, including a broken port rudder, a bent starboard rudder, and a broken port wheel. The vessel was towed to Sause's dock in Long Beach, and will be repaired at a dry dock in Ensenada, Mexico, this week.

ELANTA

(St. Vincent & Grenadines)

London, Feb 15 — Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: General cargo Elanta (3012 gt, built 1981), Morocco for Turkey, with scrap iron, grounded 100 metres off the

coast of Cape Megalos Limnionas, south-east Chios. On board were 18 crew-members, one Ukrainian and 17 Bulgarians, who are all in good health. There was no ingress of water and tugs are expected to arrive for the refloating efforts. The weather in the area is winds south-west Beaufort 9/10 (strong gale - storm). (Note — Elanta, Casablanca for Nemrut Bay, passed Tarifa eastwards on Feb 6.)

London, Feb 15 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 1100, UTC: General cargo Elanta remains aground in the same position. Bad weather in the area is delaying salvage operations. A tug is on scene and it is hoped the vessel will be refloated tomorrow.

London, Feb 16 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 1127, UTC: General cargo Elanta is still aground. No refloating attempt will be made today, due to bad weather.

London, Feb 17 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 1050, UTC: General cargo Elanta: Vessel is still aground. Weather in the area remains bad and is hindering salvage operations.

ELIZABETH M. (U.S.A.)

London, Feb 10 — A press report, dated today, states: Rising river levels foiled an attempt to salvage sunken tug Elizabeth M. from the base of the Montgomery Lock and Dam yesterday. Divers hired by the boat's owner, Campbell Transportation Co., of Dunlevy, Washington County, were able to harness only one side of the boat before rising water forced the work to be called off, said Karen Auer, spokeswoman for the Army Corps of Engineers. "They weren't able to get the other side," Auer said. Auer said river levels rose faster than anticipated, and salvage of Elizabeth M. might not resume for weeks. The National Weather Service's Web site put yesterday's river level at the Montgomery Lock and Dam at 13.5 feet and predicted it would rise to 16.6 feet on Friday before dropping by early next week. All six of Elizabeth M.'s barges sank. One was recovered Jan 21. Salvage boats moved downstream yesterday to begin recovery of another.

EMC 423 (U.S.A.)

London, Feb 16 — A press release from the United States Coast Guard, dated Feb 12: The process of removing the Clarified Slurry Oil that remains on board tank barge EMC 423 has commenced today. This operation will be closely monitored by the Coast Guard and Illinois Environmental Protection Agency to ensure that it is safe, efficient, and will not result in further pollution. While this lightering operation is underway, the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal will be closed to all vessel traffic between the Cicero Avenue Bridge and Chicago Belt Railway Bridge so as to not interfere with the cargo removal process. The Coast Guard has been working in partnership with facilities along the canal that rely on shipments of

products and materials by barge to minimize the economic effect of this closure. Waterfront facilities have been encouraged to seek alternate methods of receiving shipments or to stockpile the materials they need in sufficient quantities to function normally for the duration of this operation. Once this lightering operation is completed, the salvage process will begin. The removal of EMC 423 from the canal could take several weeks. The Coast Guard is continuing to investigate the cause of this accident.

Chicago, Feb 16 — The recovery of cargo from tank barge EMC 423 commenced Feb 16, and is expected to take approximately seven to 10 days. The plan submitted to the Coast Guard for collection and recovery of the cargo and barge was reportedly approved. The value of the barge is reportedly \$200,000, with repairs expected to exceed the value. Although still under water, extensive damage to the barge is reported. The barge is expected to be raised once the cargo recovery is complete. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Feb 16 — A press report, dated today, states: Chicago crews have begun removing oil from tank barge EMC 423, which sank last month in a Chicago canal after a fatal explosion. A spokesman from the company conducting the clean-up said the process was expected to take a week and could cost up to two million dollars. Once the oil is removed from the barge, a crane will lift EMC 423 out of the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal. The barge was shipping more than half a million gallons of slurry oil from Joliet to Cicero when it exploded. The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency and the Coast Guard are overseeing the clean-up effort and the canal will be closed to barge traffic until it is completed.

ENTERPRISE (U.S.A.)

London, Feb 11 — Following received from Coast Guard Boston, Mass., timed 0850, UTC: Fishing Enterprise is still aground. During daylight hours today it will be established whether a local storm has sufficiently shifted a build up of sand around the vessel, to enable a refloating attempt to be made.

London, Feb 11 — Following received from Coast Guard Boston, timed 1419, UTC: Fishing Enterprise is still aground. A salvage attempt will be made later today.

Boston, Ma, Feb 14 — Fishing Enterprise is still aground. All fuel oil and environmental hazards have been removed from the vessel. An attempted refloating was unsuccessful, and additional site work including removing sand from around the vessel is to be attempted, however this will probably take several days due to a predicted weather system moving into the area. — Lloyd's Agents.

ERMITA DE SAN ROQUE (Spain)

Vigo, Feb 11 — On Feb 9 trawler Ermita de San Roque collided with a

merchant vessel, name unknown, in the traffic separation lane, coming out. Vessel presents a glancing blow on its bow, port side up. — Lloyd's Agents.

EXPLORER (Bahamas)

London, Feb 10 — Passenger Explorer: Situation at 1615, Feb 9: Work continues on Explorer. It is expected to be completed within the next 2-3 days, after which "sea trials" and required inspections will be conducted. The plan that remains in place calls for the vessel to sail for Ho Chi Minh City to meet up with the shipboard community.

London, Feb 12 — Passenger Explorer: Situation at 1750, today: Explorer conducted sea trials today. The ship's classification society and flag state authority, and the US Coast Guard have completed their inspections and approved it to sail. It will be departing Honolulu shortly for Ho Chi Minh City.

London, Feb 13 — A press report, dated today, states: Passenger Explorer that had stopped almost two weeks ago for repairs and inspections in Honolulu Harbour has passed muster and set sail for Asia. The Semester at Sea ship, a floating classroom that takes students to ports around the world, departed Honolulu yesterday for Ho Chi Minh City. The 700 college students on board flew from Honolulu to Hong Kong and Shanghai Friday (Feb 11) to continue their studies.

FLYING DOLPHIN IV (Greece)

Piraeus, Feb 11 — Hydrofoil Flying Dolphin IV is still under repair at Piraeus. — Lloyd's Agents.

FOSS 180-C6 (U.S.A.)

Seattle, Feb 11 — Barge Foss 180-C6 has been repaired and is now in service carrying wood chips in Puget Sound/Canadian West Coast. — Lloyd's Agents.

FRANCONIA (Panama)

Honolulu, Feb 14 — Vehicle Franconia is due Honolulu tomorrow. Repairs are to commence upon arrival and are expected to take approximately 10 hours to complete. — Lloyd's Agents. (See issue of Feb 4.)

London, Feb 17 — Vehicle Franconia arrived Honolulu Feb 15 and sailed Feb 16, bound for Mexico.

FREITIND (Norway)

Trondheim, Feb 14 — General cargo Freightind: Vessel remains at Kvernhusvik Shipyard. No decision taken as yet as to possible rebuilding of the vessel. — Lloyd's Agents.

FRITIND (Bahamas)

London, Feb 14 — Following received from Den Helder RCC, timed 2110, UTC: General cargo Fritind (1094 gt, built 1978), six persons on board, is "sinking" about six miles off the Hook of Holland, in lat 52 03N, long 03 58E. One vessel is on scene, together with lifeboats and helicopter. (Note — Fritind sailed Rotterdam 2000, Feb 14 for Andernach.)

London, Feb 14 — Following received from Den Helder RCC, timed 2340, UTC: General cargo Fritind is being towed to Calland Jetty No.1, Europoort, by tug Fairplay 23. Vessel has two holes of approximately 30 cms on starboard side. Some bunkers have been lost but leakage has been stopped. Last reported position of vessel lat 52 00N, long 04 00E.

Maassluis, Feb 15 — At 2000, Feb 14 the outbound general cargo Fritind passed the breakwaters Hook of Holland. At 2115 hrs the vessel was reported in trouble and making water. At 2215 hrs lifeboat Jan van Engelenburgh arrived on scene, and at the same time a helicopter picked up three crewmembers from the ship. At 2330 hrs tug Fairplay 23 was towing the vessel back to Hook of Holland, with another tug nearby for assistance. At 0130 today Fritind passed the breakwaters inward with destination "Calnk Stg 1," Europoort. Reported damage to the vessel is two holes just above the waterline, the holes are identical and approximately 50cm, Cause at the moment unknown. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

London, Feb 15 — Following received from Den Helder RCC, timed 0650, UTC: General cargo Fritind arrived Europoort around 0300, local time, this morning.

London, Feb 15 — General cargo Fritind, which just left Rotterdam with destination Averoy, loaded with maize, reported at 2140, local time, Feb 14, off Hook of Holland, that it was flooding and needed assistance. The Hook of Holland lifeboat Christien and the Scheveningen lifeboat Jan van Englenberg were dispatched and came to assist. Three crew-members were taken on board of Christien, while three others stayed on board. Two large holes were reported on the starboard side and the vessel was also losing diesel oil. Tug Fairplay 23 came from Europoort to assist. Also a patrol boat RPA 16 of the Rotterdam harbour authorities was on the scene. Early today the vessel was towed into the New Waterway, to a berth in the Rotterdam area.

London, Feb 15 — General cargo Fritind has been towed into Europoort, in Rotterdam by tug Fairplay 23. The vessel has been moored on the Calandsteiger 1, in the Calandkanaal, Landtong Noordzeeweg. There is still a slight list to port.

Maassluis, Feb 16 — General cargo Fritind is presently unloading at the ADM Elbehaven in Europoort, after which it will probably proceed to a dock. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

GENMAR KESTREL (Marshall Islands)

London, Feb 12 — A press report, dated today, states: An oil slick caused when two tankers (crude oil tankers GenMar Kestrel and Trijata) collided off Egypt's Mediterranean coast nine days ago reached the southern Israeli coast this morning. The Health Ministry has issued a warning against bathing in the area of Rishon Letzion's

Palmahim beach or eating fish from the same area. Despite the warning, several people took advantage of the weekend's high winds to wind-surf off the coast. But Environment Ministry officials said the slick would not drift further north, saying they believed "we are dealing with a very small slick that will disappear within several days." Israel was warned of the spill by the Egyptian authorities, which share environmental cooperation agreements. The Environment Ministry was able to trace several slicks moving toward Israel using scout planes, but most of them drifted into the sea.

London, Feb 14 — Following received from GBLT Shipmanagement Private Ltd, managers of crude oil tanker Trijata (which was in collision with crude oil tanker GenMar Kestrel), dated Singapore today: An independent technical assessment team boarded Trijata and has completed their investigation. Arrangements are now being made for a ship-to-ship transfer of the cargo. Thereafter, the vessel will proceed for repairs. GBLT continues to work through International Tanker Owners' Pollution Federation (ITOPF), who will be continuously reviewing and monitoring the situation in consultation, with the authorities.

London, Feb 16 — Transhipment of Iranian crude oil from damaged crude oil tanker GenMar Kestrel is likely to start just off the coast of Cyprus within the week, after a landmark decision by Cyprus. The order, signed yesterday by Minister of Communications and Works, Haris Thrasou, allows the transfer of about 133,000 tonnes of cargo to crude oil tanker Searacer, chartered for this purpose. The operation, about 3 km offshore in the Vasiliko region, should last three days, although the permission is subject to a number of conditions in line with regulations. A technical study from classification society ABS for unloading must be approved by the maritime administration. The Cypriots will also want to see and approve plans for preventing and containing any pollution. Statutory requirements include that the ship, a UK club member, is fully insured and that a double-hulled tanker will receive the cargo. Cyprus' move is believed to be the first by a European country to allow a major emergency transhipment operation in territorial waters since the EU Community Vessel Traffic Monitoring and Information System directive, which includes an obligation on states to provide places of refuge, came into force last year. However, maritime officials said that the country had refused an application from the operators of crude oil tanker Trijata to carry out a similar operation. The reason given was that the Indonesian operator has chartered in a single skin tanker for transhipment. This could not be confirmed with the company yesterday. Trijata has been ordered away from Cypriot waters, it is

understood. Cyprus Department of Merchant Shipping senior surveyor Andreas Constantinou said: "This decision does not imply that any vessel in distress in the Mediterranean can come to Cyprus because other countries have obligations. But we are a responsible maritime country and a member of the EU. We do not believe in simply transferring problems to somewhere else." The decision was taken on the recommendation of the island's Advisory Committee on Shelters - Safety, which includes representatives of Cyprus' ports authority, fisheries department, environmental department and regional authorities, as well as a senior maritime official. The minister claimed that his order took into consideration that the condition of the vessel could "constitute a serious and imminent threat for the coastline and the marine environment (if) its presence and activities are not placed under the control and the monitoring of the competent authorities of the Republic of Cyprus".

Alexandria, Feb 16 — Crude oil tanker GenMar Kestrel and crude oil tanker Trijata were in collision 39 miles from the Mediterranean coast due heavy winds. Neither vessel requested any assistance from Egypt. They left the scene of the accident and were not arrested because they were out of Egyptian waters by about 14 miles. The oil spill moved to the east and did not come near to Egypt's coast. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Feb 17 — GBLT Ship Management would like to clarify the facts surrounding its arrangements for ship-to-ship transfer of its cargo from crude oil tanker Trijata (which was in collision with crude oil tanker GenMar Kestrel). Contrary to an earlier report Trijata was not ordered away from Cypriot waters, the company said. The decision to undertake STS transfer in international waters was made by GBLT Ship Management in consultation with its technical advisers and the vessel's classification society. The cargo will be transferred from Trijata to the single-hull crude oil tanker Front Target in international waters as soon as conditions are safe to proceed, the company said.

GLORIA (Estonia)

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

HANYANG GAS (South Korea)

Busan, Feb 14 — Lpg Hanyang Gas was towed from Kyung Nam Shipbuilding and Engineering Co Ltd to Gamcheon outer harbour anchorage, Busan, at the end of January. The vessel is still at the anchorage with no decision made. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

HARDWAR (India)

London, Feb 10 — Following received from Bermuda RCC, timed 1531, UTC: Bulk Hardwar is still at anchor. Divers have attempted to carry out repairs but have been hampered by bad weather.

London, Feb 14 — Following received from Bermuda RCC, timed 1535, UTC: Bulk Hardwar: Vessel remains at anchor in the same position. Weather has improved and divers are due to inspect vessel this afternoon.

HE DA 98 (China)

London, Feb 14 — General cargo He Da 98 arrived Kobe Feb 10. Vessel departed the same day for Osaka where it arrived later Feb 10. Vessel departed from Osaka Feb 11, bound for Xingang.

HELENA II (Cambodia)

London, Feb 11 — A press report, dated today, states: General cargo Helena II (2736 gt, built 1969), with a crew of 28 Russians, ran aground today near the Japanese Aomori prefecture in the north of Honshu Island. The local headquarters of the sea safety department told Itar-Tass the vessel was caught in a storm and stranded in shallow waters north-west of Cape Kodomari. The ship, loaded with a cargo of timber, was bound from Nakhodka for the Onahama port located on the other side of Honshu in the Fukushima prefecture north-east of Tokyo. It transmitted a SOS signal at about 0600, local time, midnight, Moscow time. Japanese Coast Guards dispatched a helicopter to the distress area to evacuate the crew. All the sailors have been rescued. There have been no casualties. Helena II has been damaged. According to a spokesman for the Japanese Coast Guards, measures were being taken to prevent spilling of fuel oil from the vessel. There is also the danger of the ship's wood load getting into the sea.

London, Feb 11 — A press report, dated today, states: A Cambodian-registered, lumber-transporting vessel, general cargo Helena II, ran aground off Aomori Prefecture early this morning, the local office of the Japan Coast Guard (JCG) said. The JCG's Aomori Coast Guard Office and the Maritime Self-Defence Forces dispatched patrol boats and helicopters to rescue all 28 Russian crewmembers. At around 0600 hrs, Helena II ran aground in the Sea of Japan off Cape Kodomari in Aomori Prefecture, local JCG officers said. The ship was left with a 10-degree list, but has yet to take on water and no fuel oil has leaked into the sea. Snow had been falling in the area at the time of the accident but visibility was good, according to JCG officers and a local meteorological observatory. The vessel, carrying about 200 logs, was on its way to the port of Onahama in Fukushima Prefecture from Nakhodka, Russia.

London, Feb 15 — A press report, dated today, states: Second chief mate of general cargo Helena II, which ran aground off the Japanese coast on Feb 11 with 28 Russian crewmen on board, was arrested by Japanese authorities on charges of "negligence that caused a shipwreck." Japanese Maritime Self-Defence Forces are investigating the case and their official statement indicates that the vessel ran aground

near the Japanese coast due to negligence during the mate's watch. Investigators questioned the second chief mate Zamir Fattakhov who reported that at the time of the shipwreck the vessel was operated by an auto piloting system. Fattakhov said that he had engaged the electronic navigating system and left the deck-cabin after failed attempts to awaken the first chief mate to pass him the duty. The case will be sent to a local court after a thorough investigation, officials said.

HERMOD (DIS)

London, Feb 14 — Following received from Aarhus MRCC, timed 1200, UTC: General cargo Hermod (2854 gt, built 1980), bound Goole, ran aground in lat 56 36.3N, long 10 21.8E at 1900, UTC, Feb 12. No injuries or pollution. Salvage operations are continuing.

London, Feb 15 — Following received from Aarhus MRCC, timed 1044, UTC: General cargo Hermod is still aground. A refloating attempt will be made later today.

London, Feb 15 — Following received from Aarhus MRCC, timed 1915, UTC: General cargo Hermod was refloated with tug assistance at 1100, UTC, today and is now berthed at Randers, awaiting permission from the Danish Maritime Authority to resume its voyage once investigations, etc, are complete.

London, Feb 16 — Following received from Aarhus MRCC, timed 1144, UTC: An inspection of general cargo Hermod found no serious damage, and the vessel has been permitted to continue on voyage.

HISPANIA SPIRIT (Canary Islands)

Freeport, Bahamas, Feb 17 — Lng Hispania Spirit (94822 gt, built 2002) sustained slight hull damage during berthing operations at Grand Bahama Shipyard, Freeport, Bahamas, late Feb 13. Incident involved impact with a steel piling at the GBSY layberth and resulted in rupture of one of the marine diesel oil/marine gas oil tanks on the vessel above the waterline. The resulting oil spill was apparently quickly isolated, contained and minimised. The subsequent response and clean-up of the spilled MGO was quick and effective and there appears to have been no remarkable impact on the immediate environs. — Lloyd's Agents.

IANUK (Malta)

Dakar, Feb 9 — Chem.tank Ianuk sailed Dakar Feb 5. — Lloyd's Agents.

ICE PRINCE (Greece)

Gothenburg, Feb 14 — General cargo Ice Prince reloaded its cargo and sailed Oskarshamn Feb 10 for Tunisia. — Westax Marine Services AB.

INTREPID B. (U.K.)

London, Feb 14 — Following received from Coastguard Milford Haven MRSC, timed 1840, UTC: Tug Intrepid B., VQCB3, 192 gt, sank in Fishguard Bay, in lat 52 00.6N, long 04 58.9W,

around 0800, UTC, today. Vessel has 45 tonnes of diesel on board, some of which has spilled into the sea. At first light tomorrow divers are to inspect the vessel and appraise the situation. It is hoped to pump the oil out of Intrepid B. and move it to the shore. Operations to contain pollution are in progress, with booms laid down.

London, Feb 15 — A press report, dated Feb 14, states: A tugboat has sunk off Fishguard's Old Harbour leaking thousands of litres of diesel in to the sea. Coastguards in Pembrokeshire are co-ordinating an operation to minimise damage to the environment. Tug Intrepid B. started taking water just after 0800, UTC, today and sank to the seabed as the tide came in. What caused the tug to go down is unclear. A spokesperson for Milford Haven Coastguard said the tug was carrying 45,000 litres of diesel. The fuel was transferred to a second vessel and booms laid to stop pollution spreading. It was hoped the combination of a low tide and the empty fuel tanks would lift the stricken boat so that engineers could assess the damage.

London, Feb 15 — Following received from Coastguard Milford Haven MRSC, timed 1830, UTC: Tug Intrepid B. is still lying on the seabed in Fishguard harbour, in stable condition and with part of its bridge visible above the water. Wijismuller Salvage BV have been appointed as salvors and were reported earlier today due to send a salvage master to the scene, possibly late this afternoon. The weather forecast for tomorrow is very good and high tide is just before midday. There is very little evidence of oil in the water apart from in the immediate vicinity of the vessel, so most of it has dispersed safely; also there has been no impact on the shore. An absorbent boom remains in place around the vessel. It is believed that the lubricating oil on board is still intact and hatches, valves, etc, on board have been closed.

London, Feb 16 — Following received from Coastguard Milford Haven MRSC, timed 1154, UTC: Tug Intrepid B. is still lying sunk. Visible pollution is limited to a light bloom, and has been contained by an absorbent boom. A salvage master from Wijismuller Salvage BV is due on scene this afternoon.

London, Feb 16 — A press report, dated today, states: A salvage operation has started to raise tug Intrepid B., which is lying in sunken condition in Fishguard harbour. Wijismuller Salvage BV began the operation to recover the tug this afternoon. The clean-up operation after the vessel is eventually raised could take up to a week. Much of the diesel on board the tug was transferred to a second vessel after the sinking, with booms laid to stop pollution spreading. Divers surveyed the vessel yesterday. The port's ferry services will not be affected by the incident and there is only a minimal risk of pollution from the diesel on board. It had been hoped that the

combination of a low tide and empty fuel tanks would lift Intrepid B. so that engineers could assess the damage. However, Fishguard Harbour-master David Dean said problems with the tide meant it would be a bigger operation than originally thought. He added: "The problem is that this vessel is not uncovered by the tide at low water and other measures will have to be taken to raise it, however, before any pumping out of the vessel can take place, pollution containment measures have to be taken." Pembrokeshire council said pollution caused by the sinking had been minimal. Len Mullins of Pembrokeshire County Council, added: "(The council) has been monitoring the situation very closely. To date, fortunately, the amount of pollution has been minimal — in fact it has been so small that we have been unable to employ counter-pollution measures." An investigation is due to take place to find out why Intrepid B. sank.

London, Feb 16 — Following received from Coastguard Milford Haven MRSC, timed 1845, UTC: Tug Intrepid B.: Salvors arrived on scene today and have already made an initial assessment of the situation. Divers are to examine the vessel tomorrow, when a decision is expected with regards to the salvage plan. The vessel is still boomed off but up to now only a thin film of sheen has been picked up.

London, Feb 17 — Following received from Coastguard Milford Haven MRSC, timed 1211, UTC: Divers are presently carrying out an assessment of tug Intrepid B. prior to salvage operations. No significant pollution is visible.

IRAN DENA (Iran)

Durban, Feb 11 — Crude oil tanker Iran Dena completed repairs and sailed at 1115, Feb 11, for India. — Lloyd's Agents.

JM 2 (North Korea)

London, Feb 13 — Following received from MSRCC Ankara, timed 2055, UTC: General cargo JM 2 (1387 gt, built 1969) reported listing while approaching Bosphorus in lat 41 17N, long 29 08E, at 2038, UTC, Feb 12. Vessel subsequently grounded at Kumkoy-Pilavkaya. Crew are safe and have been picked up by Coast Guard tug.

London, Feb 15 — Following received from MSRCC Ankara, timed 1230, UTC: Floating crane TDI-Bolayir has just moved to the incident area, in order to right general cargo JM 2.

JOKULFELL (Isle of Man)

London, Feb 11 — The search for two Estonians missing after ref cargo vessel Jokulfell sank in six-metre waves in the North Atlantic this week has been called off, rescuers said yesterday. Four bodies have already been recovered after the accident, while five of the crew were rescued by helicopter. Jokulfell, loaded with construction steel and containers and 222,000 litres of gasoil sank 120 km

north-east of the Faeroe Islands late Monday (Feb 7). "The authorities have called off the search and rescue operation. We have to respect the authorities' expertise in this matter," said Claus Thornberg, managing director of Tesma, which chartered the vessel. "Our thoughts are with the crew and their next of kin in this tragic moment."

JUI TAI NO.8 (China)

London, Feb 13 — A press report, dated today, states: A ship carrying some 4,500 tons of gravel with 18 crewmen aboard has reportedly gone missing in open seas after it departed Taiwan's Hualien during the night of Feb 10, shipping industry sources said today. The Kaohsiung-based gravel ship, general cargo Jui Tai No.8 (2808 gt, built 1985) departed from Hualien en route to Ishigaki Island in Japan's Okinawa Prefecture on the evening of Feb 10. Of the 18 crewmen, 12 were Taiwanese and six Indonesian and Burmese. The vessel was last heard from at 1958, Feb 10 when it reported its position — about 17 nautical miles away from Hualien Airport — to Kaohsiung's Juipang Shipping Co., which owns the vessel. Despite the fact that the ship was equipped with VHF radio as well as a satellite telephone, Taiwan-based shipping officials have been unable to raise the ship and no signal has been received, nor has there been anything from the vessel's automatic distress beacon. Officials speculate that the gravel ship may have encountered a large wave that swamped it without warning. The Jui Pang Shipping Co. asked the National Search and Rescue Centre for help yesterday morning, about one day after the agent on Ishigaki Island called the company to say that the vessel had not arrived as scheduled and that the agent had not received any communication from the ship since Feb 10. One military search and rescue helicopter and six patrol vessels from Taiwan's Coast Guard Administration scoured the gravel ship's route for one day but found no trace of the ship and no evidence of an oil slick that usually marks the spot where a ship has gone down. A manager from the Jui Pang Shipping Co. said today that Jui Tai No.8 had undergone regular maintenance and overall inspections in January and that the amount of gravel on board was within safe carriage allowances. The manager said that his company is still hoping that Jui Tai No. 8 is safe and sound and has just suffered from mechanical failure and is drifting in a position that does not allow for communication.

London, Feb 14 — A press report, dated Feb 13, states: Search and rescue operations have discovered artifacts from missing general cargo Jui Tai No.8 32 nautical miles east southeast of the port of Suao, northeastern Taiwan, officials of the Coast Guard Administration said Sunday. The officials said that a CGA ship retrieved a lifeboat and a steel bottle from the sea after Japanese

authorities gave them information on the possible location of the ship. The CGA said the owner of the ship confirmed that the articles retrieved belong to the missing ship which went missing in open seas after it departed Hualien the night of Feb 10 with some 4,500 tons of gravel and 18 crewmen onboard.

London, Feb 15 — A press report, dated today, states: What appeared to be the remains of three life-support outfits were spotted at sea yesterday afternoon off the northeastern coast of Taiwan by air rescue helicopters, as the intensive search for the missing general cargo Jui Tai No.8 continued. According to an official with the Disaster Prevention and Rescue Operations Centre under the National Fire Agency, three life-support outfits, which might be either rubber lifeboats or liferafts, were found at 1430 hrs, yesterday approximately 30 nautical miles off Suao port in north-eastern Taiwan. However, no bodies were sighted in the proximity of the remains. "We are still unsure if those were lifeboats or liferafts, or whether they belonged to Jui Tai No.8. The air rescue squad is working at the site, attempting to confirm the details," said a media liaison. Although the crucial 72-hour initial period of the rescue operation had passed, authorities said they had not yet given up the hope of discovering survivors.

JUPITER

(St. Vincent & Grenadines)

London, Feb 16 — Passenger ro/ro Jupiter sailed from Piraeus Feb 13, under the new name of Pit, bound for India. Understood vessel has been sold to Indian breakers. (Note — Jupiter broke moorings at Punta Riso dam, Brindisi, Jan 22, 2004. Vessel was towed to Brindisi shipyard from where it subsequently sailed Apr 4 arriving Piraeus Apr 7.)

KCL BANSHEE (Marshall Islands)

Oslo 15 — Cement KCL Banshee (3615 gt, built 1983) grounded at the entrance to Aalborg harbour, in lat 56 52.69N, long 10 36.06E at 0155, this morning. None of the twelve crew members were injured in the grounding. There is a leak in the port ballast tanks. The vessel's bunker tanks are located in the aft and there is a possibility that some of the 50 tons of bunker oil might leak. No pollution has been reported so far. The weather in the area is not good, north north-easterly gale, that will decrease later on today. S-vernnet Operative Kommando has mobilised a patrol vessel and also sent two environmental vessels to the area. Two tugs are also mobilised and steaming towards KCL Banshee. — Torvald Klaveness Shipping AS. (Note — KCL Banshee sailed Copenhagen Feb 14 for Aalborg.)

London, Feb 15 — Following received from Aarhus RCC, timed 1910, UTC: Cement KCL Banshee is still sitting aground, in stable condition, on the foundations of a lighthouse off Hals, near the entrance to the Limfjord.

Some oil leakage has been reported but there is no visible pollution at present and the leakage is believed to have stopped. An Environmental Protection Vessel is on scene.

London, Feb 16 — Following received from Aarhus MRCC, timed 1144, UTC: Cement KCL Banshee is still aground. Divers have been sent down to the vessel, and a salvage plan is being drawn up.

London, Feb 17 — Following received from Aarhus MRCC, timed 1022, UTC: Cement KCL Banshee is still aground. Divers found a two-metre by fifteen-metre hole in the vessel's port side. A salvage plan is expected to be presented today.

KESTUTIS (South Korea)

London, Feb 14 — Following received from Den Helder RCC, timed 0655, UTC: General cargo Kestutis (3972 gt, built 1993) reported at 0630, UTC, in lat 52 31.05N, long 03 28.25E, with generator problems.

London, Feb 14 — Following received from Den Helder RCC, timed 1210, UTC: General cargo Kestutis remains in the same position. Vessel's owners are currently arranging salvage assistance.

London, Feb 14 — Following received from Den Helder RCC, timed 1539, UTC: General cargo Kestutis has now been taken in tow by tug Waker. Once the tow nears the coast, tug Simson will take over and tow Kestutis to a port, probably Ymuiden.

London, Feb 14 — Following received from Den Helder RCC, timed 1920, UTC: General cargo Kestutis: Last reported position was lat 52 22.4N, long 03 31.5E, at 1600, UTC. Vessel is still in tow of tug Waker, bound Amsterdam via Ymuiden. It is expected to arrive at Ymuiden tomorrow morning.

London, Feb 15 — At 0141, UTC, general cargo Kestutis and tug Simson were in lat 52 26.910N, long 04 24.086E.

London, Feb 15 — Following received from Den Helder RCC, timed 0650, UTC: General cargo Kestutis arrived Ymuiden about one hour ago.

LEESWIG (Cyprus)

Pasajes, Feb 17 — General cargo Leeswig sailed yesterday after completion of repairs, bound Ridham Dock. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

LT LLOYDIANA (Italy)

Singapore, Feb 13 — C.c. LT Lloydiana is still at Singapore. — Lloyd's Agents.

M21097Y (Hong Kong)

See Wasa Queen.

MANTENHA (Portugal)

London, Feb 11 — Following received from Coast Guard Boston, Mass, timed 0850, UTC: At 1900, Feb 10, general cargo Mantenha (1448 gt, built 1971) was reported aground off Castle Hill, Rhode Island, in lat 41 27.8N, long 71 21.7W. Vessel was aground by the bow, on rocks and had eight crew and one

pilot onboard. At 2210 hrs, it was reported that the vessel had been refloated, with tug assistance. Minimal damage was noted. Vessel is now at anchor and is being monitored for any possible leakage.

London, Feb 11 — A press report, dated today, states: General cargo Mantenha ran aground near Castle Hill Light in Newport yesterday evening, but has been freed and now sits in deeper waters nearby. The vessel was on passage to Fall River from Cape Verde when it got caught on the rocks around 1820 hrs. The Coast Guard responded to the scene. Petty Officer Andrew Shinn says tugboats freed Mantenha and moved it to deeper waters nearby. Shinn says none of the eight crew members aboard were injured, and no fuel spilled. The vessel was carrying empty containers for the Atlantic Shipping Company, located in Fall River.

London, Feb 12 — A press report, dated today, states: General cargo Mantenha was being inspected for damage and its crew questioned yesterday, a day after it ran aground near Castle Hill Light in Newport. The vessel was on its way to Fall River, Mass., from its last port of call in Cape Verde when it got caught on the rocks around 1820 hrs. The impact caused a 10-foot by 1-foot gash in a water holding tank near the waterline, Lt. Josh Pennington of the Coast Guard's Marine Safety Office in Providence said. Tugboats managed to free the vessel from the rocks, and it moved under its own power to deeper waters off Newport Harbour, he said. No fuel was spilled, and the pilot and eight crew members were not injured, the Coast Guard said. "The vessel's in stable condition. It's not taking on any water," Pennington said. Divers inspected the vessel further yesterday, while the Coast Guard interviewed the pilot and crew to determine the cause of the accident. It was unclear whether a pilot was guiding the ship when it ran aground. Pennington said the ship will have to be repaired before it can complete its journey.

MARTINA M (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

Tunis, Feb 11 — General cargo Martina M is still aground. Salvage operations are under way to refloat the vessel, with the assistance of an Italian tug. While lying aground, the vessel contacted a fishing net, and the owners of the net are attempting to have the vessel arrested. — Lloyd's Agents.

Tunis, Feb 14 — General cargo Martina M is still aground. Several refloating attempts have been made but have not been successful. Salvage operations are continuing. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Feb 14 — Understood there are currently two or three tugs on scene standing by grounded general cargo Martina M. At present a change in wind direction is awaited in order to provide higher water levels to facilitate refloating.

MINERVA ELEONORA (Greece)

London, Feb 15 — Crude oil tanker Minerva Eleonora arrived at Primorsk on Feb 1, sailing the next day for Wilhelmshaven.

MISS ENOLA (U.S.A.)

London, Feb 16 — A press report, dated Feb 15, states: Salvage crews were expected to begin staging today as efforts are organized to retrieve a crane that toppled into the Atchafalaya River on Jan 30 when a barge struck the La. 182 bridge. Bisso Marine Co In. of New Orleans was expected to commence salvage operations early today but inclement weather conditions pushed back the anticipated arrival of the equipment, according to US Coast Guard Marine Safety Office officials. Salvage work could take up to five days to complete. The crane, owned by Kostmayer Construction of Metairie, was being transported on a deck barge pushed by tug Miss Enola (74 gt, built 1971) when the crane struck the underside of the two-lane highway bridge and fell into the river. River traffic on Berwick Bay was halted for about one day, but was reopened when it was determined that 25 feet of water remained between the top of the crane resting on the riverbottom and the river's surface. The bridge was closed by state Highway Department officials for the next 10 days for inspection. While salvage operations are being performed, the Coast Guard's Captain of the Port has established a temporary safety zone in the waterway. That zone is located 250 yards north and south of the La. 182 bridge from bank to bank in Berwick Bay at mile marker 117.5. Coast Guard officials said the safety zone is in place to protect boaters and vessels from possible safety hazards associated with salvage operations. The safety zone is in effect daily through Friday during daylight hours only. No vessel will be allowed through the safety zone without the permission of the Captain of the Port, the USCG stated.

London, Feb 17 — A press report, dated Feb 16, states: The US Coast Guard reports the Morgan City Channel is now open after being shut down for most of the day. Crews spent the day trying to recover a crane that toppled off a barge and into the Atchafalaya River last month. The crane first became a problem Jan 30 after it hit the Highway 182 bridge in Morgan City. Coast Guard investigators say luckily, the crane sank without taking the tug (Miss Enola) pushing the barge with it. The salvage company trying to recover the crane is now on Plan B. The Coast Guard reports Bisso Salvage of New Orleans originally planned to lift the entire unit out of the water in one piece, but that plan changed after divers realized the crane had shifted from lying on its side to an upright position. Because the crane is upright, closer to the surface, it once again posed a threat to vessels travelling under the bridges. The Coast Guard

was forced to close the channel. As of noon, two dozen boats and barges waited for the all-clear. The salvage plan now involves cutting the boom and gantry into small pieces before lifting them out of the water. By 1730 hrs, the first portions were pulled clear. The Coast Guard reports enough of the crane was removed to reopen the channel before 1900 hrs. Coast Guard officials say safety is, of course, the number one priority in this now slow-going salvage operation. As a result of those safety concerns, the Coast Guard has now decided to put an end to any further efforts to retrieve the remainder of the crane. Salvage experts reportedly feel what remains will quickly be silted over and should not pose any further hazards to navigation.

MOON LAKE (Honduras)

Varna, Feb 11 — General cargo Moon Lake remains aground at Varna. — Lloyd's Agents.

MSC AL AMINE (Morocco)

Tunis, Feb 16 — General cargo MSC Al Amine (8631 gt, built 1983) ran aground at Korbous, Ain Oktor, yesterday. Bunkers leaked from vessel and caused some pollution. Local authorities are responding to the spill. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Feb 16 — Understood from local authorities that Smit Salvage contracted on LOF 2000 to render salvage services to general cargo MSC Al Amine. Salvage team arrived on site yesterday and tug ETA today.

Tunis, Feb 16 — General cargo MSC Al Amine grounded off Tunisia, spilling oil into the Mediterranean sea, government officials said today. The vessel grounded on Ain Oktor beach, some 40 km north-east of Tunis, late yesterday in bad weather. "It was leaking oil from its tank," said one government official. — Reuters.

London, Feb 16 — Two Smit Towage tugs are heading from Rotterdam to Tunisia to try and refloat general cargo MSC Al Amine that ran aground last night. MSC Al Amine, owned by Mediterranean Shipping Co, was at anchor when all power was lost and the ship drifted onto the Ain Oktor beach, some 25 miles northeast of Tunis. Although local officials reported that oil was escaping from the ship's tanks, divers who inspected the vessel found no sign of any fuel leak, a MSC spokesman said. The oil spotted is thought to have been diesel that can be contained. A representative from the ship's P&I club is on his way to the scene to assess the situation and liaise with the Tunisian authorities. The ship is deployed on a local feeder service between Valencia and Tunis. A sister ship, MSC Shirley, is now nearby and supplying power for MSC Al Amine. There were no crew injuries.

MSC DIEGO (Panama)

London, Feb 16 — A press report, dated Feb 15, states: A shipping company has agreed to pay more than \$560,000 to settle claims that its c.c.

MSC Diego damaged a protected coral reef in the Florida Keys, officials said today. MSC Diego, was cited in 2002 for illegally anchoring in the National Marine Sanctuary. Biologists said its anchor and chain overturned more than 1,000 coral colonies and crushed others in an area about the size of an Olympic-sized swimming pool. Mediterranean Shipping Co. and its insurer will reimburse the government \$100,000 for the damage and related costs, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration said. The companies will also pay \$465,796 to monitor and restore the reef.

MSC ILONA (Germany)

London, Feb 11 — C.c. MSC Ilona sailed Singapore at 2210, Feb 8, bound Shanghai.

MSC MONICA (Panama)

Maassluis, Feb 14 — C.c. MSC Monica (37398 gt, built 1993), outbound, when entering the Kallo Locks struck the quay at 0140, local time, today. The vessel has been damaged below the waterline and returned to the berth at the left riverbank. There are no details concerning any damage. — Lloyd's Sub-agents (Note — MSC Monica had arrived Antwerp 1008, Feb 12.)

London, Feb 16 — C.c. MSC Monica sailed Antwerp 2016, Feb 15, bound for Le Havre.

NAN SHA NO.38 (China)

London, Feb 17 — Following received from Hong Kong MRCC, timed 0355, UTC: Ferry Nan Sha No.38 (610 gt, built 1996) and main land China general cargo Zhong Hang 908 were in collision at the junction of Kap Shui Mun Fairway and Ma Wan Fairway (lat 22 20N, long 114 04E) at 0812, local time, today. Nan Sha No.38 sustained bow damage above waterline. There was no ingress of water, however, 96 passengers were taken to hospital. Zhong Hang 908, which sustained minor damage, is at anchorage for investigation.

London, Feb 17 — A press report, dated today, states: A China-bound hovercraft (ferry Nan Sha No.38) carrying more than 160 people collided with a Chinese freighter (general cargo Zhong Hang 908) in Hong Kong waters today, injuring "94", with four people in serious condition, the government said. The remaining injured were either stable or still being assessed, said a government spokeswoman. She said the nature of their injuries was not immediately known. It also was not clear how many people were hurt on each vessel. The two vessels collided in waters northwest of the Hong Kong island of Tsing Yi, Kan said. The passenger vessel, which was carrying 156 passengers and nine crew members, was travelling to China's Nansha Island and the city of Panyu, she said. The cause of the accident was not immediately known, Kan said.

NISHA II

London, Feb 16 — Scrap tanker Nisha II arrived at Mumbai on Feb 7 from Mombasa.

NOLA (Netherlands)

London, Feb 14 — General cargo Nola (1999 gt, built 2002) contacted the Kiel Canal embankment between Schuelp and Rendsburg during the morning of Feb 12. The vessel was stuck for three hours. A tug from Kiel was ordered to the scene but the vessel finally freed itself under its own power. It was secured afterwards at Rendsburg. (Note — Nola sailed Moerdijk 0105, Feb 11 for Slite.)

NOS-TERRA (Cambodia)

Boston, Ma, Feb 4 — General cargo Nos-Terra proceeded into St. George's, Bermuda, Nov 2, 2002 after sustaining water ingress Temporary repairs effected and it sailed Dec 2, arrived New Bedford Dec 13. Owners appeared to abandoned vessel and crew. Crew eventually repatriated by US INS after camping out aboard for several months, bereft of food, fuel & funds. Vessel was later illegally occupied by squatters. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts legally seized the vessel and it was sold at auction Aug 16, 2004 and subsequently broken up at New Bedford. — Lloyd's Agents.

NOURA (North Korea)

London, Feb 15 — Following received from Larnaca RCC, timed 0725, UTC: General cargo Noura (685 gt, built 1967) is currently drifting in lat 33 30.8N, long 33 52.9E, following a mechanical breakdown. Crew are attempting to effect repairs, but if unsuccessful they will hire a tug.

London, Feb 15 — Following received from Larnaca RCC, timed 1530, UTC: General cargo Noura is still drifting, no danger to the vessel. Vessel's crew attempted to effect repairs but were unsuccessful. Rescue vessel from Tripoli departed at 1200, local time, ETA Noura midnight. Understood Noura will be towed back to Tripoli for repairs.

London, Feb 16 — Following received from Larnaca RCC, timed 1221, UTC: General cargo Noura: Vessel is still attempting to effect repairs in lat 33 26.4N, long 33 03.8E. If attempts are unsuccessful, rescue vessel from Tripoli will assist in towing vessel back to port.

London, Feb 17 — Following received from Larnaca RCC, timed 1033, UTC: General cargo Noura has effected repairs and is proceeding to Tripoli, Lebanon.

NYSA (Singapore)

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

OCEAN (Slovakia)

London, Feb 11 — Asphalt tanker Ocean arrived Mersin Feb 5 and sailed Feb 7, bound for Alexandria.

OCEAN BOOMER (Panama)

Gibraltar, Feb 11 — There is no change in the circumstances. of

oceanographic research Ocean Boomer. — Lloyd's Agents.

OCEANIC ICE (Netherlands Antilles)

Cadiz, Feb 14 — According to last information from agents, ref Oceanic Ice sailed from Algeciras on Feb 10 bound for Las Palmas de Gran Canaria. — Lloyd's Agents.

ORIANA

London, Feb 17 — Exhibition ship Oriana was reported being righted at Dalian on Jan 17. (Note — Oriana was reported sunk at Dalian after being damaged by gales in mid-June, 2004.)

OSIRIS (Netherlands)

Maassluis, Feb 11 — General cargo Osiris is still under arrest at Rotterdam. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

P&O NEDLLOYD BRISBANE (Netherlands)

Muscat, Feb 14 — Temporary repairs were effected to c.c. P&O Nedlloyd Brisbane and the vessel sailed Feb 11 for Singapore. — Lloyd's Agents.

PAN AMBITION (South Korea)

Portland, Ore, Feb 11 — Bulk Pan Ambition is still at Portland, at Berth No 314, Portland Ship Repair Yard. The vessel is rudderless and is still fully loaded with a cargo of dense soda ash in bulk. As of today, the owners are still determining the best possible way to tranship the cargo. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Feb 16 — Bulk Pan Ambition arrived at Longview on Feb 14.

PARTNER (Finland)

See Ajax.

PAULA (Republic of Ireland)

Trondheim, Feb 17 — Temporary repairs on trawler Paula have been completed. Tenders are invited for rebuilding of vessel, decision to be made late February/early March. — Lloyd's Agents.

PETRA (Netherlands Antilles)

London, Feb 15 — Following received from Coastguard Aberdeen MRCC, timed 0914, UTC: General cargo Petra (2545 gt, built 2001), cargo timber, seven crew members, approximately five degree list due to cargo shift in lat 55 59.8N, long 00 11.2W at 0600, UTC, today. ETA Grangemouth Pilots 1700, UTC.

London, Feb 15 — Following received from Coastguard Aberdeen MRCC, timed 1609, UTC: General cargo Petra arrived at Grangemouth pilot station at 1600, UTC. The vessel will correct the list using ballast before entering Grangemouth at 2000, UTC.

London, Feb 15 — Following received from Coastguard Aberdeen MRCC, timed 2100, UTC: General cargo Petra picked up Grangemouth pilots at 1830, UTC, and entered Grangemouth at 2030, UTC.

POLO M. (Bahamas)

Hamburg, Feb 11 — Bulk Polo M. is still under repair at Blohm & Voss

GmbH, Hamburg, dock 16. No information could be obtained as to when repair will be finalised. — Lloyd's Agents.

PONTODROMON (Cyprus)

Falmouth, Feb 11 — Bulk Pontodromon left the dry dock this morning and is currently in Falmouth Bay. — Lloyd's Agents.

POOLGRACHT (Netherlands)

Boston, Ma, Feb 14 — General cargo Poolgracht is still berthed in Davisville and has discharged all of the cargo. Approximately one-half of the cargo is presently being stuffed into 20-foot containers. The containers will be loaded on board the vessel over the next week to 14 days. Upon completion, the vessel will sail for Australia and the cargo left behind will be sent back to the manufacturer via rail or road. — Lloyd's Agents.

PORVENIR I (Chile)

Valparaiso, Feb 11 — Ro/ro Porvenir I is in "Varadero Asmar" at Catalina Bay for repairs. There are approximately two 40 cms areas of damage in the bottom of the hull. The vessel is still being repaired at Varadero Asmar. There is no information about fuel leakage. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

Santiago, Feb 14 — Our surveyor in Punta Arenas informs us that ro/ro Porvenir I is in Asmar, Bahla Catalina slipway, to change plates in the damaged area. Due to the flooding in the engine-room it is necessary to dismantle the engine and it be thoroughly cleaned. During the salvage work a short circuit occurred when pumps were activated to remove water. As a result, the electric system must be repaired. All the repairs are estimated to be finished towards the end of March. — Lloyd's Agents.

PRIDE OF AMERICA (U.S.A.)

London, Feb 16 — A press report, dated Feb 15, states: Passenger Pride of America left dry dock this week. The ship is expected to start its seven-day Hawaii cruises Jul 23. Pride of America, being built by German shipyard Lloyd Werft, was ready for delivery last year when a storm sank the ship at the dock in Bremerhaven. The three lowest decks were submerged. As a result, the ship had to go into dry dock for repairs. Now, Pride of America will head to an outfitting pier to get fitted before its sea trials begin on May 19. After trials, the ship will cruise through Europe offering inaugural voyages before it reaches Hawaii in July.

RADWAN (Cyprus)

Cape Town, Feb 14 — Product tanker Radwan is still at Cape Town under repair. Understand that the duration of repairs is presently uncertain and that the vessel may well remain at Cape Town for a considerable period of time. — Lloyd's Agents.

RIBAZON DORINE (Argentina)

London, Feb 16 — Following navigation warning issued Feb 15: Trawler San Pedro Apostol is towing trawler Ribazon Dorine (224 gt, built 1957), line length 300 metres, speed 5.1 knots, course 328 in lat 45 16S, long 62 13W.

RIO GRANDE (Sweden)

London, Feb 16 — Asphalt tanker Rio Grande arrived at Gothenburg on Feb 2.

RIVER PRINCESS

London, Feb 11 — A press report, dated today, states: The deputy Chief Minister, Dr Wilfred de Souza said that CrossChem International, a firm engaged in salvaging ore River Princess, grounded off Candolim beach was an experienced firm and had earlier salvaged several vessels across the globe. Talking to reporters, today, Dr de Souza said he went through all the calculations done in awarding the tenders for Rs 85 lakh. The weight of the vessel is 18,000 tonnes. Dr de Souza said he was looking at the salvaging work in the interest of the state of Goa and its people and said that the vessel should not remain for one more monsoon. "I do not know whom this vessel belongs to but I know the charter agent and I want somebody to file a case and tell us whom this vessel belongs to," Dr de Souza said. Stating that the previous government had awarded the tender, Dr de Souza said he had just inspected the ongoing work and that the firm engaged should remove the vessel. He said he was personally monitoring the progress of the salvage operation and added that the officials of the firm had informed him that closing of the holes in the vessel will be completed by Feb 20.

London, Feb 15 — A press report, dated today, states: The work for removal of ore River Princess which has been lying grounded at the same spot in Mormugao for over four-and-a-half years, has now begun. Over a dozen workers were seen carrying out various works on board the vessel this evening. The Tourism Minister, Dr Wilfred de Souza, informed that the work for removal of the vessel was going on in full swing and that River Princess would have to go from its present location before the onset of the monsoons. He said the government was determined to remove the vessel without any further delay as it could be a cause of immense environmental and ecological disaster. Dr de Souza said the successful bidder had been given 110 days to remove the vessel by towing it away and under no circumstances it would be allowed to be broken on the shores of the state. He informed that the agency had begun plugging the holes that have been cut onto the vessel, apparently for removal of various parts. The agency would first plug the holes from the back part of the vessel to make the engine-room watertight and then pump out water and remove the sand that has accumulated in it, which in

turn will help the vessel float. Similar work would be done on other parts of the vessel where holes had been cut, he added.

RMS DUISBURG (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Feb 12 — Following received from Coastguard Portland MRSC, timed 1029, UTC: General cargo RMS Duisburg (1281 gt, built 1983), Duisburg for Drogheda, laden with 934 tons of concrete materials, reported at 0750, UTC, in lat 50 30.6N, long 01 01.5W, with total gearbox failure. Vessel has six persons onboard. Owners reported to be arranging for tug assistance and tug Kingston proceeding and ETA alongside at approximately 1600 hrs. Conditions on scene: winds: west-south-westerly, 250 degs, force 8 (gale), wave height: four metres. RMS Duisburg is drifting at 4.8 knots, anchor dragging. (Note — RMS Duisburg was reported sailing Rotterdam 1805, Feb 10, bound Drogheda.)

London, Feb 12 — Following received from Coastguard Portland MRSC, timed 1138, UTC: General cargo RMS Duisburg: Tug Kingston departed Portland at 1115, UTC. ETA alongside in approximately five hours.

London, Feb 12 — Following received from Coastguard Solent MRSC, timed 2100, UTC: General cargo RMS Duisburg: Tug Kingston will tow RMS Duisburg into Sandown Bay and drop anchor. Awaiting a time for pilots to board and will then proceed to Portsmouth.

London, Feb 12 — Following received from Coastguard Solent MRSC, timed 2204, UTC: General cargo RMS Duisburg towed by tug Kingston into Sandown Bay, Isle of Wight, and at anchor in lat 50 39.1N, long 01 05.4W, at 2200, UTC, Feb 12. Tug remaining with vessel until further notice. Now believed RMS Duisburg will be taken to Portsmouth, timing to be established.

London, Feb 13 — Following received from Coastguard Solent MRSC, timed 1655, UTC: General cargo RMS Duisburg, at Sandown Bay anchorage: Tug Kingston remains with vessel until further notice. Not expected to get orders until before noon tomorrow, when arrangements are to be made to move the vessel to Southampton.

London, Feb 15 — Following received from Coastguard Solent MRSC, timed 0640, UTC: General cargo RMS Duisburg, towed by tug Kingston into Southampton, is now safely alongside berth 20.

ROCKNES (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Feb 11 — Bulk Rocknes is still in port at Gdynia.

RODON AMARANDON (Greece)

London, Feb 10 — Following received from Coast Guard New Orleans, timed 1830, UTC: A report was received at 1527, UTC, today, that bulk Rodon Amarandon (39035 gt, built 2001), northbound, cargo pig iron, had been in collision with tug C.S.S. Arkansas

(129 gt, built 1981), which was pushing seven barges northbound, at mile marker 180, lower Mississippi. As a result Rodon Amarandon grounded and is still aground, damage, if any, not known at the moment. One of the barges, barge EFC 9296 (764 gt, built 1992), being pushed by C.C.S. Arkansas sank, another barge started taking water but was pushed to the river bank. The other five barges were rounded up. The crew of the tug were rescued. (Note — Rodon Amarandon sailed Ponta da Madeira Jan 29 and arrived Reserve 1520, Feb 8.)

London, Feb 10 — A press report, dated today, states: Tug C.S.S. Arkansas and "two" barges (barge EFC 9296) sank in the River Mississippi near Geismar this morning after colliding with bulk Rodon Amarandon, Coast Guard Cmdr Paul Dittman said. The barges carried dry cargo. There was no oil spill and no hazardous material was involved, said Dittman. Four crewmen from C.S.S. Arkansas were rescued from the river. The river was closed to marine traffic between mile markers 180 and 182 as a precaution. It would be reopened once authorities determined whether the sunk vessels pose a navigation hazard, Dittman said.

London, Feb 10 — A Coast Guard Baton Rouge press release, dated today, states: Coast Guard Marine Safety Unit Baton Rouge personnel are responding to a collision that occurred today at about 0925 hrs on the Mississippi River at mile marker 179 near Donaldsonville, La. The collision involved tug C.S.S. Arkansas, that was northbound and pushing seven barges, and bulk Rodon Amarandon, also northbound and carrying pig iron. Following the collision C.S.S. Arkansas and one of the barges (barge EFC 9296), loaded with coke, a non-hazardous substance, sank. All four crew members who were on board C.S.S. Arkansas were rescued and transported to local hospitals as a precautionary measure. All other barges were safely recovered. Early assessments report minor damage to Rodon Amarandon and a light sheen in the vicinity of the location where C.S.S. Arkansas sank. No pollution or injuries are reported from Rodon Amarandon. Rodon Amarandon became temporarily grounded and is now enroute to White Castle Anchorage at mile marker 188. Coast Guard personnel from MSU Baton Rouge are onboard the vessel surveying the damage and conducting an investigation. Investigators are also enroute to local hospitals to interview the crew of C.S.S. Arkansas. The Coast Guard has established a safety zone, closing the river to marine traffic, between mile markers 177 and 180 until the sunken vessels are located and verified they do not pose a hazard to navigation. The Coast Guard is working closely with the Army Corps of Engineers to survey the channel before the determination is made to reopen the channel to vessel traffic. The Coast Guard is conducting an investigation.

RYU GYONG (North Korea)

See "Cargo Dispute, Chittagong, Bangladesh" under "Miscellaneous."

SAIL (Belize)

London, Feb 17 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 1222, UTC: General cargo Sail (2068 gt, built 1983), Constantza for Cyprus, with soya, touched bottom near Lesvos Island during the night of Feb 16-17. The vessel subsequently anchored in lat 39 20.7N, long 26 22.3E, at 1300, local time, today. The vessel sustained bottom damage in way of Nos 1 and 2 holds, with a three-deg list, and has been prohibited from departing pending an inspection. (Note — Sail sailed Constantza Feb 11 for Vassilikio Bay.)

SAMMARINA M. (Romania)

Bucharest, Jan 31 — Ro/ro Sammarina M. remains in shipyard at Constantza. — Lloyd's Agents.

Bucharest, Feb 14 — Ro/ro Sammarina M. is still in shipyard at Constantza. — Lloyd's Agents.

SCHIEBORG (Netherlands)

London, Feb 13 — Ro/ro Schieborg arrived Bremerhaven 1345, Feb 12 (? under tow of tug Varius) from Eemshaven.

London, Feb 15 — Ro/ro Schieborg arrived at repairers' premises at Bremerhaven on Feb 14.

London, Feb 16 — Bremerhaven based SSW shipyard has clinched a repair order for ro/ro Schieborg, owned by Wagenborg Shipping. SSW clinched the contract against 11 national and international competitors, the company said. With it, the yard was able to further improve its workload for all its company divisions. The repair order will include steel work, the renewal of the electric and hydraulic components, the rudder plant and shaftline, as well as work in engine and piping areas. A spokeswoman for SSW declined to comment on the order value. SSW will work together with Bremerhavener Dockgesellschaft Bredo. Wagenborg estimated the damage to be between Euro 10 million and Euro 20 million.

SEA EAGLE S. (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

London, Feb 15 — Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: At 0630, local time, today, general cargo Sea Eagle S. (1799 gt, built 1973) grounded on the rocky islets Skrofes, east of Salamis. The vessel had remained anchored in Piraeus roads since September, after arriving from Rijeka, loaded with 1900 tons of wood and pipes, with the final destination of Casablanca. Due to high winds Sea Eagle S. had drifted from the anchorage. On board were two Pakistani crew members. Immediately tugs Megalochori and Iason proceeded to the area, along with a Super Puma helicopter which collected the two crew members and took them to Eleusis. The vessel remains aground. There is no pollution in the area.

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

London, Feb 15 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 1925, UTC: General cargo Sea Eagle S. is still aground, with no salvage attempts possible at the moment because of bad weather.

London, Feb 16 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 1128, UTC: General cargo Sea Eagle S. is still aground. No refloating attempt will be made today, due to continued bad weather.

London, Feb 17 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 1050, UTC: General cargo Sea Eagle S.: Vessel is still aground. Weather in the area remains bad and is hindering salvage operations.

SEA REY (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

London, Feb 14 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 0545, UTC: At 0410, local time, today general cargo Sea Rey, J8WS6, (1059 gt, built 1978), Istanbul for Misurata, with containers, reported a list of 40 to 42 degrees. Vessel sank in lat 35 24N, long 21 55E. Of 10 crew on board, all Ukrainians, eight rescued and two missing. At the moment there are two merchant vessels and a search and rescue helicopter on scene searching for the two missing crew members. (Note — Sea Rey sailed Constantza Feb 7 and passed Istanbul Feb 9.)

London, Feb 14 — Understood following the sinking of general cargo Sea Rey there are a large number of containers still afloat.

London, Feb 14 — Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: At 0415, local time, today, general cargo Sea Rey, Turkey for Libya, sent a distress signal, after sustaining a list of about 40 degrees, 85 nautical miles west of Elafonissos, Crete. Immediately a C-130 aeroplane and a Super Puma helicopter were placed on immediate readiness. Additionally the nearby vessels were alerted and the Coast Guard stations in the area put on alert. In the area were three merchant vessels, one NATO frigate and one Greek naval vessel. The merchant vessels safely rescued eight Ukrainian crew-members but two remain missing. Sea Rey subsequently sank in lat 35 24N, long 21 55E. Containers from the vessel were also reported adrift around the same position and are dangerous to navigation. Winds in the area are south-west, Beaufort Scale 7-8 (near gale-gale).

London, Feb 14 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 1935, UTC: The search is still ongoing for the two missing crewmen from the sunken general cargo Sea Rey. So far, nothing has been found. (See issue of Feb 15.)

London, Feb 15 — Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: During the afternoon of Feb 14, the eight rescued crew members from the sunken general cargo Sea Rey were taken to the port of Souda, Crete. Three of them are hospitalised and the remainder have been put in a hotel. There is no news of the two missing crew members.

London, Feb 15 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 1920, UTC: Two crewmen from general cargo Sea Rey are still unaccounted for.

London, Feb 16 — A press report, dated Feb 15, states: General cargo Sea Rey, which was loaded with containers, had been sailing from Turkey to Libya and sent out a distress signal before dawn yesterday when it was some 160 kilometres south of the island of Crete, the Merchant Marine Ministry said. The vessel, which had sustained engine failure, listed after taking on water. Gale force winds were also blowing in the area. Sailors from one of three nearby merchant vessels that rushed to the scene managed to pull out the eight crew members, all Ukrainians, efforts were continuing last night to locate two missing Ukrainian crew members.

SEA-LAND INTREPID (U.S.A.)

London, Feb 15 — Following received from Resolve Towing and Salvage Inc, dated Feb 14: On Feb 4, a 59840 dwt container vessel built 1997 (c.c. Sea-Land Intrepid) was disabled 25 miles off Long Beach due to a machinery failure that was initially reported to be an engine-room fire. The vessel's master immediately activated the vessel's California Contingency Plan and notified the Qualified Individual, Corbett & Holt/Gallagher Marine Systems, Inc. Resolve Towing and Salvage Inc, a division of Resolve Marine Group, was notified at 0100, PST, and dispatched two offshore tugs from Foss Maritime to assist. Simultaneously, Resolve mobilised an assessment team consisting of a salvage master and marine fire officer. The tugs arrived on scene within four hours, connected to the vessel, and towed it safely to Terminal Island, port of Long Beach, where the situation was deemed stabilised by all parties. (Note — Sea-Land Intrepid was reported to have sailed Los Angeles Feb 7 for Oakland.)

SEHNEE

London, Feb 10 — A press report, dated Feb 9, states: Vessel Sehnee, loaded with sugar, rice, cement, feeds, 600 drums of diesel and liquefied petroleum gas tanks, caught fire yesterday evening while docked at Pier 18, North Harbour, Tondo, Manila. Arson probes said the fire started at the cargo hold of Sehnee at 1918 hrs and was put out at 2140 hrs. Owned by JBS Shipping Corporation and operated by Batanes Multipurpose Cooperative, the ship was supposed to sail for Basco, Batanes yesterday morning.

SELENDANG AYU (Malaysia)

London, Feb 10 — A Unified Command press release, dated Feb 9, states: Bulk Selendang Ayu: Update at 1100, AST, today: Weather continues to hamper Selendang Ayu response effort. Crews planned to take a closer look at soybeans along Spray Cape and search for wildlife in Humpback Bay today but are unable to due to the

weather. All operational vessels remain in Dutch Harbour due to the weather. Boat crews continue to conduct maintenance and inventory the equipment on board. Water sampling surveys conducted near Chernofski Harbour found five small tar balls yesterday. Water sampling will continue in Unalaska Bay and the vicinity surrounding the bay due to fishing industry concerns. Today's weather in Dutch Harbour consists of mostly cloudy skies with scattered snow, northwest winds of 25 knots gusting to 35 knots, 13-foot seas and an air temperature of 30 degrees, but the wind chill brings it down to 15 degrees.

London, Feb 10 — A Unified Command press release, dated Juneau today, states: Weather continues to hamper bulk Selendang Ayu operations. Unified Command officials cancelled over flights of the shoreline and cleanup operations yesterday due to the weather and are on hold today pending better conditions. An over flight of the wreck yesterday revealed the bow section is now completely submerged with the exception of the top of the two crane houses, barely visible above the waterline. Lightering crews finished skimming oil from the engine-room and are now working on removing the remaining oil drums and smaller cans from the stern and demobilising equipment. To date total amount of oil lightered from the vessel is 144,931 gallons of intermediate fuel oil/diesel/lube oils and a small amount of water. Boat crews continued water sampling in the vicinity of Chernofski Harbour but did not encounter any tar balls. Water sampling will continue in Unalaska Bay for fishing industry concerns. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service crews reported three dead oiled/scavenged birds in Nilkolski Bay yesterday. To date 1,606 dead birds have been recovered from the bays. Today's weather in Dutch Harbour consists of west winds of 25 knots, 11-foot seas, cloudy skies with scattered snow showers and an air temperature of 35 degrees, but the wind chill brings it down to 20 degrees.

London, Feb 11 — A press report, dated Feb 10, states: Clean-up efforts at bulk Selendang Ayu wrecked off Unalaska Island have concluded for the winter and will resume in the spring in less dangerous weather. Experts estimate that nearly three-quarters of the fuel carried by the vessel spilled into the Bering Sea. An underwater camera investigating the wreck dashed hopes that two of the vessel's main fuel tanks might still contain oil. Both had broken open on the rocky bottom, putting the total spill of intermediate fuel oil, also known as bunker oil, at about 320,000 gallons, said Leslie Pearson of the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation. With the fuel removal complete and the worst of the spilled oil shovelled off nearby beaches, work is largely over until weather improves, which typically happens in April. When workers return, efforts will focus on cleaning additional beaches

and hauling off the vessel's 73,000-ton remains. Airborne observers will monitor the area this winter. Some 34 miles of beach were known to be contaminated. Another 150 miles of shoreline have been checked and found clean, Pearson said. Plans for the vessel's 66,000-ton cargo of soybeans should also be made this spring, Pearson said. Knee-deep accumulations on some beaches are thought to be smothering chitons and other small intertidal creatures. Divers found beans nearly five feet deep on the bottom around the ship. To date, the clean-up has cost \$25 million, according to Coast Guard spokeswoman Gail Sinner.

London, Feb 14 — A press report, dated Feb 10, states: The Unified Command said today that oil recovery operations have now been completed from bulk Selendang Ayu. A heavy-lift helicopter successfully removed more than 100,000 gallons of oil from the vessel, so there is no more left on board that could leak. However, at least 321,000 gallons did spill from Selendang Ayu, interfering with the fishing season and creating environmental damage that is still being assessed. Clean-up operations will resume in spring, when efforts will be made to remove oil waste from the beaches and to remove the vessel from the waters off Unalaska Island.

London, Feb 15 — A press report, dated Feb 14, states: Salvage and clean-up operations involving bulk Selendang Ayu have been shut down until spring, the Coast Guard said today. Since January, salvage crews have removed 127,784 gallons of intermediate fuel oil and 11,523 gallons of diesel, or about 30% of the fuel the vessel was carrying, Coast Guard Admiral James Olson said. The rest — more than 321,000 gallons of fuel oil and an unknown amount of diesel — is presumed lost in the Bering Sea. The spill closed the Makushin Bay tanner crab fishery, and more than 1,606 dead birds have been recovered. Kurt Fredriksson, acting commissioner of the Department of Environmental Conservation, said shoreline oil removal was also being halted until the weather improves in the spring.

SIRRAH (Netherlands)

London, Feb 17 — Understood c.c. Sirrah (6384 gt, built 2002) grounded in the Kiel Canal near Breiholz on Feb 6. (Note — Sirrah sailed Hamburg Feb 6 for Kotka, arrived Hamburg Feb 12 and sailed Feb 14, subsequently arriving and sailing Bremerhaven Feb 14.)

SOUTHERN CROSS (U.S.A.)

Boston, Ma, Feb 15 — Tug Southern Cross is currently hauled out at Pro Med Shipyard, Providence, Rhode Island. The surveyor for the vessel's Underwriter, Travellers St. Paul, reports that the cost of repairs will very probably exceed the limits of the governing policy, and that he believes the vessel is a constructive total loss. It remains to be seen whether the

vessel's owners will undertake repairs, or if the vessel will be sold as salvage or scrapped. — Lloyd's Agents.

SOUTHERN TIARE (New Zealand)

London, Feb 17 — A press report, dated today, states: Poor welding has been blamed for a potentially dangerous incident last year when the rudder broke off general cargo Southern Tiare. A Transport Accident Investigation Commission report outlines how the vessel lost its rudder off the northern Hawkes Bay coast on Jul 2. The vessel was returning to Napier from the Chatham Islands carrying livestock when it altered course to minimise the effects of rough seas. The master was standing on the foredeck when he noticed the vessel's head swinging back into the swell. The second officer then told him that the steering had been switched from automatic to manual but was not responding. The chief engineer reportedly heard a loud bang in the engine-room and they eventually concluded that the vessel had lost its rudder. The bow thruster was used to keep the vessel on a safe course. Contact was made with the vessel's base in New Zealand and a tug from Gisborne met Southern Tiare at 0200 hrs and towed it to Napier. Investigations showed the rudder welds had been inspected a couple of years earlier and passed as safe. However, examination of the remains of the rudder assembly showed cracking to welds on the existing rudder assembly. The report concluded the loss of the rudder itself was the result of poor weld fusion and penetration. Water was likely to have entered the supposedly airtight gap between two sides of the rudder, adding weight to it and causing corrosion. The bang heard by the vessel's engineer was probably the sound of the rudder breaking off and hitting the hull. There was no evidence it had struck a heavy object such as a rock, the report concluded. The commission made safety recommendations to the International Association of Classification Societies urging vigilance when inspecting welds during construction. The crew of the vessel was considered to have taken appropriate action during and after the incident.

STEWART ISLAND (Hong Kong)

Vancouver, Feb 10 — Bulk Stewart Island sailed Vancouver Feb 9 bound San Francisco. — Lloyd's Agents.

SVEAFJELL (Norway)

Trondheim, Feb 14 — General cargo Sveafjell is still at Kvernhusvik Shipyard. — Lloyd's Agents.

SVEN OLTSMANN (Antigua & Barbuda)

Hamburg, Feb 11 — C.c. Sven Oltmann is still under repair at Messrs. MAN, Rosshafen, Hamburg. Repair will presumably be finalised by end of this month. — Lloyd's Agents.

SWING (Netherlands)

London, Feb 15 — Following received from Corsen MRCC, timed 1245, UTC: General cargo Swing (2774 gt, built 1999), Bermeo to Sluiskil, reported ballast wing tank damage and leak in lat 49 29.7N, long 03 38W at 0410, UTC, Feb 14. French Navy deemed the vessel unable to continue voyage and it proceeded to Le Havre under its own power, subsequently arriving at 2120, yesterday.

Le Havre, Feb 16 — General cargo Swing was at berth in Le Havre at 2300, yesterday. The vessel is waiting for permission by the Veritas office to carry out some repairs before proceeding to Rotterdam or Gdansk shipyards. — Lloyd's Agents.

TAURANGA CHIEF (Malta)

London, Feb 11 — Swire general cargo Tauranga Chief ran aground in Sydney Harbour in early 2003 because the helmsman wrongly executed a wheel order, possibly because he was jet-lagged, the Australian Transport Safety Bureau has concluded in its report into the incident. The ATSB said that the entire crew had joined the ship from St Petersburg in Russia just two days before the incident on Jan 17, 2003. The helmsman had made an even longer journey than his shipmates, via Frankfurt and Singapore, and had joined the ship in Port Kembla only 39 hours before the incident. The report said that the slow reaction time of the master and the officer of the watch could also have been caused by jet lag. The report also noted that the pilot's failure to order "midships" before ordering counter-rudder during the turn may also have been a contributing factor. The ship grounded on a sand patch, and was refloated by two harbour tugs on the rising tide after half an hour, with only paintwork damage.

TJECH (Belgium)

London, Feb 11 — The Belgian inland general cargo had an engine breakdown at about 1730, local time, yesterday and subsequently ran aground on the beach between the coolingwater inlet/outlet of the nuclear power station at Borssele. While the tide was running out, tug Multratug 9 came to assist, but was not able to pull the casualty off. At 0320, local time, today, tug Salvor succeeded in refloating Tjech, which was then able to continue her voyage.

TOM T. (Sao Tome & Principe)

Bucharest, Jan 31 — General cargo Tom T. is still laid up at Midia. — Lloyd's Agents.

Bucharest, Feb 14 — General cargo Tom T. is still laid up at Midia. — Lloyd's Agents.

TOR DANIA (NIS)

London, Feb 15 — A press report, dated today, states: Ro/ro Tor Dania had engine problems yesterday afternoon near the Maasvlakte North buoy, near Hook of Holland. It was assisted by tugs Smit Loire, Smit Humber, Fairplay 21, and Texelbank to

safety. (Note — Tor Dania sailed Rotterdam 2115, Feb 13 for Cuxhaven.)

Maassluis, Feb 15 — Ro/ro Tor Dania was towed in by four tugs due to engine trouble. It was inside the breakwaters at 1625 yesterday. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

London, Feb 16 — Ro/ro Tor Dania sailed Rotterdam 1705, Feb 15, bound Cuxhaven.

TRANSFER (Antigua & Barbuda)

Belize City, Feb 15 — Part c.c. Transfer is still aground. To date, no salvage contract has been awarded. — Lloyd's Agents.

TRIJATA (Singapore)

See GenMar Kestrel.

UNION GEM (Isle of Man)

Maassluis, Feb 15 — General cargo Union Gem (2236 gt, built 1991) has diverted to Eemshaven to restow its cargo. — Lloyd's Sub-agents. (Note — Union Gem sailed Halmstad Feb 10 for Chatham and was reported to have diverted into Eemshaven, arriving 0229, Feb 14.)

URSULA LEONHARDT (Malta)

Brest, Feb 11 — General cargo Ursula Leonhardt is still alongside at Brest, awaiting owners' decision regarding repairs or onward towage. — Lloyd's Agents.

VICUNA (Chile)

Santos, Feb 14 — Following received from Sub-agents at Paranagua: The first part of the midship hull of chemical/oil carrier Vicuna was removed last week. They intend to cut it into three pieces. The main engine has also been removed. The removed pieces are being cut and sent to a steel mill company. — Lloyd's Agents.

Santos, Feb 17 — Following received from Sub-agents Paranagua: The process dismantling the wreck of chemical/oil carrier Vicuna continues. The midship portion has been removed and now the salvage company is cutting the other pieces of the vessel's body, the other midship piece, the remnant bow and other pieces. Understand that a diving company was hired to perform an underwater inspection of the structural condition of Cattalini pier, working under the supervision of a foreign technician. — Lloyd's Agents.

VIVITA (Malta)

Tallinn, Feb 11 — General cargo Vivita completed engine repairs and sailed Tallinn Feb 10, bound for Naantali. — Lloyd's Agents.

VOYAGER (Bahamas)

London, Feb 14 — Following received from Madrid MRCC, timed 0930, UTC: Passenger Voyager (24391 gt, built 2000) is drifting in heavy weather due to a flooded engine-room and no power in lat 39 26N, long 05 40E. Understand there are 700 passengers on board. Helicopters and Coast Guard vessels are proceeding.

London, Feb 14 — Following received from Coast Guard Norfolk, Va., timed 1015, UTC: Approximately 30 minutes ago it was reported that passenger Voyager has been struck by a large wave, in bad weather, in lat 39 21N, long 05 40E. It is understood that the vessel has lost the use of all communications equipment, engines and steering.

London, Feb 14 — A press report, dated today, states: Passenger Voyager with more than 700 people on board has issued a distress call after experiencing severe storm damage in the western Mediterranean. A Franco-Spanish rescue is under way to reach the stricken vessel, reported to be near Menorca in the Balearics. A message from the vessel said it was taking on water and was in "terrible condition," Mick Quinn of the UK's Falmouth Coastguard said. The distress message was received just after 0900, UTC, he said. The liner was sailing from Sardinia. The French coastguards said that the ship was not on fire and not in danger of sinking. They said it had sustained a 50% drop in power and had communication difficulties. There were no reports of deaths or injuries. Two tugs - one Spanish and one French - are travelling to the stricken vessel and hoping to tow it into a French port, they said.

London, Feb 14 — A press report, dated today, states: Passenger Voyager damaged by a storm near Majorca will now sail to Sardinia after the crew restored power to two of its four engines, the vessel's owners say. A statement from V Ships of Monaco said some passengers had minor injuries and were being treated on board. The vessel is carrying 776 people. Most of the 480 passengers are Spanish. The vessel was sailing from Tunis to Barcelona when the storm struck. A giant wave smashed a bridge window, knocking out the control systems. V Ships said none of those injured had life-threatening conditions. The vessel is expected to dock in Cagliari, Sardinia, early tomorrow. All the Voyager's messages are being relayed via Inp Gimi, which had answered its distress call. The vessel was hit by the storm about 100 km off Palma, Majorca, at about 0800, GMT, today. Two tugs - one Spanish and one French - were despatched to the scene, along with several aircraft. The vessel is chartered to the Barcelona cruise firm Iberojet, V Ships said.

London, Feb 15 — A major investigation is to be launched into a loss of power on board the V.Ships-managed passenger Voyager after the vessel was hit by a wave big enough to stove in its wheelhouse windows. The incident followed closely on one aboard Voyager's sistership, Explorer, which had almost identical problems after being hit by a 50 ft wave last month. Voyager, on charter to Spanish company Iberojet, had a temporary loss of propulsion after the incident. Power was restored to two of the ship's four engines and the ship was last night proceeding to Cagliari, where it

is due to arrive this morning. The vessel was being escorted into Cagliari by Inp Gimi, which responded to the original distress signal, as well as a French naval aircraft. The ship's communications system was put out of action, with messages being relayed via Gimi. A spokesman for the manager said several minor injuries had been reported and were being treated on board. It is only about two weeks since the accident on board Explorer in the north Pacific. Both ships were built for Royal Olympia Cruises at Blohm+Voss and offer service speeds of between 27 and 28 knots. A spokeswoman for Blohm+Voss said it was too early to comment on the incident. V.Ships said that the Voyager investigation, which will bring in a wide range of expertise, will draw on reports from Explorer. Questions are likely to be asked about the design and positioning of the navigating bridge. Ships designed with a bridge close to the bow and with insufficient height to avoid heavy green water have shown themselves to be particularly vulnerable to wheelhouse window damage. There have been several notable instances of passengerships being affected in this way.

London, Feb 15 — A press report, dated today, states: Passenger Voyager has managed to dock in Sardinia. When the vessel was struck by a storm yesterday, the nearby Minorcan port of Mahon was closed to maritime traffic due to the force of the storm, therefore the vessel could not enter. There were only minor injuries reported amongst the passengers and crew. The vessel plies regularly between Barcelona and Tunis, visiting Malta, Livorno, Civitavecchia, Messina, and Dubrovnik.

London, Feb 15 — Following received from the managers of passenger Voyager, dated today: Voyager docked safely at Cagliari at 1000, CET, this morning. The vessel was met by representatives of Iberojet, the vessel's operators, V.Ships, the managers, and local medical teams who transported a small number of passengers to hospital, where they received any additional medical attention required. Three passengers are reported to be staying in hospital for further treatment or observation. All involved wish them a speedy recovery. None of the injuries are believed to be life-threatening. The remaining passengers have now disembarked the vessel and have been taken to the airport where flights home have been arranged by Iberojet. Two chartered aircraft will fly to Barcelona and then to Madrid. Onward transportation will be provided as necessary. Representatives from Iberojet and medical personnel will accompany each flight. The vessel will remain in port while repairs are made and a full investigation conducted. Voyager was struck yesterday morning by a wave that breached a bridge window, causing damage to communications

equipment and temporarily disabling the propulsion system. Two of the vessel's four engines were subsequently restored. Voyager was on passage from Tunis to Barcelona with 480 passengers and 296 crew. The vessel was chartered by Iberojet and managed by V.Ships.

London, Feb 16 — A press report, dated today, states: Nearly 500 passengers including eight with broken bones have disembarked from passenger Voyager in Sardinia a day after it was battered by a storm in the Mediterranean Sea. Voyager lost communications and most of its power on Monday (Feb 14) as it was pumelled by force 11 gales and waves up to 15 metres high while en route from Tunisia to Barcelona. More than 20 passengers were bruised and eight others had broken bones, according to officials at the port at Cagliari where the vessel arrived yesterday morning. None of the injuries was serious, the cruise-ship operator, Spain-based Iberojet, said. Voyager arrived in port under its own steam escorted by the British-registered gas tanker Gimi, which was diverted to help the cruiseliner after it ran into trouble off the island of Menorca. France also dispatched a navy patrol aircraft to help the stricken vessel on Monday.

WASA QUEEN (Panama)

London, Feb 17 — Following received from Hong Kong MRCC, timed 0355, UTC: Passenger ro/ro Wasa Queen (16546 gt, built 1975) and small local cargo vessel M21097Y were in collision in lat 22 15.6N, long 114 16.11E, at 0710, local time, today. M21097Y sank. Wasa Queen is now at Ocean Terminal, Hong Kong.

ZHONG HANG 908 (China)

See Nan Sha No.38.



SINGAPORE STRAIT

London, Feb 11 — A press report, dated today, states: Ten masked pirates armed with guns and long knives boarded a chemical tanker underway in the Singapore Strait last Wednesday (Feb 9). The International Maritime Bureau's latest weekly piracy report says the attack occurred in the early hours of last Wednesday in a position east of Singapore. The pirates tried to break the bridge window glass but did not succeed and escaped empty-handed. The master raised the alarm, sounded the ship's whistle and reported to VTIS Singapore. The Singapore Marine Police responded and searched the area without finding the attackers.



CYPRUS

Limassol, Feb 15 — General cargo Captan Salim (1370 gt, built 1968), which arrived Limassol Feb 10 from Tartous, has been under detention by the Department of Merchant Shipping since Feb 11, due to deficiencies. — Lloyd's Agents.

Limassol, Feb 17 — General cargo Captan Salim has been released and sailed from Limassol today bound for Constantza. — Lloyd's Agents.

NEW ZEALAND

See Aratere under "Marine."

UNITED KINGDOM

Hull, Feb 11 — General cargo Gloria is still under detention. The crew have left the vessel. The Port of Tyne Authority are seeking a demolition order on the vessel. — Lloyd's Agents.



ALEXIA I

London, Feb 11 — General cargo Alexia I, now renamed Ioanna and flying the Georgia flag, departed from Setubal on Feb 9, bound for Varna.

ALMA I (Honduras)

London, Feb 11 — General cargo Alma I which had been under detention at Ancona, Italy, since December 1999, was reported arriving at Tuzla, Turkey, on Feb 5.

AQUA PIONEER (Malta)

London, Feb 10 — General cargo Aqua Pioneer is not under arrest at Cape Town as reported in issue of Feb 11. The vessel under arrest there is fishing Aquatic Pioneer which see.

AQUATIC PIONEER (Namibia)

Cape Town, Feb 10 — Fishing Aquatic Pioneer was still under arrest as of Jan 21. — Lloyd's Agents.

B&E DOS (Philippines)

Manila, Feb 17 — General cargo B&E Dos (3067 gt) was detained by Philippine customs authorities after docking at the Aduana Pier in Cebu port, in the central Philippines on Feb 15, for alleged technical smuggling. The vessel had originated from Batangas where it had taken on a cargo of imported cornstarch. Customs authorities said that the owners of the cargo had misdeclared their shipment which allowed them to pay only one percent duty instead of the 20 percent duty which should have been paid if

the cargo was properly classified. B&E Dos is still detained at Cebu port. The vessel is owned by B&E Sea Transport Corp. based in Cebu City. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

BUGULMA (Russia)

Maassluis, Feb 11 — General cargo Bugulma (1895 gt, built 1988), which arrived at Rotterdam on Feb 5, is currently detained in the port. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

London, Feb 17 — General cargo Bugulma sailed Rotterdam 1710, Feb 16, for St. Petersburg.

BUNGA ANGERIK (Malaysia)

Maassluis, Feb 11 — Chem.tank Bunga Anggerik (18453 gt, built 1989), which arrived at Rotterdam on Feb 5, remains in the port under arrest. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

CONDOR (Philippines)

Manila, Feb 16 — Vessel Condor is still detained in Cebu, near the Cebu International Port. It is understood the Philippine Navy have turned over the custody of the vessel and it's cargo to the Cebu Customs Bureau who are presently conducting an investigation. — Lloyd's Agents.

ENDEAVOR II (Greece)

Karachi, Feb 16 — Understand crude oil tanker Endeavor II is still under arrest at Karachi, as Karachi Port Trust and the owners' agent have a lien on the vessel. The owners have not yet settled the port dues, agents' fees and other charges, therefore the vessel is still under arrest. — Lloyd's Agents.

FORTUNE 1 (Indonesia)

Cape Town, Feb 11 — Fishing Fortune 1 is still at Cape Town. — Lloyd's Agents.

Cape Town, Feb 14 — Fishing Fortune 1 is currently still at Cape Town. — Lloyd's Agents.

GAGARINSKIY (Russia)

Vladivostok, Feb 4 — Fishing Gagarinskiy is still under detention at Vladivostok. — Lloyd's Agents.

HERKULES II (Poland)

Maassluis, Feb 11 — Tug Herkules II is still under arrest in the Rotterdam area. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

HIBA-B (Georgia)

Limassol, Feb 15 — General cargo Hiba-B (2688 gt, built 1973), which arrived Limassol Feb 12 from Bourgas, is, as from today, under arrest. — Lloyd's Agents.

HIGHLANDER

Cape Town, Feb 16 — Fishing Highlander is presently confirmed under arrest at Cape Town. — Lloyd's Agents

HSIEN HUA 6 (Taiwan)

London, Feb 15 — A press report, dated Feb 13, states: Argentine Navy corvette ARA Guerrico from the Maritime Patrolling Division arrested Taiwan-flagged fishing Hsien Hua 6

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

last Thursday (Feb 10) for poaching squid in Argentina's exclusive economic zone (EEZ). According to official reports from the Santa Cruz Naval Zone Hsien Hua 6 (B12051) was detected by a naval P3 Orion aircraft poaching 168 nautical miles to the southeast of Puerto Deseado, in the province of Santa Cruz. ARA Guerrico was sent to intercept the jigger which instead of halting its engines as requested set off towards international waters. The squid jigger with a 30-member crew, was finally caught by ARA Guerrico which then proceeded to send a six man party to board it and inspect the hauls. The primary conclusion was that Hsien Hua 6 had been illegally catching squid in Argentina's EEZ at the moment of its aerial detection. The jigger was then arrested and escorted by ARA Guerrico to Puerto Deseado where it will be facing charges for violation of the Argentine Fisheries law. The case is under jurisdiction of Rio Gallegos Federal Court.

JOVIC (Philippines)

Manila, Feb 15 — General cargo Jovic (381 gt) was seized on Feb 11 by customs authorities on arrival at Cebu, after the owners of the cargo failed to show the proper import documents. The vessel was loaded with 7,935 bags of corn, 6,000 bags of rice, and 500 bags of feed. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

JUNIOR S. (Panama)

London, Feb 14 — Reported that general cargo Junior S. (15262 gt, built 1978), which arrived at Hong Kong on Feb 12, is currently at Pun Shan Shek Anchorage, Hong Kong, under arrest.

London, Feb 17 — General cargo Junior S. sailed Hong Kong 2332, Feb 14 for Zhanjiang.

KARAMYSHEVO (Russia)

Vladivostok, Feb 4 — Fishing Karamyshevo (816 gt, built 1985) is currently under detention at Vladivostok. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — Karamyshevo arrived Vladivostok Apr 28.)

KAWKAB (Egypt)

Rijeka, Feb 15 — General cargo Farah 3, ex Kawkab, is expected to sail Rijeka Feb 16. — Lloyd's Agents.

KRYUKOVO (Russia)

Vladivostok, Feb 4 — Fishing Kryukovo is still under detention at Vladivostok. — Lloyd's Agents.

LUJIN-I (North Korea)

Limassol, Feb 14 — General cargo Lujin-I was released and sailed from Larnaca Feb 3 for Constantza. — Lloyd's Agents.

MARUNAKA MARU NO.28 (Japan)

London, Feb 14 — A press report, dated today, states: Fishing Marunaka Maru No.28 (198 gt, built 1985) was detained off the Kamchatka Peninsula today for the violation of fishing rules, a spokesman for the North-eastern

department of the FSB Coast Guard said. The vessel was escorted to Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky for investigation, Andrei Orlov said. Russian border guards found over 23.5 tons of cod produced in excess of the limit in violation of Russian-Japanese agreements and the Russian law on the exclusive economic zone of the Russian Federation. Besides, prosecutors will look into the activity of an inspector from the Kamchatka state maritime inspection, who was on board the vessel as it was fishing and did nothing to prevent the violation of legislation.

MEKHANIK (Russia)

Vladivostok, Feb 4 — Fishing Mekhanik is still under detention at Vladivostok. — Lloyd's Agents.

MIRNA (Croatia)

Jakarta, Feb 14 — According to our agent at Surabaya general cargo Mirna is still under investigation to find out who is the cargo owner. — Lloyd's Agents.

NAVIGATOR

Cape Town, Feb 16 — Tug/supply Navigator is confirmed under arrest at Cape Town. — Lloyd's Agents.

NOS-TERRA (Cambodia)

See under "Marine."

OSIRIS (Netherlands)

See under "Marine."

OSTWIND (Antigua & Barbuda)

Maassluis, Feb 11 — General cargo Ostwind is still under arrest at Vlaardingen. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

PREMSHIP-9 (Philippines)

Manila, Feb 15 — General cargo Premship-9 (1185 gt, built 1992) has been detained at Cebu since Feb 7. Cebu customs authorities said that the vessel was carrying Canadian wheat and US soya beans, but the cargo owners did not have the proper import documents. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

RAVENI (Tonga)

Messina, Feb 14 — C.c. Raveni is still under arrest at Augusta. No release envisaged. Understand that the vessel has been abandoned and there are no local agents. — Lloyd's Agents.

VOYAGER (Netherlands Antilles)

Maassluis, Feb 11 — General cargo Voyager is still under arrest at Rotterdam. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

Pipeline Accidents



BAJWAN AREA, IRAQ

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

DERA GHAZI KHAN, PAKISTAN

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

FATHA AREA, IRAQ

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

GACHSARAN AREA, IRAN

London, Feb 13 — A press report, dated today, states: An informed source in the Gachsaran Oil and Gas Exploitation Company said a connecting gas pipe from Pazanan to the Gachsaran oil wells exploded yesterday night, IRNA reported. The cause of the explosion has still to be determined. The source, who asked not to be named, added that the 26-inch pipe was used to inject gas to the dead oil wells of Gachsaran. He said that for security reasons all the gas and oil pipes in the Gachsaran area have been closed to prevent the fire from spreading. The explosion was heard at 2200 hrs, in Gachsaran city with fire flames visible in the southern region.

KALA SHAH KAKU, PUNJAB PROVINCE, PAKISTAN

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

OAKLAND AREA, CALIFORNIA, UNITED STATES

London, Feb 10 — A press report, dated today, states: A pipeline company stepped up its search yesterday for a leak that spilled at least 500 gallons of jet fuel into the Oakland Estuary. The Coast Guard on Tuesday (Feb 8) identified a 12-inch diameter Kinder Morgan Energy Partners pipeline as the leak's source, although a break in the underground line had not been found. "The material ... in the estuary matches the material we ship in the pipeline," said Kinder Morgan spokesman Jerry Engelhardt. Kinder Morgan subsidiary Santa Fe Pacific Pipelines owns and operates the pipeline, which runs about 20 miles from near Richmond's refineries to the Oakland Airport and across the Bay to Brisbane.

Pollution



DELAWARE RIVER, UNITED STATES

See Athos I under "Marine."

FISHGUARD, PEMBROKESHIRE, UNITED KINGDOM

See Intrepid B. under "Marine."

HEATHCOTE RIVER, CHRISTCHURCH, NEW ZEALAND

London, Feb 14 — A press report, dated today, states: A cleanup effort following a spill of up to 10,000 litres of diesel into Christchurch's Heathcote River was today almost complete as investigators prepared to speak to

those responsible. Environment Canterbury (ECan) regional council director of regulation Mike Freeman said the diesel appeared to come from a sump in an industrial area near the southern motorway. The spill stretched about 20km down the river affecting hundreds of birds, many of which were caught by rescuers during the weekend. At least 20 ducks had died, some having been put down, since the spill as the effects of hydrocarbon toxicity set in, a local vet said yesterday. Mr Freeman said the cleanup was almost complete this morning and the river was looking good. The Fire Service and council staff were informed about missing diesel last week, but there was initial confusion whether it had seeped into the river or had been stolen, Mr Freeman said. Mr Freeman defended the council's reaction to the incident and said the diesel was difficult to trace.

KALININGRAD AREA, RUSSIA

London, Feb 16 — A press report, dated today, states: Dozens of birds died and several hundreds were hurt in a fuel oil spill on the Kaliningrad coast of the Baltic Sea, head of the Kaliningrad environmental inspection Tatiana Grin said. The fuel oil spot is stretched between the village of Donskoye and the resort of Svetlogorsk. There is preliminary information that the spill came from Poland. The culprit is being searched for.

OAKLAND ESTUARY, CALIFORNIA, UNITED STATES

See "Oakland Area, California, United States" under "Pipeline Accidents."

SHABLA AREA, BULGARIA

London, Feb 15 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Nearly four tones of black oil have spilt into the waters of Bulgaria's Black Sea near the cape of Shabla. The incident reportedly occurred two days ago after a failed theft attempt or sabotage. The Black Sea Basin Directorate and the Environment and Waters Regional Inspectorate in Varna announced the oil spill was first spotted on Saturday (Feb 12), some 10 or 15 miles off the coast, about one km north of the village of Tyulenovo. More than four tones of oil were drained into the waters causing a 1,600m oil spill, Pavel Germanov, head of the Shabla-based branch of Oil and Gas Exploration and Exploitation AD announced. Germanov also explained that the cleanup of the oil spill continues for a second day now. Experts from the Environmental Protection Agency are also working at the scene to see the level of pollution and to decide on the measures that should be undertaken.

UNALASKA ISLAND, ALASKA, UNITED STATES

See Selendang Ayu under "Marine."

Weather & Navigation



BULGARIA

London, Feb 16 — A press report, dated today, states: Heavy rains, strong winds and a rapid snow melt triggered floods and mudslides in Bulgaria yesterday, killing one person and cutting power to thousands of others in the Balkan country, officials said. Authorities declared a state of emergency in mountainous southwestern Bulgaria, where more than 10 towns and villages were flooded by overflowing rivers and dams. "Many houses in the affected regions have been flooded," the government's disaster relief commission said in a statement. High winds halted shipping at Bulgaria's Black Sea port of Bourgas. Port official said six cargo vessels, carrying general goods were waiting to dock.

CENTRAL EUROPE

London, Feb 16 — A press report, dated today, states: Heavy snowfall shut down airports in Munich and Prague today, closed highways across the Czech Republic and eastern Austria, and caused a huge traffic jam in Germany where rescue workers distributed hot drinks to passengers stuck in freezing weather for hours. Nearly 200 flights were cancelled at Munich airport in southern Germany after heavy snow blanketed the region and some nearby countries, an airport spokesman said. At least 50 flights were delayed while others were rerouted to Nuremberg airport where snowfall was lighter, the spokesman said. In south-west Germany, a traffic jam 30 kilometres long backed up last night on the main A8 highway after heavy tractor trailer trucks ran into trouble on slippery roads, Stuttgart police said. Passengers were forced to stay put for hours as rescue workers distributed hot drinks while others worked to clear the trucks from the highway. Snow continued to pound the south and east of Germany today. Ruzyně airport in the Czech capital was also shut down early today, forcing some 30 scheduled flights to cancel takeoff, said airport spokeswoman Anna Kovarikova. Officials held an emergency meeting to assess the situation, but flights were not expected to resume before 1200 GMT, she said. Snowfalls and violent winds also battered eastern Austria, disrupting traffic across the region and shutting down a 32 kilometre length of the A1, the country's main east-west highway, and forcing a ban on heavy trucks along some stretches. Some 30 centimetres of snow fell on the Austrian capital, making driving difficult and prompting the city to mobilise some 1,200 workers and 360 snowploughs and other vehicles to clear out city streets.

GERMANY

London, Feb 14 — A floating dock at the Lloyd Werft shipyard in Bremerhaven containing c.c. CMA CGM Pasteur (29739 gt, built 1990) broke from its moorings in bad weather Feb 13, leading to the crew of the vessel having to be evacuated. Tugs prevented the floating dock from striking the quay and the dock has now been moored safely.

GREECE

London, Feb 16 — A press report, dated Feb 15, states: One person was killed and four others were injured after a violent storm swept Greece, leaving substantial damage in its wake and causing chaos to the country's transport network. Ferry services to and from Greek islands from Piraeus were shut down and other merchant vessels docked there were told to wait for the storm to end before departing. The atrocious weather brought down trees, cut power lines and disrupted both air and ground transport in and around Athens. Gusts of up to 100 kilometres per hour were recorded in the city and the high winds caused serious damage to boats in Piraeus, fire fighting services said. The national power company said some 10,000 homes were without electricity and telephone communications were also hit. Two planes heading for Thessaloniki were unable to land earlier in the day due to the ferocity of the storm, while six other domestic flights were cancelled. International flights were delayed. The authorities warned people to stay at home unless absolutely necessary. High waves whipped up by the storm smashed through part of a breakwater protecting a marina for private yachts and pleasure boats at Piraeus. Several of the embarkation areas were damaged, according to ANA. Boats were damaged in the ports of Rafina and Lavrio, east and south of Athens. Many streets in the city centre were littered with debris, including fallen trees. Forecasters said the bad weather was expected to abate later today.

HURRICANE "FRANCES"

London, Feb 11 — Crude oil tanker Nysa sailed from Setubal on Feb 9.

ITALY

Messina, Feb 14 — Port of Gioia Tauro was closed due to adverse weather conditions at 0330, Feb 13 and re-opened at 2130, Feb 13. Port closed again at 2330 hrs and re-opened at 0530, Feb 14. — Lloyd's Agents.

NORWAY/DENMARK

London, Feb 15 — A press report, dated today, states: The storm in the Strait of Skagerrak has died down and the ocean-going passenger ferries between Norway and Denmark have been able to resume traffic. Some passengers had spent nearly 60 hours onboard the passenger ro/ro Princess Ragnhild when it finally was able to land at the Danish port of Hirtshals early this morning. On the Danish side

some passengers had waited for the ferry since Saturday (Feb 12). According to reports, around 10,000 passengers were affected by the strong wind and rough sea in the Skagerrak. The ferries will now run continuous between Norway and Denmark until all passengers have been taken across.

PAKISTAN

London, Feb 11 — A press report, dated today, states: The death toll in Pakistan has risen to at least 46 as people are swept away by flash floods caused by the heaviest rain and snowfall to hit the country in more than a decade, witnesses and officials say. The floods caused by incessant rains played havoc in the remote Pasni town in the south-western Baluchistan province, submerging several nearby villages. Officials said flash floods also swept away several bridges on the main coastal highway linking Baluchistan to the southern port city of Karachi. At least 31 people were killed by heavy rain elsewhere in the country over the past week. Most of those who died were killed in avalanches, flash floods and collapsing roofs. Scores of others have been injured. A family of eight, including six children, was killed when the roof of their mud house collapsed due to rain in Pishin area, about 40 kilometres north of Quetta, according to local official Maqbool Anwar. Another 13 people, including a soldier of the paramilitary Frontier Corps, were killed by flash floods or roof collapses in the south-western province this week, officials said. Remote northern areas, where the Himalaya, Karakoram and Hindu Kush mountain ranges collide, are cut off from the rest of the country, with roads buried under several feet of snow with the situation particularly bad in the Chitral valley.

Quetta, Feb 11 — The death toll in Pakistan due to the heaviest rains and snowfall in more than a decade rose to as many as 51 today, and a burst dam in the southwest raised fears that many more people may have died. At least 20 people were killed when the Shadikor dam burst near the remote coastal town of Pasni in southwestern Baluchistan province. Officials said rescuers were still searching inundated villages and the army had been called in. Provincial Minister Sher Jan Baluch said at least five nearby villages had been totally submerged, raising fears the death toll could rise, he said. Troops backed by helicopters were being sent to Pasni to rescue people left marooned when the dam burst, said military spokesman Major-General Shaukat Sultan, adding that it was too early to know the extent of casualties and destruction. Pakistan has seen its heaviest rains and snowfalls for 16 years, according to the Meteorological Department. Officials said flash floods swept away several bridges on the main coastal highway linking Baluchistan to Karachi. Remote northern areas, where the Himalaya, Karakoram and Hindu Kush mountain

ranges meet, have been cut off, with roads buried under several feet of snow and the Chitral valley particularly badly affected. The Karakoram Highway, linking Pakistan and China, has been blocked and flights have been suspended since Feb 3, said residents of Gilgit, the main town in the Northern Areas. Weather officials said the intensity of rains had subsided in Baluchistan but would continue in most of the rest of Pakistan for the next 24 hours. — Reuters.

Karachi, Feb 12 — The death toll in the Shadi Kaur Dam disaster and flash flood caused by hill torrents in Pasni and the adjoining areas of Baluchistan rose to 70 yesterday, with hundreds of people of villages inundated by the dam reported missing. Army and Navy personnel carrying out rescue and relief work in the area claimed to have saved about 1,500 lives. According to reports, parts of the Pasni township and many adjoining villages were still under water and rescue teams have moved several thousand people to safe places. — Lloyd's Agents.

Quetta, Feb 12 — Pakistan launched a relief operation for 20,000 people stricken by torrential rains in the southwest, as floods and avalanches killed over 260 nationwide so far, officials said today. There were more fatalities from avalanches in mountainous areas of nearby parts of Afghanistan and Indian-held Kashmir, but it was Pakistan that suffered most. Authorities rushed in thousands of troops to help rescue efforts in the remote province of Baluchistan. Local government spokesman Razak Bugti said 500 people were missing after a dam burst late Thursday following the worst deluge in 16 years. Newspapers reported officials saying thousands of families in Baluchistan had lost their homes, crops and livestock. Villages near the coastal town of Pasni bore the brunt of the destruction when waters breached the Shadikor dam, sweeping away people and houses. Provincial minister Sher Jan Baluch said the death toll from the disaster had risen to 71. More than 40 people have been killed in other rain-affected parts of the province. Officials said at least five villages, home to around 7,000 people, had been submerged by waters pouring from the ruptured dam, a 35-meter high embankment 300 meters long constructed just two years ago. Four thousand people living near the Akra Caur Dam supplying water to nearby Gawadar port had also been evacuated as water levels passed danger limits, officials said. Parts of Pasni were under a meter of water and tents had been put up on higher ground for displaced families. Officials say 6,000 army, paramilitary and Navy troops have been mobilised. Military transport planes and trucks were ferrying in food, blankets, tents and other emergency supplies, while helicopters flew over flooded areas as several bridges along the main coastal highway had been washed away. At least 11 people died in avalanches

elsewhere in Pakistan's part of Kashmir, and houses were evacuated in the capital Muzaffarabad because of the threat that the downpour could trigger a landslide. — Reuters.

London, Feb 16 — A press report, dated today, states: The death toll in Pakistan due to two-week long heavy rains and snowfall rose to 431 yesterday. About 260 deaths occurred in North West Frontier province, 111 in Balochistan province and 60 in Azad Jammu and Kashmir, according to respective government officials. While thousands of people were injured in rain-related incidents, mainly in collapse of their houses besides still to be assessed colossal damage to livestock, crops and communication infrastructure. The toll is likely to rise with the development of relief works for at least 2,000 still missing in Balochistan province caused by rains and dam bursts. However, some reports from other local media said the death toll had surpassed 500 up to yesterday.

ROMANIA

Bucharest, Feb 16 — Sulina Channel was closed at 1230, Feb 15 due to bad weather, wind south south-east, Beaufort 6-7 (strong breeze-near gale), seas 5-6 foot. Sulina Channel was reopened at 1600, today. — Lloyd's Agents.

RUSSIA

London, Feb 14 — A press report, dated Feb 13, states: The weather at Novorossiysk is getting worse again. Southerly direction winds caused a heavy swell up to three-five metres at the roads and since this morning gale warnings have been in force. The forecast for the next 24 hour is not favourable, with winds, southerly, 15-20 m/sec. As a result, the CPC Marine Terminal has stopped all operations. The Sheskharis Oil Terminal is still working but it is expected it will stop all operations and shift the tankers off the piers tonight. No improvement is expected during the next two-three days.

London, Feb 15 — A press report, dated Feb 14, states: Novorossiysk port is fully closed due to a southerly wind of 20-25 m/sec and swell up to four-five metres. Berthing/unberthing is suspended. Most vessels have been requested to leave the anchorage and stay adrift outside Novorossiysk harbour. The forecast for the port, valid from 2100 hrs today until 2100 hrs Feb 15, is as follows: winds: southerly 15-20 m/sec, gusts to 25 m/sec. Feb 15 daytime: 12-17 m/sec, slight rain. Sea swell three-five metres, Feb 15, daytime 1.5-three metres. According to local forecasters, the southerly direction of the wind will most likely persist up to Feb 18-19. As a result, all oil terminals are closed.

TAJIKISTAN

London, Feb 14 — A press report, dated today, states: The damage from snowfalls and avalanches in Tajik Pamir and in eastern regions of the

republic is put at almost 700,000 dollars, sources from the Tajik Ministry for Emergency Situations told Itar-Tass today. These are just early figures, as there is still no communication with dozens of small villages, the sources said. Over 310 residential and administrative buildings, including several schools, have been partially or fully destroyed, ministry sources stressed. Road services fail to cope with snow on highways as avalanches continue. Last night, an avalanche cut off from the rest of the country a settlement 80 kilometres north of Dushanbe, where constructors of a transport tunnel live.

TROPICAL CYCLONE "NANCY"

London, Feb 14 — A press report, dated today, states: Tropical cyclone "Nancy" is threatening a wide area of the South Pacific, the Australian-Pacific Centre for Emergency and Disaster Information (APCEDI) said. "Nancy" was intensifying north-east of Pago Pago in American Samoa and was projected to head towards the Cook Islands. Cook Island authorities were advised that, following the recent damage by the recent cyclone "Meena", they were "currently more vulnerable even to a small system" especially in coastal areas. Early today, the cyclone was at the lower end of the severity scale, with sustained winds close to the centre of "Nancy" expected to increase from 50 to 60 knots over the next 12-24 hours, the Fiji Meteorological Service said.

London, Feb 14 — Following received from Meteorological Office, dated today: At 0600, UTC, today, the centre of tropical cyclone "Nancy" was located near lat 14.0S, long 163.5W, approximately 420 nautical miles east of Pago Pago, American Samoa, and has tracked south-eastward, or 125 degs, at four knots over the past six hours. The position is accurate to within 25 nautical miles and based on the centre located by satellite. Present wind distribution: maximum sustained winds: 120 knots, gusts 145 knots. Radius of 64 knot winds: 30 nautical miles in all four quadrants. Radius of 34 knot winds: 100 nautical miles in the north-east and north-west quadrants and 120 nautical miles in the south-east and south-west quadrants. The maximum significant wave height is 56 feet. "Nancy" is forecast to continue intensifying over the next 12 hours as it tracks south-eastward. At 0600, UTC, Feb 15, the centre is predicted to be near lat 16.5S, long 162.2W, with maximum sustained winds of 130 knots and gusts to 160 knots.

London, Feb 16 — A press report, dated today, states: The centre of cyclone "Nancy", a category 3 storm, has already passed over the southern Cook Island atolls of Aitutaki and Mitiaro and is about 100 km north-east of the main island of Rarotonga at 1202, AEDT. "We haven't received any reports of serious damages from those islands. A couple of houses have lost roofs, some trees are down," Chief

Inspector John Tini at the Cook Islands Emergency Operations Centre told said. Winds on Rarotonga, the capital of the Cook Islands with about 9,000 residents, are averaging around 35 knots and the island is being drenched by heavy rain. "We are keeping our fingers crossed and so far we are only experiencing some surface flooding," Chief Inspector Tini said. New Zealand weather experts say any collision of the two cyclones "Nancy and Olaf" is likely to be two to three days away. "If they do meet it will be over open ocean south of Rarotonga where there are no real islands," Gerard Bellam of the NZ MetService said. The cyclones are also generating strong winds and high seas around the small nations of Tokelau, Tuvalu, Niue and Wallis and Futuna, and could affect southern areas of French Polynesia.

London, Feb 16 — Following received from Meteorological Office, dated today: At 0600, UTC, today, the centre of tropical cyclone "Nancy" was located near lat 22.0S, long 159.3W. Movement over the past six hours 165 deg at eight knots. The position is accurate to within 60 nautical miles and based on the centre located by satellite. Present wind distribution: maximum sustained winds: 65 knots, gusts 80 knots. Radius of 50-knot winds: 30 nautical miles in all four quadrants. Radius of 34-knot winds: 80 nautical miles in the north-east and north-west quadrants and 100 nautical miles in the south-east and south-west quadrants. At 0600, UTC, Feb 17, the centre is predicted to be near lat 25.9S, long 157.9W, with maximum sustained winds of 45 knots and gusts to 55 knots, becoming extratropical.

TROPICAL CYCLONE "OLAF"

London, Feb 14 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: At 0600, UTC, today, the centre of tropical cyclone "Olaf" was located near lat 09.2S, long 177.9W, approximately 525 nautical miles north-west of Pago Pago, American Samoa, and has tracked northward, or 360 degs, at three knots over the past six hours. The position is accurate to within 25 nautical miles and is based on the eye being fixed by satellite. Present wind distribution: maximum sustained winds: 90 knots, gusts 110 knots. Radius of 64 knot winds: 15 nautical miles in all four quadrants. Radius of 34 knot winds: 80 nautical miles in the north-east and north-west quadrants and 90 nautical miles in the south-east and south-west quadrants. The maximum significant wave height is 43 feet. At 0600, UTC, the centre is predicted to be near lat 09.9S, long 175.5W, with maximum sustained winds of 115 knots and gusts to 140 knots. The system is forecast to continue intensifying over the next 48 hours.

London, Feb 15 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: At 0600, UTC, today, the centre of tropical cyclone "Olaf" was located near lat 11.5S, long 174.5W, approximately 270 nautical miles

north-west of Pago Pago, American Samoa, and has tracked southeastward, or 145 degs, at 10 knots over the past six hours. The position is accurate to within 20 nautical miles and is based on the eye being fixed by satellite. Present wind distribution: maximum sustained winds: 125 knots, gusts 150 knots. Radius of 64 knot winds: 20 nautical miles in all four quadrants. Radius of 34 knot winds: 80 nautical miles in the north-east and north-west quadrants and 90 nautical miles in the south-east and south-west quadrants. The maximum significant wave height is 43 feet. At 0600, UTC, Feb 16, the centre is predicted to be near lat 15.0S, long 170.4W, with maximum sustained winds of 135 knots and gusts to 165 knots. The system is forecast to continue intensifying over the next 48 hours.

London, Feb 16 — A press report dated today, states: Tropical cyclone "Olaf" seems likely to spare Samoa from a direct hit after it curved away from the South Pacific nation, but nearby American Samoa is still in danger, forecasters said today. "Olaf" was about 100km north of Samoa at around 1500, AEDT and was travelling in an east-south-easterly direction with wind speeds of up to 250 km/h, the New Zealand MetService said. Lead forecaster Oliver Druce said "Olaf" could reach American Samoa in 12 to 18 hours. Mr Druce said it appeared that "Samoa will miss out on the severe effects of the cyclone"

London, Feb 16 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: At 0600, UTC, today, the centre of tropical cyclone "Olaf" was located near lat 12.6S, long 171.3W. Movement over the past six hours 110 degs at 13 knots. The position is accurate to within 20 nautical miles and is based on the eye being fixed by satellite. Present wind distribution: maximum sustained winds: 145 knots, gusts 175 knots. Radius of 64-knot winds: 35 nautical miles in all four quadrants. Radius of 50-knot winds: 45 nautical miles. Radius of 34-knot winds: 95 nautical miles in the north-east and north-west quadrants and 110 nautical miles in the south-east and south-west quadrants. At 0600, UTC, Feb 17, the centre is predicted to be near lat 16.6S, long 167.4W, with maximum sustained winds of 145 knots and gusts to 175 knots.

Honolulu, Feb 16 — It is reported heavy showers and thunder showers associated with tropical cyclone "Olaf" moved over the island of Tutuila, American Samoa, last evening causing widespread flooding of low lying areas. Reported winds at 160 mph, with higher gusts near its centre, and giant waves. The storm was approximately 100 miles north-northwest of Pago Pago last night and moving southeast at 10 mph. Forecasters expected it to change track and come within 60 miles of Pago Pago today, with expected winds of at least 74 mph. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Feb 17 — A press report, dated today, states: A New Zealand Air Force Orion has located three people at sea near American Samoa after their vessel sank in cyclone "Olaf". However rescuers hold grave fears for several others still missing. "Four vessels were causing us concern and we've located two of them and we've also found three people in the water so we've dropped a liferaft and some communication equipment to them," Steve Corbett, from the New Zealand Rescue Coordination Centre, said. One of the two fishing boats still missing was known to have sunk about 150 kilometres, north of Samoa. The crew reported they had abandoned their vessel for a liferaft in 190 kilometre per hour winds and 15-metre seas. "Obviously as it comes towards darkness we're getting concerned," Mr Corbett said. The Orion also located a number of other boats in distress and fishing vessels were directed to assist them back to the Samoan capital of Apia. A rescue centre spokeswoman said New Zealand has been called in to assist with the search operation because of the limited rescue facilities in the Pacific islands. "The Orion locates the survivors, but the actual pick-up is reliant on other vessels in the area," she said. Mr Corbett said bad weather in the area was easing, making the search and rescue effort easier. Some of the missing vessels were part of a commercial fleet based in Apia, Samoa's capital, the boats ranging from 15 to 25 metres. Boats in Apia and Pago Pago ports and four others at sea were also helping with the search. Cyclone "Olaf" directly hit American Samoa's Manu'a Islands earlier today and damage was expected to be severe, although no deaths or serious injuries were reported, authorities said. Meanwhile authorities say it could be up to a week before power is restored to some of the outlying islands in their chain. The cyclone tore the roof off the power station on the island of Ta'u and swamped the generator with salt water. The generator is needed to work the island's pumps and water supplies are being rationed until power can be restored. Perelini Fonoti from the American Samoa Power Authority says that could take some time.

London, Feb 17 — Following received from the Meteorological Office, dated today: Tropical cyclone "Olaf" near lat 16.6S, long 167.3W at 0600, UTC, today. Movement for the past six hours 145 degrees at 15 knots. Position accurate to within 25 nautical miles. Maximum sustained winds 130 knots, gusts 160 knots. Radius of 64 knot winds 25 nautical miles all four quadrants. Forecast position lat 18.9S, long 165.7W at 1800, UTC, today. Maximum sustained winds 125 knots, gusts 150 knots. Forecast position lat 21.1S, long 164.3W at 0600, UTC, Feb 18. Maximum sustained winds 120 knots, gusts 145 knots.

UNITED KINGDOM

London, Feb 11 — A press report, dated Feb 10, states: The final bill for damages after last month's hurricane force storms which ripped through Scotland's Western Isles could top ten million pounds. It now seems certain one new school will have to be built and several of the islands main causeways have been seriously damaged. A network of bridges and causeways link the tiny communities of South Uist. Last month's storms battered them, powerful waves sent boulders flying, and supports crashing into the sea. The road to Eriskay is one of the worst hit. Built at a cost of nine million pounds and opened less than two and a half years ago there appears to be major structural damage. Sections of the road have disappeared. Further north near Iochdar where five members of the same family lost their lives there had been complaints about the design of the causeway, and warnings about floods. Locals watched in horror as the sea devoured the land. Close to Benbecula airport, the storms rearranged the beach, lifting it twenty metres and more into the playground of the local school. The 101 children of Balivanich primary are now being taught at an army base until a new home is found. Parents and teachers want a new school built at an estimated cost of five million pounds. Western Isles Council will provide the Scottish Executive with a final bill for damages by the end of the month. It's likely it'll ask for extra money to ensure some efforts are made to prevent similar problems in future.

London, Feb 14 — Following received from Liverpool Port Authority, dated today: An outer gate at Gladstone Lock experienced a mechanical failure on Feb 12, halting traffic in and out of the port of Liverpool. Operations are under way to replace the gate but are being hampered by bad weather. Repairs are expected to be completed later this week.

London, Feb 15 — Following received from Liverpool Port Authority, dated Feb 14: One of the two outer lock gates at the Gladstone River Entrance to Liverpool Docks was dislodged during severe storm conditions on Saturday (Feb 12). Immediate efforts to install a replacement gate were hindered by the adverse weather conditions but the exercise is currently under way and could take until the second half of the week. Of nearly 200 shipping movements expected in and out of the Port of Liverpool this week, three vessels including a bulk carrier are currently delayed as a consequence of the situation. Another vessel is waiting to access the port and a further bulk carrier, due later in the week, could be affected dependent upon completion of repairs. All other shipping is able to access Liverpool Docks via the alternative Langton River Entrance.

UNITED STATES

London, Feb 11 — A press report, dated today, states: Heavy rain and

winds gusting up to nearly 70 mph battered Southern California today, triggering dozens of wrecks. At least two people died. The eastern edge of the storm also pounded southern Utah. Flash-flood warnings were issued in the same area of Utah where a river jumped its banks and washed away dozens of homes a month ago. The storm system that moved into Southern California late Thursday was expected to bring up to 2 inches of rain across much of the region and more than 4 inches in some mountain areas. Wind gusts up to 69 mph were recorded. The California Highway Patrol said 380 accidents were reported in the area between midnight and 0900, today, compared to 104 during the same period the previous Friday.

London, Feb 17 — A press report, dated Feb 15, states: Excessive rains, floods and extraordinary low river levels have caused more than \$20 million in damage to area roads in recent months, local Ohio officials reported yesterday. Estimates to repair or relocate collapsed sections of state roads near Hockingport account for most of the costs. Low river levels, brought on by a January barge accident at the Belleville Locks and Dam, led to several major slips in the Hockingport area. Two of the slips are nearly a mile long and it is unclear if the roads can be repaired. "One option we are definitely considering is simply relocating the roads," said Stephanie Filson, Ohio Department of Transportation District 10 spokeswoman. "The costs to repair, relocate and also stabilize remaining sections is going to be very costly." After two floods and the low-water anomaly there has been no word on a federal disaster declaration, which would help pay for the damages. A state disaster was declared by Gov. Bob Taft, which will free up some additional dollars for local governments and state crews. Roger Ketchum, owner of Ketchum's General Store near Hockingport, said business is down by about half because of road closures. Filson said the damaged roads in the Hockingport area were approved for emergency repair status. An engineering firm was hired last week and plans are already being drafted, Filson said. In Washington County, Filson said with the exception of the ongoing Ohio 7 project near Bramblewood Heights, there are only a few minor slips affecting traffic. The same though isn't true for county and township roads, said Bob Badger, Washington County engineer. Badger said in the past 13 months more than 50 slips have occurred along county and township roads. He estimated there was \$363,000 in damages to county and township roads from slips just since last month. "We've had a total of about a million dollars in slip damage since the January 2004 flood," Badger said. Badger said unlike the problems in Hockingport, most slips in Washington County are not located along riverbanks. "The hillsides are saturated and they are slipping out

from where they were cut and pushed over the edge," Badger said. Badger said crews have been working non-stop to try to minimize damage caused by the slips. He said it has pushed other projects back. Issue at a glance: preliminary estimates to repair or relocate Ohio 124 and Ohio 144 near Hockingport: \$20 million; nearly \$1 million in damage to county and township roads since Jan 2004 and an estimated \$363,000 in damage to county and township roads since last month.

VENEZUELA/COLOMBIA

London, Feb 14 — A press report, dated today, states: At least 48 people are now known to have died in Venezuela after torrential rains, while another 25 have been killed in neighbouring Colombia. Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez today updated his country's toll, reporting 18 deaths in the southwestern state of Merida. Colombia has declared a state of emergency after at least 25 people were killed and 22 others injured over eight days of storms. Three people were missing, and 30,000 people were left homeless. The worst-hit towns were in Norte de Santander province, which borders Venezuela. Colombian President Alvaro Uribe called the situation "dramatic" and promised the interior, communications, housing and social welfare ministries "the necessary resources to take care of the people".

Caracas, Feb 14 — There has been heavy rainfalls in the city of Caracas, La Guaira and Puerto Cabello since Feb 7 and some warehouses in the ports of La Guaira and Puerto Cabello could have been affected by rain as flooding has occurred once again. A national emergency has been declared and many roads are closed as a result of slips. Therefore there is no transit of merchandise particularly from La Guaira to some cities until the roads are cleared. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Feb 15 — A press report, dated Feb 14, states: Troops in helicopters today shuttled food, water and medical supplies to remote mountain towns where dozens of people were missing after devastating floods and landslides that have killed at least 86 people in Venezuela and Colombia. At least 53 Venezuelans have been killed in a week of floods and landslides that have destroyed the homes of some 21,200 people from the Caribbean coast to the south-western mountains, Interior Minister Jesse Chacon said. At least 33 people were reported killed in neighbouring Colombia, where some 40,000 were forced from their homes. The death toll in Venezuela included at least 32 people in the south-western state of Merida, two more in the western states of Tachira and Zulia, and 19 others last week in northern and central states, Army Col Humberto Arellano said. Many of the latest deaths occurred among the steep mountain peaks of the Mocoties River. The bodies of several victims floated for miles downstream, firefighters

said. At least 50 people were listed as missing, Chacon said. Officials have said the actual casualty figure could be much higher because floodwaters and mud have prevented emergency workers from reaching some buses that were swept away in Santa Cruz de Mora. The floods also washed away crops from potatoes to coffee and destroyed a chicken farm, doing away with some of the few sources of work in the small Andean towns, said Guzman Varela, a resident of Tovar.

Earthquakes



CHINA

London, Feb 15 — A press report, dated today, states: A powerful earthquake shook a remote part of northwestern China's Xinjiang region today, but no casualties were reported, the government said. The tremor, registering 6.2 on the Richter scale, struck at 0738 hrs in Wushi county, near China's border with Kyrgyzstan, the official Xinhua News Agency reported.

London, Feb 17 — A press report, dated Feb 16, states: The No. 2 division of the Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps confirmed tonight that yesterday's earthquake in Wushi County of northwest China's Uygur Autonomous Region destroyed 5,800 rooms of 900 households with the division. The earthquake also partially damaged the homes of another 6,000 families with the division. Some primary and middle schools have decided to postpone classes for 10 days in order to repair the school rooms damaged in the earthquake. The location of the division's fourth regiment is one of the worst affected areas. The area was near the epicentre of the earthquake, which measured 6.2 on the Richter scale. Sources said that 2,580 rooms of 430 families and 4,750 meters of shelters for livestock were damaged. Sun Yuliang, the regimental commander, said 1,720 members of the regiment affected by the quake have moved into the homes of their relatives or other safe places. The division has earmarked 1 million yuan (120,000 US dollars) for relief work in the fourth regiment, along with 100 tents and 10 tons of grain which have been sent to the quake-hit regiment.

INDIA

London, Feb 16 — A press report, dated today, states: A moderate earthquake shook the Nicobar Islands, Hong Kong seismologists said today. There were no immediate reports of casualties or damage from the 5.6-magnitude quake, which struck at around 0230, today. The tremor was epicentred about 320 kilometres northwest of Banda Aceh, the Indonesian city that was battered by

the Asian earthquake-tsunami disaster, the Hong Kong Observatory said. Several moderate quakes have struck the same area in recent weeks.

INDONESIA

London, Feb 15 — A press report, dated today, states: A 6.0-magnitude quake hit off the coast of the Indonesia's Sumatra island early today. The tremor was centred in seas 200 kilometres west-northwest of Padang which is about about 900 kilometres southeast of Banda Aceh. Yesterday's quake was recorded in Hong Kong at 0113 hrs, the Hong Kong Observatory said in a statement.

London, Feb 16 — A press report, dated today, states: A strong earthquake measuring 6.2 on the Richter scale shook the Indonesian province of North Sulawesi overnight but there were no immediate reports of damage or casualties, meteorologists said today. The offshore quake occurred at 1442, GMT, in the Pacific Ocean some 378km north-east of Talaud island, said Wijayanto of the Meteorology and Geophysics office. The quake was centred some 22km under the seabed and was felt strongly on the island, Wijayanto said.

JAPAN

London, Feb 16 — A press report, dated today, states: A strong earthquake rattled the Tokyo area early today, injuring at least 28 people, jarring buildings and temporarily disrupting train service, officials and media reports said. The magnitude-5.4 quake struck at 0446 hrs and was centred in southern Ibaraki prefecture, just north of the capital, the Meteorological Agency said. There was no danger of a tsunami, it said. At least 28 people were injured, three seriously, in Ibaraki and surrounding prefectures, according to the Fire and Disaster Management Agency. The earthquake shook buildings in central Tokyo and jolted goods off convenience store shelves near the epicentre. But no serious property damage was reported as the quake's epicentre was 28 miles below the surface, far enough underground that much of the shock was absorbed. Local train services were temporarily suspended in Ibaraki and transport authorities shut down an expressway to motorists for about 90 minutes as a precaution, media reports said.

SOUTH-EAST ASIA

London, Feb 12 — A press report, dated Feb 11, states: Workers trudging through tsunami debris in Indonesia recovered more than 1,400 bodies, officials said today, while the British military announced it will pull its troops out of the area, a sign that much of the emergency relief work has been done. Hundreds of bodies are still being found daily nearly seven weeks after the Dec 26 earthquake and tsunami devastated Indonesia's Aceh province and hit 10 other Indian Ocean countries. The find of 1,414 more bodies brought the death toll to

more than 164,000. After initially saying the retrieval of bodies would likely be complete by June, the Red Cross now says several more months might be needed, agency spokeswoman Yrsa Grune said. Today, Indonesia revised its number of missing for the first time in two weeks, saying nearly 13,000 people have now been either confirmed dead, have been found alive in refugee camps, or have left Aceh. The missing tally stood at 114,922 - down from 127,774. The departure of Britain's tiny contingent from Aceh follows that of most US troops, who had been spearheading the relief effort. About three dozen British pilots and other personnel have been in Aceh since Jan 2, delivering aid and equipment. British forces will pull out Sunday (Feb 13), according to a statement posted on the Web site of the British Embassy in Jakarta. A Royal Navy vessel, the HMS Scott, remained in Indonesian waters with a team of British scientists and Indonesian naval officers conducting a detailed survey of the ocean floor near the earthquake's epicenter off the coast of Sumatra Island. The ship was scheduled to depart Feb 15. Finally, today, German Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer toured Aceh's worst-hit areas, the latest foreign dignitary to visit the region. Germany has pledged \$660 million to the tsunami relief effort, making it one of the largest donors.

London, Feb 14 — A press report, dated Feb 13, states: Two aftershocks from the massive earthquake that triggered Asia's tsunami rattled the Indonesian province of Aceh early today, as British forces providing relief prepared to leave the disaster zone. There were no reports of damage from the temblors, which struck about an hour apart and shook buildings in the provincial capital. One of the underwater quakes had a magnitude of 5.6, according to U.S. Geological Survey, which had no immediate details about the second. Hundreds of bodies are still being found daily in the province seven weeks after the earthquake and tsunami. Indonesia said today that recovery workers in provincial capital Banda Aceh pulled 546 more bodies from debris left after the earthquake and tsunami, bringing the death toll to 118,767. However, with emergency relief efforts winding down about three dozen British pilots and other personnel were preparing to leave the area today. Their departure follows that of about 10,000 U.S. troops, though another 5,000 remain, mostly based on U.S. ships. Japanese forces said they would be out by March. The Royal Navy vessel HMS Scott remains in Indonesian waters with a team of British scientists and Indonesian naval officers conducting a detailed survey of the ocean floor near the earthquake's epicentre off the coast of Sumatra island. The ship is collecting data using sonar that scientists hope can be used to develop a tsunami early-warning system — like the one that already exists in the Pacific — for the Indian Ocean region.

Experts say thousands of lives could have been saved in December with even a few minutes advance notice. Several countries, including Thailand, Indonesia and India, have pushed to host a regional warning system, but nations ravaged by the tsunami agreed last month to create several centers rather than a single, centralized one. Thailand's prime minister said over the weekend his country would have an initial tsunami early warning system in place by April and a fully operational one working within two years.

London, Feb 17 — A press report, dated today, states: At least US\$30 million is required to rebuild Aceh's tsunami-battered fishing fleets but costs may soar once an assessment of the heavily damaged western coast is completed, the United Nations said today. While the estimate provided an initial indication as to how much would eventually be required to rebuild Aceh's fishing industry, there is a much larger problem: scores of traumatized fishermen who are reluctant to return to the ocean. This could result in a radical change in community structures, said United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization fisheries adviser Uli Schmidt. The FAO's initial assessment - along the eastern coast - provided an indication of the scale of the damage to fishing fleets. Costs for the west coast - where an assessment will be conducted next week - are expected to be much higher, Schmidt said. More than 6,500 fishermen died, while about 5,200 boats were lost, the FAO said. At least US\$9 million worth of wood will be required to build new boats while a further US\$20 million will be needed for nets, engines and other fishing equipment.

UNITED STATES

London, Feb 11 — A press report, dated today, states: A trio of medium-strength earthquakes rumbled through southwest Yukon near the Alaska border, this afternoon. The first quake, which had a preliminary magnitude of 5.5, was located about 114 kilometres south-west of Haines Junction. It struck at 1300, PT, and was felt as far away as Whitehorse, 350 kilometres to the east. Second and third aftershocks with preliminary magnitudes of 4.9 and 4.0 respectively, occurred in half-hour intervals later in roughly the same location, a mountainous area of the Yukon-Alaska border. No damage or injuries would be expected in the thinly populated region.



MOUNT EGON, INDONESIA

London, Feb 16 — A press report, dated today, states: Some 2000 people living in the shadow of Indonesia's

Mount Egon were placed on alert today as the volcano spewed smoke for a fourth day, a disaster management official said. The 1703 metre volcano on the eastern island of Flores has been emitting a column of thick black smoke up to 1000m high from the tip of the crater since Sunday (Feb 13), Steve Bajo said. "From the crater, there has been intermittent smoke spewing since Sunday and it is still spewing today. We are now on alert status," he said from Maumere, a town some 25km west of the volcano. He said officials had warned the estimated 2000 residents living within a radius of 2.5km of the crater to remain cautious and remain in their homes pending a possible evacuation order.



BANGLADESH

London, Feb 14 — A press report, dated today, states: Around 600 opposition activists were arrested ahead of the two-day Awami League sponsored anti-government general strike which got underway in Bangladesh today amid fears of violence. The activists were arrested over the weekend in capital Dhaka, police said today. Thousands of security personnel were deployed to ward off any violence during the shutdown which coincided with nationwide rallies of the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party against "anarchy". Both sides ignored calls to reschedule their plans to avoid possible violence. Up to 11,000 security personnel would guard the city of more than 12 million until the strike ends tomorrow evening, reports here said. Schools, shops and most private offices were shut or operated with skeleton staff. Some buses and taxis along with a large number of rickshaws were operating. There was, however, no reports of violence during the first hours of the strike, but small groups of opposition activists were picketed, police and witnesses said. Besides the main opposition Awami League, left wing parties which backed the strike also staged brief rallies before being dispersed by baton-wielding police. The new round of two days of non-stop general strike has been called just after six similar shutdowns was enforced since last month to protest the grenade attack on a rally of Awami League and police actions during previous strikes. Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday called on all concerned, including the opposition, to refrain from "destroying democratic environment and trampling human rights in the name of movement and demonstrations." "Strike is a destructive action against national interest and economy," she was quoted as saying by news agencies at a meeting with members of the

private Council for National Agenda. Business bodies have also appealed against strikes, which the government says has cost the nation millions of dollars in lost production.

COLOMBIA

London, Feb 9 — A press report, dated today, states: The rebel Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) killed four workers of a sugarcane plantation in Corinto, north of the province of Cauca, according to official sources yesterday. Secretary of the Cauca government Eisernobis Santacruz said that the four sugar refinery employees were shot dead by FARC guerrillas. According to the official, the rebels then attacked with explosives a group of policemen and detectives who went to retrieve the bodies.

London, Feb 10 — A press report, dated Feb 9, states: Marxist rebels killed at least 17 soldiers during clashes in northwest Colombia, the military's heaviest battle toll in two years, officials said today. At least 11 guerrillas also died in the fighting. Gen. Carlos Alberto Ospina, the nation's armed forces chief, said two soldiers were wounded and eight others left missing following the third rebel clash with government troops this month. He said the fighting erupted Tuesday (Feb 8) when army soldiers opened fire on a column of rebels belonging to the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC, which appeared poised to attack the mountain village of Mutata. Ospina said during a news conference that the 11 rebels died in that clash and the others fled, returning hours later with reinforcements. The guerrillas renewed the fight against the military and the battle raged into early Wednesday. Ospina said the 17 soldiers were killed but did not say if any more rebel deaths.

London, Feb 17 — A press report, dated today, states: Marxist rebels killed a Colombian mayor while he supervised construction work today in his small town in the centre of the country, police said. The mayor of Genova, Jose Castro, 49, was gunned down by members of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, police said.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Kinshasa, Feb 9 — Militia attacks have forced more than 40,000 people from their homes in northeastern Congo since the start of this year, the United Nations said today, warning of a humanitarian crisis. At least 52 civilians — mainly women, children and the elderly — were killed in the volatile Ituri district last month in attacks by fighters including child soldiers, U.N. investigators said. Most were shot or hacked to death. "I am increasingly concerned for the plight of the people in Ituri," Ross Mountain, the U.N. aid coordinator for the Democratic Republic of Congo, said in a statement. "Over 40,000 people have been forced to flee their homes in the area since the beginning of the year,

and are now surviving in increasingly difficult circumstances," he said. "We have a humanitarian crisis brewing." Mountain said continuing insecurity was likely to drive more people from their homes. Some 50,000 people have been killed in Ituri since 1999 by ethnically driven attacks, which are largely separate from a wider five-year war that officially ended two years ago. — Reuters.

INDIA

Srinagar, Feb 11 — Shops and businesses were shut in Kashmir's biggest city on Friday to mark the 21st anniversary of the hanging of a separatist leader in an Indian jail. Most streets in Srinagar were deserted in response to the strike called by two influential separatist groups, the Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) and the Hizbul Mujahideen. Dozens of protesters led by senior separatist leader Shabir Ahmad Shah marched through the deserted streets of Srinagar and handed a memorandum at the U.N. office demanding the return of the remains of Bhat, who lies buried in Delhi's Tihar jail. The JKLF, which declared a ceasefire against Indian security forces in 1994, is campaigning for Kashmir's independence both from India and Pakistan. Authorities say separatist violence has declined since last year, but people are still killed daily in fighting between militants and soldiers. — Reuters.

London, Feb 11 — A press report, dated today, states: At least six Indian policemen have been killed in an attack by suspected Maoist rebels in the southern state of Karnataka, officials said. Five policemen were injured in the attack in a village bordering neighbouring Andhra Pradesh, where the rebels have been active for many years. The chief of Karnataka police SN Borkar said that the rebels blew up the school building where the policemen were sleeping at a village in Pavagada, 130km from Karnataka's capital, Bangalore.

London, Feb 15 — A press report dated today, states: Seven bombs exploded outside polling stations in eastern India today wounding 17 people during the second leg of state assembly elections. The elections in Bihar state and in neighbouring Jharkhand are expected to boost the strength of the country's ruling Congress party-led coalition. But the blasts in Bihar, one of India's most populous but least developed and most lawless states, did not deter voters and an estimated 30 per cent of them had cast their votes by 1400 hrs, officials said. Advertisement: "We have received reports of blasts in seven polling booths in Munger district," Bihar's police chief Narayan Mishra said, referring to premises where voting takes place. "Police in the area has been instructed to increase security around the booths," he said. State officials said the blasts were triggered by gangs trying to create panic and influence the vote. As well as Bihar, voters were also electing

a new state assembly in Jharkhand state, where police have deployed helicopters and mine-resistant vehicles to provide security. Seventeen people were killed in Bihar and Jharkhand, which was carved out of Bihar in 2000, during the first phase of voting on February 3 in staggered, three-stage elections.

INDONESIA

London, Feb 9 — A press report, dated today, states: The Indonesian military says it has killed five separatist rebels in tsunami-devastated Aceh province. The Free Aceh Movement has confirmed the deaths. Since Aceh's western coastline communities were devastated and reshaped by the tsunami's brutal force, the Indonesian military, or TNI, says it has killed 200 members of the Free Aceh Movement known as GAM. Now the TNI says it has killed another five rebel fighters in East Aceh.

IRAQ

London, Feb 8 — A press report, dated today, states: Iraq expects to restart its northern oil export pipeline in five or six days, ending a stoppage of more than seven weeks because of sabotage attacks, an Iraqi oil official said yesterday. "We think in five to six days the northern pipeline will be exporting again," the Iraqi oil official said. Exports have been idle since Dec 18, when saboteurs blew up a section of the pipeline, which runs from the Kirkuk oilfields to Turkey's Mediterranean port of Ceyhan. Oil storage tanks inside Iraq were currently being filled to prepare for pumping, the official said. "The line is now operational," he said. Dhiaa al-Bakkaa, head of the State Oil Marketing Organization has said that Iraq could export 250,000 barrels per day through its northern line if the sabotage stopped. Exports through Iraq's southern Gulf terminals were running normally yesterday. Southern exports averaged around 1.4 million barrels per day last month.

Baghdad, Feb 9 — Gunmen killed an Iraqi journalist working for a U.S.-funded television network in Basra and seized a senior Interior Ministry official in Baghdad today. Police in Basra said Alhurra correspondent Abdul-Hussein Khazal was shot dead at his home in the mainly Shi'ite city. Alhurra is a Virginia-based satellite news network set up with U.S. funding to compete with Arabic channels like Al Jazeera and Al Arabiya. Alhurra said one of Khazal's sons was also killed in the attack. He was three years old. In Baghdad, gunmen dragged a senior government official from his car in the south of the capital. The Interior Ministry said Colonel Riyadh Katei Aliwi worked in its operations department. Meanwhile, in Paris, French Foreign Minister Michel Barnier said France was doing all it could to secure the release of journalist Florence Aubenais who was kidnapped in Baghdad last month. She has been missing since leaving a Baghdad hotel on Jan 5 in the

company of her translator. An Italian journalist, Giuliana Sgrena, was also kidnapped in Baghdad last month. Internet statements from two militant groups have given conflicting accounts of her fate, but no group has provided any proof that it is holding her. Elsewhere, a U.S. soldier was shot dead in the northern Iraqi city of Mosul on Sunday (Feb 4), the army said in a statement today. On the election front, partial results show that an alliance of mainly Shi'ite Islamist parties is strongly in the lead, as expected. A coalition of Kurdish parties is in second place and a bloc led by interim Prime Minister Iyad Allawi is third. The Shi'ite alliance, formed with the blessing of Iraq's most revered Shi'ite cleric Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, says it will demand the prime ministership in Iraq's next government. The Kurds want their candidate, Jalal Talabani, to be president. — Reuters.

London, Feb 9 — A press report, dated today, states: Saboteurs set off explosives today at a gas pipeline in Iraq's north, setting it on fire, officials said. The blast occurred in Fatha district, 25 kilometres north of Baiji, on a pipeline that runs to the northern city of Kirkuk, an official from the Northern Oil Co. said on condition of anonymity. Baiji is 250 kilometres north of Baghdad. One policeman was injured as workers put out the blaze, which was expected to affect the production of electricity, police said. Officials did not say how long it would take to repair the pipeline.

Baghdad, Feb 9 — A car bomb has exploded at a crowded intersection in central Baghdad, killing at least three people and wounding four, hospital sources say. The blast scattered tangled metal and wreckage across Tahrir Square, a major intersection lined with shops and market stalls. A U.S. army spokesman said today's explosion was caused by a remotely detonated car bomb and that an American military convoy had passed through the area shortly before. — Reuters.

Baghdad, Feb 11 — Gunmen opened fire on customers in a bakery in eastern Baghdad today, killing nine people, police said. The gunmen drove up in two cars and then burst into the bakery. The motive for the attack was not known, police said. Seven of the victims died in the bakery and two others died in hospital, police said. — Reuters. (See issue of Feb 11.)

Baghdad, Feb 12 — A suicide car bomb killed at least 18 people and wounded 25 today in the town of Musayyib, south of Baghdad, police and hospital sources said. A police official said the explosion happened near the Musayyib hospital and American troops had cordoned off the area. The car was driving towards the hospital but exploded outside its protective blast walls, he said, adding that all the casualties were civilians. The attack followed earlier news of the assassination of Judge Taha al-Amiri was killed in Basrah on his way to work. His driver was wounded.

Yesterday, more than 20 people were killed in two attacks, on a mosque and a bakery. — Reuters.

London, Feb 14 — A press report, dated today, states: Saboteurs blew up an oil pipeline in the northern oilfields of Iraq, setting it on fire, a police officer said today. The attack occurred at the North Oil Company's Al-Dibbis oilfield near Kirkuk, said Maj. Gen. Anwar Mohammad Amin. The pipeline supplies oil for internal use and it will take workers at least three days to extinguish the blaze and repair the pipeline, Amin said.

Kirkuk, Feb 14 — Saboteurs attacked oil and gas pipelines near the oil-pumping city of Kirkuk today, causing a blaze that firefighters were struggling to extinguish, sources at Iraq's North Oil Company said. Two blasts, one late yesterday and the other early today, struck a gas and an oil pipeline running just west of Kirkuk. There was also an attack on a water pipeline nearby. Thick clouds of black smoke poured into the air above Kirkuk, and fires were still burning, witnesses said. "Firefighters are at the site trying to control the blaze," said a source at the North Oil Company. — Reuters.

London, Feb 14 — A press report, dated today, states: Moves to form a new government are under way in Iraq after the announcement of full election results. The Shia United Iraqi Alliance (UIA) says it wants to name a new prime minister after it was confirmed as winning nearly half the vote. However the bloc will not have a parliamentary majority on its own. Kurdish groups, which came second, are seen as potential partners. The process of forming a coalition is likely to take several weeks. The finance minister in the interim government, Adel Abdel Mahdi, is widely tipped as the UIA's candidate for prime minister. The new parliament will be tasked with writing a new constitution, and the representation of the Shia bloc falls far short of the two-thirds majority needed for that. The provision results show the Shia party took 48% of the vote, with other parties thus: Kurdish parties: 26%, Iyad Allawi: 14% and others: 12%. The turnout was 58%. Iraq's large Sunni minority, largely boycotted the polls. Meanwhile, kidnappers have abducted the head of a Christian party in Iraq and are demanding the withdrawal of U.S. troops, Al Arabiya television reported today. The television station gave no further details, but a staffer said the kidnapping apparently occurred as the unnamed victim was going to his party's headquarters in Baghdad.

London, Feb 15 — A press report, dated today, states: Kidnappers in southern Iraq have released a Turkish shipping magnate after holding him for two months. Kahraman Sadikoglu, who owns the Istanbul-based Tuzla Shipyard, was freed after his family paid a large ransom, Turkish newspapers report. The Turkish foreign ministry said Mr Sadikoglu was flown to Baghdad after being

freed yesterday night. After his abduction he appeared in a video saying he had been clearing sunken ships from Iraqi harbours. He also said he was being treated well by his captors. He was kidnapped in December in the southern port of Um Qasr along with a boat captain and driver, who were released last month. His wife Julide Sadikoglu, quoted by Reuters news agency on Tuesday, said: "We paid a ransom for Kahraman, but it was less than \$1m". The Turkish newspaper Vatan said his family had paid the kidnappers \$500,000. His wife told Reuters the abductors were a criminal group kidnapping people for money, not for any ideological reason. In other developments, one U.S. soldier was killed and three were wounded by a bomb planted by guerrillas near Baquba, 40 miles north of Baghdad, the U.S. military said today. The soldiers were on patrol when the bomb exploded yesterday, the military said in a statement.

Kirkuk, Feb 16 — Iraq's oil export pipeline to Turkey has been hit by sabotage and flows are likely to be halted until early next week, an Iraqi oil official has said. Saboteurs also hit another line and gunmen opened fire on an army colonel in charge of security at oil pipelines at a northern town west of the oil city of Kirkuk. He died of his wounds today, police said today. Police said Colonel Ibrahim Ahmed was killed in his car in the town of Ajeel west of Kirkuk. Iraq had only just restarted crude exports along the pipeline from its northern fields via the refinery at Baiji to the Turkish port of Ceyhan on Monday (Feb 14), reopening a route that had been closed by sabotage since December. Pumping had managed a flow rate of just over 100,000 barrels per day, and stocks in tanks at Ceyhan had reached only about 100,000-150,000 barrels, shippers said. The pipeline has the capacity to pump over one million bpd. "It was hit by sabotage on Tuesday night and flows are expected to start again on Monday or Tuesday of next week," the Iraqi oil official told Reuters. Another explosion hit an oil pipeline east of the refinery city of Baiji today, causing a large blaze and sending thick clouds of black smoke over the city, officials and witnesses said. The pipeline hit was not thought to be the main northern export pipeline, but rather an internal line running to the Baiji refinery from the oil fields at Kirkuk, about 80 km to the northeast. "It was sabotaged by a bomb at al-Fatha, seven km east of Baiji," Majid Menoun, director of pipelines at the Baiji refinery, told Reuters. Others in Baiji said they heard a series of explosions early in the morning and more than one pipeline may have been hit, but their information could not immediately be confirmed. Smoke pouring from the main blast blanketed Baiji and sent several people to hospital with breathing problems, doctors said. Firefighters were struggling to control the blaze. — Reuters.

Baghdad, Feb 16 — An Italian journalist taken hostage in Baghdad made an emotional appeal for her life and called on foreign forces to withdraw from the country in an undated tape released by insurgents today. In a tape distributed to news organizations in Baghdad, Giuliana Sgrena, a reporter for Rome newspaper *Il Manifesto* who was snatched on Feb 4, made a tearful appeal for help. "I beg you, put an end to the occupation. I beg the Italian government and the Italian people to put pressure on the government to pull out," Sgrena says in Italian, sobbing and holding her hands in front of her in supplication. "Everyone must withdraw from Iraq. No one should come to Iraq any longer because all foreigners, all Italians are considered enemies. Please do something for me," she cried. More than 120 foreigners have been kidnapped in Iraq over the past year and at least a third have been killed. Two Lebanese businessmen taken hostage in December were freed today. The tape underlines Iraq's precarious situation as the country tries to form a government. With insurgents still carrying out daily attacks, U.S. and other troops are expected to remain for months or years and have dismissed the idea of setting a timetable to pull out. The Iraqi intelligence service has said there were 200,000 insurgents, including 40,000 hardcore fighters — numbers US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld says are "totally inconsistent" with U.S. estimates. — Reuters.

London, Feb 17 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Four Iraqi oil pipelines were hit by insurgent attacks early this morning, said the oil ministry. "The pipeline carrying crude from Kirkuk oilfields to Baiji refinery was sabotaged near Fatha as well as another pipeline supplying the same refinery," the ministry said. Another pipeline carrying oil from the north to Dura refinery in Baghdad was sabotaged in the same area, the ministry said, adding that oil had spilt into the Tigris River. The ministry blamed the sabotage on "terrorist groups". A fourth pipeline was sabotaged in the Bajwan area, northwest of Kirkuk, the ministry added. "Teams of firefighters have begun to tackle the fires caused by the sabotage and technical teams have begun to evaluate the damage with the aim of beginning repairs."

ISRAEL

London, Feb 11 — A press report, dated today, states: Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas is continuing efforts to shore up the ceasefire agreed with the Israelis. Reports say Mr Abbas is to meet leaders of militant factions following a series of attacks on Jewish settlements in the Gaza Strip. He has sacked three of his top security chiefs for failing to curb the attacks. Israel says that if Mr Abbas cannot stop the violence, it may take action against the militants, despite agreeing to a ceasefire earlier this week. Israel's

Deputy Defence Minister Zeev Boim praised Mr Abbas' swift action, but called on him to take direct action against the militants and warned that the "window of opportunity is closing". Hamas which carried out yesterday's mortar attacks has said it is not bound by the agreement between the Palestinian Authority and Israel. Mr Abbas does not plan to confront Hamas militarily - he has always intended to go the route of dialogue and negotiation. His cabinet secretary Hassan Abu Libdeh said that during today's reported talks with militants, Mr Abbas would "inform them that there is only one Palestinian Authority and one leadership, and [he] will not accept any measures that can subject our national project to dangers". Mr Abbas yesterday ordered his security forces to prevent a repeat of the 30-shell mortar attack which caused damage but no injuries in the Gush Katif settlement in southern Gaza. After the attacks on Israeli settlements, Mr Abbas sacked the overall commander of Palestinian, Gen Abdul Razeq Majaidie, along with national police chief Saeb al-Ajez and another senior official. Hamas says it will decide whether to join the ceasefire only after it has judged to what extent the Israelis are complying with their side of the agreement.

Jerusalem, Feb 14 — Israeli troops shot and wounded a Palestinian who tried to stab a soldier in the West Bank city of Hebron today, Israeli military sources said. The incident, which punctured a ceasefire, occurred near Hebron's Tomb of the Patriarchs shrine. The assailant, the sources said, approached an army position outside the shrine and attempted to stab a soldier, who pushed him away. His comrades shot the Palestinian, wounding him. Israel Radio said he was critically wounded. In the southern Gaza Strip, a mortar bomb fired by Palestinian militants hit an army post, causing no injuries, the army said. It was the first such attack since a mortar and rocket barrage on Thursday (Feb 10) in the occupied territory. Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas reached a ceasefire at a groundbreaking summit in Egypt on Feb 8. — Reuters.

LEBANON

London, Feb 14 — A press report, dated today, states: A car bomb has exploded in the centre of the Lebanese capital, Beirut. Witnesses report six people were killed in the blast and more than 10 injured. Television pictures show a scene of widespread destruction, with cars ablaze and buildings seriously damaged. Thick black smoke was seen rising from the area of the derelict St Georges Hotel, near the city's harbour.

Beirut, Feb 14 — A local press report, dated today, states: An explosion apparently targeting former Prime Minister Raffia Harare's motorcade ripped through central Beirut today, killing at least six people, witnesses and a politician said.

Lebanon's most internationally known politician was unharmed, legislator Basses Yammout told The Associated Press from the scene. Yammout said he did not speak to Hariri himself but said another politician had spoken to Hariri afterward. Witnesses at the scene said Hariri's motorcade was hit. Local media said some of the bodyguards were among the casualties. TV footage from the scene showed the devastated front of a building and flames leaping from several cars. Heavily armed security forces cordoned off the area with yellow tape as rescue workers and investigators combed the scene apparently looking for casualties or clues to what caused the huge explosion. The explosion near the city's waterfront shortly before noon shook buildings in the city centre and was heard in outlying hills overlooking the Lebanese capital. Rubble and twisted debris covered a road lined with burning cars, the smoke from which enveloping the area as firefighters carrying hoses raced to douse flames." — Lloyd's Agents.

Beirut, Feb 14 — At 1430 hrs Radio Lebanon announced the death of the Former Prime Minister Rafic Hariri in AUB Hospital. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Feb 14 — Western powers and Middle East leaders have joined forces in condemning the assassination of Lebanon's former prime minister Rafik al-Hariri, seen as a major blow for the country 15 years after its civil war. They hailed the 60-year-old billionaire for masterminding Lebanon's reconstruction from its 1975-90 conflict and expressed concern his death may destabilise Lebanon and the region ahead of the country's general election in May. "He was a great Arab leader and a Lebanese figure of a very respectable stature," said Arab League Secretary General Amr Moussa today, echoing the sentiments of others. UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan said he hoped the assassination would not reignite the civil war. An unknown Islamist group said it killed Hariri in a suicide attack, calling him a Saudi agent in a video tape aired on Al Jazeera television whose authenticity could not be verified. Kuwait, Egypt, Jordan, the Palestinian Authority, Britain, Spain and Saudi Arabia all condemned the attack. Jordan's King Abdullah said it was a "cowardly criminal assassination." Syria, the main power broker in Lebanon but under growing international pressure to withdraw its 14,000 troops, called it an "act of terrorism" aimed at destabilising its smaller neighbour and suggested a link to arch-foe Israel. "This comes at a time of great international pressure on Lebanon and Syria which aims to realise Israel's desires in the region and this act cannot be separated from these pressures," said Information Minister Mahdi Dahl-Allah. However, Lebanese opposition figures held Syrian and Lebanese authorities responsible for the attack and called for the

government's resignation. Hariri had remained politically influential since his resignation four months ago and recently joined opposition calls for Syrian troops to quit Lebanon in the run-up to the May vote. Israeli Foreign Minister Silvan Shalom said the attack had killed "one of the most important leaders within Lebanon." The anti-Israeli Hizbollah guerrilla group, which the United States considers a terrorist group, called it "a heinous crime" aimed at planting strife in Lebanon.

NEPAL

Kathmandu, Feb 10 — A protest today against Nepali King Gyanendra's assumption of power and suspension of civil liberties fizzled as it started when police arrested the handful of demonstrators as they turned up. At least five people were thrown bodily into vans by police in riot gear and driven away, witnesses said. Activists had hoped the protest in the centre of the capital, Kathmandu, would help ignite a nationwide campaign against the monarch's decision last week to sack the government, detain political leaders and suspend civil rights. But with key organisers arrested overnight, only five people had trickled into the site for what was to be the first open show of defiance by the start time. All were detained. In one of the first signs of easing tensions, Gyanendra released seven arrested political leaders, including two former prime ministers considered unlikely to lead protests. They were freed from house arrest yesterday. Soldiers carrying long bamboo sticks and backed by truck-mounted machineguns stood guard outside Singha Durbar, the seat of the government and parliament, where the protest was to take place. Despite a ban on public gatherings, rallies in support of the king have been allowed across the kingdom. Nepali political parties say almost 1,000 people — including activists, leaders of student unions and trade unions, and lawyers — have been detained across the country. The interior ministry said only 43 political leaders had been detained. Two main political parties vowed yesterday to launch a campaign to force the king to restore democracy in the impoverished nation. "We are starting a peaceful people's movement to end the king's despotic rule," said Shankar Pokharel, a leader of the Communist Unified Marxist-Leninist (UML), which was the biggest faction in the sacked government. Speaking to reporters from a house in the capital where he was hiding from security forces, he said 300 UML members had either been jailed or put under house arrest, including six top officials. — Reuters.

London, Feb 11 — A press report, dated today, states: Maoist rebels killed five policemen and freed prisoners in the their first major offensive since King Gyanendra's takeover of power last week, state-run Radio Nepal said yesterday. The rebels

late Wednesday (Feb 9) attacked government offices, a prison, a bank, and police posts in Dhanagadhi, which is the centre of Kailali district, about 700 kilometres southwest of Kathmandu, according to the report.

Kathmandu, Feb 14 — Nepali King Gyanendra named two former royalist prime ministers as deputies of his ruling council, state radio said today, in a move seen as further tightening his grip on power in the troubled Himalayan kingdom. Radio Nepal said Tulsī Giri and Kirti Nidhi Bista, who were both prime ministers in the 1960s and 1970s, during absolute monarchy, were named deputy chairmen of a council of ministers — already packed with royalists — headed by King Gyanendra. Leaders of mainstream political parties have been either under house arrest or in police custody since Feb. 1, when the king imposed a state of emergency and suspended civil liberties including press freedom. The Maoists have rejected talks with the king and instead launched a nationwide blockade and transport strike over the weekend to build support against his move. — Reuters.

PAKISTAN

London, Feb 11 — A press report, dated today, states: A small section of a state-owned gasoline pipeline exploded in a remote tribal region of Pakistan today, and a militant group claimed responsibility. Police said there were no casualties. Hours after the blast, Mir Azad Baluch, who often speaks for the Baluchistan Liberation Army nationalist group, claimed responsibility for attacking the pipeline with a bomb in Dera Ghazi Khan, a town about 125 kilometres west of Multan, a main city in eastern Punjab province. Authorities have started repairing the pipeline, which was being used to supply diesel oil to industrial units in the region.

Karachi, Feb 12 — Pakistan and Abu Dhabi joint venture- Pak-Arab Refinery Company (PARCO) has repaired the oil pipeline that was blown up by unidentified terrorists in Pakistan's Punjab Province of Pakistan, at 0730 hrs, yesterday. As a result, the oil supply was suspended from Keamari port (Karachi) to upcountry. A Parco official said the oil supply had been restored at 2315 hrs, after repair of the pipeline. Police said a time bomb had been placed near the valve assembly of the 26-inch main oil pipeline, which went off at 0730 hrs. According to reports, as a result of the blast, a big rupture occurred in the oil pipeline near village Laddhiwala in Dera Ghazi Khan district, some 115 kilometres west of Dera Ghazi. Thousands of litres of oil, oozed out of the damaged pipeline, were spread over a vast area. The Kot Chutta police have registered a case against unidentified saboteurs. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Karachi, Feb 14 — Pakistan state run gas utility Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Co (SNGPL) said that work was going on to repair a low-pressure

gas pipeline ruptured near Kala Shah Kaku, Muridke in Punjab Province, Pakistan. The terrorists blasted it yesterday. K.W Shariq, General Manager Transmission of SNGPL told local media that the terrorists targeted the same line some two months back. He said that supply to the consumers was suspended. He said that repair work was started immediately and it would be restored today. "The supply of gas to Lahore and Gujranwala will not be affected," he concluded. The GM said that the incident was the result of a sabotage activity. He said that the company was taking steps to safe guard sensitive installations. — Lloyd's List Correspondent

Karachi, Feb 15 — Pakistan state run Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Ltd (SNGPL) said supply from the blown up Sui gas pipeline has been restored at Kala Shah Kaku in Punjab Province, Pakistan, with the efforts of company's field staff. The Ferozewala police have lodged a case against unknown terrorists, who targeted it yesterday. The residents have urged Punjab Chief Minister Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi to take serious notice of the situation. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Karachi, Feb 17 — Water and Power Development Authority (Wapda) has sent its engineer team to repair two high-tension towers of a 132 KV transmission line in Barkhan area of Balochistan. Some saboteurs blew these up by rockets yesterday morning. The state run electricity utility-Quetta Electricity Supply Company (Qesco) said as a result, the entire area of Barkhan and Kohlu districts plunged into darkness as power supply was disrupted. A spokesman of Qesco told local media that four rockets were fired at around 0130 hrs targeting the huge towers of the transmission line coming from Dera Ghazi Khan in the Esani area, some 25 km off Barkhan. Two towers were blown up. "There is no power supply from 132 KV transmission line from Barkhan to Kohlu area," Qesco sources said, adding that teams of Wapda engineers had been sent to the area for repairing the damaged towers. However, he said that complete restoration of power supply in the affected area would take at least a week. Meanwhile, power supply from the 220 KV double-circuit Guddu-Sibi transmission line has been fully restored after two high-tension towers were replaced and two others, in Chetar area of Nasirabad district, repaired. The towers had been blown up on Jan 29 causing disruption of electricity supply to almost two-thirds of Balochistan. — Lloyd's List Correspondent

PHILIPPINES

London, Feb 8 — A press report, dated today, states: The Philippine army has clashed with hundreds of separatist Muslim rebels in a second day of violence on the southern island of Jolo. At least 14 soldiers have been killed and 16 injured in a series of

attacks, according to army sources. The number of dead and wounded rebels is unknown. The clashes began yesterday, when more than 500 rebels loyal to separatist leader Nur Misuari attacked troops in retaliation for a recent army assault. A huge military operation was launched last week, to target the armed Muslim group Abu Sayyaf - an al-Qaeda linked organisation which is also alleged to have ties with the Misuari faction. General Alberto Braganza, military chief in the southern Philippines, said Misuari's supporters were using the attack on Abu Sayyaf as a pretext to pressurize the authorities to have Misuari transferred from a prison near Manila to one in Jolo. Misuari used to be the head of the separatist Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), which signed a peace treaty with Manila in 1996. But the violence continued and Misuari was jailed on charges of rebellion in 2001. The latest skirmishes have been concentrated in several towns around Jolo, a known stronghold for Islamic militants. Thirteen soldiers were killed in the town of Patikul yesterday, according to police sources. About 300 rebel gunmen are also said to have occupied an army compound in Panamao. In the nearby town of Parang, another 80 suspected rebels attacked a group of soldiers, killing one and wounding several others. Brigadier General Agustin Demaala said he was urging the rebels to stop their attacks, stressing that Abu Sayyaf - not followers of Nur Misuari - were the target of the recent government offensive.

Manila, Feb 8 — Nearly 50 soldiers and Muslim militants were killed in the south-western Philippines, the army said today, as fighting escalated after an ambush by rebels demanding the transfer of a detained separatist leader. The military sent fresh troops to Jolo island to reinforce about 3,000 soldiers battling hundreds of rebels from Abu Sayyaf, a small group linked to al Qaeda, and renegade members of the Moro National Liberation Front. — Reuters.

Manila, Feb 9 — Philippine military planes bombed Muslim rebel positions on a remote southern island today and troops attacked guerrilla bunkers in pitched fighting that has killed 60 people in three days, officials said. Army howitzers started shelling rebel positions at dawn and 3,000 troops staged ground assaults on the island of Jolo, the bastion of the Abu Sayyaf militants. Helicopters fired rockets and OV-10 planes dropped 500-pound bombs on rebel fortifications, said army spokesman Lieutenant-Colonel Buenaventura Pascual. "Since Monday, we have lost 20 soldiers, but we killed about 40 rebels in our punitive actions," Pascual told reporters. More than 30 soldiers were wounded, he said. Lieutenant-General Alberto Braganza, the most senior military commander in the southern Philippines, said another battalion of soldiers was dispatched to Jolo, arriving today aboard a naval

transport from the southern Zamboanga port city. Two U.S. military advisers also arrived on a private plane, but were whisked away by Philippine soldiers to an army base. Braganza said the U.S. military personnel were not directly involved in any combat operations, but were merely invited to observe, advise and provide technical assistance to enhance the local military's air-and-ground operations. Sulu provincial governor Benjamin Loong appealed today to both soldiers and rebels to stop fighting, saying many civilians were feared to be among the casualties. The clashes on Jolo are unlikely to affect talks between the government and the larger MILF set for next month in Kuala Lumpur, although security analysts see the potential for some MILF members to break away as a peace deal draws nearer. Kabalu said the MILF, mainly based on the mainland of Mindanao, had a minimal presence on Jolo. He said the MILF was ignoring calls from other rebel groups to abandon the peace talks and continue fighting for a Muslim state in the southern Philippines. — Reuters.

Manila, Feb 10 — The Philippine military said up to 20 Muslim rebels were killed at a fortified jungle hideout today, the fourth day of fierce fighting and bombing raids on the southwestern island of Jolo. The military said it suffered no casualties today. Yesterday, it said 20 soldiers and nearly 40 rebels had been killed in the clashes since Monday. Nearly 4,000 troops have been battling about 800 fighters from the al Qaeda-linked Abu Sayyaf rebel group and renegade members of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) since the militants ambushed a convoy of soldiers in Patikul town. — Reuters.

Manila, Feb 11 — The Philippine army flew more troops to the remote southern island of Jolo today, the fifth day of fierce fighting with two groups of Muslim rebels, as appeals for a truce by local leaders fell on deaf ears. The military said nearly 30 soldiers and about 60 rebels had been killed in clashes since Monday (Feb 7). At least 7,000 villagers have poured into Jolo town to escape the fighting. Lieutenant-General Alberto Braganza, the most senior commander in the southern Philippines, said it was beyond his authority to contemplate a ceasefire. Nearly 4,000 soldiers, including several hundred recent reinforcements, have been fighting about 800 militants from the al Qaeda-linked Abu Sayyaf group and rogue members of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) since a rebel ambush on Monday. — Reuters.

Manila, Feb 13 — Fresh fighting broke out between troops and Muslim rebels on the remote southern island of Jolo today, the seventh day of a military offensive against militants who have vowed to fight to the last man. The military said three soldiers were killed and 13 were wounded when troops caught up with fleeing rebels in the island's interior today. It

said the rebels suffered an undetermined number of casualties in air strikes and artillery fire. "There's heavy fighting going on in Panamao and Luuk areas," Lieutenant-General Alberto Braganza, the most senior commander in the southern Philippines, told reporters. "They are taking a last stand in the mountains." The military said on Friday (Feb 11) about 60 rebels had been killed in clashes since Monday (Feb 7). It lost 30 soldiers, including a battalion commander hit by rebel mortar fire on an army base. More than 15,000 civilians have poured into Jolo town, on the west coast of the island of the same name, to escape fighting in mountain villages. Local officials renewed appeals for a cease-fire, saying food, medicines and blankets were running low despite government relief efforts. Absalom Cerveza, an ally of jailed separatist leader Nur Misuari and a member of the rebel panel that negotiated a peace deal with the government in September 1996, said he had talked to rebel leaders on Friday, telling reporters the fighters were "in high spirits and far from being crushed." Braganza said an elite team of U.S.-trained counter-terrorist troops was flown to the front lines today to reinforce nearly 4,000 soldiers fighting about 800 militants from the al Qaeda-linked Abu Sayyaf group and rogue members of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF). — Reuters.

Manila, Feb 15 — Philippine security forces began hunting for suspects today and investigating claims by Muslim rebels after explosions in Manila and two southern cities killed at least 11 people yesterday. Abu Sayyaf, a small Muslim militant group linked to al Qaeda, said it carried out the attacks in crowded public places yesterday to punish the government for a heavy military offensive on its strongholds on the southwestern island of Jolo. Army and police intelligence officials said they were not ruling out a role by Jemaah Islamiah (JI), a shadowy regional network linked to al Qaeda and the suspected fund-raiser for previous attacks by Abu Sayyaf and other Philippine groups. Edgardo Aglipay, the national police chief, said his 115,000 officers were placed on full alert to assist in the manhunt. He released two sketches of suspects in the attacks in Manila's business district and at a bus terminal in the city of Davao but dismissed the Abu Sayyaf claim. The three blasts came closely together yesterday evening. Six people were killed in Manila and one in Davao, with more than 150 wounded in the three attacks. — Reuters.

RUSSIA

London, Feb 14 — A press report, dated today, states: Russian forces engaged in a "special operation" in the breakaway southern republic of Chechnya killed six rebels, news agencies reported today, quoting a military spokesman in the region. Ilya

Shabalkin, spokesman for Russian forces in the north Caucasus region which includes Chechnya, said the operation took place overnight yesterday near the villages of Starye Atagi and Novye Atagi, in the southeast of the republic. The operation was mounted to eliminate a group of rebels that had been preparing attacks on Russian forces, the agencies quoted him as saying. He added that there were no casualties on the Russian side. Rebel leader Aslan Maskhadov has called on all separatist forces to observe a ceasefire during February.

SOMALIA

Nairobi, Feb 9 — The Somali government plans to return to Somalia from Kenya on Feb 21, but may be delayed if donor support does not materialise, Prime Minister Mohamed Ali Gedi said today. Two teams of officials have already flown to Mogadishu from Kenya in the past two weeks to assess security in the lawless country as its fledgling government prepares to go home. The government has remained in the relative safety of Kenya since its formation last year. "We decided to start our official relocation on Feb 21, and that all depends on how the international community supports us in our relocation," said Gedi, referring to a decision taken at a cabinet meeting yesterday. It was not immediately clear whether the relocation would involve both the cabinet and parliament, and whether President Abdullahi Yusuf would go too. Gedi, speaking at a donors' meeting today, presented a revised budget for relocation and security. The Somali government is asking for \$77.3 million in aid for the next six months, but has so far received little more than 10 percent of that amount. Diplomats at the meeting said they expected firm commitments to be made now that a date for the return has been set. The African Union announced today that it had authorised five east African nations to deploy troops and equipment to help with the government's return home. The size of the force has yet to be decided, though the Somali cabinet has asked for a combined 7,500 troops from African Union and Arab League nations. — Reuters.

London, Feb 14 — A press report, dated today, states: The African Union is sending a fact-finding mission to Somalia today to assess the security situation in the capital, Mogadishu. This follows a request from President Abdullahi Yusuf for a powerful peacekeeping force to allow his Kenya-based government to move there. But suggestions Ethiopian troops will be used have aroused fierce protests. On Friday (Feb 11), thousands rallied in Mogadishu, vowing to resist what they see as Ethiopian interference. The African Union's 16-strong team faces an uphill task in Mogadishu. President Yusuf needs outside security if he is to operate safely in the city. He is from the northern region of

Puntland and has no ties with the clans controlling the capital. Worse still, he is seen as close to Ethiopia - not a plus point in Somali politics. No Somali forgets the bitter war for the neighbouring region of the Ogaden that the country fought with Ethiopia in the 1970s. So when the president suggested last October that he needed a 20,000-strong African Union force before he transferred his administration to Mogadishu, many interpreted this as the president threatening to take power by force. The president even had trouble convincing his own cabinet to back the proposal - something they finally did, with notable abstentions, earlier this month. On Friday, demonstrators in Mogadishu threatened to take up arms if Ethiopian troops set foot on Somali soil.

Mogadishu, Feb 17 — A bomb blast killed one person and wounded six in Mogadishu today in what appeared to be a failed attack on African Union (AU) experts preparing a peace mission to Somalia, witnesses and officials said. The explosion went off outside the former ministry of foreign affairs minutes after a visiting AU fact-finding team passed by on its way to a nearby airstrip, witnesses said. The blast was caused by an explosive device attached to a motorbike parked by the side of a street in the K5 district of the ruined coastal city, witnesses said. — Reuters.

SPAIN

Madrid, Feb 17 — Spanish police arrested two suspected members of the armed Basque separatist group ETA in the eastern city of Valencia today and seized explosives, Interior Minister Jose Antonio Alonso said. Police sealed off an area of central Valencia while explosives experts were called in to a hostel where the ETA suspects had been staying, Spanish media said. "Spanish police have arrested two people in Valencia, a man and a woman, who are suspected members of ETA. They have seized a pistol from them, an undetermined amount of explosives and documents," Alonso told reporters during a visit to Morocco. Hours before the Valencia operation, a suspected ETA guerrilla was remanded in custody in Madrid for allegedly plotting to shoot Spain's King Juan Carlos. Another suspected ETA member was ordered to remain in jail pending further investigation for helping the first suspect plot to kill several Basque politicians, a court order said. In addition, letters seized from the suspects were said to indicate that an ETA leader was eager to kill a uniformed policeman to help lift morale within the outlawed group, which has been severely weakened by a sustained police clampdown. "We have to start killing people as soon as possible ... With the situation we are in, it would be fantastic and give us strength," said the letter, purportedly written by ETA's current leader in France, Garikoitz Aspiazu Rubina, alias "Txeroki" (Cherokee). — Reuters.

SRI LANKA

London, Feb 8 — A press report, dated today, states: The shooting dead of a top Tamil Tiger and five others has raised fears that Sri Lanka could return to civil war. E Kaushalyan, a rebel political leader, is the most senior Tiger killed since a ceasefire began in February 2002. Sri Lanka's government has condemned yesterday's ambush, saying it increased the risk of a return to conflict. The rebels, who blame the attack on paramilitaries working with the army, say it is a major blow to peace efforts. The army denies involvement. Today, Chandranehru Ariyanayagam, a Tamil former member of parliament who was travelling with Mr Kaushalyan, died of injuries sustained in the attack, which took place in government-controlled territory about 40km north-east of Batticaloa. Four colleagues of Mr Kaushalyan, the rebels' political chief in the east, were also killed. Three others, two of them policemen, were injured in the shooting. The Sri Lankan authorities deny having anything to do with the attack and say they suspect supporters of a renegade Tiger commander, Colonel Karuna, who split from the rebels in March 2004. In a statement the government said the killings were a violation of the ceasefire. "The government calls on all concerned parties to prevent further violations of the ceasefire, gravely risking a return to conflict, and instead to support the peace process and move ahead," it said. The statement said the timing of the attack was "clearly calculated" to disrupt improving relations between the government and the rebels after rifts over the distribution of aid to survivors of the Asian tsunami in December. Security forces have now been placed on alert in eastern Sri Lanka amid fears that the violence could put pressure on the already fragile peace process. Peace talks stalled in 2003. Scandinavian peace monitors say the killing is the most serious setback since the ceasefire.

THAILAND

London, Feb 9 — A press report, dated today, states: Two locals were seriously injured yesterday in a bomb attack on a hotel in Rangae district of Narathiwat. Rangae district police rushed to Luang Heng Hotel after being alerted at 1030. They found a big hole under a staircase, and pieces of a homemade bomb including nails, gunpowder and a handphone scattered within a 20-metre radius of the hotel's tea room whose walls, ceiling and counters were damaged with shrapnel. The two customers sustained injuries to their legs and were admitted to Rangae Hospital. Police believed the attack was the work of insurgents.

Bangkok, Feb 10 — A remote-controlled bomb probably planted by Muslim militants exploded near the governor of the southern Thai province of Narathiwat today, wounding six people, police said. The bomb,

detonated by mobile telephone, went off at a stadium in the town of Narathiwat during a ceremony attended by several high-ranking officials, but Governor Pracha Taerat was unhurt, they said. "The bomb went off at the stadium at around 1000 hrs. It was just about 50 metres away from where the governor stood," a police officer said by telephone. Hours later, a roadside bomb wounded two soldiers as their truck drove along a road in Narathiwat province. Police blamed militants for the attacks. — Reuters.

TOGO

London, Feb 10 — A press report, dated today, states: An emergency summit of West African leaders has refused to recognise the new leadership of Togo, condemning the transfer of power as a coup. Regional body Ecowas has threatened to impose sanctions unless Togo returns to its original constitution and starts planning presidential elections. Faure Gnassingbe, the son of the late president, was installed as leader after the constitution was changed. He has vowed to organise free and open elections as soon as possible. Leaders from the 15-member Economic Community of West African States, meeting in Niger, decided the changes in Togo's constitution, aimed at legalising the military appointment of Mr Faure, did not disguise the fact that what had taken place was a coup. "The heads of states strongly condemn the intervention of the military which resulted in the appointment as president of the son of the deceased president," the group said in a statement. A high-level delegation plans to go to Togo's capital, Lome, by tomorrow to express their objections in person. The African Union, whose chairman Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo led the Ecowas summit, has also said it would consider imposing sanctions on Togo unless it restores "constitutional legality". Under the original constitution, presidential elections should be held within two months of a president's death. However, a constitutional amendment passed on Sunday (Feb 6) - the day after Gnassingbe Eyadema's death - allows Mr Faure to serve out his father's term as president until June 2008. The opposition has rejected Mr Faure's offer of elections, demanding that he step down.

London, Feb 11 — A press report, dated today, states: Togo has refused to let a plane land with a top-level African delegation on board, throwing into doubt attempts to resolve a constitutional crisis there. The plane was carrying an advance team from Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo, his spokeswoman said. Mr Obasanjo leads Africa's most populous nation and chairs the African Union. He has cancelled today's trip. West African leaders have rejected Togo's new leadership, condemning last weekend's transfer of power as a coup. It is not clear whether other West

African presidents will go ahead with today's planned mediation mission without Mr Obasanjo. He has again threatened to impose sanctions on Togo and will be recalling Nigeria's ambassador. The Nigerian delegation had been heading to Lome to demand that Togo revert to its original constitution, meaning presidential elections must be held within two months. However, Togo Information Minister Pitang Tchalla denied that the Nigerian flight had been refused entry, saying the flight had merely been diverted to the northern city of Kara, where the meeting had been rescheduled. "We do not understand why the Obasanjo delegation does not want to come to Kara," he said. "On Thursday evening the plane carrying the advance team of President Obasanjo was refused landing in Lome," Mr Obasanjo's spokeswoman Remi Oyo said, describing the action as "hostile". Mr Obasanjo had been due to meet fellow leaders from the regional body, Ecowas, in neighbouring Benin, before flying to Togo later today. The international community has also condemned the power transfer and Togo has been suspended from the community of French-speaking nations, La Francophonie.

London, Feb 14 — A press report, dated today, states: Parts of the Togo capital, Lome, are deserted after the opposition called for a general strike over the "military coup" earlier this month. Schools are closed and the streets are deserted in opposition strongholds. No demonstrations are planned after at least three protesters were killed in marches on Saturday (Feb 12). New President Faure Gnassingbe, who succeeded his father, has praised the actions of the police and condemned those who organised the march. Mr Faure's succession has been condemned by Togo's neighbours and the international community. West African leaders have warned they may impose sanctions after meeting Togo's prime minister over the weekend. Saturday's demonstrations saw protesters throw stones and the security forces deploy tear gas alongside live ammunition. Police also used tear gas to break up a sit-in protest by the opposition in the capital, Lome, a day earlier. Rallies have been banned by the new government, and police have closed down a private radio station, Lumiere, accusing it of "incitement to revolt and hatred". Ecowas has also demanded an apology for what it says was Togo's undignified treatment of Nigeria after its officials were refused permission to land in Lome on Friday (Feb 11).

UGANDA

Gulu, Uganda, Feb 13 — Ugandan troops killed 19 rebels from the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) in a string of attacks over the last three days, a spokesman for the east African country's army said today. The attacks took place in remote parts of Gulu and Pader districts, where the elusive LRA has waged an 18-year-old war against

the government of President Yoweri Museveni. "Eight rebels were killed on Feb 10 in the hills of Kilak sub-county, Gulu district," said Lieutenant Ronald Kakarungu, acting army spokesman for northern Uganda. "Then in the last two days we have killed 11 others, nine in Pader district and another two in Gulu," he said. Due to insecurity in the areas, it was not possible to verify the report independently. Uganda's army often says it has killed LRA rebels, but seldom mentions army casualties. Despite the clashes, the new government ceasefire has raised fresh hopes for peace in the troubled region, where some 1.6 million people have been uprooted by the violence. December's talks stalled after the LRA called for more time to study a peace document, understood to include clauses on the complete cessation of hostilities and the provision of non-military humanitarian aid to the rebels. But regular telephone contact between the top government mediator and the rebels have continued and observers say the new, partial government truce has boosted the peace moves. — Reuters.

London, Feb 17 — A press report, dated Feb 16, states: A key official in the rebel Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) has surrendered. Brigadier Sam Kolo, the LRA's top negotiator in recent peace talks, gave himself up to the army, according to government mediator Betty Bigombe. He was attacked by rebels as he tried to escape and 'phoned the army who came to his rescue in Kitgum district. The military says Brig Kolo's life was in danger following a dispute with LRA deputy leader Vincent Otti. He is now at an army base in Gulu. Ms Bigombe, a former Ugandan minister who is acting as a mediator in the conflict, insisted his surrender would not affect the peace talks and said she would continue to negotiate an end to the war. "I want to assure everyone that it does not mark the end of the peace process. I already talked to Vincent Otti, who told me he was going to take over and be in charge of the peace talks in the absence of Brig Kolo," she said. But correspondents say Brig Kolo was viewed as the most rational of the LRA commanders and therefore, someone with whom the government could talk. Earlier this month another member of the LRA negotiating team - Col Onon Kamdulu - gave himself up. A ceasefire is currently in place during which time the government has promised that all LRA fighters who wish to leave the rebellion will be given safe access and an amnesty.

Kidnappings



IRAQ

See under "Political & Civil Unrest."

PARAGUAY

London, Feb 17 — A press report, dated today, states: Officials in Paraguay searching for the kidnapped daughter of ex-President Raul Cubas say they are virtually certain they have found her body. The body of Cecilia Cubas, 32, was found in an underground chamber at a house near the capital Asuncion. Ms Cubas was seized by gunmen near her home on Sep 21, in a paramilitary-style operation. Her father, a businessman who was briefly president at the end of the 1990s, is reported to have paid an \$800,000 ransom for her return, only to have the alleged kidnappers break off contact. A prosecutor, Arnaldo Guizzio, said the remains matched the missing woman's medical records. Six people have been arrested in connection with the kidnap.

Labour Disputes**BANGLADESH**

See under "Political & Civil Unrest."

ITALY

London, Feb 11 — A press report, dated today, states: A strike by Alitalia flight attendants yesterday forced the cancellation of 141 flights, most of them international. The four hour strike also involved ground crews operating at the nation's airports and caused delays and some cancellations of other airlines' flights, airport officials said. "Whether it's Rome or it's Naples or it's Milan, there's been a high turnout in the strike," said Fabrizio Tomaselli, a leader at the SULT union, which led the 1230 hrs to 1630 hrs (1130-1530, UTC) protest. A Company sources said that it lost 600,000 euros in revenue because of the industrial action. In addition, a 24-hour rail strike, which began at 1700 hrs, was the second shut-down of its kind since a train crash in January killed 17 people. Unions, requesting billions of euros in safety outlays, pushed ahead with the strike in defiance of Transport Minister Pietro Lunardi who ordered them to postpone and shorten their protest to eight hours to protect the essential service. "It's a justified strike, that will win support and won't be thwarted like Minister Lunardi wants," pledged Paola Agnello Modica, a leader at the CGIL union. Labour unrest will be on Italy's agenda for the next several months as unions try to renegotiate contracts. Union leaders announced a general strike for all Italian public sector workers on Mar 18, and pilots are warning they might go ahead and strike unless they are quickly given proper resting room onboard long-haul flights. Striking Italian television workers at state broadcaster RAI forced the postponement yesterday of the men's giant slalom at the Alpine

skiing world championships in Bormio. They, too, are pushing for better contracts.

MACEDONIA

London, Feb 11 — A press report, dated today, states: The general strike at Macedonian Railways launched on Feb 8 has completely blocked the local and international traffic in the country. The protests continue today, as the workers' demands for talks with the management of the company and the transport ministry are not met yet. Meanwhile, the management of the company announced that the strike is illegal. The demonstrators want further negotiations on the number of job cuts and the amount of compensations. The trade unions at the company insist on a compensation of EUR 7,000 per employee. The proposal of the management of the company for paying 12 monthly wages was rejected.

TOGO

See under "Political & Civil Unrest."

Awards & Settlements**ASBESTOS-RELATED ILLNESS, UNITED KINGDOM**

London, Feb 17 — Hundreds of former engineering officers and shipyard workers will now be able to get compensation from insurers because of the anxiety resulting from asbestos-related lung damage, following a landmark court ruling this week. Coaster operator FT Everard and at least one shipbuilding concern were among the 10 parties named as defendants. A liability lawyer yesterday described the decision as "groundbreaking" for the insurance industry that may set precedents in other areas. The judgement, issued in Newcastle on Tuesday, centres on the benign scarring of the lungs known as pleural plaques, caused by exposure to asbestos. Insurers have maintained that the condition was not an injury and thus does not merit compensation. But Mr Justice Holland ruled in favour of 10 claimants with a background of industrial work. These people suffer psychological damage from knowing they could later contract more serious diseases such as asbestosis, lung cancer or mesothelioma, he said. However, Mr Justice Holland also ruled that the level of compensation payable should be about half that awarded hitherto. Payouts will range from £4,000 to 12,000, depending on severity. FT Everard chairman Michael Everard said that although his company was named as a defendant, the whole matter was being handled by its insurer Norwich Union. One of the claimants, John Grieves, had once worked in the group-owned shipyard, where his job may have involved

contact with asbestos. Mr Everard added that he himself had done similar manual work in the family-owned facility, which had brought him personally into contact with asbestos. Rod Freeman, a product liability partner at Lovells, characterised the decision as "groundbreaking stuff" and "a bit of a bad news/good news judgement" for the insurance industry. While the key point over the principle of compensation had been lost, the size of pay-outs had been limited. He added: "It has opened a big wide door in the asbestos field ... and the same kind of door in any other situation where anybody else has been exposed to some risk that causes them to be anxious." A spokesman for Numast said that the officers' union maintained a register of members who had been exposed to asbestos, usually through their work as an engineering officer. The judgement could potentially help to secure compensation in many cases each year. Norwich Union has applied for leave to appeal, and is considering whether or not actually to do so.

DEFAMATION, UNITED STATES

London, Feb 10 — A press report, dated Feb 9, states: The Boston Globe and a former reporter must pay more than \$2 million to a doctor who said she was wrongly blamed in the paper for the death of the newspaper's health columnist, the state's highest court ruled today. Dr Lois Ayash had sued the newspaper and the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, claiming she was singled out as the "leader of the team" of doctors caring for columnist Betsy Lehman when she died in 1994 from an overdose of experimental cancer drugs. The Supreme Judicial Court upheld the \$1.68 million award against the Globe and a \$420,000 award against a former Globe reporter. The newspaper had argued the damage awards, which were imposed after the paper refused to reveal its sources, were excessive. Globe spokesman Al Larkin called the decision "disappointing," saying the court's decision to uphold the judgment "as punishment for refusing to disclose the identity of a confidential source is particularly troublesome." While upholding the judgment against the newspaper and reporter, the high court did throw out much of a damage award against the hospital itself. A jury had ordered Dana-Farber to pay Ayash \$1.25 million for unlawful retaliation, invasion of privacy and breach of contract in relation to Lehman's death. However, the high court threw out the privacy and breach of contract allegations. Another jury will be asked to determine the damages Ayash should be awarded for the remaining allegation, unlawful retaliation. The high court also threw out an \$840,000 damage award against Dana-Farber's former chief of staff, Dr David Livingston. Ayash alleged that Livingston wrongly convinced Dana-Farber not to renew her contract after conducting a one-sided investigation,

but the court ruled Ayash hadn't proved Livingston acted maliciously. "We have always felt that the institute treated Dr Ayash fairly and properly and we are very pleased that the court has overturned two counts against Dana Farber and the finding against Dr Livingston," said Dana-Farber spokesman Steven Singer. Lehman died after she received four times the proper dosage of an experimental and highly toxic breast cancer drug. Her husband sued Dana-Farber and several doctors, nurses and pharmacists for malpractice, and won a \$2.4 million settlement in 1995. Ayash's libel claim centred on a 1995 Globe story that said she had countersigned an erroneous medical order that resulted in Lehman's death. The Globe published a correction saying Ayash had not countersigned the order, but it stood by its claim that she was the head of the treatment team that was using the experimental chemotherapy regimen. Another patient was also given an overdose but survived. Following an investigation, the hospital reprimanded Ayash for not finding the overdoses sooner. A year later, she was laid off. However, it refused to identify its sources for the story, even though a judge ruled their identities were central to Ayash's libel suit. That led to the default judgment against the Globe and former reporter Richard Knox, meaning the jury's only task in that phase of the case was to assign damages.

FAILURE TO INFORM OF DELAY IN CHANGE TO PRODUCT, UNITED STATES

London, Feb 12 — A press report, dated today, states: McDonald's will pay \$8.5 million to settle a lawsuit accusing the fast-food giant of failing to inform consumers of delays in a plan to reduce fat in the cooking oil used for its French fries and other foods. BanTransFats.com, a nonprofit advocacy group, sued McDonald's in California state court in 2003, alleging the company did not effectively disclose to the public that it had not switched to a healthier cooking oil. In September 2002, McDonald's announced it would lower trans fat in its cooking oils and said the switch would be completed in five months. McDonald's announced a delay in February 2003. The lawsuit accused the company of failing to adequately inform consumers of that delay. The agreement requires McDonald's to pay \$7 million to the American Heart Association to use the proceeds to educate the public about trans fats in foods. Heart-clogging trans fat is made when manufacturers add hydrogen to vegetable oil - a process called hydrogenation. The settlement also requires McDonald's to spend \$1.5 million publicizing that it has not followed through on its 2002 pledge.

MEDICAL MALPRACTICE, REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

London, Feb 9 — A press report, dated today, states: A 2.2m Euro

settlement was approved in the High Court today in an action for damages brought against the North Eastern Health Board by a mother of a nine-year-old girl with cerebral palsy. The action for damages was brought by Kristy McKeown suing through her mother, Bronagh McKeown of Annyalia, Castleblayney in Co Monaghan. It was alleged there was negligence at her birth at Louth County Hospital, Dundalk in January 1996 and that the NEHB failed to respond to evidence of foetal distress.

PATENT INFRINGEMENT, UNITED STATES

London, Feb 15 — A press report, dated Feb 14, states: Ariba Inc., a maker of software that helps businesses manage costs, agreed today to pay \$37 million to settle a patent-infringement lawsuit by competitor EPlus Inc. A federal jury in Alexandria, Va., last week said Ariba had deliberately infringed three of EPlus' patents, which could have led to a verdict of as much as \$294 million at a hearing on damages that was scheduled for today. The lawsuit will be thrown out, and the companies agreed to drop all claims against each other, including those for past infringement, according to a statement issued by Ariba. Ariba and EPlus also agreed to cross-license their patents, ensuring that Ariba's customers won't be affected by EPlus' infringement claims. Ariba, whose customers include Best Buy Co. and PPG Industries Inc., said because of the accord it won't need to provide software updates to customers designed to work around the EPlus inventions. The Sunnyvale, Calif.-based company agreed to pay the \$37 million in three cash installments by Mar 31.

ROAD ACCIDENT, UNITED STATES

London, Feb 12 — A press report, dated today, states: The New York State Thruway Authority has agreed to pay \$5 million to a student who was paralysed in a 1999 car crash that killed another student. The settlement, which came during a November trial in the state Court of Claims, has since been approved by the Thruway Authority board of directors. Under the settlement, the state will pay \$5.15 million to Jessica Gordon, of Bucksport, Maine. The state also reached a \$150,000 settlement with the family of Rachel Miller, of Lancaster, Pa., who was killed in the crash. Lawyers for Gordon and Miller's families argued that a guardrail installed along the Thruway near Batavia in western New York was inadequate and contributed to the accident. It has since been replaced with a guardrail of a different design, Thruway Authority spokesman Dan Gilbert said yesterday. Gordon and Miller, both 18, were among five Rochester Institute of Technology soccer players who were returning from a concert in Toronto when their car skidded off the road during a rainstorm.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT, UNITED STATES

London, Feb 17 — A press report, dated Feb 16, states: Two women who were secretly videotaped under their desks at work were yesterday awarded \$1 million each in a lawsuit against their former employer. A jury found that Patti Kidder and Katherine Dean suffered emotional trauma when Ocwen Financial Corp managers and co-workers teased them about the video footage. The women claimed they were harassed after a co-worker admitted in 1999 that he put a camera under their desks and sold the video to pornographic Web sites. Kidder said she was called "Patti porn star" and propositioned by a manager. Ocwen, a mortgage company, fired the employee who planted the camera, but disputed the women's claims of sexual harassment. Kidder was fired in 2000 for not being truthful on her job application about having danced topless before working at Ocwen. Dean left several months later.



ASSAM AREA, INDIA

London, Feb 11 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: A passenger train derailed today in the Rangiya-Rangapara section in Assam injuring two people including the driver. The 759 UP Rangiya-Rangapara passenger train derailed between Dhekiajuli and New Missamari, 13 km away from Rangapara, injuring the driver and one passenger, a North East Frontier railway spokesman said. The engine, parcel van and a general compartment derailed and trains plying in the section were suspended. An accident relief van rushed to the site, he said adding traffic in the section is expected to be resumed tonight. The cause of the derailment is yet to be ascertained and an enquiry has been ordered.

LYGNBY, DENMARK

London, Feb 14 — A press report, dated today, states: At least 10 people were injured when two commuter trains collided today at Lygnby, just north of the capital, the Danish State Railways reported. Two people were reported to be seriously injured. Rescue services have dispatched at least 10 ambulances to the scene, the Danish news agency Ritzau said. Initial reports said a southbound commuter train collided with another commuter train that was at the station.

SALEM AREA, OREGON, UNITED STATES

London, Feb 14 — A press report, dated Feb 13, states: Several rail cars, including one carrying powdered potassium, derailed today, shutting down River Road S and causing a

temporary power outage in the immediate area. The crash was reported just before noon at River Road N and Owens Street S, near Minto-Brown Island Park. Firefighters found that five cars on the northbound Burlington Northern had tipped off the rails, said Deputy Fire Marshal Bill Holmstrom of the Salem Fire Department. One of the cars carrying powdered potassium did spill some of its load on the tracks, but the substance is not a hazardous material, Holmstrom said. No injuries were reported, but that section of River Road S was expected to remain closed as work crews righted the rail cars and completed site cleanup. A power pole also was knocked down in the accident, causing power outages in South Salem affecting about 2,000 customers, said Patrick Stupek of Portland General Electric. Most power was re-routed around the crash within an hour, but crews from Portland General Electric were working to restore power to three remaining affected homes this evening.

SAN MARCOS, TEXAS, UNITED STATES

London, Feb 13 — A press report, dated Feb 12, states: About 200 residents of San Marcos were evacuated after seven cars of a train carrying at least residual amounts of hazardous materials derailed late yesterday night, officials said. No injuries were reported. All of the residents were allowed to return home 3.5 hours later, when officials determined there were no leaks, said San Marcos spokeswoman Melissa Millecam. Homes within a 1,000-foot area of the 2230 hrs, derailment were evacuated, Stephanie Garcia, assistant to the city manager, said early this morning. The cause of the derailment of the 109-car Union Pacific train, travelling from Houston to San Antonio, remained under investigation Saturday afternoon, said Union Pacific spokesman Mark Davis. Four of the cars contained sulfuric acid, which is harmful to the skin, and one car contained xylene, a flammable liquid, he said. The other two cars contained scrap paper, he said. Davis said that there was probably at least residual amounts of the chemicals left in the cars. "They're empty, but a residue car will still have small amounts of the product in them," Davis said. He said that could mean about 50 gallons might remain. He said that the evacuation was a precaution.

Robberies & Thefts



CASH AND GOLD, BANK, RAWAT, PUNJAB, PAKISTAN

Karachi, Feb 14 — Unidentified men made off with cash and gold worth Rs. 9.5 million from a state-owned

National Bank branch at Rawat, in the Punjab province of Pakistan yesterday. They also killed the bank's security guard. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Miscellaneous



CARGO DISPUTE, CHITTAGONG, BANGLADESH

Karachi, Feb 10 — The shipping agent of general cargo Ryu Gyong in Bangladesh said this afternoon that the vessel could not start the offloading of imported wheat at Chittagong, as the report from the laboratories to check the quality of the wheat is still awaited. Earlier, the discharge of wheat from the vessel was stopped on the question of quality. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

COLLAPSE OF RAMP, CALAIS, FRANCE

London, Feb 11 — P&O Ferries and SeaFrance are preparing for a difficult weekend as the start of half term holidays in Britain threatens to increase the strain on their already heavily disrupted services between Dover and Calais. Only two ferry berths out of a total six are currently in service at the French port of Calais following the partial collapse of the vehicle ramp at the port's number seven berth after a cable rupture on Wednesday evening (Feb 9). Two other berths are already closed for repair and, yesterday, the port closed the number three ramp, which is used by two smaller vessels operated by SeaFrance, to allow support cables to be checked and perhaps replaced. The closure of number three berth increased the pressure of traffic on the remaining two berths and both P&O and SeaFrance said that delays increased yesterday as the day went on. The situation was further exacerbated by an order to operators from the port to allow only one vehicle at a time to embark and disembark from their vessels. There were two lorries on the ramp at the time of the accident at the number seven berth on Wednesday, although the drivers of both vehicles escaped with minor injuries. "The situation is a little bit catastrophic," a P&O spokesman said, adding that sailings were running up to five hours late at the end of the afternoon and that six departures had been cancelled altogether. He estimated that some 500 lorries were waiting to embark at the cross-Channel terminal at Calais, with perhaps an equal number waiting at vehicle parks outside the port. SeaFrance said that it had cancelled two sailings but warned yesterday: "The worst day will be tomorrow." The French company said it was "very tense, very nervous" at the prospect of the increase in

passenger traffic expected as half-term holidays got under way in Britain. It said that it hoped that the situation would ease from Sunday when it is hoping to begin making use of berth three again.

London, Feb 12 — A press report, dated today, states: Ferry companies are refusing to take day trippers between Dover and Calais this weekend to ease disruption caused by a damaged berth at the French port. The berth broke on Tuesday night (Feb 8) when a support cable snapped on a bridge which drops down to allow vehicles off. The damage is expected to disrupt ferry services for several weeks. Kent Police have closed the M20 to implement Operation Stack - which sees the motorway used as a lorry park for vehicles queuing to get into Dover. Two further berths are also out of action due to refurbishment and safety checks. As a result the Port of Calais said the turn berths in use were experiencing slow turnarounds because only one freight vehicle can go off at a time. Yesterday evening, P&O ferries said they were running two hours behind schedule. The Port of Calais said the repairs would hopefully start next week and with the berth reopening in a few weeks. SeaFrance and P&O were advising customers to turn up at the right time nonetheless, but neither company will take day trippers until next Tuesday (Feb 15).

London, Feb 15 — A press report, dated Feb 14, states: P&O Ferries has suspended services for day trippers between Dover and Calais "until further notice" because of a damaged berth at the French port. The berth broke last week when a support cable snapped and two more berths were taken out of action for refurbishment and safety checks. Both P&O and SeaFrance stopped selling tickets to day trippers over the weekend because of the disruption. SeaFrance has resumed services but they are subject to delays. Both ferry firms decided to cut services at the weekend after the Port of Calais said it was experiencing slow turnarounds because only one freight vehicle could go onto the berths at a time. The damage is expected to disrupt ferry services throughout half term week and could go on for several weeks more. P&O said today it was just running "shuttle services" without day trippers.

London, Feb 17 — P&O Ferries said it had begun warning passengers to expect long delays on services between Calais and Dover at the weekend as the port of Calais continues to operate under severe restrictions. Only two ramps are in service at the port and one of those can only be used by two smaller ships operated by SeaFrance. A second ramp for full-size ships, closed for inspection on Tuesday, is expected back into service tomorrow but ferry operators said that they were waiting for port confirmation of this. The port

is struggling to cope with heavy mid-week freight traffic. P&O said yesterday that the transit time for lorry drivers from their time of arrival at Calais to disembarkation at Dover was 10 hours, compared with a normal two hours. "There is an enormous amount of freight," a spokesman said, adding that the company had reduced the number of its departures from Calais and Dover from the normal 30 to 10. SeaFrance has maintained 18 departures out of a normal 23 yesterday. The concern now, however, is for the more than 500 coaches expected in the course of the weekend. P&O said it was warning all its clients of the situation, which could become extremely tense if the No.8 ramp is not brought back into service tomorrow as is hoped.

OUTBREAK OF "BIRD FLU"

London, Feb 10 — A press report, dated today, states: Thailand has prepared about 100,000 doses of avian flu vaccine for domestic use, in case there is any serious outbreak of the epidemic in the country, the state-run Thai News Agency (TNA) today quoted Deputy Public Health Minister Suchai Charoenrattanakul as saying. The country is ready to give vaccine to poultry if there is a new severe bird flu outbreak, particularly in areas repeatedly plagued by the virus, Deputy Prime Minister Chaturon Chaisaeng said yesterday. Chaturon, who chairs the national anti-bird flu committee, also said Thailand could quickly import vaccine from China and the Netherlands, if necessary. The government has also prepared a handbook on how to cope with a possible "bird flu" spread, which will be issued free to the public. A team of Thai experts on avian flu are scheduled to visit Vietnam to exchange technological knowledge on preventive measures against the disease. Presently, two provinces in northern Thailand and one in central region are classified as bird flu-stricken areas, while another 19 provinces are on the watch list.

London, Feb 14 — A press report, dated today, states: A patient suspected of having bird flu has been admitted to hospital in Thailand's central province of Phitsanulok, the Thai News Agency reported today. The six-year-old boy from Bangrakam district has had a record of close physical contact with chickens, the agency said. He is currently under constant medical supervision. Government officials are worried about the bird flu outbreak in the province. Prompiram district has been worst hit, where the H5N1 virus was detected in eight different spots. The authorities are preparing to destroy the poultry in the affected areas to help prevent the spread of the disease to nearby districts. So far more than a thousand chickens have been culled in two villages in Phrompiram district.

Fires & Explosions



COAL MINE, KEMEROVO REGION, SIBERIA, RUSSIA

London, Feb 11 — A press report, dated today, states: The section of the Yesaulskaya mine in Kuzbass where a methane gas explosion occurred on Wednesday (Feb 9) will be flooded, the Kemerovo region's Governor Aman Tuleyev told journalists in Novokuznetsk today. "Only the disaster area, not the whole mine, will be inundated," Tuleyev said. Experts have not yet given the green light to further search efforts in the mine, a source in the government commission investigating the accident told Interfax. "The past few hours have seen a slight reduction in methane gas levels in the disaster area. However, it is too early now to talk about resuming the search and rescue operation," the source said.

COAL MINE, SONGLIN, YUNAN PROVINCE, CHINA

London, Feb 16 — A press report, dated today, states: An explosion at an illegal coal mine in southern China killed five and left 17 missing, the government said today. The accident occurred yesterday afternoon in Songlin Village in China's southwestern Yunnan province, the official Xinhua News Agency said. Fifteen miners were also injured and rescuers were searching today for 17 missing miners, Xinhua said, citing Xu Jianan, deputy director of Yunnan Provincial Administration on Coal Mine Safety.

COAL MINE, SUNJIWAN, LIAONING PROVINCE, CHINA

London, Feb 15 — A press report, dated today, states: A gas explosion in a coal mine in China's north-east killed at least 203 miners, the government said, in the deadliest such disaster reported since communist rule began in 1949. The explosion at the Sunjiawan mine in Liaoning province also injured 22 others and trapped 13 underground, the official Xinhua News Agency reported. The cause of the blast, which occurred 794 feet underground, was under investigation, it said. The explosion at Sunjiawan happened about 10 minutes after an earthquake shook the mine, Xinhua said, citing Zhang Yunfu, vice general manager of the Fuxin mine group.

FACTORY, LAPORTE AREA, INDIANA, UNITED STATES

London, Feb 11 — A press report, dated Feb 10, states: Damage could top \$1 million from a fire at a factory just outside LaPorte. Except for the office, B & B Manufacturing had to shut down yesterday due a power outage caused by the fire. Just before 1800 hrs, Tuesday (Feb 8), more than

70 firefighters from eight different departments began arriving at B&B Manufacturing. More than 100,000 gallons of water was used to douse the flames inside an 8,800-square-foot warehouse and keep the blaze from spreading to three adjacent company structures, said LaPorte County police fire investigator Sgt. Mike Kellems. The buildings saved are just a few feet from each other and contain the manufacturing sector of the business along with offices. The metal pole-type warehouse was a near total loss. Combined with about \$250,000 in metal parts kept inside, Kellems said preliminary damage estimates were approaching \$1 million. B&B Manufacturing makes belts, sprockets and gears made of aluminum, steel and plastic. The parts are shipped to other manufacturers nationwide for use in garage door pulleys, strobe lights and other products, Cleveland said. So far, there were no indications on what caused the fire. No injuries were reported. The warehouse was unoccupied but manufacturing and office personnel were still on the job, which led to the discovery of the fire, Kellems said. The Indiana State Fire Marshal's Office and the federal bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms were assisting in the investigation due to the high dollar loss, Kellems said.

FACTORY, NANGUANZHANG, SHANXI PROVINCE, CHINA

London, Feb 11 — A press report, dated today, states: At least ten workers were killed, six others seriously injured when an explosion ripped through a steel factory in north China's Shanxi province. The accident occurred in a steel factory located in Yicheng County's Nanguanzhuang Village when molten iron leaked from the hearth of a steel-making stove. At the time of the accident, 24 people were working in the Zhaoxin Metallurgical Ltd steel factory, Xinhua news agency reported. Six people remain in hospital and an investigation into the cause is underway, Xinhua report said.

FORESTS, MALAYSIA

London, Feb 14 — A press report, dated today, states: Fire has destroyed at least 50ha of commercial forest in the Ulu Piah Forest Reserve about 30km from Sungai Siput. The fire, which was first spotted on Wednesday (Feb 9), is the second to be reported in the state after the one at the Gunung Kenderong forest in Gerik, which has been raging for the past 10 days and has so far destroyed 80ha of forest. A team of 70 people comprising firemen, police, Forestry Department officials and timber company workers have been trying to put out the fire at the Ulu Piah Forest Reserve, which is 800m above sea level, since Thursday. Sungai Siput fire station chief Mohd Rathi Abas said the fire was brought under control yesterday and would be completely put out within the next two days.

OFFICE BUILDING, MADRID, SPAIN

London, Feb 13 — A press report, dated today, states: Sections of a well-known Madrid office building 32 storeys high collapsed this morning after a fire raged through the upper floors. No one is believed to have been inside but firefighters say the entire structure is now at risk of collapsing. Large pieces of the Windsor building plunged to the ground as the blaze destroyed its top floors, sending columns of black smoke into the night. Businesses and offices are to remain closed and transport has been diverted. Nearby bars, nightclubs and blocks of flats were evacuated as flames ripped through the building. A spokesman for the fire services said the building was empty when the fire started. Several top floors have slipped onto lower ones, and fire official Fernando Munilla said the 106-metre tall building could collapse. For safety reasons, businesses and offices would remain closed until at least Wednesday (Feb 16), said Madrid Mayor Alberto Ruiz Gallardon.

London, Feb 14 — A press report, dated today, states: The area surrounding a burned-out Madrid skyscraper remained cordoned off today amid concern the blackened hulk of wreckage could collapse. As many as 100 firefighters worked 24 hours to extinguish the blaze in the city's eighth-tallest building, the 32-story Windsor Tower. The fire was said to be the worst in Madrid's history. "The situation is still critical," Madrid Mayor Alberto Ruiz-Gallardon told The Associated Press. Officials say the building is unstable and have closed the area surrounding it, in a move that could affect several thousand employees in the city's financial district. Cars will be routed to neighboring streets, subway lines under or near the damaged building will remain shut down, and adjacent office towers will remain closed by order of the mayor, AP reported. "What worries us now is its structural state because of the high temperatures it was subjected to," Merardo Tudelo, director of the Madrid Municipal Firefighters, told reporters shortly before 2100 hrs, yesterday. By yesterday evening, flames were no longer visible, though gray smoke and ash stoked by gusts of wind continued to pour from the blackened shell of the building. Hours earlier, several top floors collapsed onto lower ones. Emergency crews at the scene said firefighters were waiting for the temperature inside the building to drop, which they said would lessen the danger of collapse. At their peak, temperatures reached 800 degrees Celsius, said Javier Sanz, head of Madrid's firefighters. It was not immediately clear what caused the fire. Magdalena Alvarez, minister of development, said a short circuit may have started the fire, but it would be investigated. Authorities said there was no reason to believe the fire was an act of terrorism. The building was almost empty when the first alarm

went off. Only one of the seven firefighters who suffered smoke inhalation remained hospitalized yesterday, Gallardon told AP.

PREMISES, READING, BERKSHIRE, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Feb 12 — A press report, dated today, states: Part of Reading town centre remains cordoned off after fire tore through a five-storey building, destroying shops and flats. Fire crews are still at the scene damping down following the fire yesterday afternoon in Oxford Road, opposite the Broad Street Mall. It is thought to have broken out on the first floor of the building, which was being converted into flats. A group of workmen were in the building but escaped without injury. The fire spread to the neighbouring shop Ethel Austin, and as far as the Primark store. A Thames Valley Police spokeswoman said: "The cause of the fire is not yet known and it will take some time until it is safe for investigators to enter the building. The cordon is expected to also remain for some time and motorists are advised to avoid the area and expect delays in the town centre."

PREMISES, YOKOHAMA, JAPAN

London, Feb 16 — A press report, dated today, states: A fire broke out in a shopping area in Yokohama's Kanagawa Ward last night, destroying 18 restaurants and shops, police and firefighters said. No one was injured in the blaze that broke out at around 2050 hrs in the Rokkakubashi shopping arcade, the Yokohama City Fire Bureau said.

THEATRE, PARIS, FRANCE

London, Feb 13 — A press report, dated today, states: An explosion has ripped through a Paris theatre, gutting the first two floors and slightly injuring seven people, rescue workers said. The origin of the blast this morning at the Theatre de l'Empire was not immediately known, said Olivier Delplace, spokesman for the rescue workers. About 100 police and rescue teams with sniffer dogs rushed to the scene on avenue de Wagram in Paris' 17th district, not far from the Champs-Élysées. The blast, shortly before 0700 hrs, (0600, UTC), tore a gaping hole in the front of the theatre, exposing the debris-strewn interior. Red curtains torn into strips could be seen fluttering from the second floor. Glass, gravel and other debris was strewn throughout the area. "Nothing is left. It's a big hole inside," said Francoise de Panafieu, the district's mayor. Seven people, primarily passers-by, suffered minor injuries in the blast, mainly scrapes from shards of glass and shock to the eardrums, Delplace said. Two watchmen inside the building at the time of the blast were among those slightly injured, the LCI television station reported. Police used sniffer dogs to try to determine the origin of

the blast and to ensure that no one remained trapped in the theatre or in surrounding buildings.

WILDFIRES, AUSTRALIA

London, Feb 16 — A press report, from Australia, dated today, states: Emergency crews are putting in fire breaks around a large bushfire that is threatening homes in the Perth south-eastern suburb of Roleystone. The fire is burning in the Aruluen Country Club near Heritage Drive, Ridge Hill Rise and Mount Dale View. The Fire and Emergency Services Authority is asking residents in the area to turn their air conditioners off and shut doors and windows. FESA's Bill Rose says some people have chosen to leave their homes. "We encourage people to make sure that their home is protected and if they don't feel that it's adequate and if they don't feel safe then it's their call when they leave," he said.

**ACCIDENT, BOB HOPE AIRPORT, CALIFORNIA, UNITED STATES**

London, Feb 16 — A press report, dated today, states: A twin-engine light cargo aircraft's nose gear collapsed after landing at Bob Hope Airport yesterday, blocking one of the two main runways. The aircraft owned by Amerijet, a tenant of the airport which specialises in shipping light packages, financial documents and medical supplies, stopped on the east-west runway at 1135 hrs, said airport spokesman Victor Gill. The pilot was not injured and there was no danger or fire, he said. But workers were having trouble jacking up the aircraft to move it without causing more damage, Gill said, adding that it was not clear when the runway would reopen. The airport's north-south runway is used primarily for take-offs because of its length, he said.

CRASH, BAKERSFIELD, CALIFORNIA, UNITED STATES

London, Feb 14 — A press report, dated Feb 13, states: Search and rescue teams have confirmed that the pilot and passenger of a small plane that went missing in the Bakersfield area are dead. Kern County Sheriff's deputies found their remains in the Cessna near Tejon Ranch after a 37 hour search. The coroner says Douglas Smith of Santa Monica and Arnold Dubin of Calabasas were killed when their plane crashed over the Tehachapi mountains after hitting severe turbulence. The plane went missing after it took off from the Fresno airport Thursday (Feb 10) en route to Santa Monica.

CRASH, BOLIVAR AREA, MISSOURI, UNITED STATES

London, Feb 11 — A press report, dated today, states: A small aircraft

crashed last night on a golf course near Bolivar, injuring three people. The Piper PA-24 Comanche was en route from Zeeland, Mich., to Springfield when it went down on the Silo Ridge Golf Course, according to a Federal Aviation Administration report. No information on the passengers or the extent of their injuries was being released today by the Polk County Sheriff's office. An investigation into the cause of the crash is continuing.

CRASH, HORSMONDEN, KENT, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Feb 12 — A press report, dated Feb 11, states: Police have recovered a quantity of drugs from a light aircraft that crashed in heavy fog in Kent. The pilot of the Piper Cherokee Warrior II plane died when it came down in a field in Horsmonden, near Paddock Wood, on Tuesday (Feb 8). No-one else was on board. Officers said today they had found what was believed to be herbal cannabis and also tobacco in the wreckage. The pilot, a British man in his 50s, was understood to have been flying from Belgium to Shoreham airfield. He was pronounced dead at the scene of the crash, but has not yet been formally identified. The wreckage of the plane has been removed from the crash site by the Department of Transport's Air Accident Investigation Unit to establish the cause of the crash.

CRASH, LA LLAVE AREA, MENDOZA PROVINCE, ARGENTINA

See N5790M.

CRASH, LAKE CLARK, ALASKA, UNITED STATES

See N206AR.

CRASH, MERIDAN AREA, MISSISSIPPI, UNITED STATES

London, Feb 14 — A press report, dated Feb 13, states: Two people were killed yesterday when the airplane they were flying crashed and burst into flames near Meridian, officials said. Maj. Ward Calhoun with the Lauderdale County Sheriff's Department confirmed that an aerobatic plane crashed just east of Mississippi 45 in rural Lauderdale County at about 1530 hrs. "The pilot and passenger died as a result of the crash," Calhoun said. "The (Federal Aviation Administration) was notified and we're waiting for their arrival." Bill Ross, who owns Topton Air Estates, identified the pilot as George Twente and the passenger as Andy Bruno. Ross said Topton Air Estates is a flying community outside Meridian where Twente lived and kept his aircraft. Twente, formerly of Decatur, Ala., built the Pitts model 12, a high-performance bi-wing aerobatic plane, Ross said. "It went into a flat spin and hit the ground," Ross told The Associated Press late yesterday. "They were doing aerobatics." Calhoun would not speculate on what caused the crash even though witnesses said the

plane was doing aerobatic manoeuvres. He said the Lauderdale County Sheriff's Department would work in conjunction with FAA investigators to try to determine why the plane went down. He said FAA officials would be on site today to investigate.

CRASH, PETALUMA, CALIFORNIA, UNITED STATES

See N5704L.

CRASH, PUEBLO, COLORADO, UNITED STATES

London, Feb 17 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Eight people were killed this morning when a small aircraft crashed just outside of Pueblo, about 120 miles south of Denver, as it approached the local airport. The aircraft is registered to Circuit City Stores, and four of its employees were among the dead. "We have no indication at this time as to why the plane crashed," said Deputy Steve Bryant of the Pueblo County Sheriff's Office. The aircraft, a twin-engine Cessna Citation 560, crashed about five miles east of the Pueblo Memorial Airport, where it was stopping to refuel before continuing to Irvine, Calif., Deputy Bryant said.

CRASH, SHANGHAI AREA, CHINA

London, Feb 11 — A press report, dated Feb 10, states: One person was confirmed dead and two are missing after a helicopter struck a cargo ship and crashed near the eastern Chinese port of Shanghai today, state media reported. The Canadian captain of the MD922 helicopter was rescued after the crash in the mouth of the Yangtze river, Xinhua news agency said. The Shanghai Maritime Safety Administration said two Chinese and two foreigners were aboard the helicopter when it contacted the Singapore cargo ship and plunged into the river, Xinhua reported. One body has been recovered. The helicopter was hired by the port and was transporting the pilot of the ship to land, it said.

London, Feb 12 — A press report, dated today, states: Rescuers were searching last night for two people missing after a helicopter crashed on a cargo vessel and fell into deep water at the mouth of the Yangtze River on Thursday (Feb 10). The helicopter was carrying two Chinese and two foreigners when the accident happened. One person was rescued and one body was found, authorities said. The east China Sea Rescue Bureau sent two rescue-salvage ships. Despite strong winds and tides, they continued expanding the scope of the search. By Thursday evening, part of the wreck had been salvaged, but the black box has not been found. The survivor is the Canadian pilot. He was taken to hospital and was still receiving treatment last night, the Shanghai Maritime Safety Administration said. The helicopter from Guangdong General Aviation Corporation was on pilot duty near the deep waterways of the Yangtze River

when it crashed at 1105 Thursday. The Singapore cargo vessel, Chengcheng reported no casualties. Zhou Zhengbao, spokesman for the maritime safety administration, said three teams of equipped maritime technicians had begun scanning the waterways to find the rest of the wreck because it posed a risk to shipping in the busy waterway. He said no specific traffic limits were placed on shipping but vessels were required to slow down and exercise extra caution after 1145 yesterday.

London, Feb 12 — Following received from Beijing MRCC, timed 0400, UTC: The vessel struck by a helicopter near Shanghai on Thursday was Singapore vessel Chuangchuang.

London, Feb 15 — A press report, dated today, states: One body was found this morning in the salvaged wreck of a MD902 helicopter that crashed into the Yangtze River mouth after striking a Singaporean cargo ship last week, while another person is still missing, authorities said. The dead was a winch driver. Workers from the Shanghai-based East China Sea Rescue Bureau, the Shanghai Salvage Bureau and the Shanghai Maritime Bureau have worked together for five days to retrieve the crashed helicopter. They positioned the black box of the helicopter Friday afternoon and spotted the debris yesterday morning. Authorities said it appeared the tail of the helicopter may have broken off after the crash, but the cause of the accident was still under investigation. Recovery of the black box could help investigators. The helicopter belonged to Guangdong General Aviation Corporation and was on pilot duty above the deep waterways at the time of the accident.

CRASH, TOLUCA AREA, MEXICO

London, Feb 12 — A press report, dated today, states: A small, private plane crashed into three homes near a major central Mexican airport yesterday night, killing two people, emergency response officials said. The Aero Commander 685 took off from Cancun and was headed to the international airport in Toluca, the capital of Mexico state, when it crashed in the Villa Santin neighbourhood, two miles from the runway, around 2110 hrs, said Arturo Vilchis, the state's director of civil protection. Vilchis and an emergency response official who was among the first to arrive at the crash site, Roberto Arellano, said three people were onboard the aircraft. One was killed on impact and another died en route to a medical centre. The third passenger, a 42-year-old man, was hospitalised with unknown injuries, according to Arellano and hospital staff members. The plane levelled one home and damaged the roofs of two others, but apparently caused no injuries or deaths on the ground, Vilchis said. Officials were still trying to pull the body of the victim killed during the crash, from the wreckage hours after the plane went down.

**EMERGENCY LANDING,
CHRISTCHURCH AIRPORT,
NEW ZEALAND**

London, Feb 15 — A press report, dated today, states: A Qantas aircraft carrying 66 passengers has made a safe emergency landing in Christchurch after one of its two engines failed, a company spokesman says. The Boeing 737-300 had been flying for Qantas' New Zealand subsidiary from Auckland to the ski resort of Queenstown. Spokesman Lloyd Quartermain said no one aboard had been in danger and the aircraft had taxied along the runway under its own power after touching down. Christchurch airport emergency services had been placed on standby as a precaution, he said. Quartermain said engineers were investigating the cause of the engine failure. The passengers were placed on alternative flights.

EX-037

London, Feb 13 — A press report, dated today, states: NATO and Afghan troops today began trying to recover the bodies of 104 people killed in the crash of an Afghan airliner, a NATO commander said, ten days after it smashed into a mountain in a snowstorm. The first clear weather in nearly a week allowed helicopters to ferry a NATO de-mining team and Afghan soldiers to the snow-covered peak 20 miles east of the capital, Kabul, said Lt. Gen. Ethem Erdagi, the NATO force's Turkish commander. Afghan officials say the cause of the crash remains a mystery and have called in US experts to help investigate. The private airline, Kam Air, says the pilot turned away from Kabul to seek an easier landing in Pakistan; the plane's flight recorder has yet to be located. Officials say the wreckage lies scattered in deep snow at an altitude of about 10,000 feet and that it could take weeks to collect the bodies. The plane hit near an old military lookout that is believed to be mined.

London, Feb 13 — A press report, dated today, states: NATO and Afghan troops today retrieved the flight recorder from a crashed Afghan airliner which crashed into a mountain in a snowstorm, killing all 104 people on board, an Afghan official said. Maj Gen Mohammed Moeen Faqir, an Afghan army commander, said the teams had not yet been able to recover any of the bodies. However, Defence Ministry spokesman Gen. Mohammed Zaher Azimi said the flight recorder had been found. "It is in the hands of the investigating commission," Azimi said.

London, Feb 16 — A press report, dated Feb 15, states: The first bodies from an Afghan aircraft (EX-037) which crashed and killed 104 people have been recovered from a frozen mountainside where they have been lying for the past 11 days. Bad weather had until now prevented troops from removing any corpses from the site east of the capital Kabul, where the Kam Air Boeing 737 came down on Feb 3. "As part of the ongoing

safety operation, the Afghan National Army found several bodies and they have been carried out to Kabul airport," the Defence Ministry said in a statement. "After the identities of the bodies have been established they will be handed over to their families." A source close to the investigation said that only two bodies had been found in a relatively intact state. US ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad says investigators have found the flight data recorder and it has been sent to the United States for analysis. "The data recorder has been recovered and it has been turned over to the United States. It will be taken to the United States for the reading of the data. The voice recorder has not been recovered yet," he said.

N206AR

London, Feb 10 — Cessna U206G (Stationair 6), N206AR, crashed near Port Alsworth, Alaska, at 2047, Feb 9, while on a flight from Anchorage, AK, to Port Alsworth. The aircraft was destroyed. Three of the five persons on board were killed and the other two were seriously injured.

N3NM

London, Feb 16 — A press report, dated Feb 15, states: Two people died after a small single-engine aircraft crashed between two houses in the Grovewood neighbourhood this afternoon. Witnesses say they heard the sound of an engine overhead when they noticed the small aircraft, a Beechcraft Debonair, having trouble around 1700. Law enforcement officials confirmed that two people who were onboard the aircraft were dead, but did not give further details. The aircraft came in at a 45-degree angle, clipped the roofs of two homes and then crumpled upon impact two miles south of the Clearwater Airpark. The pilot and passenger were killed on impact, said Bill Morris, director of the Clearwater Airpark. No one on the ground was injured. A house at 2210 Grovewood Rd. sustained most of the damage. Morris wasn't sure if the aircraft was taking off or landing from Clearwater Airpark.

London, Feb 16 — Beechcraft Bonanza 35, N3NM, crashed near Clearwater, Florida, at 2235, Feb 15, while on a flight from Clearwater. The aircraft sustained substantial damage. The two persons on board were killed.

N5704L

London, Feb 10 — American General AA-1 (Trainer), N5704L, crashed near Petaluma, California, at 0001, Feb 9, while on a flight from Petaluma. The aircraft was destroyed. The one person on board was killed.

N5790M

London, Feb 16 — Cessna 340, N5790M, registered to and operated by Ward County Irrigation District No. 1, crashed in a mountainous area in Mendoza, Argentina, at approximately 0634, AST, Feb 7. The pilot and co-pilot were killed, and the aircraft was destroyed.

N634Q

London, Feb 15 — A press report, dated Feb 14, states: A single-engine plane trying to land at a private airstrip crashed into a fence today, killing the pilot and a passenger, authorities said. Two other passengers were injured. The Beechcraft Bonanza (N634Q) stopped 200 feet short of the runway at Flying Baron Estates just outside Leesburg, said Sgt. Christie Mysinger of the Lake County Sheriff's Office. The injured passengers were flown to Orlando Regional Medical Centre, where they were listed in stable condition late today, a hospital spokesman said. The National Transportation Safety Board was notified of the crash.

London, Feb 15 — Beechcraft Bonanza K35, N634Q, crashed near Leesburg, Florida, at 2109, Feb 14. The aircraft sustained substantial damage. Two of the three persons on board were killed and the third was injured.

Product Recalls**BARBECUE LIGHTERS,
UNITED STATES**

London, Feb 11 — A press report, dated Feb 10, states: A New Jersey company is recalling about two million multipurpose barbecue lighters because they fail to meet federal standards for child resistant mechanisms, so they could pose a fire hazard, the Consumer Product Safety Commission said Thursday. Arett Sales Corporation of Cherry Hill, NJ has not received any reports of incidents or injuries, the recall said. The gas-fuelled lighters do not have safety mechanisms that meet federal standards, which require multipurpose lighters to have the same level of child resistance as that called for in the safety standard for cigarette lighters. The child resistant mechanism must operate safely, function for the expected life of the lighter, and be difficult to deactivate. The child resistant mechanism also must automatically reset after each use, the CPSC said in the recall. øKitchen Works,ø made in China, have an orange or red plastic body and a silver-colored metal nozzle. Each lighter is 10 æ inches long. The lighters were sold at Dollar stores nationwide from January 2001 through to July 2004 for about \$1.

**GAS-ELECTRIC
HEATING/COOLING UNITS,
UNITED STATES**

Washington, DC, Feb 11 — The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission announces the recall of 18,200 Trane and American Standard Gas-Electric heating/cooling units in voluntary cooperation with Trane and American Standard, divisions of American Standard Inc., of Tyler, Texas.

Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed. A gas leak can occur if there is a crack in the gas valve body near the inlet pipe connection. A build-up of gas in the burner compartment of the unit could occur, which could be ignited by an internal spark. Trane has received five reports of gas valve cracks, though no injuries or property damage has been reported. The recalled units include 2 through 5-ton Trane and American Standard heating and air conditioning packaged units. Affected units are combination gas heat and air conditioning systems installed outdoors only. Gas furnaces installed indoors are not included in this recall. The units have identification plates displaying the model number; serial number; and the year, month and day of manufacture. The plate is located on one end of the unit. The first four digits of all serial numbers indicate the year, fiscal week and day of manufacture. The recall includes: All units with model numbers beginning with YCP or YCX, and having serial numbers beginning with 3383 through 4475; all units with model number beginning with YCY or YCZ, and having serial numbers beginning with 4282 through 4475. Sold at independent dealers and installers between October 2003 and December 2004. Manufactured in United States. Consumers with recalled units are being contacted by the independent dealers that installed them. Consumers who think they have recalled units and have not yet been contacted, should call their installer for more information. Using their model and serial numbers, consumers also can visit the firms' web sites to confirm if their unit is included in the recall. Consumers with recalled units should contact their installer to arrange for a free inspection. — Consumer Product Safety Commission.

GENERAL MOTORS MOTOR VEHICLES, UNITED STATES

London, Feb 10 — A press report, dated today, states: General Motors Corp. is recalling 155,465 pickups and sport utility vehicles, including the Hummer H2, because of possible brake malfunctions, the world's biggest automaker and federal safety regulators said today. All of the affected vehicles are from the 2004 and 2005 model years and have Bosch hydro-boost brake assemblies. They are the Chevrolet Avalanche, Express, Silverado and Suburban; the GMC Savana, Sierra and Yukon XL; two commercial trucks, the GMC Topkick and Chevrolet Kodiak; and the Hummer H2, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. The NHTSA said a pressure accumulator in the braking system could crack during normal driving and fragments could injure people if the hood was open. The crack also could allow hydraulic fluid to leak, which could make it harder to brake or steer and could cause a crash. GM spokesman Alan Adler said the

company did not know of any injuries related to the problem. The automaker is expected to begin notifying consumers about the recall next month. Dealers will replace affected brake systems for free, NHTSA said.

LOG SPLITTERS, UNITED STATES

Washington, DC, Feb 15 — The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in co-operation with Brave Products Inc., Streator, Ill, today announced a voluntary recall of about 4,000 log splitters. Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed. The log splitter's hydraulic cylinders can have defective rod retention, causing the seals to leak and the rods to detach. This can result in serious injury to the operator, as the rod can rapidly and unexpectedly extend the splitting wedge. Brave Products has received 14 reports of leaking cylinders and/or rod retention failure. No injuries have been reported. The log splitters are made of steel and painted orange and black. They have trailer hitches and rubber tires. Each log splitter has a decal on the side that reads "Brave Products, Inc." and "— ton" (either 15, 22, 26, or 34). The following models are being recalled: Brave VH0234 (34 ton) Serial No.S012368 through S016976, Brave VH9926 (26 ton) Serial No.S014226 through S017534, Brave VH9922 (22 ton) Serial No.S011460 through S016862 and Brave HB0115 (15 ton) Serial No.S013853 through S017534 (Serial number plate is located on the hydraulic tank). Sold by Ace, True Value, and Do It Best Hardware stores and independent power equipment dealers nationwide from June 2003 through October 2004 for between \$899 and \$1,999. Manufactured in United States. Consumers should stop using their log splitter until they have determined if their unit is a part of this recall. Consumers should contact Brave Products Inc. to receive a free replacement cylinder. — Consumer Product Safety Commission.

MULTI-TASK TOOLS, UNITED STATES

Washington, DC, Feb 11 — The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission announces the recall of about 45,000 KombiSystem Multi-Task Tools in voluntary co-operation with Stihl Inc., of Virginia Beach, Va. Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed. An internal clip may become dislodged and as a result, the clutch shoes could be projected from the clutch housing and strike consumers, posing the risk of injury. Stihl has received no reports of incidents. Description: The recalled product is a KombiSystem Multi-Task Tool powerhead, Models KM55, KM55R, KM55RC, FS55T or FS55RT. The recalled models, which have "Stihl" printed on the engine head, have serial numbers lower than 263868001 which can be found on the engine head. The product is a powerhead that can be fitted with attachments for a variety of tasks,

including edging, trimming and sweeping. Sold at authorized Stihl dealers for between \$180 and \$210. The FS models were sold between October 2001 and October 2002 and the KM models were sold between September 2002 and October 2004. Manufactured in United States. Consumers should stop using this multi-task tool immediately and return it to an authorized Stihl dealer for a free repair. — Consumer Product Safety Commission.

TOYOTA MOTOR VEHICLES, UNITED STATES

London, Feb 16 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Toyota Motor Co. is recalling 22,228 Tacoma pickups because the parking brake may not work, the automaker and federal safety regulators said today. Tacomas from the 2005 model year with automatic transmissions are involved in the recall. Toyota spokesman John Hanson said the company recalled the vehicles after the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration received eight complaints. No injuries have been reported due to the defect, Hanson said. Toyota said the lock nut on the parking brake cable may not have been properly tightened and can loosen and come off. If that happens, the vehicle could roll if it's stopped on a slope and the transmission isn't in park. Toyota will notify owners of the recall next month. Dealers will tighten the lock nut for free.

UPRIGHT CARPET CLEANERS, UNITED STATES

Washington, DC, Feb 11 — The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission announces the recall of about 750,000 BISSELL upright carpet deep cleaners in voluntary co-operation with BISSELL Homecare Inc., of Grand Rapids, Mich. Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed. The carpet cleaner's metal upper handle can pose an electric shock hazard to consumers. BISSELL has received six reports of consumers receiving shocks from the unit. The recalled upright carpet deep cleaners have an open handgrip, a partially metal handle and come in a variety of colors. The word "BISSELL" is printed on the front of the unit. The recalled carpet cleaners have date codes beginning with 01, 02, 03 or 04 and include the following models: PowerLifterÆ Plus (model number 1620), PowerSteamerÆ ClearViewÆ (model numbers 1692, 1692-1, 1692-R), Power SteamerÆ (model numbers 1685, 1693, 1693-R, 1693-W, 1694, 1694-1, 1694-R), Power LifterÆ (model number 1694-3) and Rubbermaid X-tra-Liftø (model 9E00). The date codes and model numbers are printed on a label on the bottom of the unit. Cleaners with the model number and date codes listed above that are marked "Inspected" on or near the label are not included in the recall. Sold at major discount, appliance and department stores nation-wide from January 2001 through December 2004 for between \$100 and \$145.

Manufactured in United States and Mexico. Consumers should stop using the carpet cleaners immediately and contact BISSELL for the location of the nearest service center to receive a free inspection and if necessary, repair. — Consumer Product Safety Commission.



AUSTRALIA

Sydney, Feb 15 — Ship arrivals beyond the contracted capacity of the Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal (DBCT) has pushed the vessel queue past 40 bulkers, a spokesman for the

terminal's leaseholder Prime Infrastructure said. Prime Infrastructure general manager of operations Greg Smith said 48 vessels this morning were either queuing at the port, which also includes ships waiting for the adjacent Hay Point coal terminal, or on the berths. Of these, about 40 vessels are for DBCT and the waiting time is presently about 24 days, he said. Mr Smith said the queue was a result of more ships arriving than the terminal's contracted port capacity. DBCT has a contracted port capacity of 56.82m tonnes a year, but following the collapse and loss of a reclaimer machine that figure has dropped to between 53m and 54.5m tonnes. Ship arrivals are now running at 59m tonnes a year. And the problem is being exacerbated by the coal chain presently delivering only 51m tonnes a year to the DBCT

gate, Mr Smith said. It was unclear why this was the case but all parties, DBCT mines and Queensland Rail, were "working cooperatively" to get deliveries up to the terminal's contracted capacity, he said. Prime is also expecting to have its new reclaimer operational in January 2006. — Lloyd's List Daily Commercial News.

ITALY

Genoa, Feb 7 — Port situation Feb 7: Genoa: No vessels awaiting berths. La Spezia: No vessels awaiting berths. Savona: No vessels awaiting berths. — Lloyd's Agents.

Genoa, Feb 15 — Port situation Feb 15: Genoa: Three container vessels awaiting berths, average berthing delay one to two days. La Spezia: No vessels awaiting berths. Savona: No vessels awaiting berths. — Lloyd's Agents.

Port Delays

Country/Port	Date of report	No.of vessels waiting and/or days delay
Australia		
Abbott Point	14-Feb-2005	Coal: Eight vessels due by 1/3; up to 1 day's delay expected.
Brisbane	14 Feb-2005	Coal: Fisherman Island coal berth; Three vessels due by 5/3; no delays expected.
Dalrymple Bay	14 Feb-2005	Coal: Forty-two vessels at anchor; 53 vessels due by 22/3; vessels are berthing in order of cargo availability; up to 30 days delay expected, subject to cargo/stem availability and berth congestion. Waiting times vary greatly due to different stem supply issues. DBCT: Berth no.1: Last vessel sailed loaded 2100 on 13/2, berth remained empty for maintenance then at 07:30 on 14/2 next berthing cancelled due to strong winds and heavy swell. Berth will remain empty until weather conditions are considered safe for berthing. Berth No.2: Last vessel sailed loaded 0730 on 14/2, next berthing cancelled due to strong winds and heavy swell. Berth will remain empty until weather conditions are considered safe for berthing. Berth No.3: Vessel in berth loading. After vessel sails no other vessel will berth until weather conditions are considered safe for berthing. Gale and strong wind warning: Bowen to St Lawrence. Expect SSE winds 25/33 knots, reaching 30/40 knots in offshore open waters. Seas rising to 3-4 metres in open waters on an increasing SE swell. A complex low pressure system 1007hPa was located about 250 nm East of Bowen and was expected to move to the Northwest during the next 24 to 36 hours. A ridge of high pressure along the Eastern seaboard is forecast to weaken during Tuesday. Expect winds to ease below gales during Tuesday morning and generally winds easing below strong by late Tuesday. Please be aware that wind gusts can be a further 40% stronger than the averages given here, and maximum waves may be up to twice the height.
Dampier	14 Feb-2005	Iron ore: Shippers are experiencing some grade/stockpile problems. Some vessels will berth out of turn and the berthing lineup may change at short notice. Parker Point: One vessel loading at berth, 2 at anchor; 9 vessels due by 3/3; 1-8 days delay expected; East Intercourse Island; One vessel loading at berth, 1 at anchor; 13 vessels due by 27/2; A 36-hour maintenance shutdown will take place starting around 17/2; up to 8 days delay expected.
Gladstone	14 Feb-2005	Coal: R.G. Tanna coal terminal: Two vessels at berth, 3 at anchor; 33 vessels due by 12/3; up to 4 days delay expected; Barney Point: Ten vessels due by 21/3; up to 3 days delay expected.
Hay Point	14 Feb-2005	Coal: Five vessels at anchor; 10 vessels due by 24/2; Berth 2 will be shut down 2-14/3; up to 10 days delay expected. Berth no.1: Vessel sailed loaded 01:20 on 14/2. Next berthing cancelled due to strong winds and heavy swell. Berth will remain empty until weather conditions are considered safe for berthing. Berth no.2: Part loaded vessel removed to anchor 0230 on 14/2 due to strong winds and heavy swell. Berth will remain empty until weather conditions are considered safe for berthing. Gale and strong wind warning: Bowen to St Lawrence. Expect SSE winds 25/33 knots, reaching 30/40 knots in offshore open waters. Seas rising to 3-4 metres in open waters on an increasing SE swell. A complex low pressure system 1007hPa was located about 250nm East of Bowen and was expected to move to the Northwest during the next 24 to 36 hours. A ridge of high pressure along the Eastern seaboard is forecast to weaken during Tuesday. Expect winds to ease below gales during Tuesday morning and generally winds easing below strong by late Tuesday. Please be aware that wind gusts can be a further 40% stronger than the averages given here, and maximum waves may be up to twice the height.
Newcastle	14 Feb-2005	Coal: Kooragang 4, 5 and 6: Two vessels at berth, 7 at anchor; 35 vessels due by 1/3; Dykes 4+5: 2 vessels at berth, 2 at anchor; 20 vessels due by 1/3; Kooragang and Dyke terminals: 5 unallocated vessels due; 3-7 days delay expected.

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Port Conditions

Port Hedland	14 Feb-2005	Iron ore: BHP Iron Ore Pty. Ltd., Mt. Newman (Nelson Point), "A" berth: One vessel loading at berth, 5 vessels due by 22/2; up to 2 days delay expected; "B" berth: 1 vessel at anchor; 4 vessels due by 21/2; up to 2 days delay expected; BHP Iron Ore Pty. Ltd., Goldsworthy (Finucane Island "C" berth): 1 vessel at anchor; 2 vessels due by 23/2; up to 1 day's delay expected; Westyard "D" berth: 1 vessel loading at berth, 1 at anchor; 6 vessels due by 24/2; up to 4 days delay expected.
Port Kembla	14 Feb-2005	Coal: One vessel at anchor; 13 vessels due by 5/4; CB1: 2 vessels due by 7/3; up to 1 day's delay expected.
Port Walcott	14 Feb-2005	Iron ore: Two vessels loading at berth; 19 vessels due by 3/3; up to 6 days delay expected; shippers intend to replace 6 km of conveyor belting on 21/2, so it is expected that one berth will be out of service for 7 days; shippers request that load plans be submitted as early as possible (8 days) so they can co-ordinate 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.
Bulgaria		
Bourgas	14 Feb-2005	Sixteen vessels in port operating, of which 11 loading (5 coils, 2 copper anodes, 1 bulk ammonium nitrate, 1 copper concentrate, 1 scrap, 1 empty), 5 discharging (2 billets, 1 metals, 1 salt, 1 coal); 3 vessels waiting in roads, all to load, of which 1 coils, 2 empty; 12 vessels due, of which 6 to load (1 bulk ammonium nitrate, 1 jet oil, 1 coils, 1 steel sheets, 1 metals, 1 containers), 6 to discharge (1 containers, 2 coals, 1 iron ore, 1 manganese ore, 1 coke).
Varna	14 Feb-2005	Varna East, Varna West, Electrical Power Station, Balchik: Conditions 7-13 February: Thirty-six vessels in port operating of which 19 loading (4 bulk maize, 1 scrap, 1 bulk wheat, 1 hardboard, 1 technical equipment, 4 soda, 1 sunflower seeds, 1 bulk barley, 2 bulk sulphuric acid, 1 bulk copper concentrate, 1 kaolin/other, 1 kaolin/other/soda), 9 discharging (5 bulk coal, 1 bulk STPP, 1 bulk copper slag, 1 raw phosphate, 1 metal in packages), 8 discharging/loading containers; no vessels waiting in roads.
Chile		
Antofagasta	14 Feb-2005	Four vessels berthed, 3 berths vacant; 11 vessels due this week to load/discharge concentrates, bulk copper, containers and general cargo.
Valparaiso	14 Feb-2005	Four vessels berthed, 4 berths vacant; 4 vessels anchored; 13 vessels due this week.
Egypt		
Alexandria	14 Feb-2005	Forty-three vessels at berth (loading/discharging) of which 37 general cargo, 2 containers, 3 tankers, 1 bulk carrier 21 vessels at inner anchorage, 7 at outer anchorage; 15 vessels dry-docked.
Damietta	14 Feb-2005	Nineteen vessels at berth (loading/discharging) of which 13 general cargo, 2 bulk carriers, 4 container vessels; 5 vessels at outer anchorage.
Suez Canal	14 Feb-2005	Nineteen vessels transiting Northbound, 23 Southbound.
India		
Calcutta	15 Feb-2005	Five vessels loading at berth, 8 discharging at berth; no vessels waiting at anchorage; no vessels bunkering, none under repairs/dry-docked; 38 vessels due, with no delays expected.
Cochin	15 Feb-2005	Two vessels loading at berth, 3 discharging at berth; 1 other vessel in port; 2 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge, 2 waiting at anchorage to load; 1 vessel under repairs, 2 dry-docked; 19 vessels due, with no delays expected.
Jawaharlal Nehru	15 Feb-2005	One cement/food grain vessel discharging at berth, 2 tankers discharging at liquid berth; 4 tankers waiting at anchorage to discharge; 8 tankers due, with 5-6 days delay expected for berthing at LB-01 and LB-02.
Mumbai	15 Feb-2005	No labour problems. One vessel loading at berth, 4 discharging at berth; no vessels waiting at anchorage; 5 vessels due; expected delays: container vessels: 12 hours; bulkers: 1-2 days on completion of cargo documents; general cargo vessels: berthing within 24 hours of arrival.
Israel		
Ashdod	15 Feb-2005	No labour problems. Two general cargo vessels loading at berth, 9 vessels discharging at berth (7 general cargo, 2 bulkers), 3 vessels loading/discharging at berth (2 containers, 1 tanker); 4 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (3 general cargo, 1 bulker), 1 container vessel waiting at anchorage to load/discharge; no vessels under repairs/dry-docked, none awaiting orders; 23 vessels due, with 2-3 days delay expected.
Haifa	15 Feb-2005	No labour problems. Two bulkers discharging at berth, 6 vessels loading/discharging at berth (4 containers, 2 tankers); 6 vessels waiting at anchorage to load/discharge (4 containers, 2 tankers); 3 vessels under repairs/dry-docked, 1 awaiting orders; 17 vessels due, with 2-3 days delay expected.

Port Conditions

Poland

Gdansk	14 Feb-2005	Five vessels in port operating, all loading at berth (3 general cargo, 1 tanker, 1 bulker); 8 vessels under repairs/dry-docked; 17 vessels due.
Gdynia	14 Feb-2005	Four vessels in port operating of which 1 bulker loading at berth, 3 vessels discharging at berth (1 general cargo, 2 bulkers); 13 vessels under repairs/dry-docked; 39 vessels due.

Russia

Novorossiysk	14 Feb-2005	Seventeen vessels in port operating, of which 16 loading (1 copper, 2 bulk NPK, 1 DRI, 1 HBI, 1 pig-iron, 1 WRIC/pipes/steel billets, 1 barley, 1 coils, 1 steel billets, 1 bulk urea, 1 steel billets/slabs, 1 paper, 1 equipment, 1 cellulose, 1 diesel oil), 1 discharging bulk sugar; 12 vessels due, all to load, of which 3 coils, slabs, 2 steel billets, 1 aluminium 1 UAN solution, 1 pig-iron, 1 steel sheets, 1 diesel oil, 1 bulk urea; 101 vessels due of which 95 to load (5 coils, 1 natrium sulphate/WRIC/coils, 1 ammonium sulphate, 2 bulk urea, 1 zinc/lead, 1 zinc, 5 bulk NPK, 1 coils/steel billets, 1 pipes/equipment, 7 steel billets, 1 WRIC/pipes, 8 pig-iron, 17 aluminium, 3 scrap, 8 copper, 3 slabs, 2 DRI, 3 bulk ammonium nitrate, 1 copper/lead, 1 tin plates, 3 steel sheets, 1 scrap/coils, 1 steel sheets/pipes, 1 diesel oil, 1 slabs/pipes, 2 WRIC, 2 UAN solution, 2 HBI, 1 copper/aluminium, 1 cars, 3 paper, 1 bulk cement, 1 pipes, 1 barley), 4 to discharge (1 construction materials, 1 vegetables, 1 non-ferrous metals, 1 citrus), 2 to load/discharge containers. Oil terminal: no tankers berthed; 17 tankers in roads, all to load, of which 16 crude oil, 1 fuel oil; 11 tankers due, all to load, of which 8 crude oil, 2 fuel oil, 1 diesel oil.
Tuapse	14 Feb-2005	Oil products: Five vessels loading at berth (1 crude oil, 3 gasoil, 1 naphtha); 2 vessels in roads (1 crude oil, 1 gasoil); 9 vessels due by 14/2 (6 gasoil, 1 fuel oil, 1 naphtha, 1 crude oil).

Spain

Bilbao	15 Feb-2005	Twenty-three vessels in port operating (5 tankers, 18 others), of which 5 loading, 10 discharging, 8 loading/discharging.
Sagunto	15 Feb-2005	Twenty vessels in port operating of which 12 discharging (10 steel products, 1 fruit, 1 anhydrous ammonia), 2 loading (1 baled scrap, 1 cement), 5 Ro/Ros discharging/loading general cargo, 1 vessel loading/discharging steel products; no vessels outside commercial wharf; no berthing delays at present.

Sri Lanka

Colombo	14 Feb-2005	Berthing/unberthing (pilotage) delays being experienced on breakbulk/conventional vessels. Delays to conventional vessels are due to the fact that container/feeder vessels are given priority berthing at breakbulk berths if there is container congestion; conventional cargo vessels at BQ 1 & 2 are facing delays in navigation after commissioning of SAGT 1 & 2 berths (former QEQ 1 & 2). Eleven container/feeder vessels loading at berth, 17 vessels discharging at berth (11 containers/feeders, 1 bagged soybean meal, 3 bulk cement, 1 bagged maize, 2 bagged urea); 1 container/feeder vessel waiting at anchorage to load; 4 vessels dry-docked; no vessels at new tanker berth; 7 vessels due (6 containers/feeders, 1 Ro/Ro), with no delays for general cargo, bagged cargo, containers/feeders expected.
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Ukraine

Illichevsk	14 Feb-2005	Eight vessels in port operating, of which 6 loading (1 containers, 5 steel products), 2 discharging/loading containers; 7 vessels in roads of which 3 to load steel products, 4 to discharge/load containers; 14 vessels due, of which 13 to load (1 oil, 11 steel products, 1 barley), 1 to discharge ore.
Mariupol	14 Feb-2005	Seven vessels in port operating, of which 6 loading (2 steel, 1 fire-clay, 1 coal, 1 barley, 1 ammonium saltpetre), 1 discharging acid/borax; 12 vessels in roads, all to load, of which 5 steel, 1 sulphur, 4 coal, 1 ammonium nitrate, 1 fire-clay; 62 vessels due, of which 57 to load (25 steel, 14 coal, 8 fire-clay, 9 sulphur, 1 pitch), 3 to discharge (1 MIS, 1 foodstuffs, 1 equipment), 2 to discharge/load (1 magnetite/coke, 1 fire-clay/containers).
Odessa	14 Feb-2005	Twenty-two vessels in port operating, of which 13 loading (6 metal, 1 wood/metal, 1 iron ore/metal, 1 corn, 1 pig-iron, 1 scrap, 1 wheat, 1 oil), 8 discharging (1 luggage, 1 sugar, 2 citrus, 3 wheat, 1 bananas), 1 passenger vessel; 4 vessels in roads, all to load, of which 2 metal, 2 wheat; 77 vessels due, of which 40 to load (32 metal, 1 pipes, 1 scrap, 2 oil, 1 wood, 2 barley, 1 cars), 7 to discharge (3 citrus, 2 oil, 1 building materials, 1 luggage), 30 to discharge/load containers.

Port Conditions

United States

Columbia River	15 Feb-2005	Columbia River draft advisory: Maximum permissible deep draft is 40 ft. 0 ins.
Galveston, TX	15 Feb-2005	No new restriction in draft (normal 39 ft. 6 ins. max. channel draft reported – 40 ft. 0 ins. with ideal conditions). Channel open under normal traffic. ADM-Farmland terminal: 1-2 days delay expected.
Houston, TX	15 Feb-2005	Pilots report normal 40 ft. 0 ins. max. draft in Houston ship channel; foggy weather delaying inbound/outbound traffic; Cargill terminal: 1-3 days delay; LDC Dreyfus terminal: 2 days delay.
Kalama, WA	15 Feb-2005	Kalama export terminal: 7 days delay; United Harvest terminal: no delays.
New Orleans	15 Feb-2005	Mississippi River terminal berthing delays: Cenex-Harstates/Myrtle Grove: 3 days delay expected; Cargill-Westwego: 3 days delay expected; ADM/Ama: 8-10 days delay expected; Bunge/Destrehan: 10 days delay expected; ADM/Destrehan: 8-10 days delay expected; ADM/Reserve: 8-10 days delay expected; Cargill/Reserve: 2 days delay expected; Peavey/Paulina: 1 day's delay expected; Zen-Noh/Convent: 4-5 days delay expected; Cargill/Baton Rouge: no delays; Mississippi River mid-stream buoys - estimated berthing delays based on new vessel presented as load-ready and weather permitting: Mile 121.5 ADM (Gemini) - Destrehan: 1 day's delay expected; Mile 158.0 Cargill (K2) - Convent: no delays; Mile 180.0 Cooper (America) - Darrow: 2 days delay expected. Nine-day forecast for Carrolton Gauge/New Orleans: expected to decrease to 11.8 ft. by 24/2. Mississippi River recommended draft restrictions: SW Pass to New Orleans (Mile 090.0) - 47 ft. for all vessels; New Orleans (Mile 090) to Baton Rouge (Mile 233.5) - 45 ft. for all vessels; vessels with draughts up to 47 ft. have been handled up to Mile 180 in the past, but are approved by pilots on a case by case basis, based on current river conditions; Motiva Convent dock No. 1 is restricted to a max. draught of 38 ft. until dredging can be completed; dock No. 2 is restricted to 30 ft.; it is anticipated that dredging will take place some time during the first half of 2005; Mississippi River Gulf outlet: 31 ft. bw.
Portland, OR	15 Feb-2005	Grain terminal: 3 days delay; CLD Irving terminal: 2 days delay; CLD, O Dock terminals: no delays.
Tacoma, WA	15 Feb-2005	Temco terminal: 2 days delay.

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