

February 3 2006

Rescuers find bodies from Egyptian ferry sinking

By David Osler — Friday February 03 2006

RESCUE teams have picked up dozens of bodies from the Egyptian ropax ferry that sank with some 1,300 people on board on Friday, police sources said.

Search and rescue attempts are being hampered by bad weather. There is no immediate word of the cause, although speculation has so far centred on the possibility of a collision.

Al Salam Boccaccio 98 (11,779 gt, built 1970) reportedly disappeared off radar screens off the Saudi coast this morning.

The ship had left Duba in Saudi Arabia and was due to have arrived at Safaga in Egypt at 0300, local time, but did not, Egyptian maritime officials added.

Britain has diverted a warship HMS Bulwark to the northern Red Sea and will arrive in a day-and-a-half, Alan West, Britain's first sea lord said.

It is reportedly operated by Al Salam Maritime Transport of Heliopolis, Cairo.

An official of the company, Adel Shukri, told the BBC he was not aware of any SOS from the crew. Its last known position was some 100km from Duba, and helicopters have spotted at least one lifeboat nearby.

Panama-flag Al Salam Boccaccio 98 operated between 1970 and 1999 for an Italian company.

The ship is classed by Registro Italiano Navale whose spokesman Mario Dogliani said its surveyors in Cairo and Dubai "are still trying to get information on what happened, but have very little yet."

He added that: "we carried out our last structural survey on the vessel in June of 2005, and an interim ISM code audit in October, and there was nothing significant to report. We also verified its stability in October, 2003

He added that the Panama-flag vessel was built in 1970 at the Italcantieri yard in Castellamare di Stabia near Naples, which is now part of Fincantieri. It is 118m long with a beam of 23.6m and a draught of 5.9m.

According to the BBC, a sister ship of the al Salam Boccaccio 98 sank in the Red Sea in October after a collision.

If fatalities are at the higher end of estimates, the incident could rank among the worst levery seen in a ferry disaster.

It would top the death tolls suffered by the Herald of Free Enterprise (193 deaths in 1987), Scandinavian Star (158 deaths in 1990), Estonia (852 deaths in 1994) and Joola (1,863 deaths in 2002).

Indian unions unite against toxic ship Clemenceau

Three large trade unions in India said yesterday that they would take action to stop a decommissioned French warship from entering an Indian shipbreaking yard, unless it is cleared of toxic waste on board, AP reports .

Environmental activists say Clemenceau holds hundreds of tonnes of toxic waste, including 500 tonnes of asbestos.

"We are determined to stop the ship from entering Indian waters," said P Ganguly of Center of Indian Trade Unions, which is affiliated to the country's biggest communist party.

The ship left from the French Mediterranean port of Toulon on December 31 and is expected to reach the Alang shipbreaking yard, western India in early March.

CITU along with the All India Trade Union Congress and the National Trade Union of India was mobilising workers to demonstrate, Ganguly said.

The trade unions also plan to hold protest rallies in the Indian capital, including one during the upcoming visit of French President Jacques Chirac later this month, Mr Ganguly said.

"We are not against shipbreaking per se, as that creates jobs. What we want is that the Clemenceau should be cleared of all toxic waste before it comes here," said H Mahadevan of the All India Trade Union Congress.

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

Vessel	Type	Flag	Class	GT	DWT	Bit	Casualty
<i>A.AKIF</i>	general	KHM	—	3,269	4,600	1967	Reported not under command in stormy weather in lat 39 38N, long 24 38E, 23 nautical miles south-west of Limnos Island, Jan 23. Tug and frigate on way. Reported Jan 24 sinking in lat 39 00.21N, long 23 57E.
<i>ANDREAS K.</i>	bulker	PAN	PR	10,561	17,467	1977	Listed while bunkering at the pier at Midgard, Jan 24, causing about 200 litres of heavy fuel oil to spill into the river Weser. Investigation and clean-up under way.
<i>FALAK G.</i>	general	SVK	PR	1,454	2,489	1972	Grounded on rocks near Uvala Koromacno, Croatia, Jan 22. Engine-room and one hold flooded. Two tugs on scene awaiting gale to abate before assisting.
<i>GLOBAL PEACE</i>	bulker	PAN	—	67,727	132,086	1982	While berthing at Gladstone Jan 24, tug <i>Tom Tough</i> struck and holed the vessel's hull, causing spillage of 25,000 litres of heavy fuel oil into the harbour. Cleanup under way.
<i>GUCLU 4</i>	general	PRK	—	1,216	2,170	—	Sank outside Tartous port breakwater due bad weather and high winds Jan 20. Five of the 7 crew rescued.
<i>IRENA ARCTICA</i>	container	DIS	NV	8,939	5,817	1995	Touched ground while manoeuvring at Reykjavik prev Jan 20. Damage severe. Arrived Gdansk Jan 23.
<i>KOSTAS</i>	general	HND	—	988	1,186	1965	Developed list and drifting about 66 nautical miles off Skikda Jan 23. Seven crew rescued, one missing. Reported Jan 25 under tow to Skikda.
<i>KOTA AKBAR</i>	bulk/ container	SGP	LR	17,738	22,257	1993	Reported 25 Jan 2006: Had fire break out in a container on board, affecting about 500 containers externally. Cargo damage minimal, apart from original burning container
<i>MARIELLE BOLTEN</i>	general	LBR	AB ABS	19,354	29,517	1997	Reported Jan 24 aground at the entrance to the bay at Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. Salvage teams on site.
<i>MAXIM'S DES MERS</i>	passenger	BHS	—	1,280	—	1942	Observed lying in an abandoned, derelict and semi-submerged condition at Toulon Dec 4.
<i>MS. ANGEL</i>	barge	USA	—	239	—	2005	Partially sank in the Intracoastal Waterway, at Forked Island, Jan 24. Waterway blocked.
<i>MOUNT TROODOS</i>	bulker	CYP	LR	20,446	35,063	1982	Grounded on soft mud, while taking bunkers at Mile 79, lower River Mississippi, Jan 25. Refloated same day and anchored under restriction order.
<i>STADUM</i>	general	ATG	GL	1,984	2,851	1989	Contacted pilot boat in River Elbe while being towed by tug <i>Corvin</i> from Brunsbuttel to Poland Jan 22. Arrived Gdynia Jan 24 for repairs. ETC 30 days.
<i>VEGA</i>	general	UKR	—	2,406	3,983	1965	Grounded, causing water ingress into hatches, at Tuzla Shipyard Jan 14. Refloated by salvors.
<i>YONG SHENG NO. 1</i>	general	BLZ	—	498	1,548	1983	Reported in tow of a Coast Guard patrol vessel in lat 33 27N, long 137 25E, Jan 26, due engine trouble.

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The following reports are reprinted from Lloyd's List



A.AKIF (Cambodia)

London, Jan 24 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 0820, UTC: General cargo *A.Akif* (3269 gt, built 1967), sixteen crew, was reported not under command in about lat 39 38N, long 24 38E, 23 nautical miles south-west of Limnos Island, at approximately 2330, local time, yesterday. Vessel is still adrift. Bad weather has prevented helicopters rescuing the crew. A tug and a Navy frigate are proceeding to the area.

London, Jan 24 — Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: Before midnight Jan 23, the Centre of Search and Rescue was advised via Olympia Radio that general cargo *A.Akif* was not under command due to engine damage about 23 nautical miles south-west of Limnos. On board were 16 crewmembers. Previously the vessel had sailed in ballast from Smyrna to bunker at Canakkale and thereafter to proceed to Romania. In the area were winds of 10-11 Beaufort. Immediately the nearby Coast Guard stations and helicopters were placed on readiness and a frigate of the Greek Navy was sent to the area. Nearby vessels were notified and crude oil tanker *Apanemo* and product tanker *Pride A.* responded to offer assistance. About one hour and 15 minutes after the initial report the master requested assistance for the crew to abandon ship. Immediately a search and rescue helicopter took off despite limited visibility, low cloud, snowfall and the storm prevailing in the area. The helicopter approached the vessel but despite repeated efforts to rescue the crew it was impossible due to the difficult weather conditions. Therefore the helicopter returned to base. The stricken vessel was directed to the islet Psathoura of the Northern Sporades, if it became possible to proceed under own power. Nearby remain general cargo *Sakorya*, *Apanemo* and *Pride A.* Further rescue efforts will proceed as the weather improves.

London, Jan 24 — Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: The Search and Rescue Centre remains in continuous communication with stricken general cargo *A.Akif*, which remains not under command, now south of the islets of Kyra Panagia of the North Sporades islands. Last reported position during the night was lat 39 38N, long 024 38E. The winds in the area are now 10 on the Beaufort scale. The antipollution stations at Volos and Limnos have been placed in readiness.

London, Jan 24 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 1545, UTC: General cargo *A.Akif* was reported sinking in lat 39 00.21N, long 23 57E, about two hours ago. Fourteen crew have been safely rescued by another

vessel but the other two crewmen are still missing. (See issue of Jan 25.)

Piraeus, Jan 24 — General cargo *A.Akif*, Izmir for Canakkale for bunkering, final destination Constantza, sustained mechanical failure 23 nautical miles south-west of Lemnos Island, thus rendering same ungovernable. Master requested help in order to abandon ship at 0130 today. Due to the adverse weather conditions, strong winds, snowfall and fog prevailing at that time and place the rescue operation organised by the coast guard authorities was not successful. The coast guard and navy helicopters and vessels could not approach the vessel which is drifting towards the sea area of Northern Sporades. All 11 crew member are reportedly healthy. Vessels *Apanemo*, *Sakura* and *Pride A* have also proceeded on site and remain nearby ready to provide assistance. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Jan 25 — Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: At about 1515, local time, Jan 24, general cargo *A.Akif*, which remained not under command two nautical miles South of Adelfoi islets, took a large list and the crewmembers abandoned the vessel in lat 39 04N, long 23 58.4E. Fifteen out of the 16 crew boarded a lifeboat, however, one fell into the sea. The frigate of the Greek Navy which remained next to the stricken vessel and despite the bad weather rescued 14 of the crew. At 1615 vessel sank and shortly afterwards the lifeboat sank also. The frigate continues the search of the area for the missing two crewmembers. Vessels in vicinity have also been requested to search. In the area winds were north-east force 10 (storm), visibility less than 500 metres and snowfall.

London, Jan 26 — Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: The Greek Navy frigate which rescued 14 crewmembers of general cargo *A.Akif* is expected to arrive at Volos to disembark them. The search for the two missing crew is continued by the Air Force and tug *Matsas Star*. Conditions in the area are winds NE 10 Beaufort, visibility 0.5-1.0nm and snowfall. Volos Port Authority is performing an investigation into the incident.

AL MANARA (St. Kitts-Nevis)

See "Somalia" under "Piracy".

ALFASHIP (Bahamas)

Piraeus, Jan 26 — Crude oil tanker *Alfaship* remains at Kynosoura, Salamis island, undergoing repairs, ETD unknown. — Lloyd's Agents.

AMADA (North Korea)

Piraeus, Jan 24 — General cargo *Amada* still remains at Kalamata, port, ETD unknown. — Lloyd's Agents.

ANANGEL DYNASTY (Greece)

London, Jan 20 — Dardanelles strait will close for Southbound vessels and

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will open for Northbound vessels Jan 20. Southbound vessel traffic will close at 1830, local time, Jan 20. Northbound vessel traffic will open at 2030, local time, today because of grounded bulk *Anangel Dynasty* in front of Nara lighthouse.

London, Jan 23 — Dardanelles strait will close for Northbound vessels and will open for Southbound vessels today. Northbound vessel traffic will open at 0230, local time, today. Southbound vessel traffic will open at 0400, local time, today, because of grounded bulk *Anangel Dynasty* in front of Nara lighthouse.

London, Jan 23 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 1640, UTC: Bulk *Anangel Dynasty* remains aground at present, according to information from its managers.

London, Jan 24 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 1550, UTC: Bulk *Anangel Dynasty* is still aground in the Dardanelles.

London, Jan 26 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 1215, UTC: Bulk *Anangel Dynasty* is still aground in the Dardanelles.

ANDREAS K. (Panama)

Bremen, Jan 26 — A local newspaper reports: Bulk *Andreas K.* (10561 gt, built 1977), bunkering at the pier of Midgard, developed a list to one side while bunkering, fuel oil flowed out of another tank at about 2300, Jan 24. About 200 litres heavy fuel oil flowed into the River Weser at Nordenham. The majority of this oil found its way to the deck of the vessel where with the prevalent low temperatures the fuel became lumpy and formed a thick cover. However, several tonnes went overboard and into the river Weser. It is still unknown why the fuel oil was able to flow out of a tank not involved in the bunkering operation. The water police of Brake is investigating the accident. The majority of the oil which came into the river could be collected shortly after the accident with the help of the oil recovery vessel *Osk I.* — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Andreas K.* arrived Nordenham at 0630, Jan 23.)

ANG PANGULO (Philippines)

Manila, Jan 23 — The Philippine Navy said that it would not ask Keppel Philippines Marine to pay for the damage caused by a fire which struck the Philippine presidential yacht *Ang Pangulo* on Jan 14 at Keppel Batangas shipyard. "Keppel Philippines Marine will not be made liable for the damages," Philippine Navy spokesperson Captain Geronimo Malabanan said today. He said that the Philippine Navy would pay for the cost of repairs resulting from the fire. Initial findings cited "faulty electrical wiring" as the cause of the fire although a formal investigation is currently being conducted to determine the exact cause. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

ANGIE MAR (Colombia)

See "Drugs Found On Colombian Flag Vessel" under "Miscellaneous".

APL PANAMA (Antigua & Barbuda)

Mexico City, Jan 24 — The situation of c.c. *APL Panama* remains the same. However, some containers have been discharged using a helicopter. Ocean Line is currently sending the Consignees the Average Bonds "A" to be filled by them and the "B" to the Insurance Companies and/or the Adjusters. — Lloyd's Agents.

ARKAIM III (Cambodia)

London, Jan 24 — General cargo *Arkaim III* sailed Sovetskaya Gavan Jan 17 for Vanino.

ATHOS I (Cyprus)

London, Jan 20 — A press report, dated today, states: The Coast Guard has completed the investigation into the cause of the oil spill from crude oil tanker *Athos I* that occurred on the Delaware River on the evening of Nov 26, 2004. Coast Guard investigators concluded that the vessel came in contact with a submerged anchor while maneuvering through Anchorage No.9 en route to its berth at the Citgo Asphalt Refining Facility in Paulsboro, N.J. The anchor punctured the vessel's bottom plating in a ballast tank and a cargo tank, resulting in the release of nearly 264,000 gallons of crude oil. Following the incident, surveys of the river bottom in the vicinity of the casualty were conducted by the Army Corps of Engineers and commercial surveyors contracted by the vessel's owner. The surveys revealed numerous submerged objects in the area, including a large concrete block and a pump casing. The vessel actually struck all three of these objects; however, analysis of paint chips and the unique shape and dimensions of the hull damage revealed the anchor as the source of the puncture. "There was no evidence that any violation of applicable international rules, Federal law or regulations contributed to this incident," said Capt. David Scott, Commander of Coast Guard Sector Delaware Bay. "The vessel came up river with a draught of 36 feet 6 inches. Our investigator's review of the vessel's voyage management plan indicated that appropriate calculations were made to ensure adequate under keel clearance for the prevailing 40-foot channel depth." Coast Guard investigators were unable to determine the owner of the 18,000 pound anchor, nor establish how long it was submerged in Anchorage No.9. "Evidence suggests the anchor may have been lodged in the vessel for a brief time," Scott said, "therefore we were not able to determine its precise location, nor its orientation before coming in contact with the vessel." Because bottom surveys conducted subsequent to the incident revealed numerous submerged objects in that area, the Coast Guard has recommended that navigation guidelines currently in effect for the Delaware River be reviewed to ensure they remain appropriate. "In addition,

we've also recommended that legislation be adopted that requires immediate reporting to the Coast Guard of any objects that have been lost or discarded into a navigable channel or anchorage that can impede safe navigation," said Scott. The active spill clean up of nearly 57 miles of shoreline in Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware was concluded just last month. "We will continue to monitor the affected areas, and are prepared to take appropriate action in the event any residual *Athos I* related oil is detected in the future," Scott noted. More than 18,000 tons of oily solids were removed in the clean up. Cost of the clean-up is estimated to exceed \$150 million.

BAHIA DE ESPIRITU SANTO (Mexico)

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

BALTIC SKIPPER (Gibraltar)

London, Jan 24 — General cargo *Baltic Skipper* remains at Wilhelmshaven at present.

BEACON 3 (Belize)

Piraeus, Jan 20 — C.c. *Beacon 3* still remains in Piraeus under detention. ETD unknown. — Lloyd's Agents.

BLACKFRIARS (U.K.)

Liverpool, Jan 26 — Product tanker *Blackfriars* sailed from Liverpool on Jan 26 for Milford Haven. — Lloyd's Agents.

BRUCE W543 (U.S.A.)

See *R.S.Sterling*.

CALIFORNIA MERCURY (Japan)

Seattle, Jan 18 — C.c. *California Mercury* (41442 gt, built 1987) reports that due to bad weather they have had a cargo incident. It is reported that 43 containers are overboard and eight damaged. The vessel's ETA at Seattle is Jan 23. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note *California Mercury* departed from Busan on Jan 12, bound for Seattle.

Seattle, Jan 23 — C.c. *California Mercury* is now moored in Port Angeles, WA, for U.S. Coast Guard inspection. — Lloyd's Agents.

CAPE BRADLEY (Marshall Islands)

London, Jan 26 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: Understand chemical/oil carrier *Cape Bradley* is to get a new bow at Lloyd Werft Bremerhaven.

CASSIOPE (Cambodia)

London, Jan 25 — A press report, dated today, states: General cargo *Cassiope* (2406 gt, built 1968), which has a Ukrainian crew, was punctured by an ice block near Yeisk in the Sea of Azov yesterday. According to the Emergency Situations Ministry's department in Mariupol, a rescue operation is presently underway. Fourteen members of the vessel have been provided with sufficient water and food. The vessel has been towed

to a sandbank. There are 24 tons of diesel fuel and timber on board the vessel. There are no injured on board the vessel. (Note — *Cassiope* was last reported to have sailed Yeisk Jan 21 for Turkey.)

CAST PRESTIGE (Germany)

Montreal, Jan 24 — C.c. *Cast Prestige* arrived in Montreal at 0742 hrs, Jan 18. The vessel encountered rough seas during its westbound voyage. Reportedly, about 150 tonnes of heavy fuel oil leaked into cargo holds contaminating some containers. The cleaning of cargo holds and containers is in progress and may take days. The cause of leakage is yet to be investigated /determined. — Lloyd's Agents.

CELINE I (Liberia)

Beirut, Jan 23 — Bulk/oil *Celine I* (45025 gt, built 1983) while at anchorage at Liguigaz Oil Terminal in Jounieh, today, preparing discharge of cargo of gas oil and due to heavy weather, the nine underwater flexible pipes were broken. No cargo was discharged and vessel had to proceed to anchorage at Uniterminal, Dora, awaiting for the weather to improve. — Lloyd's Agents.

Beirut, Jan 24 — Bulk/oil *Celine I* started discharging at noon, today at Uniterminal Dora, ETC Jan 25, weather permitting. — Lloyd's Agents.

CELTIC TERRIER (U.K.)

Poznan, Jan 25 — As per agent's information, the repairs to chem.tank *Celtic Terrier* should be finalized on Monday (Jan 30), destination not known at the moment. There was some minor damage to the shell plating in the aft part of vessel — Lloyd's Agents.

CHAMPION ADRIATIC (NIS)

London, Jan 24 — Product tanker *Champion Adriatic* arrived Diliskelesi Jan 7 and sailed Jan 8.

CHRISTINA (U.K.)

London, Jan 24 — Repairs to fishing *Christina* were effected at Parkol Marine, Whitby and the vessel departed on about Dec 23 to return to normal service.

CLEMENCEAU (Decommissioned Aircraft Carrier)

Geneva, Jan 19 — Indian workers must be protected against asbestos and other hazardous materials if India allows decommissioned aircraft carrier *Clemenceau* to be scrapped, the International Labour Organisation (ILO) said today. The vessel left France in December for the Alang shipbreaking yard in the western state of Gujarat but the Indian Supreme Court on Monday (Jan 16) barred it from entering the country's waters pending a report by environmental experts. The Egyptian parliament on Tuesday asked the government to stop the *Clemenceau* from passing through the Suez Canal until the parliament completed a

debate on the vessel's safety. It has been waiting near the northern entrance to the Suez Canal for Egyptian authorities to decide whether it is safe to let it pass through the canal. Greenpeace says the 27,000-tonne vessel contains tonnes of hazardous material, including 500 tonnes of toxic asbestos, that could harm scrap workers. An estimated 100,000 people die each year from work-related asbestos exposure, according to the ILO. — Reuters.

London, Jan 23 — A press report, dated today, states: Decommissioned aircraft carrier *Clemenceau* was finally allowed to enter the Suez canal today on its passage to India for dismantling, after more than a week of controversy, Egyptian and French officials said. *Clemenceau* had been prevented from sailing through the Suez canal for several days because of fears over the toxic chemicals it contained, before Cairo ruled it could make the voyage. "The aircraft carrier has entered the Suez canal," the spokesman for the canal authority, General Mohammad Moussa, said. Cairo barred the vessel from the Suez canal and requested proof that the vessel was not violating the Basel Convention, which bans the export of hazardous waste. By this morning *Clemenceau* was south of Ismailiya, about halfway through the Suez canal, a French diplomat said.

COURAGE (U.S.A.)

London, Jan 26 — Vehicle *Courage* sailed Southampton at 1240, UTC, Jan 24, for New York.

CP VALOUR (Bermuda)

Ponta Delgada, Jan 19 — C.c. *CP Valour* is still grounded in the same position at Faial, waiting to be dismantled. It has been reported that some containers have fallen overboard and others have been damaged on board in consequence of the heavy weather. — Lloyd's Agents.

CRYSTAL ORCHID (Malta)

Balboa, Jan 19 — Ref *Crystal Orchid* is still under repair. The vessel's ETD is not presently known. — Lloyd's Agents.

Balboa, Jan 23 — Understand ref *Crystal Orchid* completed repairs and had successful sea trial Jan 22. Now anchored Balboa awaiting northbound transit of Canal which presently scheduled for AM Jan 24 with ETD Cristobal AM Jan 25. — Lloyd's Agents.

DANICA RED (DIS)

London, Jan 26 — Following received from Coastguard Dover MRCC, timed 0454, UTC: General cargo *Danica Red* (902 gt, built 1983), Margate roads for Diego Garcia, reports aft derrick mast damaged and unsafe in lat 51 29.02N, long 01 17.62E. The vessel is proceeding into a sheltered area or anchorage to effect repairs. If repairs can be successfully carried out, the vessel will proceed on voyage,

otherwise it will anchor within the Port of London Authority area.

DBL 152 (U.S.A.)

London, Jan 25 — A press report, dated Jan 20, states: Tank barge *DBL 152* spilled more than one million gallons of oil in the Gulf of Mexico last year after hitting a submerged drilling platform wrecked by Hurricane "Rita", the Coast Guard says. The Nov 11 spill off the coasts of Louisiana and Port Arthur, Texas and the \$35 million clean-up associated with it, might have been avoided if the owners of the oil platform had marked the submerged wreck with a lighted buoy, as required under federal law, Coast Guard officials said today. The barge operator, K-Sea Transportation, paid for the clean-up, but future litigation is expected against the owner of the platform, Coast Guard environmental specialist Patrick Cuty in New Orleans said today. The wrecked platform, owned by Houston-based Targa Resources, was marked only with floating plastic balls described as "cherry fenders." Such buoys are not lit and would be difficult to see at midnight, when the accident happened. Targa spokesman Joe Bob Perkins said today there were no lights on the *WC-229* platform, but "it was marked" and the location was well known to mariners. He said the barge was "significantly" off course when it struck the platform. "The Coast Guard advised all mariners of the location of the sunken platform and that it was only marked with unlit buoys," Perkins told said. The damaged barge, now floating upside down at a dock off Mobile Bay, has been drained. A gash in the hull is 35 feet long and 6 feet wide. The fuel oil on board was so heavy it sank to the seafloor as it gushed from three separate cargo holds and, according to Coast Guard news releases, has not yet washed up on any shorelines. An estimated 134,400 gallons of the spilled oil was recovered from the seafloor. But rough weather immediately after the accident thwarted cleanup efforts for days at a time. Federal records show at least 167 Gulf platforms were damaged or destroyed during the active 2005 hurricane season. Many of these are now submerged or so damaged that the warning beacons on them no longer function, and federal officials acknowledge they have no idea how many have working marker lights. Targa's spokesman said today the Coast Guard approved using unlit buoys and advised Targa it could deploy lighted buoys when they became available and when crews and ships could be found to deploy the buoys. According to the Code of Federal Regulations, it is the responsibility of the owner of a wrecked platform to ensure that it is appropriately marked. Officials at Coast Guard headquarters said the agency does not have an inspection process to determine if the wrecked platforms have been properly marked. But, they said, companies are subject

to fines if they are found to have shirked the buoy requirement. Targa has co-operated fully with the Coast Guard's investigation of the barge's accident, the company spokesman said, and no action has been taken against Targa.

DELTA RANGER (Bahamas)

See "Somalia" under "Piracy."

DENIZ ATI (North Korea)

Istanbul, Jan 23 — Cement *Deniz Ati* completed necessary repairs by its own means and upon inspection/formalities sailed from Canakkale at 2145, local time, Jan 20. — Lloyd's Agents.

DEPEMAS 51 (Argentina)

See *Eladia Isabel*.

DONA PAZ (Philippines)

London, Jan 20 — Caltex Philippines, charterer of tanker *Vector* involved in a collision with ferry *Dona Paz* has been absolved of liability by a court in the Philippines. *Vector* was carrying 8,800 barrels of petroleum products for Caltex Philippines when it was in collision with the heavily overloaded *Dona Paz* in December, 1987. A massive fire followed the collision, leaving more than 4,300 dead. An appellate court in the Philippines has upheld a 1997 ruling dismissing claims by the ferry's operator, Sulpicio Lines, and Prudential Guarantee Insurers against Caltex Philippines. Sulpicio Lines claimed that *Vector* and Caltex, as its charterer, were to blame for the incident. The ferry company alleged the tanker lacked navigational sidelights and was grossly unseaworthy and that its master lacked a chief mate's licence. However, the Philippines judge found that Caltex had "no obligation to, nor is it in a position, to determine the seaworthiness of the vessel it employs". "The charterer is not liable for damages by the negligence of the latter, Vector Shipping, in handling the ship," he stated. In November 1988, a Philippines maritime inquiry found *Vector* responsible for the collision and described the tanker as "a floating hazard for navigation". Sulpicio Lines received Pesos25 million (\$460,000) in insurance payments from Prudential, representing part of the lost value of the sunken ferry, and has since filed suits against Vector Shipping and Caltex to indemnify itself for cargo and passenger claims it had already paid out.

DS FREEWAY (Bahamas)

See "Cocoa Laden Vessel Delayed at New York, United States" under "Miscellaneous".

EIDER (Hong Kong)

Balboa, Jan 19 — Bulk *Eider* is still in dry dock but is expected to be refloated late today or tomorrow, with completion of repairs and ETD in the next few days. — Lloyd's Agents.

Balboa, Jan 23 — Bulk *Eider* reportedly refloated in drydock on/about Jan 20 and proceeded to Balboa anchorage afternoon Jan 21 under tow of two tugs. As of PM, Jan 22, remained in the anchorage for reasons unknown to us. — Lloyd's Agents.

EILEEN (Gibraltar)

Gibraltar, Jan 26 — Product tanker *Eileen* has been stationed in Gibraltar, where she has recently entered into dry dock, and is being converted into a double hull. — Lloyd's Agents.

ELADIA ISABEL (Uruguay)

Buenos Aires, Jan 20 — According to the Argentinian Coast Guard (PNA), passenger ro/ro *Eladia Isabel* (7799 gt, built 1986), Colonia, Uruguay, for Buenos Aires with 662 passengers and 42 crew members, and fishing *Depemas 51* (331 gt, built 1969), which was sailing towards fishing area, with 29 crew members on board, collided 6 km off the port of Buenos Aires, leading to both vessels running aground. There were no casualties on either vessel. PNA dispatched tugs to assist the sailing of the *Eladia Isabel* into the port of Buenos Aires. — Lloyd's Agents.

EMERALD STAR (Belgium)

London, Jan 25 — A press report, dated today, states: The master of trawler *Emerald Star* (297 gt, built 1983) that struck a Texaco refinery jetty last week is to be prosecuted for being drunk while charge of a vessel. The Belgian skipper of *Emerald Star* provided police with a positive breathe test at Milford Haven Port while a second test, taken at Haverfordwest Police Station, was borderline. Officers then administered a blood test which has now been sent away for analysis. The skipper has been bailed until March. Milford Haven Port Authority has already begun legal proceedings. "We lodged a complaint with the courts," said Harbourmaster Mark Andrews. "The court has now issued a private summons, the charges being navigating while drunk and navigating without due care and attention. "He will appear in court at the end of February." Port Authority staff spotted the trawler, a regular visitor to Milford Haven Docks, was on a collision course using radar, but were unable to prevent the incident. Captain Andrews said the authority was now considering how best to learn from the incident to prevent future accidents.

London, Jan 25 — The Marine Accident Investigation Branch are currently investigating trawler *Emerald Star* which was in contact with the Texaco Jetty at Milford Haven on Jan 18.

ENDURANCE (U.K.)

London, Jan 21 — Following received from Coastguard Shetland MRSC, timed 0625, UTC: Intercepted conversation between trawler

Endurance (437 gt, built 1999), BF 98, and rig stand by *Grampian Conquest* at 0403, UTC, that *Endurance* in lat 60 48.72N, long 02 22.29W, fouled propeller and drifting without power. Requires tow to Shetland. Aith RNLI lifeboat due to arrive on scene at 0740, UTC, to commence tow of *Endurance* back to Shetland.

London, Jan 21 — Following received from Coastguard Shetland MRSC, timed 0856, UTC: Trawler *Endurance* taken in tow by Aith RNLI lifeboat at 0828, UTC. Vessels ETA Collafirth Pier 1900, UTC.

London, Jan 21 — Following received from Coastguard Shetland MRSC, timed 1933, UTC: Trawler *Endurance* arrived alongside Collafirth Pier 1930, UTC.

ENERGY 5501 (U.S.A.)

London, Jan 22 — A press report, dated Jan 21, states: Supply vessel company Hornbeck Offshore Services Inc. reported that an undertermined amount of gasoline leaked from one of its tank barges this morning in New Haven, Ct. The gasoline escaped from the barge during the discharge of the product at a terminal at about 0500, the company said. The barge is owned by a Hornbeck subsidiary, Hornbeck Offshore Transportation. The company said the initial leak was contained within a containment boom typically deployed at the discharge location. The source of the leak is still being investigated. Hornbeck Offshore activated its vessel response plan and the appropriate authorities representing the U.S. Coast Guard, Connecticut environmental authorities and local police and fire departments arrived on the scene. Additionally, the company's spill response contractor was on site. At the time of the report, the spill had ended and company representatives were on-scene to help co-ordinate the the discharge of the remainder of the gasoline from the barge and the mitigation of the spilled gasoline.

London, Jan 23 — A press report, dated Jan 21, states: Hornbeck Offshore Services Inc announced today that tank barge *Energy 5501* (3275 gt, built 1969), owned by its subsidiary, Hornbeck Offshore Transportation, reported at 0500, EST, today that an as yet undetermined amount of gasoline had escaped from the barge during the discharge of the product at a New Haven terminal location. The source of the leak is still being investigated. The initial leak was contained within the containment boom that is typically deployed at the discharge location. Hornbeck Offshore activated its vessel response plan and the appropriate authorities representing the United States Coast Guard, the Connecticut DEQ, and the local police and fire departments are on the scene. In addition, the Company's spill response contractor has been activated and is on site. The spill has now ceased and the on-scene representatives of the Company and the agencies involved are co-

ordinating the discharge of the remainder of the gasoline from the barge and the mitigation of the spilled gasoline.

London, Jan 23 — A press report, dated today, states: Hornbeck Offshore Services, Inc. announced today that the gasoline discharge from one of its barges (tank barge *Energy 5501*) reported over the weekend (Jan 21-22) has been addressed and the barge is now en route from New Haven, CT, to a repair facility in New York harbour. The discharge occurred early Saturday morning during terminal operations and appears to have resulted from a small puncture in the side of the vessel below the waterline. The Company immediately activated its spill response procedures and co-operated fully with United States Coast Guard and state and local authorities. Due to the favourable wind and other weather conditions that existed this weekend, the discharge is believed to have substantially evaporated or otherwise dissipated. The Company is continuing to investigate the cause of the damage to the vessel. The barge should be able to return to service within a few days.

London, Jan 24 — A press report, dated Jan 23, states: Hornbeck Offshore Services Inc announced that the gasoline discharge from tank barge *Energy 5501* has been addressed and the barge is now en route from New Haven to a repair facility in New York harbour. The discharge occurred early Saturday morning (Jan 21) during terminal operations and appears to have resulted from a small puncture in the side of the vessel below the waterline. The company immediately activated its spill response procedures and co-operated fully with United States Coast Guard and state and local authorities. Due to the favourable wind and other weather conditions that prevailed this weekend, the discharge is believed to have substantially evaporated or otherwise dissipated. At this time, there is no evidence of harm to fish or wildlife. The company is continuing to investigate the cause of the damage to the vessel. The barge should be able to return to service within a few days. The company does not expect this incident to materially affect its financial condition or results of operations.

ENTERPRISE (U.S.A.)

London, Jan 22 — A press report, dated today, states: General cargo *Enterprise*, a Massachusetts Maritime Academy training vessel carrying more than 500 cadets, has been repaired and is proceeding towards Europe. The vessel had to stop for four days in Norfolk, Va, to repair broken water evaporators, it was reported today. The water evaporators convert salt water into fresh water and are needed to produce drinking water and run the vessel's boilers. Academy President Richard Gurnon said that the four-day delay had

caused the cancellation of a scheduled stop on Madeira but that classes on board the vessel would not be affected.

EURO FJORD (Norway)

Trondheim, Jan 23 — General cargo *Euro Fjord* has completed repairs. Vessel is still at the yard, ETD not known. — Lloyd's Agents.

FALAK G. (Slovakia)

Trieste, Jan 25 — General cargo *Falak G.* (1454 gt, built 1972), in ballast, grounded on rocks, while attempting to anchor in a sheltered area, on the Croatian coast near Uvala Koromacno on Sunday (Jan 22). Engine-room and one hold flooded. Crew on board. Two tugs nearby, waiting for the north-north-east gale to abate before giving assistance. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Jan 26 — Croatian authorities have said they are still waiting for storms to die down before they can launch a mission to help general cargo *Falak G.*, which ran aground off the Adriatic coast on Monday night (Jan 23). The vessel ran aground off Koromacno on the western Croatian peninsula of Istria as winds reached 74 mph. The vessel's rudder was damaged and seawater may have leaked into the engine-room. Croatian port authorities are reportedly also concerned that the vessel's fuel tanks could have been damaged. However, Dimos Granidis, a spokesman for the vessel's owners, said: "There is no danger of any ecological disaster. We have a number of precautions taken which would prevent that. The 14 members of the crew are safe and well and we ourselves are beginning to reground the vessel." However, he admitted that the company still had no idea about the full extent of the damage to the vessel. Croatian maritime authorities have said they will launch an investigation into why the vessel ran aground but has said the most likely cause was high winds.

FAYSAL (Syria)

Novorossisk, Jan 26 — General cargo *Faysal* (3090 gt, built 1965) caught fire at Novorossisk roads today and was extinguished at 0800, today. Harbour-master investigation is in progress. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Faysal* arrived Novorossisk Dec 17.)

FJORD CHAMPION (NIS)

Kristiansand, Jan 26 — Champion Tankers, in Bergen, inform that product tanker *Fjord Champion*, which had fire in accommodation in 57 47 N 07 50.5 E on Mar 5 2005 and was subsequently towed to Kristiansand on Mar 8, has been scrapped after discharge of bunkers. — Lloyd's Agents.

GERONIMO (Netherlands)

London, Jan 24 — General cargo *Geronimo*, which struck a dolphin while passing the Dorkwerderbrug near the town of Groningen in the Van Starckenborgh canal on Jan 17, was

partly unloaded into another inland cargo vessel. The water was pumped out by the local fire brigade and the hole has been patched up. According to a report, the accident was caused by a failure in the vessel's steering system, which caused it to run into the dolphin. Later the *Geronimo* sailed to Delfzijl, where the damage has been repaired at a shipyard.

London, Jan 26 — General cargo *Geronimo*, which struck a dolphin while passing the Dorkwerderbrug, near the town of Groningen, in the Van Starckenborgh canal on Jan 17, sailed under her own power to the shipyard of Koninklijke Niestern Sander at Delfzijl. After her cargo of cellulose had been unloaded into the inland cargo ship *Borena* and the water had been pumped out by the local fire brigade, the hole of one metre by 30 centimetres was patched. The damage, consisting of steelwork and the wainscoting in the forward living quarters, has to be replaced. Also the bowpropeller room has to be cleaned and parts have to be replaced. *Geronimo* arrived in Delfzijl on Jan 20. The repairs will be completed in four weeks time.

GLOBAL PEACE (Panama)

Brisbane, Jan 25 — Bulk *Global Peace* (67727 gt, built 1982) berthed at Gladstone at 2330, Jan 24. While berthing, a tug allegedly holed the vessel's hull, resulting in the spillage of between 10 and 40 tonnes of oil into the harbour, which on a flood tide has possibly caused pollution and contamination of other vessels. A major incident room has been set up by Gladstone Authorities and the spill is now in the process of being cleaned up. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Jan 25 — A press report, dated today, states: A massive clean-up operation is under way in Gladstone Harbour in central Queensland after 10,000 litres of fuel spilled from bulk *Global Peace* last night. It is believed the vessel was in the process of berthing when a tug assisting the operation rammed into the side of the vessel, damaging the fuel tanks. It is the second oil spill in the harbour in a week. A Department of Transport spokesman says the accident happened at the RG Tanna terminal shortly before midnight, AEST. A major incident room has been set up in Brisbane to co-ordinate the clean-up. The oil spill is widespread in the harbour and is washing into the marina and Auckland Creek. Gladstone resident Patricia Lees says at 0500, today, there appeared to be no oil at the harbour, but she was told there had been a spill. The Queensland Government says the owner of the vessel will pay for the clean-up. Queensland Transport Minister Paul Lucas says the clean-up will take up to a week and could cost more than A\$3 million. "The cost of this is fully met under marine law by the ship owners," he said. "That's a requirement and both the environmental clean-up and any

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maritime safety clean-up is met by law by the ship owners and of course they may have various remedies against other parties, that's a matter for them."

London, Jan 25 — A press report, dated today, states: Thousands of litres of oil seeped into sensitive mangroves and estuaries after tug *Tom Tough* (397 gt, built 1983), owned by Adsteam Marine, struck bulk *Global Peace* in the port of Gladstone. Authorities today said the oil spill could be the state's worst in more than 30 years. Several government agencies and four skimmer vessels were called in to clean up after *Tom Tough* struck *Global Peace*, holing its fuel tank as it was about to berth. The accident, shortly before 2400, AEST, caused 25 tonnes of heavy fuel to spew into the incoming tide. The tide carried most of the spill upstream into mangroves, with the remainder flowing back around port facilities and river estuaries, Captain John Watkinson of Maritime Safety Queensland, who is running the clean-up operation, said. "It has impacted on a fair bit of the Gladstone port area," he said. So far, there have been no reports of dead wildlife and the main area of concern centred on vegetation at Wiggins Island and the entrance to the Calliope River. Experts from Sydney, Canberra and Melbourne were flying to Gladstone today as part of a national response team set up to deal with serious oil spills. The clean up could last up to a week. Capt Watkinson said the costs could run into millions of dollars. An investigation by the Australian Maritime Safety Authority and Maritime Safety Queensland was under way, but it is believed *Tom Tough* struck the *Global Peace* after one of its engines failed.

London, Jan 25 — A press report, dated Australia Jan 26, states: Gladstone is mopping up after the state's worst oil spill in 30 years. More than 25,000 litres of heavy fuel oil leaked into waterways surrounding the central Queensland coast town after tug *Tom Tough* and bulk *Global Peace* collided shortly before midnight yesterday. *Global Peace* was about to berth at the RG Tanna coal terminal when the stern of the tug struck its hull and ruptured its fuel tank. There was speculation yesterday that one of the tug's engines may have failed as the *Global Peace* was being docked. An estimated 25 tonnes of oil spewed out of the small hole into the harbour in the next 40 minutes. Emergency crews rushed to deploy 600m of floating containment barriers early yesterday but were thwarted by a changing tide. By 0600 hrs an oil slick had spread more than 80 sq km and drifted 20km up the Calliope River. It is expected to take a week to clean up the mess at an estimated cost of A\$3 million. Under international maritime law, the clean-up must be paid for by the ship's owners. This could be challenged if the tug was at fault. Korea Marine Ltd technical manager

J.D. Hur said he believed the tugs engine had failed. Oil spill experts and Australian Transport Safety Bureau investigators arrived in Gladstone yesterday to oversee the clean-up. Four oil skimmers on loan from ports in Townsville, Cairns and Brisbane worked through the night to suck up as much of the slick as possible. Areas they concentrated on included the marina and Auckland and Calliope river systems. No oil had entered protected or marine park areas. Maritime Safety Queensland spokesman John Watkinson said the environmental cost was not yet known, but preliminary reports looked promising. Environmental Protection Agency environment director Jon Womersley said 15 staff would arrive in Gladstone today to assess the spill. An international expert in treating wildlife affected by oil was on standby and a temporary base had been set up to clean and care for animals. Transport Minister Paul Lucas said everything that could be done was being done to clean up the spill as quickly as possible. "Response teams worked through the morning to contain the oil before the tide turned and spread the fuel further into the other port areas," Mr Lucas said. Maritime Safety Queensland and the Australian Maritime Safety Authority are investigating the oil spill.

London, Jan 26 — A press report, dated today, states: The Wildlife Protection Association of Australia (WPAA) says there needs to be an inquiry into Queensland's worst oil spill in 35 years. Authorities have now worked for more than 24 hours to contain the spill in Gladstone harbour on the central Queensland coast after 25,000 litres of heavy fuel poured from bulk *Global Peace* yesterday. The spill happened after a tug (*Tom Tough*) rammed into the bulk carrier and ruptured its fuel tank. WPAA president Pat O'Brien says cost-cutting may have played a part in the tragedy. "It's probably the worst place to have a spill but I guess it had to happen somewhere because of cost cuts with pilots and with a whole range of harbour matters," he said. "It was just a matter of time before it happened, I think that you'll find that when there's an inquiry into it, and I'm sure there will be and there should be, I'm sure that we'll find that there's been some cost-cutting issues involved in it." Mr O'Brien says it is the worst place the spill could have happened. He says the area has dugongs, crocodiles and seabirds and many more animals that will be affected by the spill. Authorities say the clean-up after is being hampered by bad weather. Captain John Watkinson from Maritime Safety Queensland says a boom put up to contain the oil collapsed overnight. "The squall late last night parted that boom and oil did get into the river," he said. Strong winds have prevented authorities from cleaning up deep sea areas of the harbour today but Mr Watkinson says the big waves and high tides are flushing the oil out of

mangroves. The marina has reopened but fishermen say they want to know how a tug boat could pierce the tank of a carrier. Warrick Sheldon, who represents Gladstone commercial fishermen, says the impact of the slick on the industry could be felt for months or years. "It'll just annihilate the stocks plus everything up and down the food chain in relation to what the different fishermen catch," he said. "It's right in the middle of the commercial banana prawn fishing season at the moment - this has the potential to just wipe out their stocks," he said.

London, Jan 26 — A press report, dated today, states: A marine investigator from the Australian Transport Safety Bureau (ATSB) says preliminary investigations into the spill should be completed by tomorrow afternoon. The ATSB is investigating how the tug rammed into bulk *Global Peace* and ruptured its fuel tank. Investigation leader Peter Foley says the type of oil involved has added to the severity of the spill. "It's certainly more difficult to control than perhaps crude oil because it tends to be around the same specific gravity or same density as sea water," he said. Meanwhile, the commercial fishing industry in Gladstone says the industry is on the brink of collapse following the spill. The local commercial fishing industry also wants to know how a tug boat could pierce the hull of a bulk coal carrier. Gladstone Marina was closed to vessels after the spill, but Marine Safety Queensland says the marina was re-opened at 0700, AEST; this includes access via Auckland Creek. Bert Thornley was at sea off the Gladstone coast while the marina was closed, and says he stood to lose \$35,000 worth of fish if his boat could not anchor within 24 hours. Warrick Sheldon, who represents Gladstone commercial fishermen, says the impact of the slick on the industry could be felt for months or years. "It'll just annihilate the stocks plus everything up and down the food chain in relation to what the different fishermen catch," he said. "It's right in the middle of the commercial banana prawn fishing season at the moment, this has the potential to just wipe out their stocks," he said.

London, Jan 26 — A press report, dated today, states: Nearly one third of a massive oil spill off the central Queensland coast has been cleaned up, despite bad weather. About 25,000 litres of oil poured into Gladstone Harbour yesterday bulk *Global Peace* and tug *Tom Tough* collided. Captain John Watkinson from Maritime Safety Queensland says about 7,000 litres of oil has already been removed. "That's not a bad effort for two days," he said. But Captain Watkinson says strong winds have forced crews out of deep water areas. So far seven birds have been found coated in oil. But authorities do not expect there will be any long-term damage to the harbour's ecology.

GOTLAND CEMENT (Portugal)

London, Jan 24 — Following received from Stavanger RCC, timed 1115, UTC: Cement *Gotland Cement* (2491 gt, built 1977) had engine breakdown in lat 58 26.7N, long 03 56.7E, at 0331, Jan 23. Vessel was towed into Stavanger same day and the case was closed at 2000 hrs. (Note — *Gotland Cement* sailed Stavanger Jan 22 for Leith.)

Kristiansand, Jan 24 — Cement *Gotland Cement* sailed Stavanger Jan 24 for Leith. — Lloyd's Agents.

GREEN HILL (U.K.)

London, Jan 20 - A press report, dated today, states: A major search has resumed for two fishermen missing after fishing *Green Hill* (74 gt, built 1975) sank near a Northern Ireland fishing port. Rescue teams are searching for the men after their vessel hit rocks near Ardglass in County Down at about 2000, GMT, yesterday. A third person on board the *Green Hill* was rescued and taken to hospital. Coastguard rescue teams from Newcastle, Whiterock and Portaferry were sent to conduct a close inshore search and RNLI lifeboats from Portaferry and Newcastle were also requested. The PSNI helicopter is helping search the waters off Ardglass, along with a team of uniformed officers working along the shoreline. The Irish Rescue helicopter from Dublin has also been scrambled.

London, Jan 20 — Following received from Coastguard Belfast MRSC, timed 1111, UTC: Fishing *Green Hill* sank in lat 54 12.4N, long 05 34.4W. One person located, two persons still unaccounted for.

London, Jan 20 — Following received from Coastguard Belfast MRSC, timed 1154, UTC: Fishing *Green Hill*: Two persons still unaccounted for. Search operations terminated 1500, UTC.

London, Jan 20 — Following received from Coastguard Belfast MRSC, timed 1910, UTC: Fishing *Green Hill*: Two persons are still missing. An exclusion zone has been enforced around the sinking site. Divers will hopefully be going down into the wreck.

London, Jan 21 — A press report, dated today, states: Searches have resumed for two fishermen, missing after their vessel, fishing *Green Hill*, sank near a Northern Ireland port. The vessel ran onto rocks near Ardglass, Co Down, about 2000, UTC, Thursday (Jan 19). The skipper was rescued from a liferaft. The missing men are Donal Gibson, 23, from Downpatrick, and Conor Bogue, 26, a father of two from Ballynahinch. Alan Pritchard from the Coastguard said the operation had moved from a search and rescue to a recovery operation. "With the passage of time and with sea temperatures around eight or nine degrees centigrade the survivability in those conditions is limited," he said. "I think we have exhausted all our avenues of investigation to try and locate the two crewmen safe and well." Local people gathered at the marina at Ardglass

early on Saturday to resume the hunt for the men's bodies. The police, coastguard and two lifeboats have been involved in the search. Volunteer divers have gone in to see if they can locate the men. Police are working to provide a diving team later this afternoon. Fishing trawlers have also been dragging nets in the area where the boat went down, in the hope of recovering the men's bodies.

London, Jan 22 — A press report, dated today, states: A scaled down search is set to resume today for two fishermen missing since fishing *Green Hill* capsized and sank in heavy seas on Thursday (Jan 19) evening off the coast of Co Down. It is understood that PSNI divers will not be able to carry out any activities today because of poor sea conditions, local vessels are expected to continue their searches however.

London, Jan 23 — A press report, dated today, states: A search has resumed for the body of a second fisherman missing after fishing *Green Hill* sank near a Co Down port. Ballynahinch man Conor Bogue, 26, has been lost at sea since the vessel hit rocks near Ardglass last Thursday (Jan 19). The body of his friend, Donal Gibson, 22, from Downpatrick, was recovered by divers yesterday. A third man survived. Police divers are expected to join in the search operation today. The official search and rescue operation ended on Friday but local people carried on searching over the weekend. Divers joined the search for the missing men. Yesterday, volunteer divers searched the area around the sunken vessel while friends and fellow fishermen helped in the operation. A body was found near the wreckage of the *Green Hill* about 1500, UTC, by divers from a search and rescue team in Dundalk. Fishing crews from other Ardglass boats helped to bring the body ashore. The police later confirmed that it was the body of Mr Gibson.

London, Jan 24 — A press report, dated today, states: An official inquiry into the sinking of a trawler in the Irish Sea last week with the loss of two crew members got under way today. Marine accident investigators travelled to the fishing port of Ardglass, Co Down, from Southampton to carry out the probe. At the same time, police divers resumed their search for the body of fisherman Conor Bogue, 26, from Ballynahinch, Co Down, who has been missing since fishing *Green Hill* went down after hitting rocks close to the fishing port last Thursday. The body of his close friend, Donal Gibson, 22, was recovered by the divers on Sunday. A third man, the skipper of the vessel, survived the sinking and was taken to hospital. Mr Gibson, from the village of Saul, outside Downpatrick, Co Down, is to be buried after a funeral service in the town tomorrow. The police divers returned to resume their search for Mr Bogue in the waters around the wreck after being forced to abandon the operation on Monday because of bad weather.

GUCLU 4 (North Korea)

Aleppo, Jan 22 — Lloyd's Sub-agents, Tartous, report: General cargo *Guclu 4* (1216 gt, built 1951), owners Planet Marines, from Sea of Marmara, loaded with marble, sank 1500, Jan 20, outside Tartous Port Breakwater due to stormy weather and strong winds. Master has passed away and one of her seven crew is missing. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Jan 24 — A press report, dated Jan 23, states: The master of Turkish general cargo *Guclu 4*, and one crew member have been confirmed as dead after the vessel sank off Tartous, Syria, three days ago. The bodies of the dead sailors will be sent to Turkey tomorrow. Meanwhile, five crew members have been reported as in good condition in a Syrian hospital. *Guclu 4* was loaded with 2,050 tonnes of marble.

GU DRUN (Germany)

London, Jan 26 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: Product tanker *Gudrun* is still berthed at the Mutzfeldtwerft shipyard in Cuxhaven.

HAIDA CHIEFTAIN (Canada)

London, Jan 19 — Tug *Haida Chieftain* (561 gt, built 1944), with two barges in tow, reported one lumber barge aground near Sandheads Light Buoy at the entrance to Fraser River, BC, in lat 49 06N, long 123 18W, at 1415, PST, Jan 13.

HUAL TRADER (Bahamas)

London, Jan 24 — Vehicle *Hual Trader* sailed Amsterdam Jan 23 for Gothenburg.

HYUNDAI ISLAND (South Korea)

Mackay, Jan 20 - Ship loading delays of two-four days can be expected at Hay Point Coal Terminal, following an incident last night, in which the telescopic end of a ship loader snapped and fell into bulk *Hyundai Island* (67897 gt, built 1986). Shoreside engineers are being consulted on the retrieval and repairing of the ship loader. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Hyundai Island* arrived Hay Point Jan 11.)

Sydney, Jan 23 — The Hay Point Coal Terminal in Queensland is now completely out of action following a second major incident at the facility in the past month. Terminal operator BMA faces a major headache to find alternative facilities for vessels gathering off the port. The Mackay Mercury reports that no coal has been loaded at the terminal since the end of a telescopic ship loader fell into the hold of bulk *Hyundai Island* on Jan 19. Efforts were being made to resolve the problem as soon as possible and get cargo moving again. The accident has been put down to a mechanical failure. It would take at least four days for Ship Loader Number Two to be lifted from the vessel, effectively shutting down the terminal, a spokesman said. Damage to the vessel was minimal. The incident follows a collision between a ship loader and

the on-board crane on Dec 28, which shut down Ship Loader No. 1 and cut port capacity by 30%. With four vessels waiting to be loaded and several more expected to arrive at the terminal this weekend, owners BMA are set to lose hundreds of thousands of dollars in demurrage. Coal throughput from Ship Loader No. 2 will be diverted to Dalrymple Bay. Coal from Ship Loader No. 1 already is being diverted through Dalrymple Bay and the Gladstone coal port. — "Lloyd's List Daily Commercial News."

London, Jan 26 — A report dated Hay Point Jan 25 states: The damaged shiploader spout at berth 2 has now been repaired. Loading of bulk *Hyundai Island* is now completed and it is awaiting the high tide to sail at 1900 today. There are now 11 vessels at anchorage waiting for the loading berth at Hay Point. Once the back log of vessels are loaded during the next two weeks the resultant berthing delay will be about six to eight days.

IERAPETRA L. (Greece)

Piraeus, Jan 24 — *Ro/ro Ierapetra L.* sailed from Chalkis, in tow, on Dec 15, with destination Piraeus. Vessel returned to service on Dec 27. — Lloyd's Agents.

IJSSELMEER (Netherlands)

London, Jan 20 — Dutch inland tug *Ijsselmeer*, 20 metres, built 1942, Antwerp to Terneuzen, with two pushbarges loaded with cokes and soil, owned by A. Kooren, Rozenburg, reported yesterday just after 1000, local time that its propulsion was not working, when the vessel was near Hansweert in the River Scheldt. The master feared to have lost the propeller of the tug, having just had before a survey on a shipyard. The tug *Bravo* from Bergingsbedrijf Polderman of Hansweert came to assist the combination and towed the tug and two barges to the outer harbour of Hansweert. While entering the outer harbour the combination just touched the harbour pier, caused by the tide. Later, a divers team found that the propeller was still in place and after further investigation it was found that there was an electrical fault in the clutch of the propeller shaft. The *Ijsselmeer* proceeded on voyage to Terneuzen.

IRENA ARCTICA (DIS)

London, Jan 23 — A press release from Royal Arctic Line A/S, states: C.c. *Irena Arctica* (8939 gt, built 1995) touched ground while manoeuvring in the port of Reykjavik last week. Damages are so severe that the vessel will sail for a drydock for one round trip. During this general cargo *Santa Ines*, V2OS8, will take the voyage for *Irena Arctica*. (Note — LMIU AIS reports *Irena Arctica* 3.6 nautical miles from Gdansk, in lat 54 24.13N, long 18 40.35E, at 0748, UTC, Jan 23.)

London, Jan 25 — C.c. *Irena Arctica* arrived Gdansk Jan 23 from Aalborg.

ISLAND BRAVE (U.S.A.)

London, Jan 23 — A press report, dated Jan 22, states: Tug *Island Brave* (143 gt, built 1944) sank in Elliott Bay early this afternoon at the mouth of the Duwamish River, nearly dragging another tug under water with it. The cause of the vessel's sinking is unknown at this time, said Seattle Fire Department spokeswoman Helen Fitzpatrick. No one was on board the vessel when it went down in water about 30 feet deep, and no injuries have been reported. *Island Brave* is carrying at least 20,000 gallons of diesel fuel in its fuel tanks, fire officials said. Coast Guard Petty Officer Domenic Pagliaro said there could have been as much as 32,500 gallons of diesel on board because of the vessel's capacity. Pagliaro said he saw a sheen on the water in the vicinity of the tug today. The tug's owner, Seattle-based Island Tug & Barge Co, deployed protective booms to contain any potential spill. The tug sank shortly after 1300 hrs just north of the Southwest Spokane Street Swing Bridge and east of Terminal 5. Authorities were notified that the tug was in trouble at 1148 hrs. The vessel was taking on water and listing heavily to its port side. Before it sank, another tug, tug *Patricia S.* (149 gt, built 1962), attempted to come to the vessel's rescue. It was attached to *Island Brave* when *Island Brave* submerged suddenly and rapidly, nearly pulling *Patricia S.* under with it. The second tug was listing heavily to one side until workers were able to disconnect it from *Island Brave* and right it with a large crane.

Seattle, Jan 23 — The 101 foot tug *Island Brave* owned by Island Tug and Barge, sank yesterday, Jan 22, at moorage in Elliott Bay, east of Terminal 5, at the mouth of the Duwamish River. The tug *Patricia S.* was securely moored to the *Island Brave* but was not pulled under. A crane was brought in to lift the *Patricia S.* and cut it free from the sinking vessel. It was noted at approximately 1148 hrs that both vessels were listing heavily to the port side. The *Island Brave* was carrying over 20,000 gallons of diesel, divers sealed the tanks before any significant amount of fuel leaked into the waterway. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Jan 25 — A press report, dated Jan 24, states: Tug *Island Brave*, which sank where it was moored at the mouth of the Duwamish River on Sunday afternoon (Jan 22), is scheduled to be raised at around noon today. The Coast Guard has approved the salvage plan submitted by the vessel's owner, Coast Guard Petty Officer Jeff Pollinger said. The company began attaching cables to the sunken vessel this morning. Lifting the vessel is likely to take several hours, company officials told the Coast Guard. What caused the vessel to sink is unknown. The company used booms to contain fuel that spilled when the vessel went down, Coast Guard officials said.

Seattle, Jan 25 — Two large cranes were brought in and positioned yesterday to lift tug *Island Brave* from bottom of Duwamish River. As lifting began, a small amount of fuel was noted on the surface and the odor of gas was present. The spill was contained by the use of absorbent padding. Booms were in place since the first notification of distress, thereby lessening the spread of any contaminants. The vessel was successfully raised yesterday evening. The State of Washington Department of Ecology stated that no environmental damage was expected. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Jan 26 — A press report, dated today, states: Officials still do not know why tug *Island Brave*, moored at the mouth of the Duwamish River, sank Sunday, said Larry Altose, a state Department of Ecology spokesman. The vessel was raised Tuesday, and both the Coast Guard and Island Tug & Barge officials are investigating. The company could face penalties if the boat sank because of negligence on the company's part, Altose said. Oil spilled from the tug during the salvage operation, but it appeared most was recovered, shown at right.

IVORY TIRUPATI (Liberia)

London, Jan 23 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: A banana elevator was damaged at 1430 hrs when a car carrier passed ref *Ivory Tirupati* (10368 gt, built 1989) which was berthed in Bremerhaven and discharging bananas. The ship started to move as the car carrier was passing with a speed of two knots and a distance of 30 m with tug assistance. Caused by this move the elevator was touched by and damage amounting to about Euro10,000 was caused. The captain of *Ivory Tirupati* pleaded guilty to not having berthed his ship properly and had to pay a safety offence. (Note — *Ivory Tirupati* arrived Bremerhaven Jan 19 from Guayaquil and sailed Jan 21 for Gdynia.)

KERFONS

(French Southern Territories)

Bordeaux, Jan 26 — Understand from Messrs Socatra, the owners of product tanker *Kerfons*, that the vessel did not ground, she was only stopped by a mud-lock in the mid-channel at the entrance of the port of Degrad Des Cannes. The cargo on board was not oil, but "white" products. No salvors have been requested to help and no assistance given to the vessel. After sweeping of the mud-lock by a local dredge, *Kerfons* left by her own means. The vessel did not sustain any damages. — Lloyd's Agents.

KHALED JUNIOR (Cambodia)

Istanbul, Jan 23 — Bulk *Khaled Junior* (5239 gt, built 1975), Reni to Bejaia, was waiting/anchored for southbound in contact with c.c. *LT Bianca* (13420 gt, built 1983) Gemlik

for Thessaloniki, after transitting Dardanelles, at Gelibou Jan 22 due to severe weather. Vessels anchored at Gellibou for necessary formalities. — Lloyd's Agents.

Istanbul, Jan 26 — Understand that both bulk *Khaled Junior* and c.c. *LT Bianca* are still lying *oas iso* and that there has been no further progress. — Lloyd's Agents.

KHUDOZHNIK PLASTOV (Cambodia)

Istanbul, Jan 20 — General cargo *Khudozhnik Plastov* (3712 gt, built 1973), Yeisk for Ashdod, cargo sunflower seed meal, while transitting Bosphorus, touched iron parapet in Yenikoy/Istanbul, Jan 17. Vessel sailed by its own means and anchored off Ahirkapi/Istanbul waiting necessary formalities. — Lloyd's Agents.

KLEINE FAMILIE (France)

London, Jan 20 — Malta is to carry out a full-scale judicial inquiry into the suspected involvement of chem.tank *Sichem Pandora* in the sinking of trawler *Klein Familie*. Magistrate and maritime lawyer Jacqueline Padovani has been appointed to head the inquiry. She is expected to preside over her first formal hearing today. Other hearings can be expected to follow and it is thought likely that she and her team of two master mariners and a chief engineer will travel to France and perhaps other European countries to question witnesses. The decision to carry out a formal judicial inquiry follows the completion last week of a preliminary inquiry ordered by Minister for Competitiveness and Communication Censu Galea. No details of the findings of the team carrying out that inquiry have been given, however. Malta Maritime Authority executive director Lino Vassallo said that the decision to carry out a formal inquiry did not mean the investigators had concluded that *Sichem Pandora* had been involved in the sinking of *Klein Familie*. Maltese law specified that an inquiry should be carried out if a Maltese flag vessel was "involved or supposed to have been involved in a maritime casualty". "If the magistrate establishes it was not involved, everything will stop," said Mr Vassallo. He added that no decision had yet been taken regarding the release of *Sichem Pandora*, which is still in Dunkirk. Mr Vassallo said "It will be for the magistrate to decide whether to release the vessel."

London, Jan 22 — A press report, dated today, states: The tribunal of Dunkerque (Nord) has ordered Aragon Chemical KJ, the owners chem.tank *Sichem Pandora* to pay E1.522 million before leaving the harbour. AP reported from Dunkirk that the owners gave all bank guarantees in this respect on Friday (Jan 20). The money will be passed on to the association of relatives of sea victims (Enim) which had demanded that the

ship be seized. The money will be given to the families of the five seamen who perished when trawler *Kleine Familie* was hit by a ship, suspected to be the *Sichem Pandora*. However the ship will not be allowed out of Dunkirk harbour before the end of this week as the authorities intend to continue their investigations. Along with the ship, its crew of 15, mostly Russians, are being held in Dunkirk. Meanwhile, French fishing minister Dominique Bussereau has told Parliament that new measures to protect fishermen will be announced soon. He also added that "we have quite proving factors, unfortunately, against the Maltese ship to suspect it caused the collision." The Maltese courts have been officially informed about the collision, which took place in international waters. The location of the collision means that according to international law, it has to be investigated by the country of origin of the flag of the ship under charge. The Maltese law proposes penalties identical to those of France, four years in prison for involuntary homicide. The four Maltese investigators returned to Malta last week from their inspection of the scene of the collision.

London, Jan 24 — A press report, dated today, states: French authorities investigating the sinking of trawler *Kleine Familie* off Alderney have refused to allow chem.tank *Sichem Pandora* to leave the port of Dunkirk. The owners of the *Sichem Pandora* have made a bail payment of 1.5m Euros in compensation. Maltese authorities have not given the ship permission to leave Dunkirk and the French will only allow it to leave with a go ahead from the Maltese. The accident happened in international waters and therefore any investigation and legal action will have to take place in Malta. The bail payment was ordered by a court in Dunkirk to ensure the families of the victims will be compensated whatever happens.

KLONDIKE EXPRESS (U.S.A.)

London, Jan 25 — A press report, dated today, states: Passenger *Klondike Express* (81 gt, built 1999) has collided with Vallejo dock. A crew member suffered minor injuries and was taken to receive a medical examination, Baylink officials said. Martin Robbins, general manager of Baylink Ferries, said Monday (Jan 23) it was too early to determine exactly what happened, but added "the initial indication is mechanical failure of the steering system." The crash left a large dent on the left front side of the ferry and bent a guard rail, but Baylink has yet to estimate the cost of the damage, Robbins said. None of the seven passengers aboard the ferry were injured, Robbins said. They were taken to a nearby ferry maintenance facility on Mare Island and safely unloaded. The ferry had been transporting the passengers from San Francisco. The U.S. Coast Guard is investigating the cause of the crash,

and tested crew members for possible drug use, Lead Investigating Officer Lt. Nick Parham said.

London, Jan 25 — A press report, dated today, states: Baylink Ferry's general manager blamed a mechanical failure on passenger *Klondike Express* for Monday's (Jan 23) crash at the Vallejo dock, which sent a crew member into Mare Island Strait. "We had a malfunction in the proportioning valve," which is part of the ferry's steering system, said Marty Robbins of Baylink's San Francisco office. The ferry, which travels between Vallejo and San Francisco, smashed into a metal piling. Robbins called the damage "cosmetic" and "superficial" to the "port bulwark and railing." She is out of service until the proportioning valve can be replaced, Robbins said. "We're trying to find the part," he said. "We just put one of our other boats into service," he said. The U.S. Coast Guard is investigating the incident. Ensign Trevor Parra of the Coast Guard Command Center on Yerba Buena Island said specific information about the crash will not be released until the investigation is complete. He said that could take "a month, two months, a year."

KOSTAS (Honduras)

London, Jan 24 — Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: During the morning of Jan 23, the Ministry was advised by the operators of crude oil tanker *United Moonlight* that their vessel had rescued seven out of the eight crew members of sunken general cargo *Kostas* (988 gt, built 1965) and was at a position 66 nautical miles north of Skikda, Algeria. *Kostas* had previously departed from Spain bound for Limassol loaded with Talifam-melamine. During the evening of the previous day the vessel had sustained a dangerous list after shifting of cargo and the crew abandoned ship into liferafts. It is understood the vessel later sunk. However the Greek Master of the vessel remains missing. The nearby vessels *United Moonlight* and general cargo *Ice King* continue the search for him along with two patrol boats and an aircraft from Algeria.

London, Jan 24 — Following received from Madrid MRCC, timed 1155, UTC: General cargo *Kostas* is reported by Algerian rescue authorities to be still afloat and adrift, last reported position lat 37 52N, long 06 12.6E. Master is still missing, all other crew safe.

London, Jan 24 — Following received from Madrid MRCC, timed 1610, UTC: General cargo *Kostas* is still afloat and adrift. The vessel's crew are now on shore; some have been taken to hospital. The master, however, has not been located.

Algiers, Jan 26 — General cargo *Kostas*, from Arzew, cargo plywood, encountered bad weather Jan 23 at Cap Bougarouni near Skikda while on voyage for Annaba, causing vessel to develop strong list and leading to an unlashing of the cargo, probably on

vessel's deck. Due to the above, two tugs belonging to Enterprise Portuaire de Skikda proceeded to carry out salvage operations. Seven crewmen were saved and taken to hospital at Skikda but the master was lost. Vessel was reportedly being towed towards Skikda port and was due to arrive there around 1800, local time, yesterday. The rescued crew members were reported to be in good condition and are now still at hospital in Skikda. — Lloyd's Agents.

KOTA AKBAR (Singapore)

Dar es Salaam, Jan 25 — Bulk/c.c. *Kota Akbar* (17738 gt, built 1993) had fire break out from one of the containers on board, affecting about 500 containers externally. Cargo damage was minimal except for the container that the fire broke out from. We believe the vessel was not affected. It is reported that the incident occurred before arrival at Mombasa port. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Kota Akbar* sailed Toamasina Dec 21 for Mombasa. Vessel subsequently arrived Kochi, India, Jan 16.)

KRASIN (Russia)

London, Jan 20 — A Coast Guard Seattle press release, dated Jan 19, states: Coast Guard cutter *Polar Star* will depart its homeport of Seattle Friday (Jan 20) for Antarctica as requested by the National Science Foundation to provide support to the Russian icebreaker *Krasin* (14058 gt, built 1976) after the vessel recently experienced mechanical problems. *Polar Star* will transit directly to Antarctica's McMurdo Station arriving in approximately 30 days. *Polar Star* has been on 48-hour standby in Seattle since the beginning of the austral summer in case it was needed for Antarctic support. *Krasin* has opened a channel through the ice into McMurdo Station and is currently grooming the channel. Although *Krasin* will most likely complete the mission, the National Science Foundation took the prudent step of calling in *Polar Star* due to the vulnerability of *Krasin* to further mechanical difficulty and the short window remaining in the Antarctic summer season.

London, Jan 23 — A Coast Guard Seattle press release, dated Jan 20, states: The Coast Guard Cutter *Polar Star* departed its homeport of Seattle today for Antarctica as requested by the National Science Foundation to provide support to the Russian icebreaker *Krasin* after the vessel recently experienced mechanical problems. *Polar Star*, a 399-foot polar class icebreaker with a 134-person crew, will transit directly to Antarctica's McMurdo Station arriving in approximately 30 days. *Polar Star* has been on 48-hour standby in Seattle since the beginning of the austral summer in case it was needed for Antarctic support. *Krasin* has opened a channel through the ice into McMurdo Station and is currently grooming the channel. Although *Krasin* will most likely

complete the mission, the National Science Foundation took the prudent step of calling in *Polar Star* due to the vulnerability of *Krasin* to further mechanical difficulty and the short window remaining in the Antarctic summer season.

LARCOM (Australia)

See "Gladstone, Queensland, Australia" under "Pollution."

LIBRA (Malta)

See "Germany" under "Port State Control".

LIDER TRABZON (Slovakia)

London, Jan 19 — General cargo *Lider Trabzon* arrived at Marina di Carrara on Jan 14.

LT BIANCA (Italy)

See *Khaled Junior*.

M 192 (U.S.A.)

See *Valour*.

M 846 (U.S.A.)

London, Jan 19 — A Coast Guard Port Arthur press release, dated Jan 18, states: Captain Sharon Richey, the Captain of the Port at Coast Guard Marine Safety Unit (MSU) Port Arthur, partially reopened a section of the Sabine Neches Waterway today where a barge (freight barge *M 846*) carrying 94 large concrete pilings lost its cargo in the ship channel. Salvage and dive crews have been on scene since yesterday morning. After surveying the pilings and addressing all safety issues, salvors commenced removing pilings one at a time. As of 1000 hrs three of the 95-foot long, 32,110-pound pilings had been removed. Salvage operations will continue on a 24-hour basis and is expected to continue for several days. The Sabine Neches Waterway was opened to tug and barge traffic as of 2130, yesterday and there are no longer any residual delays. The Coast Guard Captain of the Port also allowed other shallow draught vessels to transit the area on a case-by-case basis. There are approximately 18 ships affected by this closure. Seven of those are inbound carrying crude oil. The accident occurred at approximately 0055 yesterday in the Sabine Neches Waterway about two miles south of the Rainbow and Veteran's bridges. As the pilings could damage any passing vessels, the Coast Guard closed the Sabine Neches Waterway from the mouth of the Old River to the Neches River intersection. There were no injuries or pollution as a result of the accident and only the barge sustained minor damage. The cause of this accident is under investigation.

London, Jan 19 — A press report, dated today, states; Ship deliveries to most of the Sabine-Neches Waterway were stalled again today as salvage crews removed concrete lost by a barge. The accident Tuesday left 94 piles, each weighing about 32,110 pounds, in the ship channel. A crane is picking up the heaps one by one,

forcing the ship channel's closure to large vessels for days, said U.S. Coast Guard spokesman Lt. Ian Bird. Tugs and barges were allowed into the waterway starting Tuesday evening, he said. Seven crude oil tankers are waiting to enter and 11 others are tied up by the restrictions. Motiva Enterprises is expecting a shipment today of crude, but the refinery keeps enough stock in case of delivery delays, said spokeswoman Sue Parsley. At the Port of Beaumont, a ship is waiting to leave and one needs to drop off a potash shipment, said Chris Fisher, port director. "We have to hope they'll make good progress on removing those pilings," he said in a phone interview. The debris site is far enough from the Port of Port Arthur and Valero Energy that ships can get to those docks. The Coast Guard still was investigating how the barge lost the cargo headed for Sabine Pass, Bird said. No one was injured in the accident, but the barge belonging to a rental company was damaged, according to a Coast Guard press release. Dunham Price Group, a ready-mix concrete company based in Westlake, La., was renting the barge.

London, Jan 19 — Following received from Coast Guard New Orleans, timed 2335, UTC, states: The barge that lost the pilings in the Sabine Neches Waterway on Tuesday was freight barge *M 846*, official No.1075013, which was being towed by tug *Pinto*.

London, Jan 23 — A press report, dated Jan 22, states: Ship traffic resumed on the Sabine-Neches Waterway on Saturday (Jan 21) after an accident had closed the channel for most of the week. Large vessels could not pass through the waterway, one of the region's economic lifelines, while crews worked to remove the 94 concrete pilings spilled by a barge (barge *M 846*) Tuesday (Jan 17). Once the channel re-opened, all hands were on deck to clear the backlog of vessels, said a dispatcher with Sabine Pilots. Crews had been working nonstop to clear the pilings and had removed two-thirds of them by noon on Friday. Although closed to large vessel's, tugboats and barges were allowed to pass during this time. More than 40 vessels were waiting to move through the waterway Saturday night. Priority was given to the crude tankers carrying oil to the region's refineries, which would have had to cutback production this weekend without new shipments.

London, Jan 25 — A Coast Guard Port Arthur press release, dated Jan 21, states: Captain Sharon Richey, the Captain of the Port at Coast Guard Marine Safety Unit, Port Arthur, reopened the Sabine Neches Waterway to all traffic today at 1330 today after 94 large concrete pilings (lost from barge *M 846*), were removed from the ship channel. Salvage and dive crews have been working on a 24-hour basis removing the concrete pilings since Tuesday. The last piling was removed at 0925 today. After a thorough survey of the underwater section of the ship channel, Captain

Richey opened the channel to all traffic. There are approximately 31 ships affected by this closure. The cause of this accident is under investigation.

MAERSK DERINCE (Marshall Islands)

London, Jan 24 — A press report, dated Jan 20, states: C.c. *Maersk Derince* (54193 gt, built 2006) Korea for Los Angeles, on maiden voyage, with 5,089 TEU, lost 52 containers over the side. The vessel loaded twice at Busan, with intermediate call at Gwangyang. (Note — *Maersk Derince* sailed Busan Jan 5 and arrived Long Beach Jan 15, according the LMIU AIS, was in lat 34 4.65N, long 119 16.37W, at 0658, Jan 18.)

MAERSK HOLYHEAD (Venezuela)

London, Jan 26 — Understand Lpg *Maersk Holyhead* is currently repairing at Curacao, and that a final date for it to resume service is not yet known.

MAISTROS BREEZE (Hong Kong)

London, Jan 22 — Bulk *Maistros Breeze* sailed Buenos Aires Jan 15.

MAR ELENA (Canary Islands)

See "Ligurian Sea" under "Pollution."

MARESEN (Indonesia)

Manila, Jan 26 — The Philippine Coast Guard reported general cargo *Maresen*, had run aground in Apo Reef, south-west of Mindoro island at around 1200, today. The vessel had originated from Manila. The Coast Guard did not say where the vessel was headed for. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

London, Jan 26 — A press report, dated today, states: An Indonesian cargo ship ran aground on Apo reef, off Mindoro island today, reports reaching the Philippine Coast Guard said. There were no reported injuries after general cargo *Maresen* ran aground at around 1200, local time, reports said. "According to the ship's captain, all passengers and crew are in good physical condition," reports said. Investigators have yet to determine the cause of the accident.

MARIELLE BOLTEN (Liberia)

London, Jan 24 — SvitzerWijismuller Salvage B.V. and its partner Resolve Marine Group received overnight instructions from owners/ underwriters to provide salvage assistance to general cargo *Marielle Bolten* (19354 gt, built 1997), which grounded in bad weather conditions off Puerto Plata on the north coast of the Dominican Republic. Immediately upon the information having been received on the grounding of the vessel, salvage team members from the USA and The Netherlands were mobilised in, while other resources were kept on immediate standby. Re-inforcements will be moved in as necessary with the contract in place.

London, Jan 24 — A press report, dated today, states: A Liberian freighter loaded with tubes ran aground at dawn yesterday, at the entrance to the bay in Santo Domingo, when the winds caused a wave surge, said the local port administrator, Freddy Gutierrez, quoted by the newspaper Listin Diario. He said that the entrance of general cargo *Marielle Bolten* was slated for 0600, but its master P. Ziadecki, of Polish nationality, without warning, tried to dock at 0100. The Dominican Port Authority official stated that the vessel, consigned to the B&R shipping firm, came from Rio de Janeiro and that it was the first time that it tried to enter the port, for which Captain Ziadecki did not know the narrowness of the bay's access channel. He said that the vessel beached between a rock and the hulk of the ship *Tikal* and at noon yesterday was on the coral reef at the port's eastern edge. Gutierrez said that they were waiting for the arrival of its proprietors to determine how to conduct the salvage operation. He affirmed that in the past cruise ships and freighters have run aground and they have been all rescued, with the exception of *Colonia* and *Tikal*, whose hulks are on the sea bottom and at the surface, respectively. Puerto Plata Bay's harbour channel, with many keys and reefs, is difficult to ford because the wind roughens its waters.

MARIGO (Cyprus)

London, Jan 24 — According to LMIU AIS, bulk *Marigo* was at Ostermoor, in lat 53 53 15.12N, long 09 10 52.44E, at 1329, UTC, Jan 24.

MAXIM'S DES MERS (Bahamas)

London, Jan 25 — On/about Dec 4, 2005, passenger *Maxim's des Mers* (1280 gt, built 1942) was observed lying in an abandoned, derelict and semi-submerged condition, in Toulon.

MISS CHRISTINE IV (U.S.A.)

London, Jan 24 — A press report, dated today, states: The Royal Cayman Islands Police Service Marine Unit, the Department of Environment as well as Harbour House Marina were all involved in the rescue of an 85 foot steel fishing boat that ran in to trouble last week, when it ran into the reef in the Rum Point Channel. The 911 Emergency Communication Centre received a call for assistance at about 1115 hrs on Thursday Jan 19. The vessel, fishing *Miss Christine IV* (173 gt, built 2001) is originally from New Orleans, USA and she was on route to Croatia in Europe. There was a crew of four people on board. The vessel had a damaged prop and was towed inside the reef for the prop to be inspected. No one received any injuries during the rescue.

MOL RENAISSANCE (Liberia)

London, Jan 20 — A Senator Lines GmbH release, dated Suez Jan 13,

states: C.c. *MOL Renaissance*, customer information No.2: We received the information from vessel's operator that the Jordan port authorities finally rejected the berthing of *MOL Renaissance*, despite the fact that the fire had been extinguished and the fire effected area in hold No.2 will be deemed as safe by the salvor's fire experts. It is now planned that the vessel will resume its voyage to Suez after having refilled the empty carbon dioxide bottles and subsequently a necessary class survey had been carried out. As to the present information a Suez Canal transit can be expected earliest on Jan 19 provided the Suez Canal Authorities will give their approval.

Amman, Jan 25 — C.c. *MOL Renaissance* sailed Aqaba port without discharging its cargo. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Jan 25 — A SvitzerWijismuller Salvage BV report, dated Jan 21, states: SvitzerWijismuller Salvage B.V. succeeded today, Jan 21, in moving c.c. *MOL Renaissance* through the Suez Canal shortly after it had left the Gulf of Aqaba. The fire which affected one of its holds was brought under control already earlier this month by a salvage and fire fighting team, on board as from end last year. This part of the operation required locating the seats of the fire and setting up a dedicated attack on these seats inside the containers inside the affected hold. It then was the intention to enter the port of Aqaba to remove the affected containers, and permissions for that were received, but secret national security threads prevented this on instructions of national governmental level. These secret and non fire/casualty related security threads forced salvors, after the vessel was made safe enough and the carbon dioxide stocks were replenished and permission of class and underwriters was obtained, to depart from Aqaba on Jan 19 and head towards the original discharge ports. This also required salvors to arrange Suez Canal passage, which was achieved without any delay at all during today. SvitzerWijismuller salvage/fire fighting teams remain on board the casualty throughout the voyage to maintain control over the vessel and its condition.

MOUNT TROODOS (Cyprus)

London, Jan 25 — Following received from Coast Guard New Orleans, timed 1615, UTC: Bulk *Mount Troodos* (20446 gt, built 1982) grounded on soft mud while taking on bunkers at Mile 79, lower River Mississippi, at 0515, CST, today. Vessel refloated at 0849, CST, and is now anchored under a restriction order.

MS. ANGEL (U.S.A.)

London, Jan 25 — A press report, dated today, states: Partially sunken barge *Ms. Angel* (239 gt, built 2001) blocked traffic in the Intracoastal Waterway yesterday, halting

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

shipments and costing businesses hundreds of thousands of dollars. The giant barge carrying a full load of crushed limestone began sinking early yesterday morning. It was not known when the canal would be reopened. The barge blocked traffic in one of the most travelled stretches of the Intracoastal, according to Raymond Butler, executive director of Gulf Intracoastal Canal Association, based in Houston. Butler said "about 40 tows, barge and tug units pass that reach of the waterway every 24 hours". "I'm hearing right now that we'll be down for about 48 hours. That's equivalent of 80 tows," Butler said early yesterday afternoon. "Each of those is costing somebody about \$5,000 a day while it's sitting. That equates to about \$400,000 every 24 hours." The barge rested at mile marker 171, about a mile west of the Forked Island Bridge. The barge is owned by Lalande Towing Operators LLC based out of New Iberia.

London, Jan 26 — A Coast Guard New Orleans press release states: A 264-foot barge (*Ms. Angel*), owned and operated by Lalande Towing Operators LLC, based in Iberia, La, containing crushed limestone sits in the Intracoastal Waterway at mile marker 171, west of the Harvey Locks in Louisiana. The Coast Guard established a safety zone around the barge and will oversee offload and salvage operations.

London, Jan 26 — A press report, dated Jan 25, states: The Intracoastal Canal remains closed after barge *Ms. Angel* sank yesterday morning near Forked Island. The accident is causing huge delays on one of the state's major waterways. The Coast Guard says it will still take time to open up the Intracoastal Canal through Vermilion Parish. Senior Chief Petty Officer Tim Mayer with the U.S. Coast Guard says there will be no tugs and barges going through until they get more help. A barge carrying crushed limestone sank early yesterday near Forked Island. Crews are currently using a crane barge to unload the limestone into a hopper vessel. One crane may not be enough to handle the accident. Mayer says the word from his office is the possibility of bringing a second crane barge out to expedite this situation is being investigated. Lock master Harold Trahan with the Leland Bowman Locks in Intracoastal City says as many as 40 vessels are waiting for the accident to be cleared. He says the costs for the barge companies may run into the millions. Trahan says the plants and facilities waiting for the cargo may also feel the pinch. Coast Guard getting the work done quickly is a major priority. They say the canal is a vital link between Louisiana and Texas. The Coast Guard says it may take two days to get the accident cleared. The cause is still under investigation.

MYSTIC (Netherlands Antilles)

Poznan, Jan 20 — Ref *Mystic* is still lying afloat at GRYFIA shipyard in Szczecin. No repairs have commenced yet. There is just a skeleton crew left onboard — Lloyd's Agents.

NAPOCOR POWER BARGE NO.106 (Philippines)

See "Tropical Storm 'Kajiki'" under "Weather & Navigation."

NORTHERN ORION (U.S.A.)

London, Jan 20 — A press report, dated today, states: Fishing *Northern Orion* (195 gt, built 1945), docked at Tongue Point, spilled diesel fuel into the Columbia River Tuesday (Jan 17), causing a sheen one mile long and 500 feet wide, according to an Oregon Department of Environmental Quality emergency action report. When officials were alerted and arrived at the vessel they said there was nothing they could do to clean up the spill. "By the time we got there, Mother Nature had eaten a lot of it up," said US Coast Guard Lt Romulus Matthews, chief of marine environmental response with the Portland Marine Safety Office. Matthews' office was notified of the spill about 1630 Tuesday and responders arrived at Tongue Point between 1830 and 1900 hrs, he said. The Coast Guard did not know how much had been spilled, he said, but investigators were on scene Wednesday to assess the vessel and prevent further discharge, as well as look into the cause of the incident. Depending on what the investigation finds, the Marine Safety Office has a range of enforcement tools, from letters of warning to civil penalties, Matthews said. US Coast Guard Group Astoria received a report shortly before 1600 hrs that the vessel was pumping fuel into the water, said Lt jg Kelly Vandenberg. The *Northern Orion* was tilting 18 degrees to port, so the crew pumped out the bilge to straighten it. However, there was fuel in the bilge that was pumped into the river, Vandenberg said. Oregon State Police and the Astoria Fire Department also responded to Tongue Point. "There was a large sheen of diesel on the water," said OSP Senior Trooper Trygve Klepp, who was dispatched at 1627 hrs. "The odour was pretty strong." He said the spill apparently started Tuesday morning but that by the time he showed up it had dispersed. The fire department responded at 1613 hrs and provided logistical support. The *Northern Orion* is an oiler that was converted to a crabbing vessel but was part of a King crabber buy-back programme and was on its way to Panama, Klepp said. It had mechanical problems, however, and was towed to Tongue Point last week. Although it is not known how much fuel was released, the vessel has the potential to have 19,000 gallons on board, as well as 50 to 100 gallons of used motor oil as well as other substances, according to DEQ's emergency action report.

NORWEGIAN SPIRIT (Bahamas)

London, Jan 19 — A press report, dated today, states: Passenger *Norwegian Spirit* (75338 gt, built 1998) was hit by a 40-foot wave in the Caribbean. It happened just after they left Tortola in the British Virgin Islands. Passengers on the boat's lower floors say they watched waves of between 40 and 50 feet smash through several windows and a major restaurant. Eleven cabins were flooded. A spokeswoman from Norwegian Cruise Lines praised the ship's master and crew for avoiding panic and repairing the situation immediately. Most of the 2,000 other passengers in the unaffected areas agreed their trip was a good one overall, just a bit rocky. The passengers in the cabins that were most affected by the storm had paid about \$1,300 for the cruise, but Norwegian Cruise Lines is now offering them a free cruise in the future, if they want it.

NSI NO.1

Tortola, Jan 19 — Fishing *NSI No.1* is currently lying hauled out at the Nanny Cay Marina boatyard. Repairs have not yet commenced. — Lloyd's Agents.

ORAN STAR (Panama)

London, Jan 24 — General cargo *Oran Star* arrived Tuzla Jan 4 from Spain.

P.MOUZELIS (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

London, Jan 26 — Bulk *P.Mouzelis* arrived Rizhao Dec 24 and sailed Jan 3 for Yosu.

PATRICIA S. (U.S.A.)

See *Island Brave*.

PETER R.CRESSWELL (Canada)

London, Jan 25 — Following received from Coast Guard Cleveland, timed 1605, UTC: Bulk *Peter R.Cresswell* (19853 gt, built 1982) briefly touched bottom in the Calumet River, near 106 Street Bridge, Chicago, at 1700, CST, Jan 23. No damage was reported and vessel continued its voyage, outbound.

London, Jan 25 — A report, dated today, states: At 0900, EST, Jan 23, bulk *Peter R.Cresswell*, downbound in the Calumet River, Chicago, struck bottom/or submerged object, about 120m below the 106th St. Bridge. Vessel was holed.

POLANA

Bucharest, Jan 23 — Pusher-tug *Polana* was refloated at 1000 hrs, Jan 17, and was towed to a position close to Giurgiu shipyard dock on the afternoon of the same day. The *Polana* was docked at noon, Jan 20, and was undocked on Jan 22, after removal of the propellers. The tug-pusher will be reportedly towed to Slovakia, with the tow possibly commencing on Jan 25. — Lloyd's Agents.

PRIVATIM (Netherlands)

London, Jan 26 — General cargo *Privatim*, 73 metres long and 8,20

metres width, built in 1962, owned by Privatim Vof at Lemmer, Utrecht to the Eemshaven with a cargo of 1000 tons of asphalt scrapings, sank near the entrance of the Eemshaven in the River Ems at about 2100, local time, Jan 25. The master could save himself by swimming ashore. According to a skipper that sailed in front of the *Privatum*, there were at the entrance of the harbour waves of about 2,5 metres high, cause by the strong winds. The wreck lies about 10 metres deep and has been marked by buoys. There is no obstruction for the shipping traffic to and from the Eemshaven.

QUEEN MARY 2 (U.K.)

London, Jan 19 — A press report, dated today, states: Passenger *Queen Mary 2* was allowed to leave Port Everglades early this morning, two days after a hitting a sea wall and damaging part of the propulsion system, the US Coast Guard said. The vessel planned to sail last night at dinner time, and then by midnight, after crews inspected the damaged system and concluded the vessel could sail. However, those plans were on hold until the vessel's damaged motor propeller could be removed, Coast Guard Petty Officer Dana Warr said today. Steps to put the motor out-of-service were completed "sometime early this morning," Warr added, and the vessel left around 0600 or 0700 hrs. Even while the vessel is at sea, the Coast Guard continues to examine how it hit an underwater channel as it tried to leave Port Everglades on Tuesday afternoon (Jan 17). "We have determined the vessel is safe for voyage and for the passengers, but the cause and the reason and who's at fault is still under investigation," Warr said. Divers inspected the systems yesterday and confirmed that one of the vessel's four propulsion motors had been damaged from hitting the channel wall. While one of the four motors will be inoperable because of the damage, Cunard Line, the vessel's owner, said the vessel can operate without a problem on the three remaining engines, and cleared it to resume a 38-day voyage around South America, ending in Los Angeles on Feb 22.

London, Jan 23 — A press report, dated Jan 22, states: Some passengers on board passenger *Queen Mary 2* are threatening a sit-in when the vessel reaches port in Brazil to protest a last-minute change in itinerary, the vessel's operator said today. The vessel left New York on Jan 15 and was scheduled to arrive in Los Angeles on Feb 22. Carrying more than 2,500 passengers, it hit the side of a Florida shipping channel Jan 18, damaging a motor and reducing its speed. The cruise cut stops in Barbados, St. Kitts and Salvador, Brazil, to make up for lost time, said Eric Flounders, a Cunard Line spokesman. Cunard offered 1,000 passengers who had been scheduled to disembark in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, a 50% refund to make up for the

missing stops, Flounders said. Some were unhappy with the offer and told the captain they would refuse to leave the ship, he said. He said only a small number of passengers were protesting, but he did not know how many. "Cunard takes the view that they are on board, they're enjoying all the facilities of the QM2, all the food, the entertainment and so on, so while we very much regret they're missing the ports, we feel the 50% compensates for that," he said. One passenger, Alan Berg, said that many people on the vessel were extremely unhappy and demanding full refunds. "We have been lied to and misled," Berg said. "We should have been allowed the option of getting off at Fort Lauderdale and not taking the cruise at all. It is not in fact a cruise now but a rather a voyage by sea to Rio. Many guests are on once-in-a-lifetime holidays and I have seen several in tears." Flounders said Cunard did not know until after the vessel left port how much speed it would lose and how many ports of call it would have to skip to reach Rio de Janeiro on time on Jan 26.

London, Jan 26 — UK law firm Capital Law has filed a class action on behalf of passengers on board passenger *Queen Mary 2* who have been protesting over delays to a 38-day cruise around South America due to one of the vessel's pods being out of action. A statement from the law firm yesterday said: "We can confirm that we have been asked to represent a number of the passengers on board *Queen Mary 2* and have registered a group action. These passengers are very unhappy at their present predicament. They are dissatisfied with Cunard's proposals which fail to reflect the passengers' reasonable expectations of the holiday, which for many should have been the holiday of a lifetime." A Cunard spokesman said yesterday that he could not comment because no legal paperwork had been received by them. Cunard has offered a 50% refund to passengers on the voyage between Fort Lauderdale — where one of the vessel's pods was damaged — and Rio de Janeiro because of three missed port calls. Disgruntled passengers are claiming hotel and flight costs. The Cunard spokesman said that all those passengers due to disembark at Rio would arrive in time to meet their flights homeward. However, some passengers had wanted to extend their stay in Rio, which has been cut short by the delay. While Cunard was prepared to reschedule flights and accommodation, he said, the company was not offering compensation if passengers wished to stay on. Passengers also complained that they were not told about the missed port calls before they left from Fort Lauderdale. Some passengers have said they would have disembarked again and cancelled the trip. Cunard said any disembarkation would have caused immense administrative difficulties as the Jones Act prevents non-US registered vessels embarking

in one US port and disembarking in another without visiting a non-US port first. The cruise commenced in New York and called at Fort Lauderdale to pick up more passengers before heading down towards South America.

London, Jan 26 — A press report, dated today, states: Passenger *Queen Mary 2*, which is facing legal action by at least 250 passengers, is still running a day late and will not reach port until tomorrow, officials have admitted. The ship was due to arrive in Brazil early today after cancelling all three port trips on a 12-day cruise. The latest estimates indicate that it will arrive in Rio de Janeiro at 0600, local time, tomorrow, 22 hours behind schedule. Passengers, who have threatened a sit-in and have begun a class-action legal suit, now fear that they will miss their flights home. Cunard, the cruise operator, is arranging transport for passengers who booked a package, but those who booked flights independently are not guaranteed passage home. Hundreds of passengers due to disembark in Rio have tried to contact the British law firm Capital Law, which confirmed yesterday that it had registered a class-action on their behalf. Cunard has offered a 50% refund for passengers on the 12-day leg from New York to Rio.

R.S.STERLING (U.S.A.)

Veracruz, Jan 24 — Ferry *R.S. Sterling* is still aground at the same place on the beach near Boca del Rio, State of Veracruz. Apparently, its owners have desisted from refloating it and are looking to sell the vessel as scrap to be cut up "as is". Tug *Verona* and barge *Bruce W543* have departed from Veracruz after paying all expenses, damages and fines. — Lloyd's Agents.

RICKMERS GENOA (Marshall Islands)

Maassluis, Jan 20 — General cargo *Rickmers Dalian*, ex *Rickmers Genoa*, sailed Hamburg Jan 19 for Antwerp. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

SAFE CONCORDIA (Panama)

Singapore, Jan 20 — Semi-sub HL vessel *Safe Concordia* is still in port, lying afloat anchored at West Jurong Anchorage, Singapore, since Jan 12. Semi-sub HL vessel *Mighty Servant 1* with *Safe Concordia* arrived and was anchored at West Jurong Anchorage at 1325, local time, Jan 12 from Melbourne. *Safe Concordia* was reported to be been off-loaded from *Mighty Servant 1* on or about Jan 13 and thereafter anchored itself at West Jurong Anchorage. *Mighty Servant 1* reportedly departed Singapore Jan 15 for Nhatrang. — Lloyd's Agents.

SEASPAN 529 (Canada)

See *Seaspan Chief*.

SEASPAN CHIEF (Canada)

Vancouver, Jan 20 — Barge *Seaspan 529* was refloated the same day. The vessel sustained minor hull damage

and entered dry dock for repairs the following day. The repairs are expected to be completed shortly. No cargo was lost due to the incident. Tug *Seaspan Chief* sustained no damage and did not require repairs. The vessel was back on its normal route and operations the following day. — Lloyd's Agents.

SICHEM PANDORA (Malta)

See *Kleine Familie*.

SILVA (Cambodia)

Esbjerg, Jan 19 — General cargo *Silva* is still in port at Esbjerg. — Lloyd's Agents.

SOLWAY HARVESTER (United Kingdom)

London, Jan 20 — A press report, dated today, states: A faulty bilge alarm probably meant the crew of fishing *Solway Harvester* were unaware the vessel was taking on water, an official accident report has said. The bilge pumping arrangements on *Solway Harvester* were also not working as intended when she sank with the loss of all seven of her Scottish crew, the Marine Accident Investigation Branch report added. Having lost stability with six to nine tonnes of water in the fish room, the vessel's subsequent capsizing in very bad weather off the Isle of Man in January 2000 was "inevitable," the report said.

STADUM (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Jan 23 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: General cargo *Stadum* (1984 gt, built 1989) hit a pilot boat at 0600, Jan 22, while being towed by tug *Corvin* from Brunsbuettel port to Poland for repairs of its damaged superstructure and main deck. A raft of the boat was torn off and had to be salvaged from the Elbe afterwards.

Maassluis, Jan 22 — General cargo *Stadum* sailed Hamburg Jan 21 for Gdansk. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

Poznan, Jan 25 — General cargo *Stadum* berthed on Rumunskie quay in Gdynia at 2349, Jan 24. Duration of repairs to collision damage about 30 days. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Jan 26 — A report from Kiel, dated today, states: Bulk *Marigo* left the Elbe Harobur in Brunsbuettel 1800, Jan 25.

SUAD N. (North Korea)

Tunis, Jan 25 — General cargo *Suad N.* (1599 gt, built 1976) reported having lost its rudder at Bizerta roads. — Lloyd's Agents.

TAMBORA (Philippines)

Manila, Jan 23 — The claim of White Gold Marine Services president John Ancheta that non specific tanker *Tambora* left port without clearance from the company was supported by statements made by other company officers during the second hearing of the Board of Marine Inquiry held on Jan 16. White Gold Marine Services is the owner and operator of the vessel. During the second hearing, the

company's operations manager and liaison officer both said that no authorisation had been given for the vessel's departure on the night of Dec 23. Five hours after leaving port, the vessel caught fire after which it disappeared, together with its six-man crew. Philippine Coast Guard legal officer Lt Lazaro Valdez Jr said that the Board would issue subpoenas to the relatives of the missing crew members for them to testify at the next hearing. — Lloyd's List Correspondent. (See issue of Jan 10.)

Manila, Jan 24 — The Philippine Coast Guard said that it had called off search and rescue, as well as retrieval, operations for non specific tanker *Tambora* as hopes for finding the vessel and its six-man crew faded. The cancellation was issued yesterday, one month after the *Tambora* was lost. The last time the vessel was sighted was on Dec 23, on fire, drifting and without its crew. "It is unlikely that the crew could have survived on the open sea after such a long period," Lt Lazaro Valdez Jr of the Philippine Coast Guard said. Lt Valdez, who is handling the investigation of the *Tambora*, also said that there appeared to be very little chance of finding the vessel. "In all probability it sank because of its weakened state," he added. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

TARIFA (Spain)

See "Tropical Storm "Delta" under "Weather & Navigation".

THANH PHONG

Hanoi, Jan 20 — Vessel *Thanh Phong*, 499 gt, from Quang Ninh, Vietnam for Hochiminh, Vietnam, sank at 0300, Dec 12, in lat 14 06N, long 109 13E, DeGi, Phu Cat, Binh Dinh province. Depth of vessel about 13 metres, about one nautical mile from DeGi seaport. According report of the captain and chief engineer, at time of sinking there was 940 tonnes of coal dust, 5,000 litre diesel oil, 150 litre light oil on board. Until now, the vessel is still lying sunk. No sign of oil pollution. No salvage operation is carried out. The owner took out a survey and advised that coal dust has floated and leaked out, there still about 200 tonnes inside hold. The owners is discussing salvage contract with a company to refloat the vessel. The salvage operations is expected to be carried out early February. — Lloyd's Agents.

TINIAN EXPRESS (Panama)

Honolulu, Jan 23 — Ferry *Tinian Express* is now back in service. — Lloyd's Agents.

TOBA (Singapore)

London, Jan 25 — A press report, dated today, states: Vehicle *Toba* (54680 gt, built 1979) veered into shallow waters, nearly running aground and prompting the brief evacuation of the St. Simons Island Pier (Georgia). The outward-bound vessel quickly dropped its anchors around 1400 Monday (Jan 23) in an

apparent emergency manoeuvre that jerked the ship to a halt about 40 feet from the beach near the pier, according to witnesses. As the bow anchor dug into the sandy bottom, the ship's stern swung toward the pier. No injuries were reported. The pier was not damaged, police said. No damage was visible to the ship, which went back to sea after a stopover at Brunswick. The ship was helped back out to the shipping channel around 1410 hrs by crews from a marine towing company. The Coast Guard is investigating the incident

TOM TOUGH (Australia)

See *Global Peace*.

TYUMEN (Russia)

London, Jan 26 — A press report, dated today, states: The South Korean coast guard said today it has seized Russian general cargo *Tyumen* (2592 gt, built 1981) that earlier lost 2,000 pieces of timber in the East Sea. The maritime authority of Jeju Island said *Tyumen* was apprehended 102 kilometres south of Hwasun port in the southern part of the island after it ignored orders to halt. It said a cutter and a helicopter took part in the seizure.

VALOUR (U.S.A.)

London, Jan 19 — A press report, dated today, states: The Coast Guard suspended its search today for a seaman missing from tug *Valour*, which sank off the North Carolina coast Tuesday night (Jan 17). The Coast Guard had been searching for the missing man for about 24 hours, bringing in an aircraft, two helicopters and three Coast Guard boats. The Coast Guard said one crew member from the *Valour* died, while a second victim is believed to have been on board the tug when it sank and is presumed dead. Fuel still on board the *Valour* may pose a threat to the environment, so the Coast Guard is working with owners Maritrans to ensure the sunken tug is cleaned up. A Maritrans spokesman said the survivors were Captain Michael Lynch, second mate Jim Garnett, assistant engineer Lou Gatto, cook Jay Templett and tankermen James Hamilton and Earl Sheppard.

London, Jan 20 — A Maritrans press release, dated Tampa Jan 19, states: Maritrans Operating Company L.P announced today that the US Coast Guard has suspended any further search and rescue efforts following the sinking of its tug *Valour* and confirmed that the missing crewman is presumed lost at sea. A total of three crewmen lost their lives in the incident. There are six other crewmembers who were rescued and who were reunited with their families this morning. Maritrans said its tank barge *M 192P*, safely reached the Cape Fear River under tow this afternoon and is en route to Wilmington, NC. The barge will receive a complete condition assessment for possible damage before it returns to operations. However, the

Coast Guard's preliminary assessment did not find any damage to the barge. There continues to be no indication of any loss of cargo from the barge, which is carrying a type of heavy fuel oil.

London, Jan 21 — A press report, dated Jan 20, states: Tank barge *M 192* that drifted for half a day is now docked at the State Port facility in Wilmington. Tug *Justine Foss* brought the barge, carrying close to 5.5 million gallons of petroleum product, into the port. The barge slowly made the way up the Cape Fear River. After first appearances the double-hulled barge does not seem to have suffered any damage but Coast Guard officials and other experts will look it over the next few days. Tug *Valour* sank in rough seas Tuesday (Jan 17) night while pulling the barge.

London, Jan 20 — Following received from Coast Guard Portsmouth, timed 1535, UTC: Tank barge *M 192* has arrived safely at Wilmington, NC.

VARANDEY (Russia)

London, Jan 24 — A press report, dated Jan 22, states: The two most powerful tugs of Sakhalin, *Rubin* and *Agat*, have failed to take ro/ro *Varandey* off the rocks near the South Kuril Island of Iturup. The rocks have pierced into the vessel's hull, and any attempts of rescuers are abortive. The dry cargo vessel, with a length of 73 metres and a cargo lifting capacity of over 1,000 tonnes, ran aground on Jan 12. *Rubin* was the first to come to its rescue, and *Agat* joined it yesterday. All eleven crewmembers are staying on board the vessel. The vessel's vital systems are intact, the energy supply has not stopped and pumps are taking away water that leaks into the hull. The Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk rescue centre said that *Rubin* and *Agat* would make another attempt tomorrow.

London, Jan 25 — Following received from Vladivostok MRCC, timed 0940, UTC: Ro/ro *Varandey* is still aground, with no refloating progress due bad weather.

VECTOR (Philippines)

See *Dona Paz*.

VEGA (Ukraine)

London, Jan 23 — A press report, dated Jan 14, states: General cargo *Vega* (2406 gt, built 1965) which was aground with water filled in its hatches while it was anchored at the Tuzla Shipyard Regions, was refloated Jan 14. The salvage service anchored and secured the vessel to the Tersan Shipyard at 1530 hrs and delivered to the Tuzla Port Authority. (Note — *Vega* passed Istanbul west Jan 12.)

VERONA

See *R.S. Sterling*.

VERSUS (Belgium)

London, Jan 25 — Belgium-flagged inland cargo *Versus*, length 110 metres, a brand new vessel, Germany for Terneuzen with a cargo of 2,000 tons of gypsum, ran aground in the Witte Tonnenvlije in the

Oosterschelde during ebb tide yesterday morning. Although a tug soon arrived at the stranding place, they were not immediately successful in refloating the vessel. According to the master, the cause of the grounding was that he passed a buoy on the wrong side.

London, Jan 25 — General cargo *Versus* was refloated by three tugs just before 2200, local time, yesterday. The tugs of salvage company Multraship Zephyrus and Multrasalvor and the tug *Delta* from Polderman succeeded in freeing the vessel just before high tide without any known damage. According to a member of the salvage team the master of the vessel was blinded by the low sun. After investigation it proceeded on voyage to Terneuzen.

VERTIGO (Jamaica)

London, Jan 25 — Information received, dated Jan 23, states: Understood bulk *Vertigo* is now close to final discharge at Fredericia. There are indications that the vessel may be towed to a Polish shipyard instead of being repaired at Fredericia. While discharging, the owner has invited to a new round of surveys from several shipyards in order to invite prices again.

London, Jan 25 — Following received from Aarhus RCC, timed 1010, UTC: Bulk *Vertigo* has been released by Danish maritime authorities and is to be towed to Szczecin when the weather conditions are right.

London, Jan 25 — Following received from Copenhagen, dated today: Bulk *Vertigo* has now completed the discharge of its cargo of steel products and is ready for repair. The owner has rejected an offer from the local Fredericia Shipyard and invited several other shipyards to submit a quote. It ended with a contract being awarded to a Polish shipyard at Szczecin. Yesterday, it was planned that *Vertigo* be towed from Fredericia to Szczecin by the tug *Hellas* with the tug *Sveasund* as escort tug for the voyage to Szczecin. However, at 1200 hrs, yesterday, the departure was postponed by order of the underwriters.

VOLGONEFT 120 (Russia)

Mariupol, Jan 25 — Product tanker *Volgoneft 120*: According to our surveyor's information from Sevastopol there was only local fire during welding operation in the area between dry hold and forecabin. The fire was extinguished without any problem. At this moment the vessel is about to complete repairing operation and to leave the shipyard. — Lloyd's Agents.

WEESAM EXPRESS 1 (Philippines)

Manila, Jan 22 — The Philippine Coast Guard reported that locally-registered fast ferry *Weesam Express 1* was slightly damaged after hitting the pier of the Bacolod Real Estate Development Port, central Philippines, at around 1200, Jan 20. The aluminum-hulled fast ferry had

just arrived from Iloilo City and was attempting to dock when it contacted with pier. The collision was attributed to the fast ferry's jammed throttle bolt. There were no deaths or injuries but the vessel had to cancel operations to undertake repairs to its hull. *Weesam Express 1* is owned by Zamboanga-based SRN Fastcrafts, Inc.

Manila, Jan 23 — Fast Ferry *Weesam Express 1* was allowed by the Philippine Coast Guard to resume operations on Jan 21, a day after it rammed the pier at Bacolod Real Estate Development Port in the central Philippines. The Coast Guard said that repairs had been carried out on the vessel and an inspection found it to be seaworthy. The vessel was subsequently allowed to depart for Iloilo. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

WILSON MAR (Malta)

Gdynia, Jan 24 — General cargo *Wilson Mar* sailed Gdynia Jan 11. — Correspondents.

YONG SHENG NO.1 (Belize)

London, Jan 25 — Following notice to mariners issued at 1720, JST, today: A coast guard patrol vessel is towing an engine troubled vessel, (general cargo *Yong Sheng No.1*, 498 gt, built 1983) via lat 33 27N long 137 25E, at 1930, JST, then east of Daio Saki, at 0500, JST, Jan 26, to Ise Wan buoy No.1, approaches, where estimated time of arrival 0800, JST, Jan 26. Speed about 5.8 knots, length of tow 700 metres.

London, Jan 25 — Following received from Coast Guard Japan, timed 1245, UTC: The vessel being towed by a patrol vessel is Belize general cargo *Yong Sheng No.1* which has a Chinese crew.

ZIM ISRAEL (Malta)

London, Jan 19 — A press report, dated today, states: A 31-year-old Israeli man on c.c. *Zim Israel* (37209 gt, built 1992), at sea near Port Everglades, was airlifted by helicopter this morning to Jackson Memorial Hospital in Miami after suffering a full-body burn from an electrical fire on the vessel, the US Coast Guard said. The vessel was about two miles away from the port when the incident occurred, Coast Guard Petty Officer Gretchen Eddy said. It was on its way into the port at the time.

London, Jan 19 — Following received from Coast Guard Miami, timed 1750, UTC: C.c. *Zim Israel* sustained only minor fire damage and has now arrived in Port Everglades.

London, Jan 24 — C.c. *Zim Israel* arrived and sailed Savannah Jan 21.



SOMALIA

London, Jan 22 — A press report, dated Jan 21, states: Navy vessels

pursued a suspected pirate ship in the Indian Ocean off Somalia's coast and fired warning shots to capture its crew today, U.S. Navy Forces Central Command said. The guided missile destroyer *Winston S. Churchill* and other U.S. naval forces located the vessel after receiving a report of an attempted act of piracy, but it failed to respond to orders to stop. "*Winston S. Churchill* began aggressive maneuvering in an attempt to stop the vessel. The vessel continued on its course and speed. (Then) *Winston S. Churchill* fired warning shots," said a Navy statement. "(Later) *Winston S. Churchill* fired additional warning shots, and at that time the crew of the suspect pirate vessel established communications by radio and indicated that they would begin sending personnel to the *Churchill* via their small boat in tow." The crew members were seized and U.S. Navy sailors who boarded the vessel discovered small-arms weapons on board, the statement said. It did not say how many suspects were held.

London, Jan 22 — A press report, dated today, states: The US Navy boarded an apparent pirate vessel in the Indian Ocean and detained 26 men for questioning, the Navy said today. The 16 Indians and 10 Somali men were aboard a traditional dhow that was chased and seized yesterday by the US guided missile destroyer *Winston S. Churchill*, said Lt Leslie Hull-Ryde of US Naval Forces Central Command in Bahrain. The dhow stopped fleeing after the destroyer twice fired warning shots during the chase, which ended 87 kilometers off the coast of Somalia, the Navy said. US sailors boarded the dhow and seized a cache of small arms. The dhow's crew and passengers were being questioned today on board the destroyer to determine which were pirates and which were legitimate crew members, Hull-Ryde said. Seamen on board the dhow told Navy investigators that pirates hijacked the vessel six days ago near Mogadiscio and thereafter used it to stage pirate attacks on merchant vessels. The Navy said it captured the dhow in response to a report from the International Maritime Bureau in Kuala Lumpur on Friday (Jan 20) that said pirates had fired on bulk *Delta Ranger*, which was passing some 320 kilometres off the central eastern coast of Somalia. Hull-Ryde said the Navy was still investigating the incident and would discuss with international authorities what to do with the detained men. "The disposition of people and vessels involved in acts of piracy on the high seas are based on a variety of factors, including the offense, the flags of the vessels, the nationalities of the crew, and others," Hull-Ryde said.

London, Jan 24 — A press report, dated today, states: General cargo *Al Manara* (3053 gt, built 1969) has been captured by pirates off the coast of Somalia and is being held for ransom along with the crew, according to reports from the region. The vessel

with a crew of 20 was operating about 150 miles off the Somali coast when it was attacked and seized by armed pirates. The vessel's master was later allowed to issue a radio message confirming his ship had been taken and that a ransom was being demanded.

London, Jan 25 — A press report, dated today, states: A U.S. Navy ship has captured a suspected pirate vessel in the Indian Ocean about 54 miles off the coast of Somalia. The U.S. Navy's Arleigh Burke-class guided missile destroyer USS *Winston S. Churchill* captured the vessel, which U.S. Navy officials described as "an Indian-flagged bulk carrier," on Jan 21, about six days after the crew claimed they had been hijacked," Navy Cmdr. Jeff Breslau, a public affairs officer with U.S. Naval Forces Central Command, said. *Winston S. Churchill* is a guided missile destroyer attached to the U.S. 5th Fleet and is part of a multinational task force patrolling the western Indian Ocean and Horn of Africa region, the American Forces Press Service reported Tuesday. *Winston S. Churchill* and other naval forces located the suspected dhow and shadowed it through the night of Jan 20-21. When the vessel refused to stop, *Winston S. Churchill* fired warning shots, which brought the pirates to a halt. It took a second warning shot to get the crew on board the vessel to establish radio communication and begin obeying instructions to disembark onto small boats the vessel had in tow, AFPS said. Sailors from *Winston S. Churchill* then boarded the pirated vessel, where they found a small-arms cache. Ten suspected pirates were detained and are still on board U.S. ships. "An interagency and international process is under way to determine final disposition," Breslau said. "Piracy is an issue off the coast of Somalia as well as in many parts of the world. It is an international problem that requires an international solution," Breslau said.



AFRICAN KALAHARI (Bahamas)

London, Jan 25 — A press report, dated today, states: The master and three crew members of bulk *African Kalahari* from which seven stowaways were allegedly forced overboard, resulting in two drowning in Durban Harbour, have been charged with culpable homicide and contraventions of merchant shipping and immigration laws. Polish captain Leskowiez Krzstof-Boguslaw and Ukrainian crew members Kuzind Mykola, Sergejev Oleg and Kolesnikov Igor appeared again briefly in the Durban magistrate's court yesterday, where they were handed the final charge

sheet. Their advocate, Jimmy Howse, will meet representatives of the prosecuting authority on Friday to discuss the way forward. It is possible that they will plead guilty and pay heavy fines to avoid a lengthy trial so that they can leave the country. According to the charge sheet before Magistrate P Moodley yesterday, the seamen are facing charges of contravening the Immigration Act by assisting stowaways to unlawfully enter South Africa by allowing them to remain on board the ship. Another charge under the same act is one of aiding and abetting illegal foreigners. They are all charged under the Merchant Shipping Act of "misconduct by seamen in endangering life" in that they caused the stowaways to be lowered into the water. An alternative charge is that they "omitted or refused to do any lawful, proper act, preserving persons on board a ship from danger to life or from injury". The master is facing a further charge under maritime laws of failing to report the presence of the stowaways before, or upon, the ship's arrival in Durban. The ship, which was initially impounded pending the finalisation of the police investigation, has left Durban harbour with a replacement master and crew. (Note — *African Kalahari* sailed Durban Jan 14.)

AGIOS ARSENIOS (Greece)

See under "Tsoukalas Naftiki Eteria."

AGIOS DIONYSSIOS (Greece)

See under "Tsoukalas Naftiki Eteria."

AUDREY

London, Jan 20 — A press report, dated today, states: Dilapidated tug *Audrey*, stranded with some of its crew in Bahrain for a year, is secure and docked in safe waters, officials said yesterday. The vessel was docked last month following a Higher Court judge's ruling, after experts deemed it "unseaworthy." "The vessel is in a bad state but, where it is right now, the water is deep enough that its bottom will not touch the ground," said Bahrain International Seafarers Society (BISS) chairman Captain Ali Haji Hasan. "The water is at least five metres deep and that is plenty of water." The vessel's owner, Filipino Ricarido Jorge, said earlier that he was worried that the *Audrey* might be damaged even further if left in shallow waters. "I want to make sure that the vessel is safe and secure until I get there, so I can auction it off," he said from his home in Ls Pinas City, in the Philippines. Mr Jorge is expected to be in Bahrain soon to settle a court case against him and to sell off the *Audrey*. While in Bahrain, Mr Jorge also plans to hold meetings with his Bahraini lawyer and officials at both the embassy and the Justice Ministry. The next court hearing will be on Feb 26, after the judge adjourned it on Dec 26. Mr Jorge, who has since moved back to the Philippines after 26 years in the

United Arab Emirates, said he hoped to travel to Bahrain some time this month and to stay for at least two weeks. He said he also hoped to settle the unpaid salaries of his nine-member crew, though he disputes their combined claim for over \$34,000 (BD12,852).

BEACON 3 (Belize)

See under "Marine."

INDIAN FISHING VESSEL APPREHENDED BY PAKISTAN

Karachi, Jan 23 — Pakistan's Maritime Security Agency said in a statement that its ship apprehended an Indian fishing boat along with five crew members on board on Jan 21 for fishing illegally in Pakistan waters. The ship was on routine patrol in the eastern maritime region when it found the boat fishing illegally, about 110 nautical miles inside Pakistan's EEZ. It was pointed out that the Indian fishermen have been warned time and again not to indulge in illegal fishing but they repeatedly come in Pakistan's EEZ. The apprehended fishermen were handed over to Docks police station here for further legal action. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

KHRONOMETR (Ukraine)

Buenos Aires, Jan 24 — Fish factory *Khronometr* was abandoned and remains partially sunk at the east side of Pier No. 7 of the port of Mar del Plata. Vessel is included a programme of the Port Authorities in order to be refloated and cut into pieces for scrap and have berthing availability places. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Khronometr* had been under arrest at Mar del Plata since 1994, abandoned and lying partially sunk at the South breakwater, Mar del Plata, as of February, 2000.)

LUCKY DOLPHIN (Panama)

London, Jan 25 — Offers for the purchase of general cargo *Lucky Dolphin* (310 gt, built 1967), which is currently under arrest at Eilat, are invited by the receiver of the vessel, appointed by the Admiralty Court in Haifa. Offers should be submitted in writing not later than Feb 19.

MARIGO (Greece)

London, Jan 20 — A press release from "Newsfront", dated today: Product tanker *Marigo* (488 gt, built 1960) has been seized by private creditor in pursuit of a Euro 5,529 claim against the registered owners Hellas Waters NE.

SEA EMPEROR (Georgia)

Kochi, Jan 21 — Bulk *Sea Emperor* is still laid up at Kochi and status quo is maintained. Prospective buyers for the ship being explored by the present owners. — Lloyd's Agents.

TANIA (North Korea)

Piraeus, Jan 20 — Ferry *Tania* (336 gt, built 1964) was arrested for cigarette smuggling on Jan 17. Following information about the

traffic, coast guard vessels approached the vessel at the sea area north of Lemnos island and led it to Alexandroupolis port. After inspection was ascertained that the vessel had sailed from Constantza and was transporting three trucks loaded with contraband cigarettes. The vessel's seven crew members were arrested and brought to justice. Preliminary investigation is effected by Alexandroupolis Port Authorities. — Lloyd's Agents.

Piraeus, Jan 24 — Following a Court decision, ferry *Tania* was finally arrested and its seven crew members were sentenced to four years imprisonment. — Lloyd's Agents.

TSOUKALAS NAFTIKI ETERIA

Piraeus, Jan 24 — General cargo *Agios Dionyssios* remains under arrest at Larimna. No auction is set up to date. General cargo *Agios Arsenios* sailed from Larimna and arrived at Piraeus port on Jan 10, where still remains. Reportedly the vessel is in course of sale. — Lloyd's Agents.

Pipeline Accidents



ALGIERS, ALGERIA

Algiers, Jan 20 — A gas pipeline explosion rocked the port of Algiers today, causing a fire that sent dark smoke billowing into the sky but no casualties, eyewitnesses and officials said. A Reuters witness said ambulances and bomb experts were at the scene of the blast, which the Algerian official news agency APS said was caused by a gas leak. "The situation is under control. No casualties. We are doing our best to prevent the fire from spreading to gas tankers," an employee of local utility Sonelgaz told Reuters. — Reuters.

RENSHOU COUNTY, SICHUAN PROVINCE, CHINA

London, Jan 20 — A press report, dated today, states: An explosion at a gas pipeline in south-west China killed nine people today and injured at least another 10, the official Xinhua News Agency said. The blast occurred before dawn in Renshou County in Sichuan province, Xinhua said. The pipeline is owned by the China National Petroleum Corporation, the country's biggest state-owned oil company. The cause of the explosion was being investigated.

London, Jan 21 — A press report, dated today, states: Nine people were killed and nearly 40 more injured in a gas pipeline explosion yesterday afternoon in Renshou County, Sichuan Province. A total of 1,837 residents in the vicinity were evacuated after the explosion and have been properly accommodated, sources from Sichuan Provincial Work Safety Bureau said. According to the same sources, the

outward and inward gas pipelines with Fujia Gas Station of China National Petroleum Corporation Southwest Oil and Gas Field Branch exploded around 1217 hrs, producing a big hole in the ground. Eight people were killed on the spot, and one more died in the local hospital, four others were seriously injured. Most of the killed were workers with the gas station and their family members. The explosion also destroyed buildings in the vicinity and slightly injured more than 30 more people. All the injured, mostly suffering from burns, are hospitalized. A spokesman with CNPC Southwest Oil and Gas Field Branch said the exploded pipelines were laid down 1970s and had been operating normally before the accident. The explosion also led to a suspended gas supply for daily use in Renshou, and Ziyang, Jianyang, all in Sichuan Province. CNPC Southwest Oil and Gas Field Branch has organized manpower to repair the pipelines and it is expected that gas supply will resume by noon today. Specialists from the General Administration of Work Safety (GAWS) and CNPC have arrived at the site of the explosion. A special group has been set up to investigate into the cause of the explosion.

London, Jan 23 — A press report, dated today, states: PetroChina Co Ltd has resumed supplying gas to three cities in south-west China after an explosion on Friday (Jan 20) in one of its pipelines. The company said in a statement that gas supply to Renshou County, Jianyang City and Ziyang City in Sichuan province has resumed. On Friday two blasts on the natural gas pipeline facility owned by PetroChina killed 10 people and injured 50. PetroChina said the investigation on the accident was ongoing.

SOUTHERN RUSSIA

London, Jan 22 — A press report, dated today, states: Explosions hit pipelines running through southern Russia early today, cutting the natural gas supply to Georgia and leaving the Caucasus Mountain country with just one day's reserves. The blasts, which hit two pipelines in the southern Russian region of North Ossetia near the border with Georgia, also cut supplies to Armenia, said Viktor Beltsov, a spokesman for Russia's Emergency Situations Ministry. Nikolai Shepel, chief prosecutor for Russia's southern region, was quoted by the Interfax news agency as saying that prosecutors opened an investigation into deliberate destruction of property. In recent years, pipelines in Russia's troubled North Caucasus region have occasionally been damaged in explosions that investigators have deemed sabotage, but the blasts have not caused major supply disruptions. Criminal groups and militants with ties to Chechnya's separatist rebels have been suspected. It will take two or three days to repair the pipelines, regional Emergency

Situations Ministry official Vladimir Ivanov was quoted as saying by the ITAR-Tass news agency. The cutoff threatened to plunge Georgia into a new energy crisis as it headed into a cold snap. The former Soviet republic, which relies on natural gas for most of its heating, has faced extreme energy shortages for more than a decade. "The situation is very difficult. We have enough gas for just one day," Georgian Energy Ministry spokeswoman Teona Doliashvili told The Associated Press. Two out of four units in the main electricity station in the capital, Tbilisi, were switched off because of the explosions, Doliashvili said. The temperature in the Georgian capital today was 23 degrees Fahrenheit. Georgia's Inguri hydroelectric plant, which generates some 45% of the country's electricity, was working at full power but would be unable to sustain operations at that intensity for more than a few days, Doliashvili said.

London, Jan 22 — A press report, dated today, states: The proceedings were instituted on a charge of deliberate damage of private property to investigate the explosion at the main and additional Russian-Georgia gas pipelines today, Russian Exo Moskvi radio says. The explosions were heard with 15-minute intervals on the territory of the Autonomous Republic of North Ossetia, near the Georgian-Russian border early today. According to Nikolai Shepel, Russian Deputy Prosecutor General, the explosions occurred after detonation of the self-made bombs. Total force of detonation amounted to explosion of about 800 grammes of TNT.

Tbilisi, Jan 22 — Georgian President Mikhail Saakashvili accused Moscow of sabotage after explosions early today knocked out the main pipeline in southern Russia that supplies gas to Georgia and Armenia. Russian officials blamed the blasts on anti-Moscow insurgents in its southern region of North Ossetia. However, Saakashvili, who has irritated the Kremlin by pushing his ex-Soviet state closer to the West, said he did not believe the Russian explanation and accused Moscow of cutting gas supplies and triggering an energy crisis just as sub-zero temperatures hit his tiny Caucasus state. "This morning there was a serious act of sabotage on the part of Russia on Georgia's energy system," he told a news conference. He said he believed Russia was trying to force Georgia to surrender ownership of its domestic gas pipeline network to Moscow — the subject of long-running negotiations. Neither he nor Georgian officials offered any evidence for his accusations. The Russian Foreign Ministry, in a sharply worded statement, warned that Saakashvili's remarks would have serious implications for relations between the two countries. "The comments from Tbilisi cannot be described as anything other than hysterical and confused," the ministry said in the statement, which was quoted by RIA

news agency. "It is as if all the members of the Georgian government are competing with each other to use this situation as an opportunity to crank up their anti-Russian campaign," it said. Energy officials in Georgia said reserves were nearly exhausted. Consumers outside the capital were no longer receiving gas, which had also run out in parts of Tbilisi. An official in Tbilisi of the Russian natural gas monopoly Gazprom said Russia would send extra supplies through another pipeline to neighbouring Azerbaijan so that it could ship it to Georgia. Georgian officials are in talks with Azerbaijan for emergency supplies of gas. The pipeline to Georgia was knocked out overnight by two explosions in quick succession on two sections in a mountainous part of North Ossetia. Officials said it would be at least two days before gas started flowing again. Local news agencies quoted unnamed Russian security officials as saying they suspected anti-Moscow insurgents, who periodically carry out attacks in the mainly Muslim Russian side of the Caucasus that includes Chechnya. Russian officials said an explosion 200 km away, also early today, had knocked out the high-voltage line through which Georgia imports extra electricity from Russia. The temperature in the capital Tbilisi today was -5 Celsius, bitterly cold for a country known for its sub-tropical Black Sea seaside resorts. A spokeswoman for Armenia's gas supplier said supplies from Russia had stopped but reserves were being used to supply consumers. — Reuters.

London, Jan 23 — A press report, dated today, states: The gas pipelines leading from southern Russia to Georgia that were wrecked by blasts yesterday will be repaired during the day, the president's envoy to the region said today. Dmitry Kozak said the electricity transmission lines in the North Caucasus republic of Karachai-Cherkessia that were put out of action in different explosions were also being repaired. He did not specify when electricity supplies to Georgia would resume. According to Kozak, an investigation is proceeding but no information was yet available.

London, Jan 24 — A press report, dated today, states: Welding work to repair a Russian gas pipeline to Georgia that was damaged in a suspected terrorist attack has not started yet, a spokesman in southern Russia said today. Vladimir Ivanov, a representative of the Emergency Situations Ministry in the Republic of North Ossetia, said the welding on the Mozdok-Tbilisi pipeline had been postponed after gas condensate began to leak through a pipe in Georgia. "As a result, workers failed to start the welding; they had to pump out the gas condensate all night and are continuing to do so," Ivanov said. He said that pipe layers had planned to complete the welding by the morning, to blow compressed gas through the pipes, and then to gradually fill the

pipeline with gas. However, Ivanov said the welding work had been postponed until Georgia, which is currently experiencing a cold snap, installed a new hermetic plug. Since the accident occurred in the Russian section of the pipeline, cutting gas supplies to Georgia and Armenia, Azerbaijan has been supplying 4 million cubic meters of natural gas a day to the neighboring Georgian republic.



Pollution

COLUMBIA RIVER, UNITED STATES

See *Northern Orion* under "Marine."

LIGURIAN SEA

Genoa, Jan 23 — During discharge of about 15,500 tonnes oil for heating from product tanker *Mar Elena* (11377 gt, built 2003) at ERG Petroli terminal of Vado Ligure, Savona, at about 1630, Jan 21, the middle section of concrete pier collapsed without causing damage to the pipeline connecting shore tanks to vessel's mooring, about 1,200 m. Understand manifold connecting vessel's pipeline and pier pipeline damaged and some oil lost to sea before closure of all valves. Local Port Authority and anti-pollution company Trasmare attended immediately security operations and anti-polluting measures in order to keep under control the product lost at sea and to rescue two workers who remained trapped at the head of the pier. No fire broke out and vessel immediately left the berth and remained anchored at Savona roads. The pier pipeline cleared at 1200, Jan 22. Estimated time for repairs of structures and resumption of operations at the terminal not yet known. ERG Petroli terminal reports about 12/15 berthings of vessels for loading/unloading of about total 200,000 tonnes of oil a year. Understand that the other local terminals, Petrolig, Sarpom and Esso Italiana, report higher traffic. — Lloyd's Agents.

MAR ELENA (Canary Islands)

See "Ligurian Sea - Pollution - Mar Elena (Cni)" under "Pollution".

NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT, UNITED STATES

See *Energy 5501* under "Marine."

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA, UNITED STATES

London, Jan 19 — A press report, dated today, states: An 11-mile stretch of Santa Monica Bay remained closed for a fourth day because of a massive sewage spill but officials said most of the beaches would reopen this morning. Environmentalists called yesterday on the county sanitation district to retrofit all pumping

stations with underground storage facilities that would capture leaking sewage that would otherwise flow into streets, flood control channels, the beach and the ocean. The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors has ordered sanitation officials to prepare a detailed report on how to prevent a repeat of the spill, which was largest in a decade. An official with the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board confirmed yesterday that the agency would be investigating the incident. Calls for better pumps and warning systems have also come from leaders of some beach cities after more than two million gallons of raw sewage spilled from a Manhattan Beach pumping plant after an apparent power failure. As much as 100,000 gallons flowed onto beaches, officials estimated. A series of electrical faults caused the station to shut down and sewage to back up. An alarm system designed to alert sanitation officials of such a problem failed.



BURUNDI

Bujumbura, Jan 20 — At least 120 Burundians have died and thousands of others have fled to neighbouring countries due to food shortages brought on by drought prevailing in northern and eastern parts of the country, local officials have said. "A total of 2,500 people in Ruyigi have crossed to Tanzania since December," Moise Bucumi, the provincial governor, said on Thursday. He said some 771 of these had settled in a refugee camp in Kigoma, a region in the west of Tanzania. "It is difficult to determine the exact number of those who cross the border since some of them seek shelter in Tanzanian households, where they work in exchange for food," Bucumi said. The drought-related deaths occurred in the northeastern province of Muyinga, where the governor, Feruzi Mohammed, said 2,512 residents had fled, either to other provinces in the country or to neighbouring Rwanda and Tanzania. Mohammed said 84,093 people - representing 80 percent of Muyinga's population - were facing food shortages as crop production had drastically dropped. "Crops that had been planted on huge tracts of land have been affected by drought before they could ripen," Mohammed said. He said admissions to therapeutic centres were on the rise. By the end of December 2005, he said, 80 cases of malnutrition were recorded at the Muyinga therapeutic centre, including five adults suffering from the protein deficiency, kwashiorkor. He added that in mid-January, 40 cases were recorded, in addition to 128 others previously recorded. In 16 supplementary feeding centres in

Muyinga, he added, 275 admissions were recorded, bringing the total to 2,667. The drought in Muyinga has also forced 3,926 children to abandon school following physical weakness due to food shortages. — Reuters.

CHINA

London, Jan 20 — A press report, dated today, states: More than 160,000 passengers are held up in China yesterday after heavy snow paralyzed one of its major north-to-south railways. The Beijing West Railway Station launched a red-level emergency warning scheme after more than 100,000 passengers were held up there after a heavy snow hit Zhengzhou, capital of central China's Henan Province and a railway hub, delayed trains on the Beijing-Guangzhou Railway. At the Zhengzhou Railway Station, about 60,000 passengers were held up. From 0600, Wednesday (Jan 18), snow began to fall in large areas of China, including Zhengzhou, Wuhan, Shanghai, Xi'an, Ji'nan and Lanzhou. More than 20 trains to leave the capital were held up at the Beijing West Railway Station. One train was late for more than eight hours, a station official said.

EUROPE

London, Jan 21 — A press report, dated today, states: Heavy snowfalls, blustery winds and plunging temperatures wreaked havoc across Northern Europe yesterday, causing major disruptions in air, road and ferry traffic and leaving many people without power. The region, which saw temperatures drop to as low as minus 33 C in the most northern parts, is accustomed to cold wintry weather and is well-equipped to cope with the conditions. Nonetheless, Scandinavian airline SAS cancelled 70 flights in and out of Copenhagen's international airport which had only one of its two runways in operation because of heavy snowfalls. More than 100 trains from the national railway company DSB were cancelled and delays of an hour or more were reported on all routes. School closures were reported across the country, as were numerous road accidents. In Norway, more than 26,000 people were temporarily without power after heavy snow brought down electricity cables, and the national electricity grid Statnett warned that more power outages were likely. Strong winds ripped roofs off buildings, and some schools remained closed or were evacuated due to electricity shortages or the risk of damage caused by the wind. Several roads, autoroutes and ferry routes were out of service in northern Norway. A number of delays and cancellations were also reported at airports. In some areas civilian defence units were called in to help and in one small island town a coast guard vessel delivered food and medical supplies. In addition, 1,100 employees working on development of the Snoehvit gas field in the Barents Sea were evacuated late Thursday

(Jan 19) because of the extreme weather and the Statoil group said they would not return to work until Monday at the earliest. In Finland, temperatures were between minus 20 and minus 33 degrees C yesterday and were forecast to dive to as low as minus 40 degrees C and F in coming days. Fingrid, in charge of the national electricity system, warned of a possible power shortage after Russia said freezing cold at home would force it to cut power deliveries to Finland by 25%.

London, Jan 23 — A press report, dated today, states: Much of northern and eastern Europe remains in the grip of bitterly cold weather as an Arctic freeze claimed victims from Lithuania to Turkey. At least 17 weather-related deaths were reported over the weekend (Jan 21/22). Moscow's death toll from Siberian temperatures jumped to at least 79 after three more people froze to death overnight on Saturday local time. Another 20 were hospitalised with hypothermia, the Interfax news agency says. Temperatures in the Russian capital eased slightly to about minus 18 Celsius degrees, after reaching as low as minus 23 degrees overnight. In Estonia, where temperatures fell to minus 26 degrees in the south-eastern part of the Baltic nation, several fires were caused by overheating, killing two people. Fire engines from the Soviet era had to be taken out of mothballs as they were more effective in resisting the icy temperatures. Two more people died from cold in Lithuania over the weekend, bringing the total to eight and about 100 fires were caused by faulty heaters. Three elderly people also died in Ukraine, raising the total to 21 deaths since temperatures dropped at the start of last week. Five deaths from hypothermia were reported in neighbouring Poland, where rail and road traffic was seriously disrupted Sunday, bringing the total of people to have died from the cold since October to 127. In Turkey, a man died of exposure after walking in snow-covered mountains in the north of the country, the Anatolia news agency says. In eastern Germany, a man died in a pile-up caused by black ice. Across the northern swathe of Europe, from Russia across the Baltics to the Scandinavian states, authorities sought to keep energy supplies running, road and rail traffic circulating and health authorities alerted in the midst of the extreme conditions. In the Moscow region, authorities resolved a number of cases of failed heat supplies to homes and traffic problems caused by heavy snowfall, news reports say, while regions struggled to keep ageing heating systems operational. Forecasters there say temperatures will fall today to minus 24 degrees but would rise later in the week to minus 12 degrees on Thursday (Jan 26).

London, Jan 23 — A press report, dated today, states: Snow reached Istanbul and temperatures in the east

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of Turkey dropped to minus 30 Celsius (minus 22 Fahrenheit) as the nation suffered a freezing blast of Arctic weather, Turkish media reported today. In an accident caused by the icy conditions, at least eight people died and 12 were injured, four seriously, when a bus veered off the road in the centre of the capital Ankara. Snow fell in Ankara overnight but main roads remained open. In Istanbul, Turkey's biggest city which also saw snow falls early today, several universities were closed and authorities cancelled boat services over the Bosphorus separating the city's European and Asian sides. Around 2,000 municipal roadworkers were at work trying to unblock roads and bridges.

London, Jan 24 — A press report, dated Jan 23, states: The bitter cold seizing Russia retained its grip today and severe freezing temperatures spread westward into much of Europe. More than 50 people have been reported killed by the cold wave in Russia, and scores of victims were recorded elsewhere in Europe over the weekend (Jan 21-22). Amid growing demands on heating and electrical systems, many Russian communities suffered breakdowns. The national electricity grid ordered reduced industrial consumption in Moscow to ensure adequate power for homes and hospitals, as temperatures in the capital hovered around four degrees below zero. The former Soviet republic of Georgia was among the most heavily affected areas of Europe, suffering not only temperatures as low as 22 deg below, but also struggling with inadequate gas supplies after explosions blamed on sabotage cut off shipments of Russian gas early yesterday. Georgia scrambled for alternative supplies from neighbouring Azerbaijan, which began reaching the country late yesterday, but service remained spotty today. Moscow's health directorate said 27 people had frozen to death in the capital since the cold wave hit last week. The Health Ministry could not be reached for a nationwide tally of cold deaths, but figures compiled from news reports show at least 53 people dying from the cold. In neighboring Ukraine, 24 people died of the cold yesterday alone, the country's Health Ministry said. Elsewhere in Europe, seven people were reported killed by the cold in Estonia, where temperatures plunged to -22 deg; Germany, Romania and the Czech Republic each reported five dead, and three deaths were recorded in Moldova. Nine Turkish Foreign Ministry employees died when the vehicle carrying them collided with a city bus in Ankara. Ten who survived the crash were being treated at hospitals in Ankara, the Foreign Ministry said. At least 15 people were killed across Turkey and more than 150 injured today, the Anatolia news agency reported, as much of the country was pounded by bad winter. Nearly 12,000 people were left without heat today in Podolsk, a town

outside of Moscow, after a major hot-water pipe ruptured, a federal emergency official said. Most Russian towns and cities are heated through municipal heating systems using hot water. In the Far Eastern Chita region, some residences have been without heat for five days. Heating interruptions also occurred in the Magadan area, where temperatures have hit -46 deg, according to the ITAR-Tass news agency. The cold has severely strained Russia's crumbling infrastructure. Electricity use has surged to record levels as towns and cities struggle to keep indoor temperatures up, and Russians turn to supplemental heating sources including electric radiators. In Poland, Economics Minister Piotr Wozniak said Monday that supplies of Russian gas had fallen amid the cold wave. He said the main Polish gas supplier, PGNiG, was reacting by cutting its output to several industrial clients, including chemical plants, but said that households for the time being would not feel the drop. Romania also reported a reduction in gas from Russia and four large chemical companies were shut down to keep enough gas available for homes and businesses. Italy was also receiving less Russian gas, but was making up for the shortfall with its own reserves, Italy's oil and gas company Eni SpA said. The national Russian electricity company, meanwhile, ordered restricted industrial consumption from 0800-2230 hrs, the RIA-Novosti news agency reported. (See issue of Jan 24.)

London, Jan 24 — A press report, dated today, states: Residents of Athens were given a rare glimpse of snow on the Acropolis today, while low temperatures and snow storms forced the closure of entire towns, schools, ports and roads across Greece. Dozens of towns in north-eastern Greece were blocked off due to heavy snow-fall and residents suffered from abnormal conditions as temperatures plummeted to minus 12 degrees. Schools in most parts of the country were closed while the main highway connecting from the Greek capital to the northern port city of Thessaloniki was backed up for miles. Reports said hundreds of trucks and buses were left stranded approximately 350 km from Athens in the central Greek town of Tembi after heavy snowfall. Ports across the country were closed and power shortages were reported in north-western Greece in the prefectures of Ipiros, Thessalia, northern Evia and the Ionian island of Kefalonia. In Athens, many of the roads leading into the centre were closed off while the majority of flights at Athens international airport were delayed.

London, Jan 24 — A press report, dated Jan 23, states: The extreme winds battering the northern part of Norway over the past four days have caused damage worth at least NOK 50 million, according to estimates made by the insurance companies. First estimates show that damage on

buildings will come to NOK 40 million, while damage on cars and boats will come to NOK 10-12 millions, NRK reports. In the south of the country, several thousand were still without electricity yesterday, following the power outage due to heavy, wet snow over several days.

London, Jan 25 — A press report, dated today, states: Europe's relentless deep freeze, with sub-zero temperatures as far south as Sicily, claimed several dozen more victims overnight, while closing schools and disrupting air, road and sea traffic. Temperatures as low as -36 deg Celsius crippled power grids, burst frozen water pipes and caused thousands of road accidents in a swath of eastern Europe from the Baltic states in the north to Turkey, Greece and Italy. The Arctic weather conditions are expected to affect much of central Europe at least through to the end of this week. Even as temperatures warmed slightly in Russia, where more than 60 people have died since the cold snap began last week, cold claimed 26 lives in neighbouring Ukraine, the health ministry said. A total of 77 Ukrainians have died since temperatures plunged last week, and more than 400 people have been taken to hospital, most of them suffering from frostbite and various stages of hypothermia. Several deaths were reported overnight in Poland, where the toll stands at 39 since last week, and 161 since the onset of the northern winter. Six more fatalities were reported in Turkey, bringing the total for the week to 17. In Romania a 55-year-old man died of hypothermia, the 16th to succumb to cold in recent days, while in Germany the toll climbed to five when a 63-year-old man died in his unheated apartment in Senftenberg. In the Baltic state of Estonia, three more deaths from cold were reported, while in neighbouring Latvia, the toll climbed to 40 after six more died. The near-record cold has also strained heating systems, halted transportation networks, and kept thousands of children out of school. In Estonia, blazes broke out in houses where desperately cold residents attempted to melt frozen pipes with open fires. A passenger ferry from the western island of Vormsi to the mainland took nine hours to make a 30-minute crossing when the vessel got stuck on Sunday (Jan 22) in frozen waters of the Baltic Sea. At least four airports were also closed in Greece. In Poland a number of public transport buses broke down, while trains were running late as rails cracked and electric cables snapped.

GUYANA

London, Jan 23 — A press report, dated Jan 22, states: Guyana's government yesterday deployed soldiers to protect flood control gates and reservoirs after saboteurs set fire to drainage systems in coastal areas threatened by recent flooding, an official said. The damage to two flood control sluices early yesterday

triggered flooding in two eastern villages, said Robert Persaud, a spokesman for President Bharrat Jagdeo. Persaud linked the acts to "apparent anger by residents in some villages about not yet getting flood relief from government." On Friday (Jan 20), about 1,000 protesters blocked the lone highway linking the South American country's east and west, accusing the government of failing to control devastating floods and not providing relief for their losses. Jagdeo on Friday promised to compensate residents in flood-hit areas and announced the opening of two more shelters. Since December, flooding has covered thousands of acres in waist-deep water and displaced more than 5,000 people. More than 12,000 acres of rice paddies and other crops were lost, the state-run news agency reported. About 5,000 cattle have died.

HURRICANE "KATRINA"

London, Jan 20 — A press report, dated Jan 19, states: Utility holding company Entergy Corp. said today its damages from hurricanes "Katrina" and "Rita" totaled \$1.5 billion and predicted its fourth-quarter earnings will drop from a year ago. Entergy said its Entergy Louisiana service area took the biggest hit with \$510 million in damage, followed by Entergy Gulf States Texas with \$380 million. Its Entergy New Orleans unit, which is in bankruptcy, sustained \$275 million in damage. Entergy Gulf States Louisiana had \$195 million, and Entergy Mississippi \$120 million. Entergy said the damage estimates were likely not final since the company was pursuing insurance payments, rate increases and federal assistance to recover the cost of storm damage.

HURRICANE "RITA"

London, Jan 20 — SMIT Salvage has claimed another first with the use of a pull-barge solution to salve drilling platform *High Island II*. SMIT completed the salvage of *High Island II* at the beginning of the year after the rig was damaged by Hurricane "Rita". The legs of the rig had become misaligned by wave action and the main deck had a difference of trim of five degrees. The salvage company's brief was to procure and install a pull barge with a pull force of 1200 kilopounds. SMIT says this was the first use of this method for a rig, and has the advantage of keeping costs down and reducing the prospect of further damage to the rig. The rig is owned by Global SantaFee and was drilling in the South Marsh Island area, about 80 miles off the Louisiana coast, when Hurricane "Rita" struck.

HURRICANE "WILMA"

Veracruz, Jan 22 — Ferry *Bahia de Espiritu Santo*: Salvors are still working on the refloating of the vessel and it could still take at least 10 more days to pull it off the shore in the channel they are digging in the beach. — Lloyd's Agents.

INDONESIA

London, Jan 22 — A press report, dated today, states: Thousands of people have been forced to evacuate their homes in Indonesia after more than 24 hours of heavy rains triggered flash floods and mudslides in several regions. The Antara news agency reports flash floods have sent torrents of mud and water rushing down the eastern slope of Mount Rinjani on Lombok island. More than 1,800 people have been evacuated from two villages in the East Lombok subdistrict of Sambelia. Another 300 are reported to be trapped in the village of Batusele, some of them forced to sleep on their roofs. Floods that caused local rivers to burst their banks have also been reported in three subdistricts on Sumbawa island, just east of Lombok. The Media Indonesia daily says one village on Sumbawa is under two metres of water. Flooding is also reported in Besuki, East Java where the Lubawang river has swollen, prompting thousands of people from six villages to flee to safer ground.

Jakarta, Jan 23 — Landslides triggered by heavy rains have killed at least nine people at three locations in Indonesia, including Bali and Lombok, the Red Cross and local media said today. "From east Lombok we have reports of two deaths, five missing and more than 2,300 people forced to seek refuge. From north Bali, a mother and her child died when landslides hit a village," said Irman Rachman, head of the Indonesian Red Cross' disaster management division. Both incidents occurred during the weekend (Jan 21-22), he added. Rachman said another landslide hit a remote area on Flores island yesterday but a detailed report has not been received yet. Detik.com, an Indonesian news portal, reported five people had been killed there. Bali, Lombok and Flores are located among a string of islands east of Indonesia's main island of Java, where landslides killed more than 100 people this month. — Reuters.

London, Jan 24 — A press report, dated today, states: Three people were killed in the Indonesian capital when strong winds during a monsoon storm knocked over a television relay tower under construction, police said today. The steel tower smashed into eight houses in a residential district in West Jakarta late yesterday, a local police officer said. The officer, Yayan, said that three people in the homes were killed and at least 14 were injured. The tower, which was being built by a private television station, was planned to have a height of 300m but only about 120m had been completed. Strong winds and rains have lashed Indonesia since the weekend, triggering landslides and flash flooding, killing six and leaving five missing. The winds also reportedly blew over a tall billboard in central Jakarta yesterday, hitting two cars but causing no casualties.

IRAQ

London, Jan 23 — Basrah Oil Terminal tug boats are sheltered at Umm Qasr due to rough weather with winds of 21 knots/hour since 1800, local time, Jan 21. Therefore, delays can be expected in the navigation operation.

JAPAN

London, Jan 21 — A press report, dated today, states: The heaviest snowfall in five years is blanketing the greater Tokyo region, causing injuries and disrupting transportation. The Otemachi financial district of downtown Tokyo has received six centimetres of snow, while 10 cm of snow covers neighbouring Yokohama city. The snow has caused the cancellation of at least 82 domestic flights departing or arriving at Haneda airport in Tokyo. Major train lines are also experiencing delays, with the Shinkansen bullet train service delayed for up to 10 minutes. The meteorological agency has issued heavy snow warnings for most of Japan through this evening, with many areas facing the Sea of Japan also receiving avalanche warnings. The coastal regions have experienced Japan's deadliest winter in more than two decades, with at least 102 deaths recorded by Tuesday, many of them crushed by snow or falling from buildings while clearing snow on roofs. It has been the highest death toll since 1983-1984 when 131 people died in snow-related incidents.

London, Jan 23 — The first snowfall of the season for Tokyo and the surrounding Kanto region, experienced by the area Saturday (Jan 21), continued to disrupt air, railroad and expressway traffic yesterday. More than 70 international and domestic flights operated by Japan Airlines and All Nippon Airways were cancelled yesterday due to snow-caused disruptions in flight schedule on Saturday. Some 10,000 passengers were forced to stay overnight at the terminals of Narita airport. Some expressways in Tokyo and Chiba Prefecture were partially closed due to road surface freezing.

MOZAMBIQUE

London, Jan 20 — The heavy rainy weather system that extended across much of the eastern seaboard of southern Africa has resulted in flood alerts being issued in Mozambique for three of the major river systems - Zambezi, Pungue and the Buzi. According to Mozambique reports, flooding in the lower Zambezi valley in central Mozambique is tipped to worsen following the necessary discharging of water from the giant Cahora Bassa dam. Meanwhile mine clearance along the Sena railway line near the Zambezi has been halted because of the heavy rains.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

London, Jan 24 — A press report, dated today, states: A landslide sent mud and boulders smashing through a

remote village in Papua New Guinea, killing at least eight people and leaving five more missing and feared dead, an emergency service official said today. The landslide swept through the village of Bapa, 75 miles north of the capital Port Moresby, on Friday (Jan 20) night after weeks of rain soaked the area, the Morobe Province disaster coordinator Tera Gauba said.

ROMANIA

Bucharest, Jan 23 — Constantza and Midia ports were closed at 2200, yesterday, due to bad weather, wind north north-east beaufort 6-7 (strong breeze-near gale) and occasional gusts of 8-9 (gale-strong gale), sea seven feet. Mangalia port was closed due same bad weather conditions at 0800, Jan 23. Sulina channel was also closed on Jan 22 Jan, wind north north-east 5-7 (fresh breeze-near gale), sea 4-5 feet. — Lloyd's Agents.

Bucharest, Jan 24 — Constantza and Midia ports were re-opened at 1000 and 1200, today respectively. Mangalia port and Sulina channel are still closed. — Lloyd's Agents.

Bucharest, Jan 25 — Midia port was closed again this morning at 0800 hrs, due to bad weather, winds north-north-east seven-eight, sea force seven. The weather conditions also forced the closure of Constantza port at 0930 hrs. Mangalia port and the Sulina channel are still closed. — Lloyd's Agents.

RUSSIA

London, Jan 25 — A press report, dated today, states: The oil port of Novorossiisk, was closed to shipping for a fifth consecutive day because of high winds and snow in the Black Sea, local ship agents said. Northeast winds as fast as 83 kilometres an hour buffeted the harbour, creating sea swells as high as five metres, said the agents. Ice had covered some vessels, they said. As many as 14 oil tankers were anchored outside of the Sheskhari's oil terminal, waiting to berth. Four vessels were scheduled to arrive at the facility yesterday and today, the agents said.

London, Jan 25 — The forecast for today Novorossiisk port predicts an increase of the north-easterly wind up to 35-40 m/sec, swell up to 2-3 metres, a drop in temperature to between -11 and -13 deg. C., icy road conditions and icing of vessels and berths. Port is closed for navigation. For the time been no tankers alongside either at Sheskhari's Oil Terminal or CPC-R Marine Terminal. Dry Port also stopped most of loading/discharging operations due to strong wind and low temperature. Some vessels were ordered to left the piers and stay adrift at open sea.

TROPICAL CYCLONE "DARYL"

Sydney, Jan 20 — Tropical cyclone "Daryl" is continuing to move south along the Kimberley coast of Western Australia and is steadily intensifying, threatening port and offshore facilities. Destructive winds from the

category 2 cyclone battered the coastline around Beagle Bay, north of Broome, overnight. Gale force winds are expected along the coastal areas around Broome this morning and could extend to the industrial centre of Port Hedland later today. At 0800, WST, tropical cyclone "Daryl" was about 95 miles west northwest of Broome and 210 miles northeast of Port Hedland. It was moving southwest at six knots with maximum winds of 60 knots. The bureau this morning issued an immediate warning for coastal waters between Barrow Island and Kuri Bay. — Lloyd's List Daily Commercial News.

London, Jan 20 — Port Hedland has been placed on "Yellow Alert", and Dampier is expected to follow, as Tropical Cyclone "Daryl" moves closer to the West Australian Coast. At 1400, WST, today, Tropical Cyclone "Daryl" was relocated by satellite to within 30 nautical miles of lat 18.1S, long 120.5E, about 100 nautical miles west of Broome and 170 nautical miles north-east of Port Hedland. Recent movement: south-west at eight knots. Maximum winds 50 knots. At 1400, tomorrow, Tropical Cyclone "Daryl" is forecast to be within 65 nautical miles of lat 20.6S, long 117.6E, about 45 nautical miles east of Dampier/Karratha.

Port Hedland: The Port Hedland Harbour Master declared the port closed until further notice at 1200, local time, today.

Port Walcott: Port Walcott was closed at 0800, local time, today. All vessels were advised to put to sea to avoid Tropical Cyclone "Daryl". All berths were vacated late last night.

Dampier: Dampier Port anchorage was closed to all vessels as of 0800, local time, today. The port will close to all traffic at 2000, local time, today. Hammersley Iron berths were all cleared of vessels last night.

London, Jan 20 — Following receipt from their Meteorological Office, dated today, states: Tropical cyclone "Daryl" near lat 17.9S, long 120.3E at 0600, UTC, today. Movement for the past six hours 225 degrees at four knots. Position accurate to within 60 nautical miles. Maximum sustained winds 65 knots, gusts 80 knots. Radius of 50-knot winds, 35 nautical miles all quadrants. Forecast position lat 18.8S, long 119.5E at 1800, UTC, today. Maximum sustained winds 65 knots, gusts 80 knots. Forecast position lat 19.5S, long 118.5E at 0600, Jan 21. Maximum sustained winds 65 knots, gusts 80 knots.

TROPICAL DEPRESSION "AGATON"

Manila, Jan 25 — A total of 47 vessels and 2,2600 passengers were stranded in four major ports in southern Luzon yesterday due to Tropical Depression "Agaton", the Philippine Office of Civil Defense reported. The four ports included Matnog, Tabaco, Pilar and Sabang in the southern Luzon province of Bicol. The Office of Civil Defense said that as a precautionary measure it had

ordered all vessels of 1,000 gross tons and below in these four ports not to venture out. The order remained in effect this morning and left thousands of ferry passengers stranded in these four ports. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

TROPICAL STORM "KAJIKI"

Manila, Jan 24 — The Philippine Coast Guard has convened a Special Board of Marine Inquiry to pinpoint responsibility for the accidental grounding of the barge *Napocor Power Barge No.106* and the *Napocor Tugboat No. 1* on Dec 18, off Semirara island in central Philippines. The accident resulted in 150,000 litres of oil being spilled into waters off the island of Semirara island in central Philippines, as well as the destruction of 56 hectares of mangrove forests in Semirara island. The Board's first meeting will be held in Iloilo city in central Philippines on January 31. Apart from fines, the Coast Guard could imposed administrative sanctions such as the cancellation of the master's license as well as the permit to operate issued to the owner of the two vessels. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

London, Jan 24 — A press report, dated today, states: A massive oil spill from barge *Napocor Power Barge No.106* threatens hundreds of hectares of mangroves and marine life in Semirara town in Antique as cleanup operations are slowed down by lack of equipment and personnel. Nearly 200,000 liters of bunker fuel have contaminated 236 hectares of mangrove forests and 40 sq km of marine life off the coast of Semirara Island, said Ignacio de la Flor, Coast Guard deputy commander in Western Visayas. He said that based on aerial surveys, the oil spill stretches to a five-kilometer shoreline of Semirara Island. At the site of the oil spill are 56 hectares of a mangrove project of the Semirara Mining Corp., 80 hectares of reforested mangrove forests of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and 100 hectares of natural grown mangroves. The oil spill has also contaminated fish sanctuaries and damaged sea grasses, coral reefs, seaweed farms and other marine life. Cleanup operations supervised by a Coast Guard task force, headed by Capt. Arturo Olavario, Coast Guard commander in Western Visayas, have been hindered by the lack of equipment and personnel. At least 12 Coast Guard personnel and residents of the island have been spraying chemicals to remove the sticky and thick fuel. They also have been manually scooping contaminated material since Dec 19. The cleanup team has sprayed 6,030 liters of chemicals and collected 4,800 sacks of contaminated material since the start of the cleanup. But De la Flor said this only accounts for 5-6% of the work to remove the oil spill. Napocor president Cyril Del Callar said in a statement that the Napocor was expediting the cleanup and would

shoulder all the expenses of more personnel in the area. The cost of the cleanup would run to P90 million. The state-owned agency will advance the cost of deploying around 300 to 400 additional personnel and provide the logistics and resources needed for the cleanup and the rehabilitation of the affected areas. Del Callar said it will take at most two months to finish the cleanup with the additional personnel and resources. Caluya Mayor Domingo Frangue Jr. said the oil spill destroyed the livelihood of at least 2,000 residents of Barangay Semirara who are dependent on seaweed farming and fishing.

TURKEY

London, Jan 25 — Due to bad weather in the Black Sea, as well as poor visibility and strong surface currents in the Strait of Istanbul, no passage programme has been announced today for daylight-restricted vessels. Traffic in the Istanbul Strait has been suspended since 0730 hrs on Monday (Jan 23). Traffic in the Canakkale Strait was also suspended at 1245 hrs, on the same day.

UNITED STATES

London, Jan 25 — A press report, dated today, states: Santa Ana winds gusting to nearly 70 mph swept through Southern California for a third day yesterday. About 3,500 Southern California Edison customers remained without power, spokesman Tom Boyd said. Since the winds arrived Sunday (Jan 22), more than 145,000 customers experienced outages, he said.

Earthquakes



JAPAN

London, Jan 19 — An earthquake with a preliminary magnitude of 5.7 struck northern Japan yesterday evening, the Japan Meteorological Agency said. No tsunami warning was issued, and no damage has been reported so far. The 2325 hrs quake registered 3 on the Japanese intensity scale of 7 in the southern coastal and inland areas of Iwate Prefecture, the northern and southern areas of Miyagi Prefecture and some parts of Fukushima Prefecture.

MARIANA ISLANDS REGION

London, Jan 18 — A moderate 5.6 earthquake occurred in the Mariana Islands Region at 0352, UTC, today.

NORTHERN MID-ATLANTIC RIDGE

London, Jan 20 — A 5.8 earthquake occurred near the Northern Mid-Atlantic Ridge in lat 31 54N, long 41 38W at 0853, UTC, today.

Political & Civil Unrest



AFGHANISTAN

London, Jan 23 — A press report, dated today, states: A roadside bomb struck a convoy of US and Afghan military vehicles in southern Afghanistan today but caused no casualties, police said. The explosion, believed detonated remotely, damaged an Afghan vehicle but did not injure anybody, said Abdul Hakim Hunger, deputy police chief of Kandahar, a stronghold of Afghanistan's former Taliban regime. The attack is the latest in a series of bombings in Kandahar and comes a week after a suicide attack killed 20 people at a wrestling match in a nearby town. Today's attack occurred near a compound for US Special Forces troops, which patrol the area for militants. Hunger initially identified the convoy as a Canadian-Afghan manoeuvre, but later said it was comprised of American and Afghan troops. The convoy had six vehicles four US and two Afghan. The bomb exploded after the US trucks had passed, Hunger said. The military tightened security in the region after the attack.

BAHRAIN

Manama, Jan 19 — Bahraini police clashed today with demonstrators demanding the release of 10 youths who were arrested after a sit-in at the country's airport last month. Around 100 people started a peaceful demonstration in Jidhafs town, about five kilometres outside the capital Manama. Some later set ablaze a number of trash containers and ignited tyres. Witnesses said the police used tear-gas and rubber bullets to disperse the marchers. It was not clear if anybody was wounded. There were no arrests. Police last month arrested 10 demonstrators staging a sit-in at the country's airport in protest over the arrest of a Shi'ite cleric as he returned from Iran. The cleric Sheikh Mohammed Sanad, who Interior Ministry officials said was detained on security charges, was freed after a brief detention. — Reuters.

BANGLADESH

Dhaka, Jan 21 — At least 25 people were injured in running battles between police and opposition activists in the Bangladesh capital today, a day before a planned nationwide strike. Witnesses said two newspaper photographers were also injured in the violence near the office of the main opposition party, the Awami League, in central Dhaka. "It was hell of a fight with police using clubs and rifle butts to overpower stone-throwing activists," an eyewitness said. Police also fired

teargas, he said. Violence erupted as police moved in to stop hundreds of activists marching on the streets and chanting in support of tomorrow's daylong strike. Sunday is a working day in mainly Muslim Bangladesh. A 14-party opposition alliance led by former prime minister Sheikh Hasina's Awami League called the strike to press demands for the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner M.A. Aziz, whom they accused of favouring the government. The opposition also wants the election commission to be reformed to make it "fully capable of holding a free and fair parliamentary election", due in January 2007. Police said they attacked the Awami protesters when they turned violent and started throwing stones at security forces. Some of the injured have been sent to hospitals, witnesses said. Police feared more violence tomorrow as the opposition has vowed to make the strike a "new turning point" in its long campaign to force out Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia. — Reuters.

London, Jan 22 — A press report, dated today, states: Authorities deployed thousands of security personnel in cities and towns nationwide today as an Opposition-sponsored general strike shut shops and schools and disrupted traffic. The main Opposition Awami League and its 13 allies called the dawn-to-dusk strike to protest an alleged government plan to compile new voter lists that favor to the ruling coalition. Nearly 7,000 police and security forces were mobilized in the capital to prevent any violence during the protest, Dhaka Metropolitan Police said in a statement. There were no immediate reports of clashes. Stores were shuttered and schools closed in Dhaka. The streets remained largely devoid of public transport, and only a few tricycle rickshaws operated with permission from strike organizers. Similar disruption occurred in more than 60 cities and towns, according to police officials who requested anonymity because they are not allowed to speak to media. Police erected barbed-wire barricades around the Awami League's downtown Dhaka headquarters, preventing several hundred protesters from taking to the streets. Yesterday, riot police used tear gas and batons to stop a protest in Dhaka by about 3,000 Opposition activists, injuring at least 30 people.

CONGO

Brazzaville, Jan 19 — The International Committee of the Red Cross has pulled out of Congo's volatile Pool region due to a spate of security incidents, it said today. The south-eastern region of Pool which borders the capital, has become a hideout for so-called "Ninja" fighters loyal to a renegade pastor, who were chased out of a district of Brazzaville in bloody clashes last October. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said it had indefinitely

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suspended its activities in Pool due to security incidents over the past three months. "In the ICRC's view, such incidents are not specifically aimed at it in its capacity as a humanitarian organisation but are part of a general worsening of security conditions in Pool," it said in a statement published from its Geneva headquarters. "Given their frequency, the organisation believes that the situation is currently too dangerous for its staff to continue working in the department," it said. ICRC has been giving help, including medical aid and safe water, in Pool, which was badly affected by a late 1990s civil war and subsequent fighting between government forces and rebel militia fighters loyal to Pastor Frederic Ntoumi. A peace accord in 2003 reduced, but did not end, violence. Local people say the Ninja fighters fled to Pool and have robbed, raped and extorted money from local people in recent months. Freight and passenger traffic between Brazzaville and Pool have all but ground to a halt in the past month as drivers fearful for their safety and their possessions decline to brave roads through areas where Ninja fighters roam. However, the prefect, or government's top official in the area, Colonel Jean-Michel Shanga, said yesterday that he had reopened the area's roads to traffic and security forces would ensure drivers' safety. "We ask transporters to return to take to the road again and continue to serve the whole of our region of Pool as usual," Shanga told drivers at a special ceremony at a bus station in Brazzaville's southern district of Makelekele, from which vehicles generally depart for Pool. "We have taken measures to guarantee their security, to stop a recurrence of the acts of robbery and theft to which armed bandits have subjected them recently," he said. — Reuters.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Kanyabayonga, Jan 21 — Tens of thousands of people fled their homes in eastern Congo today after two days of fighting between government troops and dissident fighters who overran at least two towns, officials said. "The locals have fled. In all, there are some 55,000 people who have fled their homes in the area," an Indian UN peacekeeping officer said in the town of Kanyabayonga, where local aid workers confirmed the estimate. Fighters loyal to renegade ex-army commander Laurent Nkunda, who reject a peace process to end Congo's five-year war, began an offensive on Thursday (Jan 19) and have briefly occupied a number of towns and villages in cat-and-mouse fighting with the army. — Reuters.

Goma, Democratic Republic of Congo, Jan 22 — UN peacekeepers killed four Congolese dissident fighters today, pushing them out of a town they had overrun in a four-day offensive that has forced more than 50,000 people from their homes, a UN official said. Fighters loyal to

renegade ex-army commander Laurent Nkunda today attacked 80 Indian UN peacekeepers who were heading to the town of Rwindi, about 150 km north of the eastern town of Goma, after government troops were overrun yesterday. "Four insurgents were killed and three others were captured during the fighting today. They will be questioned so we will know more later," said Lieutenant Colonel Mayank Awasthi, a UN military spokesman for the North Kivu brigade. UN peacekeepers were in control of Rwindi after the attack by about 40 fighters, who used mortars and automatic weapons. Awasthi said there were no injuries on the UN side. — Reuters.

Goma, Democratic Republic of Congo, Jan 23 — Eight Guatemalan UN peacekeepers were killed today and 14 more injured during an operation against Ugandan rebels in eastern Congo, the United Nations said in a statement. — Reuters.

GUYANA

See under "Weather & Navigation."

HAITI

London, Jan 20 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Four people were shot to death Wednesday (Jan 18) and yesterday in the latest surge of violence in Haiti's largest slum. The three men and a woman were killed Wednesday night and early yesterday in the Port-au-Prince slum of Cite Soleil, authorities at Cite Soleil's St. Catherine Hospital said. Seven others were injured. Residents blamed the killings on Jordanian peacekeepers who they said sprayed the area's cinderblock homes with high-powered weapons. U.N. spokesman Damian Onses-Cardona said he had no report on any troop offensives in Cite Soleil since Tuesday and said peacekeepers don't open fire unless attacked. Residents said one victim was a man in his 30s who ran a business carrying goods with a wheelbarrow.

IRAN

Tehran, Jan 24 — Bombs ripped through a bank and government building in Iran's mainly Arab southern city of Ahvaz today, killing four people, police said. Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad had been due to visit the city today, but his office said he had cancelled the trip last night because of sandstorms which would have stopped him doing his hallmark walks through the streets. However, Lebanon's al-Manar television, run by the pro-Iranian Hizbollah group, said the bombs had been intended to kill Ahmadinejad. Its Tehran correspondent said the president had called off his trip after a security tip-off. Iranian news agencies said fire had gutted the Saman bank and broken glass littered streets around the blast sites. "Four people have been killed and 40 injured up to now," police spokesman Mehdi Ahmadi said. Officials at Ahvaz's Mehr hospital said it had transferred one person to another

hospital to have a leg amputated and said another three of the wounded might need similar operations. Iranian authorities are sensitive about protests and discontent among the Islamic Republic's Arab minority in Ahvaz and the surrounding province of Khuzestan, which sits on most of the country's oil reserves, the second biggest in the world. — Reuters.

Ahvaz, Jan 24 - - Bombs ripped through a bank and government building in the southern Iranian oil city of Ahvaz today, killing eight people in a region that has seen intermittent bombings and rioting since April. Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad had been due to visit the city today, but his office said he cancelled the trip last night because of sandstorms which would have wrecked his hallmark walks through the streets. Mansour Soltanzadeh, head of the Ahvaz medical school, told the official IRNA news agency eight people had been killed and 46 wounded in the two blasts that went off between 0930 and 1000 hrs (0600-0630, UTC). "Two of the wounded had to have their legs amputated. The legs of two teenage girls will most probably also need to be amputated in the Razi hospital because of deep burns," he said. Mohammad Jafar Samari, governor of Ahvaz, dismissed the idea that the explosions could have targeted Ahmadinejad's visit. "The place where the bombs exploded was a long way from where the president had planned to make a speech," he said. No group claimed responsibility for the attack. Lebanon's al-Manar television, run by the pro-Iranian Hizbollah group, earlier reported the bombs had been intended to kill Ahmadinejad. Its Tehran correspondent said the president had called off his trip after a security tip-off. State television showed police picking through the charred beams and smouldering rubble of the Saman bank for clues. Ahvaz has been tense since April, when five people died in protests sparked by rumours the government was considering settling non-Arabs in Khuzestan to dilute Arab influence there. Seven people were killed in bombings in June and six died in a blast in October. Some minor oil facilities were bombed in September. — Reuters.

IRAQ

Baghdad, Jan 19 — Iraqi insurgents killed at least 22 people in two simultaneous bomb blasts in central Baghdad today, challenging a security clampdown on the capital ahead of the release of the results of last month's elections. A suicide bomber walked into a cafe where he blew himself up, while a car bomb targeted an Iraqi police patrol passing nearby at the same time, officials said. US commanders warned of an increase in violence around publication of the final results of the election which the head of the Electoral Commission confirmed would come tomorrow. The Iraqi army said today it had found 12

bodies of civilians who had been shot dead after stopping at an insurgent checkpoint in the rural Niba'i area, north of Baghdad. Rebels abducted 35 police recruits as they drove north from Baghdad to Samarra, police said, quoting a wounded survivor who said at least 14 colleagues were shot dead after being forced down a well. The fate of the other 20 was unclear. In Baghdad, extra military and police checkpoints were thrown up throughout the city. Cars were being stopped and searched, causing jams, as soldiers patrolled the streets. — Reuters. (See issue of Jan 20.)

Tikrit, Jan 22 — Iraqi police accused US soldiers today of shooting dead at least three civilians in the town of Baiji, 180 km north of Baghdad, after an attack on their patrol but the US military said the dead men were insurgents. Lieutenant Colonel Najim Ahmed of Baiji police said four civilians had been killed and six wounded when US soldiers fired at a passing car filled with civilians after a roadside bomb exploded nearby. "U.S. forces began shooting randomly. Civilians were in the car," he said. An Iraqi spokesman for the local Joint Co-ordination Centre which liaises between Iraqi security forces and the US military, giving a similar account of the incident, said the victims were three Iraqi soldiers. Iraqi security officials said the US forces later handed over the bodies of three dead men to their relatives, while six wounded men were taken to a US base in Siniya. US military spokesman Lieutenant Colonel Ed Loomis said US soldiers had come under fire from five civilian vehicles while on patrol north of Baiji. "The soldiers engaged the two lead vehicles, killing three of the gunmen. Three vehicles following the lead vehicles stopped and their occupants escaped on foot," he said. He said six men had been detained and several AK-47 rifles seized. There were signs that at least one of the cars had been rigged for an improvised explosive device. No US soldiers were wounded in the incident, he added. — Reuters.

Baghdad, Jan 22 — Police discovered the bodies of 23 police recruits who were part of a group of 35 killed after being ambushed in a rebel area north of Baghdad last week, a police official said today. The recruits were being driven to Samarra on Tuesday (Jan 17) when they were stopped by gunmen near Tarmiya, said Colonel Emad Mohammed. One wounded man told police he was the sole survivor of a group of 15 thrown into a well and sprayed with bullets. Colonel Mohsen Jassim, chief of police of Salaheddine province, said today that the bodies of 23 recruits had been discovered. The other 12 bodies were found last week. Mohammed had said the search for the dead was difficult because the area was too dangerous for police to venture into. The Tarmiya area is a stronghold of Sunni Arab guerrillas who have made the new, US-trained Iraqi security forces a prime target in their battle against the Shi'ite-led

government. "We don't have the power to control this situation," said Mohammed, who is based at the nearby, predominantly Shi'ite, town of Dujail. — Reuters.

London, Jan 23 — A press report, dated today, states: A suicide car bombing and pre-dawn raid by dozens of armed men wearing police uniforms killed at least six Iraqis in Baghdad today, while three American military personnel died in roadside bombings. U.S. and Iraqi authorities conducted joint operations in an intensive effort to free kidnapped American journalist Jill Carroll, who was abducted on January 7 in Baghdad. Iraqi officials named a new judge to take charge temporarily of the tribunal trying Saddam Hussein and seven co-defendants in the 1982 massacre of more than 140 Shiites in Dujail. The trial was scheduled to resume tomorrow. The suicide bomber targeted a police patrol near the Iranian Embassy in Baghdad, which is close to a main checkpoint into the fortified Green Zone that houses the Iraqi government and U.S. Embassy, said the top Baghdad police officer, Maj. Gen. Abdul-Razaq al-Samarie. Two civilians and a policeman were killed and six Iraqis were wounded, including five policemen, al-Samarie said. Among those killed was a sports journalist for Iraqi TV station Al-Diyar, 19-year-old Hamza Hussein, said a senior editor at the station, Sadek Mahdi Shabaan. Another eight bullet-riddled bodies were found today in an open field near Dujail, about 50 miles north of Baghdad, police said. They were among a group of 35 men rejected from a police academy in Baghdad and abducted Wednesday (Jan 18) when gunmen stopped a bus taking them home to Samarra. Twenty-three others from the group were found slain yesterday in the same area. The violence comes as Iraqi politicians tried to form a national unity government inclusive of Iraq's main Shiite, Kurdish and Sunni Arab political parties. The bulk of Iraq's insurgency has been linked to Iraq's Sunni Arab community, and involving it in the next government is seen as a way to reduce the violence. Two Kuwait-based U.S. airmen were killed and a third wounded in a roadside bomb attack yesterday near Taji, where an American air base is located 12 miles north of Baghdad, the military said. Another roadside bomb killed a U.S. soldier today during a foot patrol in southwestern Baghdad. The deaths brought the number of U.S. military personnel killed since the war began in 2003 to at least 2,227, according to an Associated Press count. Another car bomb exploded on a highway about 20 miles south of Baghdad, killing one Iraqi civilian and wounding four others, said police Capt. Hussein Shamil. A doctor who worked at the Health Ministry in Baghdad's Saydiyah neighborhood was killed in a drive-by shooting, said police Capt. Qassim Hussein. A judicial official announced

the appointment of a chief judge to temporarily take charge of the Iraqi High Tribunal set up to hear cases against Saddam and other former regime figures. Raid Juhi, the chief investigator who prepared evidence for the Dujail case, said Raouf Rasheed Abdel-Rahman, a Kurd, would replace chief judge Rizgar Mohammed Amin, who submitted a letter of resignation on January 15 amid complaints of government criticism in the process. Meanwhile, kidnapped Jill Carroll has not been heard of since her kidnappers released a videotape that was first aired on January 17. It was accompanied by a threat that she would be killed if U.S. forces did not release all Iraqi women in military custody. Deputy Justice Minister Busho Ibrahim Ali said six of the nine Iraqi women in U.S. custody were expected to be freed later this week as part of a routine release planned before the kidnappers' ultimatum. A U.S. official, speaking on condition of anonymity due to the sensitivity of the efforts to free Carroll, said American authorities refuse to negotiate with hostage-takers. "But we are using the full resources available from the U.S. law enforcement and diplomatic side, plus the cooperation of the Iraqi government, to secure Jill's freedom," the official said. Another hostage, Jordanian Embassy driver Mahmoud Suleiman Saidat, appeared in video on Al-Arabiya TV pleading for his life. His captors extended the deadline to kill Saidat, who was kidnapped on December 20.

Tikrit, Jan 24 — Gunmen wearing Iraqi army uniforms kidnapped two German engineers outside their workplace in the Iraqi industrial town of Baiji today, police said, the latest in a surge of abductions of foreigners in Iraq. At least six gunmen, in two unmarked cars, grabbed the two men just outside a detergent plant in an industrial complex around Iraq's biggest oil refinery, police Lieutenant Colonel Kadhem Abbas said. The German embassy in Baghdad referred calls to the Foreign Ministry in Berlin, where a spokesman said he could neither confirm nor deny the police account. The two were seized at around 0530, GMT, said Abbas, who speaks for the Joint Coordination Centre for Iraqi security forces and the U.S. military in the province. The deputy governor of Salahaddin province, Abdullah Jubara, confirmed the report. He named the two, transliterating their names from Arabic, as Thomas Wischke and Rebiti Drata. No other details were available. — Reuters.

Ramadi, Jan 25 — An Iraqi television cameraman was killed in clashes between Sunni rebels and U.S. forces in the insurgent stronghold of Ramadi yesterday, witnesses said today. Mahmoud Za'al, who worked for Baghdad TV satellite channel, was filming an attack on two buildings occupied by U.S. forces in Ramadi when he was wounded in the

legs and then killed moments later in a U.S. air strike, witnesses told Reuters. Baghdad TV, which is owned by the biggest Sunni political grouping, the Iraqi Islamic Party, confirmed Za'al's death and said it was investigating the circumstances. The U.S. military said it was checking the report. Witnesses said at noon yesterday gunmen began firing mortar rounds at the governorate directorate building and the Iraqi Nationality Department, both bases for U.S. forces. The gunmen also blasted the buildings with heavy machineguns and rocket propelled grenades, they said. "When they got very close to these buildings, helicopters and other military planes started shooting at them," one witness said. "The cameraman was in the streets to film the clashes when he was wounded, first in his legs, and then when U.S. planes started shooting he was killed." Doctor Hamdi al-Alusi at Ramadi Hospital said two civilians were killed and three wounded, including a woman and a 10-year-old child, in the violence. He did not know whether any gunmen or U.S. soldiers had been killed or wounded. — Reuters.

ISRAEL

London, Jan 19 — At least 10 people are reported to have been injured in an explosion in the Israeli city of Tel Aviv. According to the emergency services, the blast occurred near a bus station. It is not yet known what caused the explosion, although Israeli radio is reporting that it was the work of a suicide bomber.

Tel Aviv, Jan 19 — A Palestinian suicide bomber wounded 30 people in Tel Aviv today, raising tensions six days before a Palestinian election and confronting interim Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert with a major test. The bombing at a popular sandwich stand was the first in Israel since Prime Minister Ariel Sharon was incapacitated by a massive stroke on Jan 4 and could put pressure on Olmert for harsh reprisals in the Palestinian territories. Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas said the attack was aimed at sabotaging the Jan 25 parliamentary election. Violence could complicate the poll, in which the militant group Hamas is expected to make a strong showing against his Fatah movement. Islamic Jihad, which like Hamas is sworn to Israel's destruction, claimed responsibility for the bombing, the first in the Jewish state since an 11-month truce expired at the end of last year. The bomber targeted a small, open-air sandwich stand on a busy pedestrian mall near Tel Aviv's old central bus station. Posing as a peddler, he walked in and offered in Hebrew to sell the patrons razor blades. Seconds later, he blew himself up. Abbas, who engineered the truce to help smooth the way for Israel's Gaza withdrawal in September, said the attack was a "flagrant violation" of the truce and was aimed to try to derail the Palestinian vote.

Authorities said the bomber was the only fatality but one person was in serious condition. The other injuries were mostly light to moderate, medics said. — Reuters.

IVORY COAST

Abidjan, Jan 19 — Ivory Coast's pro-government youth leader called off anti-UN protests today as the Security Council renewed a threat of sanctions to give teeth to a peace plan hit by riots aimed against peacekeepers. Protesters dispersed from outside the French embassy, where pro-government "Young Patriot" leader Charles Ble Goude called off the action, and protests also eased elsewhere as UN and French army helicopters hovered above the main city Abidjan. Nigerian President Obasanjo secured a public call for calm from Gbagbo in a joint statement stressing that the foreign mediators had no power to dissolve parliament. "We have just won a great victory. I ask you to return home," Ble Goude told his Young Patriot supporters outside the French embassy today. — Reuters.

Abidjan, Jan 23 — Ivory Coast's ruling party is resuming its participation in the West African country's UN-backed peace process, reversing an earlier decision to pull out, its president said today. The Ivorian Popular Front party (FPI) had said last week it was abandoning a UN peace plan in protest against a recommendation by foreign mediators that the country's national assembly be dissolved. The assembly is dominated by supporters of President Laurent Gbagbo and the call by the mediators triggered four days of rioting last week by young Gbagbo loyalists. "We have taken the decision to suspend our withdrawal from the peace process and take our place again, including in the national reconciliation government," FPI President Pascal Affi N'Guessan said. In last week's riots, hundreds of government supporters attacked UN bases, residences and vehicles in the economic capital Abidjan and other cities. At least four demonstrators were shot dead by UN peacekeeping troops. The rioting ended when Gbagbo and allied youth leaders told protesters to go home. N'Guessan said his party was returning to the peace process because its demand that the mandate of the parliament, which expired last month, be extended had been satisfied. The UN Security Council's sanctions committee is due to meet today to draw up a list of Ivorian leaders and political figures whose travel and assets could be frozen for blocking the peace process, diplomats said. — Reuters.

NEPAL

London, Jan 20 — A press report, dated today, states: Nepalese soldiers are imposing a dawn to dusk curfew in Kathmandu to prevent pro-democracy protests against the king, who seized total power last year. The authorities have put at least two

senior opposition leaders, Girija Prasad Koirala and Madhav Kumar Nepal, under house arrest ahead of the curfew. The seven-party opposition alliance has vowed to go ahead with the protests despite an indefinite ban on rallies. The restrictions follow rebel attacks last weekend. Britain has strongly condemned the arrests, describing them as an anti-democracy measure. The arrests of the two leaders is the latest in a series of stringent measures the authorities have taken to stop the protest, which will call on the king to reinstate democracy. Opposition activists are also calling for their supporters to boycott local elections next month, which they say will not be democratic but simply a step to entrench King Gyanendra's rule. Yesterday, more than 100 opposition supporters and human rights activists were arrested in city-wide raids in Kathmandu, while telephone connections were cut off. Mobile phone services have still not been restored. The new daytime curfew began at 0800 hrs and will be in effect until 1800 hrs. A recently imposed night-time curfew, that starts at 2100 hrs, is also in effect. Thousands of soldiers and policemen are patrolling the streets of Kathmandu and its suburbs, and the streets of the capital are almost deserted, according to reports. The authorities had asked the opposition to call off today's rally, saying they had information that Maoist rebels were planning to infiltrate it and incite violence. The rebels have denied any such plans.

THAILAND

London, Jan 20 — A press report, dated today, states: Two men were shot dead by suspected militants while a third man was killed in a separate bomb blast in southern Thailand, local police said today. Supasilp Woh, a 22-year-old Muslim villager, was gunned down late yesterday in the southern province of Narathiwat, police was quoted by the Thai TV Channel 5 as saying. In neighbouring Pattani province, 62-year-old fish trader Parn Priklek was killed after being shot three times at a market late yesterday. Meanwhile, early today an unidentified man was killed in a bomb blast at a mobile phone mast in southernmost Narathiwat Province. Just two days ago, militants set fire at 102 mobile signal towers across four southernmost provinces and launched attacks that killed a policeman and another five persons.



IRAQ

See under "Political & Civil Unrest".

Labour Disputes

**BANGLADESH**

See under "Political & Civil Unrest."

CHILE

London, Jan 23 — A press report, dated Jan 20, states: London Metal Exchange prices fell across the board today after copper fell in the afternoon after news of the end to the contractors' strike at Codelco's Andina mine in Chile. Contract workers at copper giant Codelco's Andina mine voted in favour of the preliminary settlement offer and ended their strike Friday, union leaders said. Workers at Codelco's El Teniente mine will vote on the offer at 2000 GMT, and they likely will also accept the offer and return to their posts.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

London, Jan 23 — A strike by ONATRA stevedores (Office Nationale des Transports of the D. R. Congo) in the port of Matadi, Democratic Republic of Congo, which began in the first week of January, is continuing to delay cargo working. At least one shipping company, OT Africa Line is advising clients that transshipments from Pointe Noire in neighbouring Republic of Congo will be delayed by up to one month.

DENMARK

London, Jan 23 — A press report, dated today, states: Danish pilots with Scandinavian Airlines System walked off the job in Copenhagen today to protest layoffs and worsened working conditions, causing further chaos following days of cancelled flights due to harsh winter storms. SAS cancelled all flights out of Copenhagen until 1100 hrs, when it expects the strikers to return to work, company spokesman Jens Langergaard said. The wildcat strike comes after the airline cancelled about 420 flights over the past three days out of Copenhagen due to heavy snow and extreme cold, stranding thousands of passengers. "SAS-Denmark regrets that our clients are now being inconvenienced by cancellations and delays due to an illegal action by the pilots," head of communications Anne Bove-Nielsen said in a statement. "SAS expects this strike to conclude as quickly as possible," she added. The pilots halted work to protest management plans to let a number of them go and to move pilot contracts to the local SAS-Denmark company from the Scandinavian umbrella group, something they claim will worsen working conditions and salaries. More than 50 Norwegian SAS-Braathens staff also called in sick today in what is thought to be a solidarity action with Danish colleagues, entailing the

cancellation of more than 50 flights so far today, SAS-Braathens said, adding that more flights would probably be cancelled throughout the day.

GERMANY

London, Jan 21 — A press report, dated Jan 20, states: Workers at a factory in Germany that makes AEG-brand washing machines and dishwashers began an open-ended strike today in protest at plans by its owner, Sweden's Electrolux, to close it down by the end of 2007. Juergen Peters, national leader of IG Metall, which represents most workers at the AEG plant in Nuremberg, admitted it was not very likely the plant would be saved by the protest strike there. He said the aim was to force Electrolux to reach "reasonable terms" with those losing their jobs. Many striking workers said they stopped work because they had nothing left to lose and hoped for more generous redundancy pay from Electrolux, which in two years plans to make all its AEG-brand whiteware at low-cost plants in Poland and Italy. The union said the entire workforce stopped, and there had been no "strike-breakers." Talks over a compensation deal for the plant's 1,700 workers broke down last weekend, and more than 96% of the workforce voted to go on strike. No duration has been set for the strike. The union wants all AEG employees to receive full pay through 2010 plus a compensation package worth three month's wages for each year they have worked for the company. All employees aged 53 and over should also receive full pay until retirement, the union said. Electrolux wants to move production to either Poland or Italy, where production costs are cheaper. It will retain another German factory at Rothenburg-ob-der-Tauber.

INDIA

London, Jan 21 — A press report, dated Jan 20, states: The Indian unit of Toyota Motor Corp. today lifted a two-week-old lockout at its Bangalore factory, saying it was responding to requests from striking employees who wanted to return to work. Toyota Kirloskar Motor Ltd., the joint venture controlled by Toyota, said in a statement it would resume production tomorrow at the plant in Bidadi, on the outskirts of Bangalore.

London, Jan 22 — A press report, dated today, states: Hundreds of workers of the Toyota Kirloskar plant in Bidadi near here, were arrested today after they continued their strike even as the company lifted the factory lockout. On Jan 8, the Toyota Motor Corporation had declared an indefinite lockout at its plant after a strike by workers following the dismissal of three of their fellow workers. The workers, however, said that since the company wanted them to accept formally their mistake and stand against the office-bearers, they decided to continue the strike. Meenakshi Sundaram, District General Secretary, Centre of Indian

Trade Union, said the workers were ready to call off the strike on conditions of collective bargaining. "The management lifted the lockout by putting a serious condition by giving undertaking, (they asked the workers to) accept what they have done is wrong. The workers are forced to give evidence against their office bearers... But what we have decided is that we will go to the factory gate and let the management decide and talk to the office bearers peacefully even at the format of undertaking, several other issues like the suspensions made after sixth. Moreover, those (who were arrested after the strike, their suspension) should be withdrawn, negotiating everything peacefully through discussions and collective bargaining, we can settle the issue," said Sundaram. The workers also demanded that those suspended after the strike should be taken back. About 1,550 of the factory's 2,350 workers are affiliated with the union.

London, Jan 24 — A press report, dated Jan 23, states: Toyota Kirloskar Employees Union today called off its 18-day-old strike following a government order prohibiting the stir and referring the matter to the labour court, but workers refused to submit a "good conduct" undertaking as demanded by the management before resuming duty. "We have decided to withdraw the strike and our members will report for duty tomorrow. However, we will not furnish any good conduct declaration," Meenakshi Sundaram, general secretary of the city district committee of the CITU, said. The decision to withdraw the strike was taken at the Union's general body meeting today, following the Jan 21 government order prohibiting the strike and referring the matter to the third Additional Labour Court, he said. The TKM management while welcoming the decision of the government to ban the strike, termed the union's refusal to sign the declaration as "irresponsible." It reiterated that the workers would be allowed to report to work only after furnishing the undertaking. There is nothing in the declaration that constitutes unfair labour practice by TKM. There are no changes in service conditions either, the company said.

ISRAEL

London, Jan 23 — A press report, dated today, states: Oil refineries in Haifa and Ashdod have gone on strike starting this morning. The strike arose out of disputes relating to protecting workers' rights which workers claim may be harmed due to government plans to privatize the refineries.

ITALY

London, Jan 21 — A press report, dated today, states: Troubled airline Alitalia was forced to cancel 130 flights today and warned of delays on other international and internal services as cabin crew and pilots

continued industrial action. While a strike that disrupted flights on Thursday (Jan 19) and yesterday was suspended until Monday, some staff still stayed away from work, while unions were holding mass meetings. In line with Italian law, a minimum service was being provided with flights operating for three hours in the morning and in evening. Pilots will not be joining Monday's 24-hour stoppage called in further protest against what employees say are worsening working conditions, imposed by management in an effort to cut costs and avoid bankruptcy. The government says it can provide no more money and Transport Minister Pietro Lunardi has threatened the strikers with sanctions. "Alitalia is doing its best to limit the inconvenience to its customers thanks to those members of staff who are showing a sense of responsibility and duty," the company said in a statement. It branded the stoppages "illegal," notably because the unions had not respected the minimum 10-day period between calling a strike and carrying it out.

PAKISTAN

Karachi, Jan 21 — Hundreds of fishing boats come to a standstill at the Karachi Fish Harbour (KFH) in Karachi, Sindh Province of Pakistan yesterday as a protest against the government for not accepting their demands. They halt Fishing operations and threaten to continue strike until the government comes out with comprehensive assistance package for Fishing industry. Representatives of Action Committee for Protecting Fishing Industry (ACPMI) at Karachi Press Club said the strike was taken jointly by owners of Fish launches and Fishermen's organisations in light of excessive losses incurred by the industry. President ACPMI Khan Mir Khan said high diesel price had deprived launch owners from undertaking sea-trips to catch seafood. The government should provide at least 50% subsidy on purchase of diesel fuel in line with other countries, where were spending huge amounts on their agricultural and Fisheries' products. Local Fisherman still had to sale Fish and prawn at prices fixed in year1981-82. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

PERU

London, Jan 25 — Zinc hit a record yesterday as inventory declines and the threat of strikes in Peru added to concerns that supply was already likely to be outstripped by demand. The metal, used as an anti-corrosive coating for steel, hit \$2,230 a tonne, in spite of news that workers at three of Volcan's mines in Peru were to return to work tomorrow. The company fears however, that more walkouts will take place next month. Peru is the world's third biggest producer of zinc. Daily zinc output from Volcan was down by 40 per cent after six days of the strike. Meanwhile, inventories in warehouses

monitored by the London Metal Exchange yesterday fell to their lowest levels since September 2001. Three-month zinc on the LME closed up \$44 to \$2,229 a tonne.

SCANDINAVIAN AIRLINE PILOTS

Gothenburg, Jan 23 — Several SAS Pilots have closed down their work and the flights cancelled until further notice. This happened shortly after 0900, this morning. Understand pilots planned a strike in contrary to their unions demands. The spokesman for the pilots says that the opinion among the pilots are extremely poor and spreading - this since the SAS negotiation to let a number of the pilots leave the company - or to split up the company into minor groups/units causes great concern. — Westax Marine Services A.B.

London, Jan 24 — A press report, dated today, states: Scandinavian Airlines (SAS) has been forced to cancel all its European-bound flights out of Copenhagen because of a pilots' strike this morning. About 270 flights have been grounded, stranding thousands of passengers. Normal service is expected to resume after noon local time. SAS was also forced to cancel at least 80 flights out of Oslo yesterday when a number of pilots called in sick. The Danish pilots are protesting SAS plans to re-negotiate their contracts which the pilots' union says will mean possible layoffs and worse working conditions.

London, Jan 24 — A press report, dated today, states: Copenhagen Airports AS said SAS AB has cancelled all flights into and out of Copenhagen due to a wildcat strike among the airline group's Danish pilots. The only exceptions are aircraft operated by Cimber Air and SAS Sverige. SAS' intercontinental flights are not affected by the strike either. Earlier this morning, SAS it was cancelling its flights until noon today into and out of Copenhagen because Danish pilots had shown no sign of returning from the wildcat strike.

Gothenburg, Jan 24 — The negotiations failed and the strike continues tomorrow. All flights with Danish crew are cancelled and nothing expected tomorrow. Flights with Swedish crews still as normal. Could be with only some minor problems in Norway; sick pilots. SAS do not agree with this illegal strike and preparing a court process towards the pilots involved. Many thousands of people affected trying option flights with other companies. — Westax Marine Services AB.

London, Jan 25 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Tens of thousands of air travellers were expected to remain stranded in Copenhagen tomorrow as Scandinavian Airlines System's Danish pilots prepared to strike for a third day, leading to the cancellation of most flights. SAS-Denmark had initially cancelled most flights until noon, today, then extended that until 1700 hrs and finally said its flights

would not resume until tomorrow at midnight. "We made this decision because we have not received a positive answer from the pilots on when they will return to work," SAS-Denmark's vice president Jens Willumsen said in a statement, lamenting that the striking workers had "taken SAS customers hostage in this conflict." A total of 315 flights in and out of Copenhagen were affected, with only intercontinental routes and a few of SAS's subsidiaries flying as normal. SAS-Denmark's management has estimated that the strike, which it has called "illegal" and "unacceptable", is costing the company between 15 and 20 million kroner (2.5-3.3 million dollars, 2.0-2.7 million euros) in lost revenues per day. In Oslo meanwhile, nearly 100 pilots at the Norwegian branch of SAS, SAS-Braathens, called in sick today for the second day in a row in what is thought to be a solidarity action with their Danish colleagues. After cancelling 120 flights yesterday, SAS-Braatens had cancelled 80 flights by late this afternoon and warned that that figure could rise.

UNITED KINGDOM

London, Jan 20 — A press report, dated today, states: Workers building a £4bn fifth terminal at Heathrow have gone on strike, for the second time in two months. Hundreds of scaffolders, labourers and others manned picket lines today, the start of the four day stoppage. There will be an overtime ban over the weekend and another strike on Monday (Jan 23) as part of campaign for a £1-an-hour rise in bonus pay. Employers Laing O'Rourke said their offer of an extra 67p-an-hour would be withdrawn if the strike went ahead, but the GMB union said the offer had not been received in writing. A Heathrow spokeswoman said 850 of an 8,000-strong workforce are expected to take part, claiming no delay would be caused to the T5 programme. "Terminal 5 is in excellent shape and remains on budget, is over 70% complete and slightly ahead of schedule and this action will not cause any delay to the T5 programme," she said. Terminal 5 is being built to the west of Heathrow Airport and is due to be completed in 2008.

Awards & Settlements



DECEPTIVE LENDING PRACTICES, UNITED STATES

London, Jan 24 — A press report, dated Jan 23, states: State prosecutors said today a \$325 million settlement with lending giant Ameriquest will give some 725,000 borrowers in 49 states a chance at recovering some money lost due to what they described as deceptive

lending practices. The agreement, first revealed Friday (Jan 20), is the second-largest consumer protection settlement reached by a state or the federal government, the state officials said. "We found that Ameriquest's lending practices too often violated principles of fairness," said California Attorney General Bill Lockyer. Massachusetts Attorney General Tom Reilly said: "A pattern of consumer deception and fraud ends right here with this settlement. This company promised cheaper monthly payments, better terms and cash on time. Instead, consumers only got higher rates, prepayment penalties and large point charges." He said approximately \$12 million dollars will be returned to Massachusetts consumers under the settlement. The states began investigating the Orange, Calif.-based company, which lends to people with poor credit, more than two years ago after receiving complaints from tens of thousands of consumers who claimed they were paying more for their loans than they bargained for. The states have alleged that the company's business practices were deceptive, leaving some borrowers saddled with extra fees or higher mortgage rates. The settlement covers ACC Capital Holdings Corp., Ameriquest Mortgage Co.'s holding company, and also applies to subsidiaries Town & Country Credit Corp. and AMC Mortgage Services Inc., formerly Bedford Home Loans. The lender did not admit to any wrongdoing as part of the deal, but agreed to reform several of its business practices, including providing borrowers with full disclosures on the terms of their loans, ceasing to give its lending agents financial incentives to include higher fees or other penalties on loans and changing how it handles appraisals. The company also agreed to submit itself to independent monitoring for five years. The financial terms of the agreement set aside \$295 million toward restitution to consumers and \$30 million to cover legal fees and to pay for consumer education and protection programs. The settlement did not include the state of Virginia, because Ameriquest did not operate there. Consumers who qualify for a slice of the restitution money could get a minimum of around \$600, state officials said. Of the funds earmarked for customers, \$175 million has been allotted for eligible borrowers who took out mortgages between Jan. 1, 1999, and April 1, 2003. The cutoff date represents when the lender changed loan pricing practices that were misleading consumers, the state officials said. How much money is due to customers who make claims on loans acquired during that span of time will be determined by each state. Another \$120 million in restitution funds has been earmarked to compensate customers who acquired mortgage loans between Jan. 1, 1999, and Dec. 31, 2005. The fund for those claims will be split

among the states on the basis of how much money in loans consumers in each state have.

ILLEGAL GAMBLING, UNITED STATES

London, Jan 21 — A press report, dated Jan 20, states: Vulcan Sports Media Inc., parent company of The Sporting News, agreed to a \$7.2 million settlement with the U.S. Attorney's Office to resolve claims it promoted illegal gambling. Today, U.S. Attorney General Catherine Hanaway announced the settlement terms, which includes that Sporting News voluntarily initiate and complete a three-year public service advertising campaign on the illegality of commercial Internet and telephonic gambling. Sporting News will spend \$1 million for the public service campaign, for a total of \$3 million over three years. Sporting News paid \$4.2 million of the \$7.2 million settlement late yesterday, according to a release. The settlement agreement resolves claims arising from Sporting News' conduct between spring 2000 and December 2003. The company advertised illegal Internet and telephonic gambling enterprises to its U.S. print, Internet and radio media audiences. "The operation of a commercial gambling business where bets or wagers are transmitted in interstate or foreign commerce is illegal under federal law, and that includes Internet communications," Hanaway said in a statement.

PATENT INFRINGEMENT, UNITED STATES

London, Jan 24 — A press report, dated Jan 23, states: Heart valve maker Edwards Lifesciences Corp. said yesterday Medtronic Inc. has agreed to pay Edwards and its partner \$37.5 million to license patents to devices that treat abdominal aortic aneurysm, a dangerous ballooning of the body's main artery. Edwards said the agreement is part of a patent infringement settlement started in August 2003 by Edwards and Endogad Research Pty. Ltd., a company formed by the inventors of the patents. Under the terms of the agreement, Medtronic also has purchased delivery system assets, Edwards said. Edwards said it will record a special pretax gain in the first quarter of 2006 of about \$20 million, after taking into account its agreement with Endogad and legal expenses.

PERSONAL INJURY, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Jan 24 — Lloyd's and London company insurers are to pay a record £2 million to meet a personal injury claim by a UK footballer. The money will go to former Tottenham Hotspur centre half Dean Richards for an illness that has ended his career. His claim was handled by Aon as insurance broker, which had placed it in the London insurance subscription market. Mr Richards retired from

professional football in March, 2005, after doctors warned he risked a brain haemorrhage if he continued playing. He had previously taken out a personal accident and sickness policy which provided for a payout in the event of accidental death or permanent total disablement from accident or illness. Aon said that its sport specialists, Steve Talboys, James Hands and Bill Garside, worked with the insurers to secure payment of the full sum insured. Mr Richards was represented by ABG Financial Management and World Famous Football, where managing director Ben Lambourne said that Mr Richards would have had at least another five years left as a professional player. "His earning capacity was potentially double that of his claim," Mr Lambourne said.

ROAD ACCIDENT, UNITED STATES

London, Jan 21 — A press report, dated Jan 19, states: A lawsuit over a crash during a police chase has been settled, with a Missouri city agreeing to pay nearly \$3 million to the family of a Kansas teenager who was critically injured. Emma Rothbrust, 17, of Overland Park, was hurt in November 2004 when a squad car went through a red light at an intersection and crashed broadside into the car in which she was a passenger. The squad car was from Grandview, Mo., and the accident happened in Leawood, Kan. According Johnson County District Court records, the judge in the case approved the \$2.98 million settlement.

WRONGFUL DEATHS, UNITED STATES

London, Jan 24 — A press report, dated today, states: Saying they need to move on with their lives, Tara and Heath Carey, who lost two young daughters in a gas explosion in 2002, accepted a settlement of \$17.2 million from NStar Gas Co. and others, in an agreement announced yesterday. The \$17.2 million appears to be a record amount for cases involving child deaths, according to David Yas, publisher of Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly, which tracks lawsuit settlements. "It's been almost four years, and we need to come to some kind of closure," Tara Carey said yesterday, one day before the wrongful death case was to go to trial. In October 2002, the Careys sued NStar Gas Co., Inner-Tite Corp., and landlords Leonard and Anne-Marie Pearson in Middlesex Superior Court for the wrongful deaths of their daughters. The source of the leak was never identified, but the Careys' lawyers said the explosion happened because gas company equipment was allowed to rust in the damp basement of the apartment house. A state investigation found in 2003 that NStar had violated federal regulations in its service to the house including allowing corrosion to build up on the gas system, and the state

imposed a \$200,000 fine, which NStar has appealed. The investigation did not blame anyone for the disaster, because the source of the leak could not be pinpointed. NStar, which is paying \$12.5 million of the settlement, denies any wrongdoing, citing a metallurgical study conducted by the state that said the rusted equipment was not responsible for the gas leak. The other two defendants in the case were Inner-Tite Corp., the manufacturer of the equipment that rusted, and the property owners. Caroline Allen, an NStar spokeswoman, said that Inner-Tite will pay \$4.5 million of the settlement and that the landlords will pay the remaining \$175,000. NStar, which has 300,000 customers in the state, released a statement about the settlement yesterday. "We were all touched by this terrible tragedy and our hearts go out to the Carey family," the statement said. "This accident was particularly unusual because the property was destroyed after the incident, and so we will never fully know its cause. We felt it was important to step up and do what we could to bring closure for the Carey family and help them move on." The settlement is one of the largest in any personal injury lawsuit in state history, according to lawyers who specialize in such claims.

Railway Accidents



BIOCE AREA, SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO

Bioce, Serbia and Montenegro, Jan 23 — Many people were feared dead after a Montenegro passenger train jumped the tracks near the capital, Podgorica, and slid into a rock-strewn river gorge, officials said today. Army and police helicopters hovered over the crash site as access to the many injured was difficult in high winds, they added. "There is a great probability that there are many dead," Transport Minister Andrija Lompar told the Serbia-Montenegro state news agency Tanjug. The local passenger train from the northern city of Bijelo Polje to the port of Bar derailed at Bioce, some 10 km north of the capital Podgorica. A taxi driver helping with the rescue effort told Reuters he saw seven or eight bodies in one spot alone, as well as many more injured. Tanjug said about 100 were admitted to hospital. "We took out a large number of wounded," said Nebojsa Kavacic, director of the Podgorica medical centre. "It is very difficult to get the victims out ... the terrain is rough, it is very dark. There are a lot of dead." President Filip Vujanovic and Prime Minister Milo Djukanovic rushed to the crash site, in a canyon of the Moraca river where trees halted the slide of the coaches

40 metres from the water. "We were lucky because of the tunnel," passenger Ivan Stanic told reporters at the scene. He said the train had slowed down for a tunnel. Stanic said people were screaming in panic and lifeless bodies lay on the rocks. A policeman at the scene said four wagons had jumped the tracks. "The four wagons were full of passengers," railways chief Ranko Medenica said. — Reuters.

Bioce, Jan 23 — At least 39 people were killed when the brakes failed on a train carrying more than 200 passengers, causing it to jump the tracks and crash into a ravine in mountainous Montenegro today. The government said 135 people were injured, 75 of them children thought to be returning from family ski trips. Trees slowed the plunge of the front coaches and they came to rest 40 metres from the river below. Army and police rescuers climbed down the steep slope in darkness to reach those trapped, smashing windows to extract survivors from a coach lying on its side. "Thirty-nine are dead, 135 are injured," Montenegro Deputy Prime Minister Miroslav Ivanisevic told a news conference after an emergency cabinet meeting. All the injured were evacuated by mid-evening and rescuers were working on the recovery of the last two corpses in the wreckage. "The accident occurred because of a failure of the train's braking system," Interior Minister Jusuf Kalamperovic said. The local passenger train from the northern city of Bijelo Polje to the southern port of Bar derailed at Bioce, about 10 km outside the capital, Podgorica. Many of the passengers were thought to be families returning home from skiing trips. President Filip Vujanovic and Prime Minister Milo Djukanovic rushed to the crash site in a gorge of the Moraca river. The state declared three days of mourning. Transport Minister Andrija Lompar and National Railways chief Ranko Medenica tendered their resignations. — Reuters.

MPUMALANGA PROVINCE, SOUTH AFRICA

London, Jan 19 — A press report, dated Jan 18, states: A goods train derailed in South Africa's eastern province of Mpumalanga today, spilling an ingredient used in the making of acid. Molatwane Likhethem, spokesperson for Spoornet, said that the train was traveling from Springs to Trichardt, near Secunda, when 10 of its 12 carriages derailed. "We contained the scene immediately after the accident," he said. Emphasising that the substance was not dangerous, he said the remaining cargo was being pumped into new tankers. "The situation is under control," he said. Likhethem said the cause of the derailment, which damaged 60 metres of track, was not known. The driver and his assistant were not injured.

TAYLOR TOWNSHIP, PENNSYLVANIA, UNITED STATES

London, Jan 19 — A press report, dated Jan 17, states: A CSX freight train derailed today in a CSX rail yard in Lawrence County, spilling sulphuric acid from one tanker, authorities said. Seven cars derailed and four tipped over at 1035 in the yard in Taylor Township, south of New Castle, said Brian Melcer of the county's public safety department. He said there were no injuries. No evacuation was needed because the spill occurred in a remote area of the yard, and the acid did not spill into any storm drains, Melcer said. He said a hazardous materials team would work through the night to clean up the area and workers will try to raise the four tipped cars. Melcer said he did not know the cause of the accident.

YAMAGATA PREFECTURE, JAPAN

London, Jan 19 — A press report, dated today, states: East Japan Railway Co today resumed operations between Tsuruoka and Sakata stations on the JR Uetsu Line, which had been suspended following the fatal Dec 25 derailment of an express train in Yamagata Prefecture, JR East officials said. The first train departed Sakata station on schedule at 0542, with about 20 passengers on board but none in the first car. All the five casualties in the accident had been traveling in the front car. The Yamagata prefectural police and the Aircraft and Railway Accidents Investigation Commission of the Land, Infrastructure and Transport Ministry believe gusty winds caused the derailment, which killed five people and injured 32. JR East had decided to resume operations in response to calls by the local communities ahead of the unified university admission exams starting on Saturday (Jan 21), company officials said. They also said trial runs that JR East carried out in the Tsuruoka-Sakata section yesterday had shown no problems. JR East has decided to set up three new wind meters near the accident site so wind speed data can be monitored in its operation centre and train drivers immediately informed. The company has also decided to run trains at a speed of 25 kph on the stretch near the accident site, although they had been allowed to run there at a maximum 120 kph.

Robberies & Thefts



SCULPTURE FROM MUSEUM, VIENNA, AUSTRIA

London, Jan 23 — A press report, dated Jan 22, states: Austrian police have recovered a \$60m 16th Century figurine stolen in 2003 called Saliera, or salt cellar, after a suspect turned

himself in. Experts established it was an authentic work by Florentine master Benvenuto Cellini, Austria's Press Agency said. It was found yesterday, buried in a wooden case near Zwettl, a town about 55 miles north of Vienna, police said. The suspect turned himself in on Friday (Jan 20) after police released photos of him identifying him as a suspect. Authorities have been trying to track down the 25.4cm (10 inch) gold Saliera since it was stolen from a showcase at Vienna's Art History Museum. The daily Salzburger Nachrichten reported that the man was identified after being photographed by a surveillance camera. He had been spotted buying a mobile phone which he used to send a text message to police during a failed attempt last year to ransom the figurine. The suspect turned himself in after acquaintances told him he looked like the person being sought. The museum said at the time that Cellini's piece was the sculpture equivalent of Leonardo da Vinci's 16th Century masterpiece painting the Mona Lisa. It was stolen after thieves smashed a window to get into the museum, police said. They then smashed a glass display case and took the sculpture.

Miscellaneous



COCOA LADEN VESSEL DELAYED AT NEW YORK, UNITED STATES

London, Jan 20 — A press report dated today, states: New York Port Authority will not free up space on a Brooklyn pier to allow cocoa-laden general cargo *DS Freeway* (18597 gt, built 1998) to dock. Blommer Chocolate, a candy manufacturer, American Stevedoring, the pier operator, and Teamster warehouse workers publicly begged the Port Authority yesterday to open a vacant pier so the shipment could be unloaded. The pier in question, located along Red Hook's waterfront, is reserved for a residential project that has not started yet. Port Authority spokesman Steve Coleman blamed the situation on "mismanagement" by the pier operator. "They grossly mismanaged the cocoa business to the point they no longer have enough space that they lease from us to accommodate the shipment," he said. "We've bailed them out in past, and we're not willing to bail them out anymore." Since Sunday (Jan 15), *DS Freeway* has been floating in New York Harbour with 15,000 tonnes of fresh West African cocoa worth \$25 million. Each day *DS Freeway* spends idling costs \$20,000, company officials said. Ports in Staten Island and New Jersey can't handle the load because they only work with containers and the cocoa is "break bulk" in sacks that

requires a small army of workers. "For the Port Authority to confuse massive success in attracting ships to Brooklyn with mismanagement is a clear evidence that they are abandoning their responsibilities in New York in favour of New Jersey," said Matt Yates, a spokesman for American Stevedoring. (Note — *DS Freeway* sailed Abidjan Jan 1 and according to LMIU AIS was stationary in lat 40 41 22.5N, long 74 00 20.84W, at 0102 today.)

COLLAPSE OF BUILDING, NAIROBI, KENYA

London, Jan 23 — A press report, dated today, states: A four-storey building has collapsed in the Kenyan capital Nairobi, leaving dozens of people injured. Rescuers are digging through the rubble with their bare hands and there are chaotic scenes, a BBC correspondent reports from the scene. A nurse at Nairobi's Kenyatta General Hospital told AP more than 50 people had been admitted and more were arriving every minute. Kenyan TV said 200 people were in or around the building when it fell. Witnesses said they feared many people might be trapped under the rubble. Bulldozers and ambulances arrived at the scene in central Nairobi, and passers by helped professionals search the debris.

INFESTATION OF LOCUSTS ACROSS AFRICA

London, Jan 20 — Zimbabwe has been on high alert to deal with the plague of migratory locusts that invaded Zambia's southern province of Namwala last week. Agriculture Minister Joseph Made was quoted by local press as saying today that teams were being dispatched to monitor the situation and search for clues of locust invasion throughout the country to ensure early detection. The swarms caused extensive damage to crops and vegetation in several countries they passed through and there are fears the locusts may continue moving southwards, the report said. Zimbabwe is still monitoring and spraying a few scattered cases of armyworm, that invaded the country's farming areas two weeks ago raising concern over the country's capacity to handle widespread pest invasion. Made said "We are urging farmers to continue scouting and to remain alert for another possible wave of armyworm and also to report any suspicious cases of locust invasion," . Agricultural Research and Extension Services Director Shadreck Mlambo said his office was waiting for a more detailed report from the International Red Locust Control Organization for Central and Southern Africa (IRLCOCSA).

OUTBREAK OF CHOLERA, ZAMBIA

Lusaka, Jan 23 — Twenty-five people have been killed in a cholera outbreak in Zambia this month, state radio and the health ministry said today. Five members from one family

and five prisoners had been felled by the disease near the southern town of Mazabuka — 120 km from the capital Lusaka — adding to another 15 that died earlier in the month, the newspapers and health ministry said. Some 2,721 had been admitted to state hospitals suffering from cholera, officials said. Simon Miti, permanent secretary in the health ministry, confirmed 15 deaths while a minister and a junior official in Miti's department reported the additional 10. "A school has been closed and all pupils sent home after five members of one family died of cholera at Chikani in Mazabuka," state radio reported today. Cholera deaths have also been reported in neighbouring Zimbabwe and Malawi this month. Southern African countries are most vulnerable to the disease at this time of year during the summer rains. — Reuters.

SEIZURE OF CONTRABAND CIGARETTES FROM NORTH KOREA VESSEL, GREECE

See *Tania* under " Seizures & Arrests."

VESSELS STRANDED IN JAMUNA & BORAL RIVERS, BANGLADESH, DUE DIESEL SHORTAGE

London, Jan 22 — A press report, dated Jan 21, states: Acute diesel shortage is persisting in Baghabari oil depot, the main oil depot in the northern region, as a number of fuel oil-laden ships got stuck in Jamuna and Boral rivers for the last six days. Official sources said 21 ships and cargoes, carrying diesel, fertilizer and other goods, remained stranded in Panchakhola, Char Sakuria and Nakalia since Jan 15 due to lack of navigability. The ships and cargoes sailed from Chittagong, Narayanganj and Comilla for Baghabari river port, Chilmari and Balasighat. Locals alleged that price of diesel raised by Tk 5 to Tk 7 per litre in different places of the northern region as the stock of floating depots in Balasighat of Gaibandha and Chilmari of Kurigram became empty. Farmers of the region became frustrated due to the shortage and price hike of diesel and fertilizer ahead of IRRI-boro cultivation season. But, the authorities concerned denied the allegation of price hike of diesel and fertilizer as they took initiative to supply these to the northern region through rail route over the Jamuna Bridge from Thursday (Jan 19) night.

Fires & Explosions



BISHOP'S PALACE, TENERIFE

London, Jan 24 — A press report, dated Jan 23, states: The Bishop's Palace on the island Tenerife has been completely destroyed by fire. The fire began on the second floor of the

seventeenth century Casa de Salazar on Calle San Agustin in La Laguna, and quickly spready through the rest of the building, before it was brought under control five hours later. The fire-fighting operation, which involved 50 firemen and two helicopters, was complicated by the fact that a large part of the building is wood-constructed. The building was of great architectural importance and was on the UNESCO World Heritage List. The fire broke out in a library on the same floor as the Bishop's private residence. Church dignatories were meeting in a nearby conference room. Two nearby buildings were also affected: the Diocese Library, and offices of the Spanish equivalent of the Open University, the UNED. Authorities believe that the most likely cause was a short circuit.

BUS GARAGE, WEST LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM

London, Jan 23 — A press report, dated Jan 22, states: Fourteen double decker buses caught fire in a blaze at a west London bus garage this morning, forcing police to close the A40. The incident at the First depot on the Great Western Road was spotted just before 1000 hrs by police, who called in the brigade. At that stage, three buses were on fire, a spokesman for Scotland Yard said, "then there were subsequent explosions as a result of the fire." She added that a major route into the capital was shut as a result of the fire. "The bus garage is underneath the A40. There is a large plume of smoke so we closed that," she said. The A40 has now been reopened. A spokesman for London fire brigade said around 40 firefighters were tackling the blaze, and crews had managed to stop the fire from spreading further. A spokesman for First confirmed the fire at the Westbourne Park garage was estimated to have caused hundreds of thousands of pounds of damage. He said: "It looks like seven buses have been burned out and three to four are smoke damaged."

CHEMICAL WAREHOUSE, MOSCOW, RUSSIA

London, Jan 25 — A press report, dated today, states: A fire that broke out this morning in a household chemicals warehouse in southern Moscow has been extinguished, the Emergency Situations Ministry said. The fire started at about 0730 hrs (0430, UTC) affecting an area of about 3,000 square metres. The ministry said aerosol cans were heard to explode but they posed no threat to humans. A total of 20 firefighting teams were involved in the effort to put down the blaze. Nobody was reported hurt in the incident.

COAL MINE, MELLVILLE, WEST VIRGINIA, UNITED STATES

London, Jan 20 — A press report, dated today, states: A fire erupted in an underground coal mine in southern West Virginia late yestersday and two

workers were unaccounted for, authorities said. The fire was reported at the Aracoma Mine in Mellville, about 60 miles southwest of Charleston, said Lara Ramsburg, spokeswoman for Gov. Joe Manchin. "There was some type of fire in the deep mine," Ramsburg said. She said she could not confirm an earlier report that the fire involved a belt inside the mine. "There are two workers that are currently unaccounted for." Mine rescue crews, emergency crews and representatives from the state Miners Health Safety and Training Office were at the scene, she said, adding, "All resources are either at the mine or on their way to the mine site." State police said they were responding to an incident at the mine but would not give any other details.

COPPER MINE, CAPIAPO, ATACAMA PROVINCE, CHILE

London, Jan 21 — A press report, dated Jan 20, states: Three people were killed, two injured in an explosion in cooper mine in Chile, local media reported today. Rescuers managed to free 70 miners who had been trapped underground after the explosion, the report said. The explosion happened at 0830 hrs, 1130, UTC, when two trucks, one carrying industrial chemicals, crashed at the entrance of the Carola-Agustina mine, in Capiapo, the capital of Atacama province, 820 km north-east of Santiago. The three victims were two miners and a security guard. A firefighter and a contractor were wounded and were taken to a hospital in Copiapo.

FACTORY, EL PASO, TEXAS, UNITED STATES

London, Jan 20 — A press report, dated today, states: Fire tore across a cabinet manufacturer in east El Paso County yesterday morning, drawing about 100 firefighters from throughout the county. Water to fight the blaze had to be trucked in from as far away as Vinton, 37 miles away, to contain the wind-swept blaze. Twenty-seven firetrucks responded to the blaze, which began at 0712 hrs, at Kitchen and Bath Cabinets Inc. at 13654 Nayarit. A thick plume of smoke twisted high into the air above the fully engulfed structure for three hours. Because the nearest fire hydrant was three miles away, firefighters at first could mount only a defensive operation. Fire officials think that fumes from a wood-lacquer sealant reached a suspended heater and sparked the blaze that quickly spread throughout the building, giving employees little time to escape. An unidentified employee who tried to fight the fire suffered minor burns to his hands. He was treated at the scene, El Paso Fire Department spokesman Lt. Mario E. Hernandez said. No other injuries were reported. Nineteen trucks from the El Paso Fire Department responded to the blaze, which also brought the Socorro, San Elizario, Clint, Fabens, Montana

Vista and West Valley fire departments to the property just outside of Horizon City. Water to keep the flames from spreading to nearby businesses, homes and brush was shuttled in by county vehicles and the El Paso Water Utilities. Firefighters also had to contend with tanks of propane, some of which exploded, on the property. Moderate gusts of wind remained a concern until the worst of the fire was extinguished at 1029 hrs, and then hot spots flared up during the next several hours, Hernandez said. Damage to the property was estimated at over \$1 million, a total loss. The owner, Martin Ramirez, said that the building was insured that he would rebuild.

MUSEUM, HELSINKI, FINLAND

Helsinki, Jan 23 — An explosion ripped through Finland's most valuable silver and jewellery collection today, but no one was hurt in the blast at the national museum, police and fire officials said. "At this stage we do not know the cause of the explosion. Nothing indicates a crime, but it cannot be ruled out," said Superintendent Jere Roimu of the Helsinki police. The city-centre museum was closed to the public today, but staff were in the building at the time of the blast, which occurred at about 1520, GMT, Helsinki Fire Officer Kimmo Tuominen told Reuters. "It caused a lot of damage, to partitions and display cases, but no one was hurt," he said, adding that the explosion damaged an area of about 200 sq metres of exhibition space on the ground floor. "According to the information given by the museum, it is the most valuable silver and jewellery collection in Finland," Tuominen said. The blast shattered windows and ripped out doors, and set off smoke alarms although there was no fire, he said. — Reuters.

OFFICE BUILDING, MOSCOW, RUSSIA

London, Jan 25 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: A fire that broke out in an office building in north-western Moscow today has been localized. "Three people were hurt. They received burns from the explosion of a gas cylinder on the second floor and were taken to hospital," a source in the city fire department told Itar-Tass. The building partially tumbled down. The fire has spread onto 1,000 square metres, and 20 fire teams are putting down the blaze. The fire alarm sounded at 1403, local time. "Within minutes the blaze spread [from the attic] onto 400 square metres," he said.

PLASTICS RECYCLING FACTORY, OTAKI, NEW ZEALAND

London, Jan 23 — A press report, dated today, states: Police suspect arson was the cause of a fire which burnt an Otaki plastics recycling factory to the ground early this morning. The fire service was alerted to the blaze at Pacific Plastic

Recyclers just before 0500 hrs, and at least 50 firefighters fought the blaze. Fire Service spokesman Department Chief John Jackson says when the first crews arrived the fire was totally involved. "We ended up with appliances from as far North as Foxton and from the Hutt Valley and Wellington," Jackson told One News. Pacific Plastic Recyclers operations manager Jim Rimmer says the fire was very hot and the building is now a pile of twisted steel and smouldering plastic. He says the factory will be rebuilt, which will take several months, during which time the company will continue to employ its staff of about 35 people.

London, Jan 24 — A press report, dated today, states: One of Otaki's biggest employers is pledging to keep staff in their jobs despite its plastic recycling factory being razed by fire early yesterday. Firefighters were called to Pacific Plastic Recyclers in the Horowhenua town about 0400 hrs to find the factory well alight. Despite the best efforts of 15 fire appliances and 50 firefighters called from around Horowhenua and as far away as Wellington, the building could not be saved. Firefighters remained at the scene through the day, extinguishing fires under the floor. Company operations manager Jim Rimmer said that it would take up to six months to rebuild the factory and source replacement machinery from overseas. But it would try to keep all the 35 affected staff on at the New Zealand-owned company's two other plastic factories in the town. The company's other factories were not big enough or properly equipped to take over production. Wellington area deputy chief fire officer John Jackson said it was too early to say what caused the blaze but fire safety investigators and police were making inquiries.

PREMISES, COCONUT CREEK, FLORIDA, UNITED STATES

London, Jan 20 — A press report, dated today states: Eleven people are homeless after a devastating fire gutted a condominium complex in a Coconut Creek retirement community Monday (Jan 16). The fire broke out at Wynmoor Village, 1105 Bahama Bend, Monday afternoon. More than two dozen units, on both the first and second stories of the building, suffered extensive fire, smoke or water damage. Parts of the roof also collapsed. The American Red Cross is helping provide temporary shelter for the displaced residents. A smoldering cigarette was the source of the fire. The 37-year-old building was an estimated \$1.2 million loss, said Steven Pollio, chief of Coconut Creek fire rescue. There were no injuries, but several residents didn't have homeowner's insurance.

PREMISES, OTAKI, NEW ZEALAND

London, Jan 23 — A press report, dated today, states: Authorities have cancelled a health warning telling

people to stay indoors after a fire gutted a plastic recycling plant in Otaki today. Upwards of 50 firefighters were called to Pacific Plastic Recyclers Ltd just after 0400 hrs to find the factory completely engulfed. Despite crews being called in from as far away as Wellington the factory could not be saved and firefighters expected to remain on site throughout today extinguishing fires underneath the collapsed building's floor. Late this morning, the Fire Service issued a warning on behalf of regional health staff for people living south of Otaki. "People with known respiratory conditions, such as asthma or heart problems should remain inside with doors and windows closed," the warning said. "Vehicles travelling through the area should reduce air intake from outside by closing external vents or set the air to circulate within the vehicle." Police have since cancelled the health warning, effective from 1300 hrs Pacific Plastic Recyclers Ltd operations manager Jim Rimmer told NZPA the factory was "totalled" but the company would make every effort to keep staff on. The extrusions factory, manufacturing pipes and plastic sheeting, usually ran 24 hours a day, five days a week and Mr Rimmer said the factory had only been not running this morning because it was the Wellington Anniversary Day public holiday. He said if staff had been on site, they might have been able to either put the fire out early or notify the fire service quickly, but it was fortunate nobody had been there or was injured. Mr Rimmer said the company would be meeting tomorrow to decide what to do in the meantime. "This factory will have to be re-built from the ground up with all-new machinery," he said. "We're one of the bigger employers in Otaki and the place is insured — I just hope it covers everything." He said the destroyed machinery could take up to six months to source from overseas. The company's other factories were not big enough or properly equipped to take over production. Wellington area deputy chief fire officer John Jackson said it was too early to say what caused the blaze but fire safety investigators and police were making inquiries.

WAREHOUSE, BRISBANE, AUSTRALIA

London, Jan 20 — A press report, dated today, states: Workers ran for their lives as a raging fire gutted a carpet warehouse south of Brisbane today, causing a damage bill of up to A\$7 million. Nine fire crews and two aerial appliances battled the blaze that broke out at PR Floors in Computer Road at Yatala about 1020, AEST, today, a Queensland Fire and Rescue Service (QFRS) spokeswoman said. Staff in the warehouse and workers in neighbouring buildings were evacuated as the fire, billowing smoke hundreds of metres into the air, took hold. It was brought under control in just over an hour but not

before half of the factory was destroyed, including about A\$4 million worth of carpet stock. Damage to the building was estimated between A\$2.5 to A\$3 million. Firefighters were forced to use forklifts to break holes into the warehouse's walls in a bid to douse the flames.

WILDFIRES, AUSTRALIA

London, Jan 20 — A press report, dated today, states: Residents north of Moe in eastern Victoria are preparing for a long night as fire approaches their homes. The blaze in the Moondarra State Park has already burnt through 1,500 hectares. About 30 homes in the Moondarra and Tharlou areas are being threatened by the fire which was deliberately lit. Country Fire Authority and DSE fire fighters are working to protect the properties but residents are being told a south-westerly change later tonight is expected to push the bushfire even closer to homes. In the south-west there are two fires causing concern for authorities, at Mt Eccles National Park and at Heywood. The Moe Erica Road remains closed and at last report there were six fires, at Edenhope and in the Grampians.

London, Jan 21 — A press report, dated today, states: Victorian firefighters are in talks with interstate crews as 12 fires continue to burn out of control across the state. The largest fire has burnt out 3,500 hectares at the Moondarra State Park in Gippsland. Residents in the nearby towns of Erica and Rawson have been warned their homes may come under threat. An 80-hectare fire is also threatening the small town of Steiglitz, north-west of Geelong. The Department of Sustainability and Environment spokesman, Craig Ferguson, says Victoria may need to call on other states to assist with firefighting efforts. A major fire at Yallaker South, near Edenhope, in Victoria's south-west has been contained. (See issue of Jan 23.)

London, Jan 21 — A press report, dated today, states: Victorian firefighters will work throughout the night to try to contain several large fires around the state. The largest fire in the Moondarra State Park in Gippsland has burnt about 3,500 hectares. No property has been damaged, but residents in the nearby towns of Erica and Rawson are being warned to patrol their homes for burning embers. Fire crews are also battling to control a fire near homes at Steiglitz north-west of Geelong. Large fires are also burning at Mount Lubra in the Grampians and near Heywood in the south-west.

London, Jan 21 — A press report, dated today, states: The Tasmanian Fire Service has declared a total fire ban from midnight as it fights 20 fires across the state. The biggest blaze has burnt out about 1,500 hectares near the west coast mining town of Zeehan. Five remote scrub fires are still out of control in the south and south-west. The fire service's acting district officer, Danny Reid, says firefighters

are relieved that temperatures and winds have not risen as high as first feared.

London, Jan 21 — A press report, dated today, states: South Australia's Country Fire Service is trying to control a blaze on the Fleurieu Peninsula. About 120 firefighters are at the Mount Compass site. Meanwhile, fire has blackened about 28,000 hectares of scrubland in the Ngarkat Conservation Park in the state's south-east. Two water-bombing aircraft are being used to control the blaze. The CFS is urging people to make preparations tonight ahead of extreme fire danger across South Australia tomorrow.

London, Jan 22 — A press report, dated today, states: A blaze burning near Heywood in Victoria's south-west has broken containment lines and is heading towards the town of Tyrendarra. Residents are advised to remain indoors, emergency relief centres have been established at Portland and Port Fairy for those who have decided to evacuate. A number of roads have also been closed and people are advised to avoid the area. Properties in Victoria's east remain under threat from a large fire still burning out of control in Gippsland. The fire at Moondarra has now burnt more than 4,700 hectares. Craig Ferguson from the Department of Sustainability and Environment says homes are under threat. A fire at Mount Lubra in the Grampians in western Victoria is also of concern. Firefighters say everyone from Halls Gap down into the Victoria Valley needs to keep a critical eye on the fire over the next 24 hours. Another fire is burning at Mount Misery near Ballarat, where firefighters are using water bombing aircraft to help fight the blaze. The DSE says it has six going fires and 11 contained fires listed across the state.

London, Jan 22 — A press report, dated today, states: Australian firefighters have had to contend with blistering heat while battling a number of fires across Victoria, Tasmania and South Australia. Twelve fires are burning across Victoria, as firefighters prepare for the onset of high wind and temperatures into the 40s. More than 800 Victorian firefighters have worked throughout the night. In Tasmania, fire fighters are battling at least six scrubfires, while a total fire ban has been declared in South Australia, where temperatures have soared above 40°C for the past three days. A fire in the South Australian Ngarkat Conservation Park has burnt more than 30,000 hectares of scrubland.

London, Jan 23 — A press report, dated today, states: Several homes in country Victoria were destroyed as bushfires tore through the state last night. Emergency services said homes were lost at Anarkie, 150 km south-west of Melbourne, with reports by locals that up to 10 properties were burnt to the ground. The southern states and parts of New South Wales are under a total fire ban today after

searing temperatures and bushfires destroyed buildings and livestock, and led to a helicopter crash. Strong north-westerly winds fanned the blazes yesterday as exhausted volunteers fought the fires in 42-degree-Celsius heat. Similar temperatures are predicted for today. The Country Fire Authority said two outbuildings at Newbridge, near Bendigo, central Victoria, were razed. A helicopter battling one of the state's largest fires, in Gippsland, spun out of control and crashed as its pilot positioned it for refuelling at Latrobe Regional Airport. A small fire sparked by the crash was quickly extinguished and the helicopter pilot escaped without serious injury. By nightfall a fire at Moondarra, Gippsland, had burned about 5,000 hectares and was threatening homes, while a fire at Bridgewater, north of Bendigo, had burned 1,200 hectares. Dozens of volunteers from the NSW Rural Fire Service were drafted to help 700 exhausted South Australian firefighters combat the state's three major fires. "They are assisting us by providing fresh legs to our firefighters, especially at Robertstown, where they are tired and weary," said a spokeswoman for South Australia's Country Fire Service, Krista St John. South Australia has faced five consecutive days of temperatures higher than 40 degrees.

London, Jan 23 — A press report, dated today, states: Halls Gap in central-western Victoria has become a virtual ghost town, with residents fleeing as a raging fire front bears down on the settlement. Emergency services estimate as few as 50 people remain in the popular Grampians tourist spot, which is in the path of a bushfire that has so far burned 87,000 ha. "The fire is still south of Halls Gap, we have alerted the residents of Halls Gap with a state emergency warning that the fire is heading their way," Department of Sustainability and Environment spokeswoman Kay Cossar said. The DSE, which is fighting the blaze in conjunction with the Country Fire Authority, remains hopeful Halls Gap will be spared.

London, Jan 23 — A press report, dated today, states: Fire-fighters in Australia are battling to contain the latest wave of bushfires which have spread across four states. One firefighter was killed and three were injured when their vehicle rolled over as they headed towards a blaze. In the worst-hit state of Victoria at least 20 homes have been destroyed in a blaze that spread across more than 100,000 hectares. Police are investigating whether two people found dead in a burnt-out car in Victoria were victims of the fires. Farmers estimate that thousands of sheep and cattle could have been lost as a result of the fires. Western Australia, South Australia, Victoria and Tasmania were all affected by bushfires over the weekend, as temperatures soared to over 40C. There were about a dozen fires in Victoria alone, according to the Victorian Country Fire Authority.

The bodies of two people were found in a car near Moyston in south-western Victoria, where the largest fire was raging.

London, Jan 24 — A press report, dated today, states: South Australian firefighters have maintained control of fires at Ngarkat Conservation Park in the state's south-east and on Kangaroo Island overnight. The two fires were brought under control yesterday afternoon and crews are now monitoring them. Other fires in the mid-north, at Robertstown and Spalding have been extinguished. The SA Department of Environment and Heritage (DEH) has rejected criticism that not enough fire prevention work has been done in the Ngarkat Conservation Park near Bordertown. Lightning strikes hit the Park on Friday (Jan 20) night and fire blackened more than 80,000 hectares.

London, Jan 25 — A press report, dated today, states: The tourist town of Halls Gap was under siege last night as it was circled by fire and being hit by embers. Fire was raging within hundreds of metres of the town as CFA crews desperately tried to stop it being overrun. They were considering a dramatic backburn in the heart of Halls Gap, just above the town's oval and the fire staging area where hundreds of personnel were being sent around the region. Fire was raging to the south of Halls Gap, in the Grampians, at Lake Bellfield and to the north, flames could be seen consuming the Mt Difficult Range. Plans had begun to remove fire command from Halls Gap, but they were being resisted by on-the-ground firefighters. There were also fears part of the Mt Difficult range fire could spread north-east to Laharum, Wartook and Brimpaen. The DSE is also concerned about fires in Anakie, 35 km north-west of Geelong, Moondarra in Gippsland and Kinglake National Park, 46 km north-east of Melbourne, that continued to burn out of control yesterday. Police last night doorknocked residents in Break O'Day Rd as spot fires burning ahead of the Kinglake blaze burned more than 1,000 hectares and threatened houses. Residents in Captains Creek were also told to enact their fire plans as firefighters focused on asset protection. In Anakie, embers ignited spot fires to the north near Beremboke, as the fire burned more than 7,000 hectares in the Brisbane Ranges and destroyed three houses. Firefighters were also battling spot fires ahead of the front in Moondarra. More than 13,000 hectares, two tree plantations and hundreds of kilometres of fences have been hit there. Firefighters took advantage of yesterday's cooler weather, working through the night to establish containment lines, before forecast temperatures of 33 deg Celsius today and 40 deg tomorrow. Premier Steve Bracks said conditions were the worst since the Ash Wednesday fires of 1983 and he would seek Federal Government help if the fire situation worsened. The Premier promised an

initial \$100,000 aid package for landholders affected by the devastating fires across the state. A second fire off the Melba Highway, near Glenburn, burned 5,000 hectares, but was close to being contained. A new fire ignited in Warburton but was quickly contained. Farmers continued to shoot stock an estimated 100,000 sheep and about 1,000 cattle were burned. Parks Victoria advised people to avoid fire-affected national parks. Telstra promised fire relief packages for affected customers.

WILDFIRES, UNITED STATES

London, Jan 25 — A press report, dated today, states: Santa Ana winds gusting to nearly 70 mph swept through Southern California for a third day yesterday, knocking over more big rigs and spurring a wildfire in the San Bernardino National Forest. Much of the region was under a “red flag” alert for fire danger all day, as the dry winds raced out of the desert, sapping moisture from brush and trees. By evening, conditions eased. The biggest of several fires burned 485 acres of the national forest about 65 miles east of Los Angeles, but authorities lifted a voluntary evacuation for 500 homes in Running Springs as the situation improved.



ACCIDENT, HAMILTON INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, CANADA

London, Jan 23 — A press report, dated yesterday, states: Bon Jovi were involved in an aircraft accident yesterday. The band and their touring staff escaped injury when the aircraft they were on skidded off a runway after landing in severe weather in Canada. The Boeing 707 was carrying 14 passengers when it overshot the landing strip at Hamilton International Airport. Bon Jovi were landing in Ontario having travelled from Buffalo, New York.

C-GRXZ

London, Jan 24 — Understand (? Cessna 208B Grand Caravan, operated by Sonicblue Airways Registration, C-GRXZ) Tofino to Vancouver, the pilot issued a mayday and wanted to divert to Port Alberni Airport, Jan 21. The aircraft did not make it and crashed in the woods, some 10 km from the airport.

CRASH INTO SEA, CAPE POINT, SOUTH AFRICA

See ZS-RXA.

CRASH, BORROLOOLA, NORTHERN TERRITORY, AUSTRALIA

See VH-MNI.

CRASH, CLARE COUNTY AIRPORT, UNITED STATES

See N8540B.

CRASH, GULONG AREA, NEW SOUTH WALES, AUSTRALIA

London, Jan 23 — A press report, dated today, states: Air safety investigators say it is too early to know what caused a fatal helicopter accident near Gulgong in central western NSW. Pilot Bernard Finch, 60, died when his helicopter is believed to have clipped powerlines on his property before crashing and bursting into flames last night. The deputy director of the Australian Transport Safety Bureau, Alan Stray, says investigators are inspecting the crash site today.

CRASH, KILLINGLY AREA, CONNECTICUT, UNITED STATES

See N32729.

CRASH, LATROBE VALLEY, VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA

London, Jan 22 — A press report, dated today, states: A helicopter pilot assisting in firefighting efforts in Victoria's east has survived a crash landing. The aircraft tipped over and caught fire at the Latrobe Valley Aerodrome shortly after 1700, AEDT. The pilot was taken to hospital suffering minor injuries.

CRASH, PORT ALBERNI AREA, VANCOUVER ISLAND, CANADA

London, Jan 22 — A press report, dated Jan 21, states: Three people were killed and five injured when their Cessna 208 crashed near Port Alberni, Vancouver Island, today in a rugged wooded area, officials said. The aircraft carrying eight people was on a commercial flight from Tofino, British Columbia, to Vancouver when it reported engine problems and went down. Three people were dead at the scene and five had to be airlifted to hospital, according to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. The injured were reported to be in serious condition. The aircraft was attempting to reach Port Alberni for an emergency landing when it crashed, according to the rescue co-ordination center in Victoria. Canadian military officials told local media the aircraft was located using its emergency beacon, and the initial rescue personnel at the scene had to be parachuted to the crash site.

EMERGENCY LANDING, BANGOR, UNITED STATES

London, Jan 20 — A press report, dated today, states: A US Airways Express flight had to make an emergency landing in Bangor last night. The Colgan Air propeller plane took off from Boston, and was scheduled to land in Rockland and then Augusta. An airport dispatcher tells us when the aircraft was preparing to land in Rockland, an indicator light went on in the cockpit showing the front landing gear wasn't locked. The aircraft then diverted to Bangor. Emergency crews were on the

runway at BIA, just in case. It turned out there were no actual problems with the landing gear, it was just a faulty light. There was a total of six passengers and two crew members on board the flight.

EMERGENCY LANDING, CHICAGO, UNITED STATES

London, Jan 19 — A press report, dated today, states: Southwest Airlines Flight 2489, a Boeing 737 with 49 persons on board, left Chicago's Midway Airport just after 0705 today for Indianapolis but had to make an emergency landing back at Midway shortly afterwards. Southwest officials said a trouble light indicator on one of the aircraft's engines prompted the quick landing. The Boeing landed safely and was taken out of service. Passengers were put on a later aircraft to Indianapolis, which landed safely about 1100 hrs.

EMERGENCY LANDING, KOTOKA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, GHANA

London, Jan 25 — A South African Airways flight on Monday (Jan 23) night made an emergency landing at the Kotoka International Airport after developing a technical problem shortly after take-off. Sources at the offices of South African Airways on Tuesday confirmed to the Ghana News Agency (GNA) that Monday night's flight, which returned 30 minutes after taking off, did so as a result of a technical fault. According to the sources the technical problem would, however, not affect subsequent flights, they would follow the usual flight schedule. According to the sources, investigations were being carried out on the incident.

EMERGENCY LANDING, MALTA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, MALTA

London, Jan 24 — Full emergency procedures were set in motion at Malta International Airport yesterday as a cargo aircraft prepared to land with one of its two engines turned off. The two crew members on board the propeller aircraft realised there was something wrong with the Fokker 27 around 20 minutes after take-off from Ciampino airport, Rome, and alerted the Maltese authorities. Since it was already in Maltese airspace, the aircraft decided to proceed on its 75-minute flight to Malta on one engine. Sources said that only around a quarter of the Fokker was loaded with cargo, which facilitated the trip. Such aeroplanes are designed to safely fly on a single engine if necessary. Everything proceeded to plan. As fire engines went on full alert, the 20,400-kilogramme aircraft, registered with Italian company Miniliner Srl, had no problems when it landed just after noon. The pilots did not require any treatment. The airport spokesman confirmed this was the first time that such an aircraft was involved in a full emergency landing, contrary to some media reports. The cause of the problem was being investigated by two foreign engineers last night.

EMERGENCY LANDING, MYRTLE BEACH INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, SOUTH CAROLINA, UNITED STATES

London, Jan 25 — A press report, dated Jan 24, states: An Atlantic Southeast Airlines plane bound for Atlanta with 50 people aboard landed safely shortly after 1100 hrs, today at Myrtle Beach International Airport, but local rescue crews were on alert for about a half-hour after the pilot reported problems with the landing gear. Horry County fire-rescue officials stood by as the aircraft circled the airport to burn off fuel and prepare for an emergency landing. Authorities said they were first notified about the problem about 1044 hrs. Airport officials said the pilot declared an emergency and elected to return to the airport after realizing the plane's nose gear didn't fully retract. However, the landing gear deployed fully when the plane returned to the airport, said Bob Kemp Myrtle Beach International Airport Director. Passengers were immediately booked on other flights to their destinations, airline officials said.

EMERGENCY LANDING, OSAKA AIRPORT, JAPAN

London, Jan 23 — A press report, dated today, states: An Air Central flight took off from Osaka Airport yesterday morning only to return to the runway 15 minutes later and make an emergency landing after it failed to properly retract its landing gear. Flight ANA 1633, a Bombardier DHC 8-402 aircraft of the All Nippon Airways' affiliated company, carrying 57 passengers and crew, was bound for Matsuyama Airport. No injuries were reported as a result of the accident. The passengers were transferred to a different aircraft and departed an hour later.

EMERGENCY LANDING, SOFIA AIRPORT, BULGARIA

London, Jan 20 — A Boeing 737-400 on the way to Istanbul from Zurich with 150 passengers and crew on board had an emergency landing in Sofia Airport in Bulgaria when one of its engines failed. The aircraft has landed safely last night and is currently being checked by the engineers. The passengers will be transferred to another THY aircraft which will be sent from Istanbul.

EMERGENCY LANDING, SPRINGFIELD-BRANSON REGIONAL AIRPORT, UNITED STATES

London, Jan 25 — A press report, dated today, states: Northwest Airlines aircraft carrying 24 people to Memphis made an emergency landing at Springfield-Branson Regional Airport in Missouri yesterday morning. Authorities say the pilot of the Canadair jet reported at about 0700 hrs that he suspected hydraulic problems soon after taking off from Springfield. He turned the aircraft around and landed the aircraft safely,

with no injuries. Passengers were being rebooked on other flights to Memphis.

EMERGENCY LANDING, TRIPOLI, LIBYA

London, Jan 23 — A press report, dated today, states: A Boeing 727 aircraft carrying President Kufuor and his entourage from Sirte, Libya to Khartoum, Sudan last Saturday (? Jan 21) for the 6th Ordinary Session of the African Union (AU) made an emergency landing in the Libyan capital, Tripoli due to hydraulic failure. The 25-member delegation including officials at the presidency, security personnel and journalists went through scary moments immediately after take off at the Sirte International Airport when the under carriage (tyres) failed to withdraw its compartments underneath. Thirty minutes after the pilot had made several efforts to let the landing gear (undercarriage) respond to commands had failed, he was left with the only option of making an emergency landing at the nearest airport located in Tripoli. The aircraft was chartered by the Libyan government from Malta to fly the president and his entourage from Accra last Friday to Sirte en route to Khartoum. The detour to Sirte was to afford the president the opportunity to hold discussions with the Libyan leader, Col Muammar al Qadhafi on issues concerning the full integration of African countries before the AU Summit. Thirty minutes into the four and half hour flight to Khartoum, the aircrew informed some members of the delegation that the flight had to be aborted as a result of technical difficulties which needed immediate attention at the nearest airport. They said it had therefore been decided to make the flight to Tripoli for the technical problem to be rectified.

HELICOPTER MISSING, PAKISTAN

London, Jan 23 — A press report, dated Jan 22, states: A Red Cross helicopter that had been used for earthquake relief in Pakistan since October was missing today with a crew of seven on board, the aid agency said. The Mil Mi-8 helicopter, operated by Turkmenistan Airlines, lost contact with Pakistani air control just before entering Afghanistan yesterday, the International Red Cross said. The crew members are employees of Turkmenistan Airlines, and there were no Red Cross staff on board. The nationality of the missing was unclear. The region in which the helicopter is believed to have disappeared is covered with rugged, desolate mountains, but was not having bad weather at the time, said James Reynolds, deputy head of the ICRC delegation in Pakistan. The helicopter was returning to Turkmenistan after completing its aid work and had refueled in the northwestern city of Peshawar, the Red Cross said. Ground and air searches for the craft today were unsuccessful, Reynolds said.

London, Jan 24 — A press report, dated Jan 23, states: Rescuers today temporarily suspended a search for a helicopter with seven people on board that disappeared in rugged mountains along the Afghan-Pakistan border, officials said. Contact with the Mil Mi-8 transport chopper was lost on Saturday (Jan 21) after it took off from the north-western Pakistani city of Peshawar. It had been scheduled to land at the Afghan capital, Kabul, before refuelling and flying to neighbouring Turkmenistan, where it was based. The helicopter was chartered by the Red Cross for earthquake relief work in Pakistan. Its crew were employees of Turkmenistan Airlines, which operated the aircraft. No Red Cross staff were on board. Afghan government helicopters and troops were still searching their side of the frontier today, but aircraft belonging to a NATO-led peacekeeping force in Afghanistan had withdrawn from the area. A search on the Pakistani side also failed to locate any sign of the aircraft. The helicopter was still not located by nightfall today and the search was called off until morning, said James Reynolds, deputy head of the Red Cross in Pakistan. A spokesman for the NATO peacekeeping force in Afghanistan, Maj. Andrew Elmes, said the force's aircraft were still on the lookout for the missing chopper, but special search aircraft had been withdrawn.

INCIDENT AT BRISBANE, QUEENSLAND, AUSTRALIA

London, Jan 21 — A press report, dated today, states: Two tyres on an Air Zealand flight carrying more than 200 passengers blew apart when the plane touched down at Brisbane Airport today. An Air New Zealand spokeswoman said an investigation had been launched into the incident, which kept the Boeing 747 and its passengers on the tarmac for more than an hour. "We think the tyres may have been damaged on take-off," she said. "But we are investigating the plane incident." The plane from Auckland touched down at Brisbane Airport at 1012 hrs. It rolled to a stop on the taxiway and Brisbane Airport firefighters were at the scene immediately but there was no fire. More than 200 passengers were kept on the plane as engineers changed the tyres and the debris was cleared from the runway. Brisbane Airport Corporation said the plane was towed to the international terminal where the passengers disembarked around 1130 hrs. There no injuries and the runway was not closed. The plane left for a return flight to Auckland this afternoon.

INCIDENT AT PATNA AIRPORT, INDIA

London, Jan 20 — A press report, dated today, states: After six hours of hard work involving six engineers and dozens of other airport staff to change the two flat tyres of the Indian Airlines aircraft, the airport

authorities at Patna's Jai Prakash Narain International Airport managed to drag the aircraft to the side to make room for other flights to land and take off. Aircraft engineers who arrived in Patna via Ranchi brought two spare tyres with them to replace the damaged ones only to find out that the other two tyres on the left side were also damaged during the yesterday's landing. Using a tractor and dozens of airport staff giving a push to the damaged aircraft, flight number IC 809 was hauled to the side of the airport where it was parked until two more tyres are brought from New Delhi. The exercise, however, provided relief to hundreds of passengers as normal air service resumed following the removal of Indian Airlines aircraft from the runway. Unconfirmed reports said the pilot of the ill-fated aircraft missed the landing point on the runway. To compensate for the error, the pilot stepped on the brakes causing the blowout in the two tyres. All 57 passengers and seven crew members walked away from the mishap unscathed.

INCIDENT AT PUDONG INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, SHANGHAI, CHINA

London, Jan 25 — A press report, dated today, states: A Boeing 747 cargo plane from Cargo Lux Airlines International was seriously damaged in Shanghai-based Pudong International Airport today due to faulty operation, but no casualty was reported. The airport source said the air freighter, flight CV799, was damaged at its nose at about 0700 hrs. Airport technicians wrongly removed the front undercarriage of the aircraft in the course of an overhaul, making the aircraft unbalanced. Consequently, the aircraft, laden with 100 tons of goods, knocked onto the ground with its nose broken. The East China Bureau of the General Administration of Civil Aviation immediately organized investigation on the accident. By this afternoon, the cargo aircraft is still landing at the airport and the flight has been cancelled. As the accident took place at its cargo yard, it caused no unfavorable effect to normal operation, the airport authority said.

N285MG

London, Jan 23 — A press report, dated Jan 22, states: A small aircraft attempting to land at a Morris County airport burst into flames after it went off the runway and slammed into some trees this afternoon, but the two men on board walked away from the crash. The single-engine Cirrus SR22 started to veer left as the pilot tried to land at Lincoln Park Airport around 1540 hrs, authorities said. Knowing he could not land the aircraft evenly, the pilot tried to throttle the aircraft back up, but that caused it to veer farther to the left and slam into some trees about 100 feet away from the runway, Lincoln Park Patrolman Greg Bosland said. Both men were able to get out of the aircraft before it became

engulfed in flames and were not seriously injured, Bosland said. The aircraft was registered to Analytix LLC, a New York City-based computer consulting company. The Federal Aviation Administration is investigating the crash.

London, Jan 24 — Cirrus SR22 N285MG crashed on landing at Lincoln Park Airport, New Jersey, at 2040, Jan 22, following a local flight. The aircraft was destroyed. The two persons on board were not injured.

N32729

London, Jan 23 — A press report, dated Jan 21, states: A small aircraft carrying an instructor and student crashed in a field in Killingly this morning, injuring both on board. State police said the aircraft went down in field on North Road near the Rhode Island line at about 1000 hrs. The aircraft crashed in a field and the landowner, who was the first on the scene, said both on board were conscious and talking. One man had to be cut out of the craft. One person was airlifted to a hospital and the second was transported by ambulance, state police said. The flight originated from Windham Airport.

London, Jan 24 — Piper PA-28-140 (Cherokee Cruiser) N32729 crashed near East Killingly, Connecticut, at 1510, Jan 21, while on a flight from Windham, CT. The aircraft sustained substantial damage. The two persons on board suffered minor injuries.

N6697N

London, Jan 22 — A press report, dated Jan 21, states: A pilot walked away with only minor injuries after his single engine aircraft crashed and burst into flames just outside the Liberty County Airport. Witnesses say, just before noon, the Beechcraft aircraft started having trouble as it was approaching the runway at the Liberty County Airport. It went down in a heavily wooded area, just outside the airport, sending thick, black smoke into the air. Walthourville Fire Captain Shawn Smith was one of the first to respond. Firefighters found the tail torn off and pieces of the aircraft scattered everywhere. "The operator said the wind blew him from the taxiway," Smith said. With the pilot safely, out of the way, firefighters were able to concentrate on putting out the fire. The pilot was taken to Winn Army Hospital with minor injuries. The National Transportation Safety Board is investigating the accident. Firefighters say the weather does not appear to be a factor.

London, Jan 24 — Beechcraft Duchess 76 N6697N crashed on landing at Liberty County Airport, Hinesville, Georgia, at 1715, Jan 21, while on a flight to Hinesville. The aircraft sustained substantial damage. The one person on board was not injured.

N8540B

London, Jan 24 — A press report, dated today, states: A Genesee County

man was killed Sunday (Jan 22) afternoon in an aircraft crash in a wooded area near the Clare County Airport in Harrison. The body of Michael Watson, of Davison, was found shortly before 1800 hrs in the wreckage of an aircraft about 200 yards south of the airport. The cause of death is unknown, but an autopsy is planned, said Clare County Sheriff's officials. Watson, who was the pilot and sole occupant, is believed to have taken off from the Harrison airport sometime after 1600 hrs in a fixed-wing Aeronca single-engine aircraft and then crashed, according to investigators. Two witnesses passing by the area found the wreck because a single wing was sticking up in the air, sheriff officials said in a press release. Federal Aviation Administration officials out of Grand Rapids took over the investigation after sheriff officials notified them of the crash, McClellan said. FAA investigators were on the scene yesterday to try and determine the cause of the crash.

London, Jan 25 — Cessna 172 N8540B crashed near Harrison, Michigan, at 0001, Jan 22. The aircraft was destroyed. The one person on board was killed.

N86CE

London, Jan 25 — Cessna 560 Citation V, operated Goship Air, N86CE, departed Sun Valley at 0550, MST, Jan 24, on a flight to Carlsbad. The aircraft climbed to its assigned cruising altitude of FL380, which was reached at about 0606, MST. The descent for Carlsbad was started an hour later, at 0606 PST. The aircraft positioned for a runway 24 approach. Reportedly the Citation overshot the runway and collided with obstructions, bursting into flames.

N8745E

London, Jan 23 — A press report, dated Jan 21, states: Some details are emerging about the crash of a small aircraft (Piper PA-32-300 (Cherokee Six) N8745E) in Pierre, South Dakota, that killed an 11-year-old boy. According to a preliminary report filed by the National Transportation Safety Board, the aircraft apparently lost power during take-off. The agency also said weather did not appear to be a factor in the accident. The aircraft had been giving rides during a birthday party when it crashed into a ravine on Jan 14 near Pierre Airport. Colt Gunderson of Pierre died. The pilot, Clint Peitz, and four young girls were injured.

N875JX

London, Jan 24 — A press report, dated today, states: The crew of Corporate Airlines Flight 5966 (BAe Jetstream 31 N875JX) had little warning of any problem as it approached the Kirksville Regional Airport in north-east Missouri. Less than 300 ft off the ground, however, the aircraft clipped treetops and stalled before crashing in a field one mile short of the runway. Both pilots

and 11 of 13 passengers on board were killed in the Oct 19, 2004, accident. The National Transportation Safety Board was meeting today to report its findings on the accident and reach a decision on the probable cause. The aircraft was not equipped with an updated system that warns pilots when they fly too low, though it had an older version of the terrain warning system that met regulations at the time. The Smyrna, Tenn.-based carrier, now called RegionsAir, operated the flight under contract with American Airlines' commuter service. The crash has spawned a number of lawsuits, including one that alleges the pilots had been on duty for 14 hours and 41 minutes at the time of the crash. While that falls below the Federal Aviation Administration standard of 16 hours, it exceeds the 14-hour limitation set by American Airlines.

VH-MNI

London, Jan 22 — A press report, dated today, states: Air safety investigators expect to use a helicopter to retrieve wreckage from Thursday's (Jan 19) fatal aircraft crash near the Northern Territory's south-east coast. The Beechcraft Baron B-58 was on its way to the McArthur River mine when it went down in rugged terrain near Borroloola on Thursday morning. The

pilot and a passenger, who worked for North Australian Diamonds, were killed. Police say it could be months before the bodies of the two men are formally identified using DNA. A team of four investigators from the Australian Transport Safety Bureau is spending the weekend sifting through the wreckage. They hope to use a helicopter to lift parts of the aircraft to a more accessible location for further investigation.

London, Jan 23 — A press report, dated today, states: An air safety investigation team has finished picking through the wreckage of a Beechcraft Baron B-58 that crashed on the Northern Territory's east coast last week. The aircraft was on its way to the McArthur River mine when it went down in rugged terrain. The pilot and a passenger, who worked for North Australian Diamonds, were killed. Four investigators from the Australian Transport Safety Bureau spent the weekend at the scene. They have retrieved the aircraft's engines for further analysis in a laboratory.

London, Jan 25 — Beechcraft 58, VH-MNI, operated by Hardy Aviation Pty Ltd, was discovered inverted three nautical miles east of the non-directional beacon at McArthur River Mine, Australia, at 0930, local time, Jan 19 after the pilot failed to report arrival. The pilot and passenger were killed and the aircraft was destroyed.

ZS-RXA

London, Jan 25 — Robinson R22 helicopter ZS-RXA, operated by Starlight Aviation, crashed into the sea near Cape Point, South Africa, at approximately 0815, UTC, Jan 17. The student pilot, the sole occupant, was killed. The aircraft was substantially damaged. The helicopter was on a local flight that originated at Cape Town.



ITALY

Genoa, Jan 23 — Port situation: Genoa: One bulker awaiting berth. Average berthing delay one to two days. Savona: No vessels awaiting normal berths. One vessel awaiting special berth. La Spezia: No vessels awaiting berths. — Lloyd's Agents.

SYRIA

Lattakia, Jan 23 — Waiting period for Lattakia port 24 hours and for Tartous five days. — Lloyd's Agents.

Port Delays

(Information received from BIMCO, Denmark and Indian Ports Association, New Delhi)

Country/Port	Date of report	No. of vessels waiting and/or days delay
Australia		
Albany	25-Jan-2006	Grain: 1 vessel berthed to load unknown grain, 2 waiting of which 1 to load wheat, 1 other grain; 3 vessels due by 5/2, all to load unknown grain; up to 6 days delay expected due to berthing congestion.
Brisbane	25-Jan-2006	Grain: 4 vessels due by 12/2, all to load wheat; up to 7 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Dalrymple Bay	25-Jan-2006	Coal: Two vessels loading at berth; 10 vessels arrived; 26 vessels due by 5/2.
Esperance	25-Jan-2006	Grain: 4 vessels due by 5/2, 1 to load wheat, 3 other grain; up to 8 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability.
Geelong	25-Jan-2006	No. 3 bulk grain pier: 1 vessel berthed to load barley; 4 vessels due by 25/1, 2 to load barley, 2 wood-chips; up to 3 days delay expected due to berth and cargo availability.
Geraldton	25-Jan-2006	Grain: 1 vessel berthed to load wheat; 3 vessels due by 10/2, 1 to load lupins, 1 wheat, 1 other grain; up to 19 days delay expected due to berth and cargo availability.
Kwinana	25-Jan-2006	Grain: 1 vessel berthed to load malt, 3 waiting, of which 1 to load wheat, 2 other grain; 12 vessels due by 27/1, 10 to load wheat, 2 other grain; up to 7 days delay expected due to berthing congestion.
Newcastle	25-Jan-2006	Five vessels due by 29/1, 4 to load wheat, 1 barley; up to 8 days delay expected due to berth congestion.
Thevenard	25-Jan-2006	Grain: 1 vessel due 1/2 to load wheat; up to 1 day's delay expected due to berthing congestion and cargo availability.
Bulgaria		
Bourgas	23-Jan-2006	Ten vessels in port of which 6 loading (1 copper annods, 1 ammonium nitrate, 1 cigarettes, 3 coils), 4 discharging (1 concrete iron, 1 billets, 1 zinc/lead, 1 coke); 2 vessels in roads, both to load (1 empty, 1 ammonium nitrate); 16 vessels due of which 8 to load (3 coils, 1 wheat, 3 containers, 1 trucks), 8 to discharge (3 containers, 1 trucks, 1 sugar, 1 iron ore, 1 iron ore pellets, 1 coal).
Varna	23-Jan-2006	Varna East, Varna West, Balchik: Thirty-two vessels in port operating of which 16 loading (6 soda, 1 sunflower seed meal, 1 bulk cement, 1 chamote/ kaolin/soda, 1 bulk clinker, 1 technical salt, 1 bulk silica sand, 1 TSP, 1 bulk maize, 1 bulk wheat, 1 chamote/kaolin), 11 discharging (4 bulk coal, 1 petroleum coke, 2 bulk copper concentrate, 2 raw phosphate, 1 iron bars, 1 container), 5 discharging/loading (4 containers, 1 equipment in cases/miscarried cargo); no vessels waiting in roads.

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Port Conditions

Chile

Antofagasta	23-Jan-2006	Four vessels berthed, 3 berths vacant; 21 vessels due this week to load/discharge concentrates, bulk copper, containers and general cargo.
Arica	23-Jan-2006	Three vessels berthed, 4 berths vacant; 22 vessels due this week.
Iquique	23-Jan-2006	Three vessels berthed, 4 berths vacant; 20 vessels due this week.
Lirquen	23-Jan-2006	Three vessels at terminal, 3 berths vacant; 20 vessels due this week.
Puerto Montt	23-Jan-2006	Two vessels at terminal, 1 berth vacant; 6 vessels due this week.
Punta Arenas	23-Jan-2006	Five vessels at terminal, 2 berths vacant; 12 vessels due this week.
San Antonio	23-Jan-2006	Six vessels berthed, 3 berth vacant; 21 vessels due this week.
San Vicente	23-Jan-2006	Three vessels berthed, 2 berths vacant; 21 vessels due during the week; Steel pier: 1 vessel at terminal, 1 berth vacant; 3 vessels due this week; Coronel pier: 2 vessels at terminal, 2 berths vacant; 5 vessels due this week; Oil terminal: 1 tanker at terminal, 1 berth vacant; no tankers due this week.
Valparaiso	23-Jan-2006	Five vessels berthed, 3 berths vacant; 2 vessels anchored; 20 vessels due this week.

Cyprus

Larnaca	24-Jan-2006	No vessels discharging at berth; no vessels due 25/1; no delays expected.
Limassol	24-Jan-2006	Eight container vessels loading/discharging at berth, 2 conventional vessels discharging at berth; 6 container vessels, 2 conventional vessels due 25/1; no delays expected.

Egypt

Adabiya	23-Jan-2006	Three vessels at berth (loading/discharging), all general cargo.
Alexandria	23-Jan-2006	Thirty-one vessels at berth (loading/discharging) of which 23 general cargo, 4 bulk carriers, 3 tankers, 1 cruise vessel; 30 vessels at inner anchorage, 7 at outer anchorage; 19 vessels dry-docked.
Damietta	23-Jan-2006	Twenty-three vessels at berth (loading/discharging) of which 14 general cargo, 3 bulk carriers, 1 tanker, 1 reefer; no vessels at inner anchorage, 4 at outer anchorage.
Dekheila	23-Jan-2006	Nine vessels at berth (loading/discharging), all bulk carriers; no vessels at outer anchorage.
Port Said	23-Jan-2006	Seven vessels at berth (loading/discharging) of which 2 general cargo, 1 bulk carrier, 4 container vessels.
Suez	23-Jan-2006	Six vessels at berth (loading/discharging) of which 2 general cargo, 1 reefer, 3 passenger vessels; 3 tug boats; 1 vessel dry-docked.
Suez Canal	23-Jan-2006	Twenty-four vessels transiting Northbound, 31 Southbound.

Estonia

Tallinn	23-Jan-2006	No labour problems. City port: No vessels at berth, none at anchorage; no vessels due, with no delays expected; Paljassaare (formerly Kopli): 1 vessel loading coal at berth, 1 discharging cacao beans at berth; 2 vessels due; 9 days delay expected; Muuga: no vessels at berth, none at anchorage; no vessels due, with no delays expected.
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India

Kolkata	23-Jan-2006	3 vessels operating at berth of which 1 vessel loading Containers, 1 vessel loading and discharging Steel, 1 vessel waiting to discharge Lubricant Oil; 4 vessels working at mid stream (3 to discharge, 1 waiting to discharge); 2 vessels awaiting order to discharge; 2 vessels under repair; 1 vessel waiting to sail; 1 vessel under disposal.
Haldia	23-Jan-2006	12 vessels operating at berth of which 4 loading (Iron ore-3, Butadiene), 7 vessels discharging (Coke-4, Net Coke, Crude, POL), 1 vessel loading and discharging Containers; 6 vessels awaiting berth (3 to discharge, 3 to load); 7 vessels waiting at anchorage (6 to discharge, 1 to load); 8 vessels due (Crude, POL, Containers, Thermal Coal, Coke, Iron Ore-2, RORO).
Paradip	23-Jan-2006	6 vessels operating at berth of which 2 vessels loading Iron ore, 4 vessels discharging (C.P.Coke, General Cargo, Ammonia, Lime Stone); 4 vessels awaiting berth (2 to discharge, 2 to load).
Visakhapatnam	23-Jan-2006	15 vessels operating at berth of which 9 loading (Iron ore-2, POL-2, C.P.Coke, Wheat, Soya, Thermal Coal, Alumina), 6 vessels discharging (Coking Coal-2, Project Cargo, Ammonia Nitrate, Lime Stone, Urea); 10 vessels not ready to work and waiting at anchorage (6 to discharge, 4 to load); 1 vessel under repair (MV Chin Shwe Haw at HSY Jetty which was collided with MV Uttar Kasi); 38 vessels due (Iron Ore-6, Iron Steel, Granite Blocks, Wheat-3, Feld Spar, POL Tanker, Thermal Coal-2, Alumina, Moltan Sulphur, Urea, Rock Phosphate, Nurtate of Potash-2, Sulphur, Coking Coal-9, Petroleum Coke, Containers-2, Steam Coal-2, POL Tanker-2).
Chennai	23-Jan-2006	9 vessels operating at berth of which 4 loading (Cars, Granite Blocks, IOL, Iron ore), 4 discharging (HR. Coil/S.Plate, S.Coal, Thermal Coal, Crude Oil), 1 vessel loading and discharging Containers; 1 vessel waiting at anchorage to load; 8 vessels due (Crude oil, Furnace Oil, S.Coal, MEG, Met Coke, HSD, Containers-2).
Tuticorin	23-Jan-2006	4 vessels operating at berth of which 1 vessel loading Granite, 3 vessels discharging (Coal, Thermal Coal, Timber Logs); 1 vessel not ready to work and waiting at anchorage to load; 2 vessels waiting at anchorage (MV Shahad after completion of cement loading operations for want of MMD clearance, MV Corali after discharging Timber for orders of Agents).
Cochin	23-Jan-2006	6 vessels operating at berth of which 2 loading (HSD/MS, General Cargo), 2 vessels discharging (Sulphur, Zinc Concentrate), 2 vessels loading and discharging Containers, 2 vessels awaiting berth (1 to discharge, 1 to load and discharge).
New Mangalore	23-Jan-2006	4 vessels operating at berth of which 2 vessels loading POL Product, 2 vessels discharging (LPG, POL Crude); 6 vessels waiting at anchorage (2 to discharge, 4 to load); 12 vessels due (Iron Ore(F)-2, Iron ore (P)-2, POL Crude-2, Containers, Cement, POL Product, Methanol, Granite Stone-2).
Mormugao	23-Jan-2006	4 vessels operating at berth of which 2 loading (Iron ore, Alumina), 2 vessels discharging (Pet Coke, HSD & MS); 3 vessels working at mid stream and loading Iron ore; 1 vessel waiting at anchorage to load; 5 vessels under repairs/dry docked; 8 vessels due (Coking Coal, Containers, Pet Coke, Iron ore-5).

Port Conditions

Mumbai	23-Jan-2006	13 vessels operating at berth of which 6 loading (Bagged SBM-2, Steel/General Cargo/Containers, Project Cargo, Steel Cargo, POL), 6 vessels discharging (Palm Oil/Products, DAP in bulk, Bulk MAP, POL-3), 1 vessel loading and discharging Containers/General Cargo; 8 vessels under repairs/dry docked, 6 vessels under arrest, 1 vessels under laid up (Berths not required for cargo operations); 31 vessels due(Containers-5, Fertiliser (RM)-5, General Cargo-21).
J.N.P.T.	23-Jan-2006	7 vessels operating at berth of which 3 discharging (Cement, SKO, Lubricant Oil), 4 vessels loading and discharging Containers; 2 vessels awaiting berth to load and discharge); 2 Container vessels due.
Kandla	23-Jan-2006	11 vessels operating at berth of which 6 discharging (Chemical-2, Phosphoric Acid, Timber Logs-2, MOP), 4 vessels loading (Agriculture Product-3, Rice), 1 vessels loading and discharging Containers; 4 vessels not ready to work and waiting at anchorage (3 to discharge, 1 to load); 1 vessel under repairs/drydocked.
Ennore	23-Jan-2006	1 vessel under repairs (MV Tamil Anna under repair is expected to sail on 23.01.2006; 3 vessels due (MV Rani Padmini(Thermal Coal), MV Gem of Ennore(Thermal Coal, MT Algonquin(POL Products).
Israel		
Ashdod	24-Jan-2006	No labour problems. Three general cargo vessels loading at berth, 14 vessels discharging at berth (10 general cargo, 4 bulkers), 6 vessels loading/discharging at berth (4 containers, 2 tankers); 2 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (1 general cargo, 1 bulker), 1 container vessel waiting at anchorage to load/discharge; 1 vessel awaiting orders; 19 vessels due, with 2-3 days delay expected.
Eilat	24-Jan-2006	No labour problems. One general cargo vessel discharging at berth, 2 vessels loading/discharging at berth (1 bulker, 1 container vessel); no vessels waiting at anchorage; no vessels due, with no delays expected.
Haifa	24-Jan-2006	No labour problems. Four vessels discharging at berth (3 general cargo, 1 bulker), 7 vessels loading/discharging at berth (4 containers, 1 car carrier, 2 tankers); 2 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (1 general cargo, 1 bulker), 4 vessels waiting at anchorage to load/discharge (3 containers, 1 tanker); 6 vessels under repairs/dry-docked, 1 awaiting orders; 18 vessels due, with 2-3 days delay expected.
Mozambique		
Maputo	24-Jan-2006	Four vessels in port operating, of which 2 loading (1 bagged sugar, 1 magnetite), 2 discharging (1 bulk aluminium, 1 bulk wheat); 3 vessels due to berth 24/1 of which 1 to discharge frozen fish, 2 to load/discharge (1 containers, 1 containers aluminium ingots); 27 vessels due by 20/2 of which 7 to load (1 containers, 1 scrap, 1 bagged cashews, 1 ferro chrome, 1 bulk sugar, 1 aluminium, 1 other vessel), 15 to discharge (2 containers, 1 petrol/diesel, 1 vehicles/pipes, 1 petcoke, 3 bagged rice, 1 clinker, 2 bulk maize, 2 bulk aluminium, 1 vegetable oil, 1 pitch), 3 to discharge/load (2 containers, 1 containers/steel coils/sheet metal), 2 other vessels.
Pakistan		
Karachi	23-Jan-2006	Three rice vessels loading at berth, 9 vessels discharging at berth (1 crude oil, 1 scrap, 3 coal, 1 urea, 2 general cargo, 1 soya bean meal), 4 container vessels loading/discharging at berth; 1 container vessel waiting at anchorage to load, 3 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (1 coal, 1 containers, 1 vehicles); no vessels bunkering, none under repairs/dry-docked, 2 awaiting orders; 6 vessels due (2 containers, 1 general cargo, 1 soya bean meal, 1 naphtha, 1 ethanol), with no berthing delays expected.
Port Qasim	24-Jan-2006	Five vessels discharging at berth (1 palm oil, 2 wheat, 1 VCM, 1 HSD), 1 container vessel loading/discharging at QICT berth; 2 vessels waiting at anchorage to load (1 rice, 1 containers), 3 waiting at anchorage to discharge (1 containers, 1 palm oil, 1 phosphoric acid).
Poland		
Gdansk	23-Jan-2006	Eleven vessels in port operating of which 10 loading at berth (3 coal, 3 general cargo, 1 bulk cargo, 1 grain, 2 tankers), 1 discharging coal at berth; 8 vessels under repairs/dry-docked; 21 vessels due.
Gdynia	23-Jan-2006	Ten vessels in port operating of which 4 loading at berth (2 coal, 1 bulk cargo, 1 general cargo), 6 discharging at berth (1 grain, 2 bulk cargo, 2 general cargo, 1 tanker); 15 vessels under repairs/dry-docked; 40 vessels due.
Russia		
Novorossiysk	23-Jan-2006	Fourteen vessels in port operating, all 14 loading (1 DRI, 1 bulk urea, 1 scrap, 1 WRIC, 1 steel billets/pipes, 2 steel billets, 1 copper, 2 wheat, 1 steel sheets/steel billets/slabs, 1 coils/slabs/steel billets, 1 aluminium, 1 barley); 16 vessels in roads of which 14 to load (1 steel, 2 copper, 2 aluminium, 1 wheat, 3 bulk urea, 1 cement, 1 steel billets, 1 bulk ammonium nitrate, 1 steel sheets/coils, 1 D/O), 2 to discharge (1 bulk sugar, 1 citrus); 88 vessels due of which 84 to load, 3 to discharge (1 oil, 2 bulk sugar), 1 to discharge/load containers; Oil terminal: 12 tanker in roads, all to load (11 crude, 1 fuel oil); 8 tankers due, all to load (6 crude oil, 1 fuel oil, 1 diesel oil).
Slovenia		
Koper	23-Jan-2006	Port working normally; Ten vessels berthed of which 3 loading (2 bulk cargo, 1 general cargo), 4 vessels discharging bulk cargo, 1 tanker discharging liquid cargo, 1 vessel discharging/loading containers, 1 car carrier discharging/loading vehicles; 2 vessels waiting at anchorage of which 1 to load sawn timber, 1 to discharge bulk cargo; 21 vessels due over the next 2 days of which 6 to load (4 bulk cargo, 2 saw timber/general cargo), 3 to discharge bulk cargo, 6 to discharge/load containers, 6 car carriers to discharge/load vehicles.

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Port Conditions

Spain

Bilbao	23-Jan-2006	Twenty-five vessels in port operating (6 tankers, 19 others), of which 4 loading, 15 discharging, 6 loading/discharging.
Cadiz	23-Jan-2006	Eighteen vessels in port of which 9 operating (3 Ro/Ros, 2 containers, 2 wheat, 1 soya, 1 lupins), 9 vessels under repair; no delays.
Sagunto	23-Jan-2006	Eighteen vessels in port operating, of which 1 loading bulk fertiliser, 14 discharging (12 steel products, 1 machinery, 1 vehicles), 3 loading/discharging (1 general cargo, 1 steel products, 1 fruit); no vessels outside commercial wharf; no berthing delays at present.

Sri Lanka

Colombo	23-Jan-2006	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 break bulk 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). 14 vessels loading at berth (13 containers/feeders, 1 essential services), 16 vessels discharging at berth (14 containers/feeders, 1 bulk palm oil, 1 bulk cement); 3 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (2 containers/feeders, 1 bulk base oil); 4 vessels dry-docked; 5 vessels due (4 containers/feeders, 1 bulk LP gas), with no delays for general cargo, bagged cargo, containers/feeders expected.
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Ukraine

Ilichevsk	23-Jan-2006	Ten vessels in port operating of which 8 loading (5 steel products, 2 grain, 1 S/F oil), 2 discharging/loading containers; 5 vessel in roads of which 3 to load (2 S/F oil, 1 sulphur), 2 to discharge/load containers; 21 vessels due of which 12 to load (8 load steel products, 2 S/F oil, 1 gasoil, 1 ferrosilmang), 3 to discharge ore, 6 to discharge/load containers.
Mariupol	23-Jan-2006	Seven vessels in port operating, all loading (4 steel, 1 fire-clay/kaolin, 1 sulphur, 1 coal); 7 vessels in roads, all to load (4 steel, 1 sunflower beans/husk, 1 coke, 1 sulphur); 52 vessels due of which 48 to load (27 steel, 12 coal, 2 fire-clay, 2 sulphur, 1 pitch, 1 sunflower beans, 2 wheat, 1 equipment), 3 to discharge/load (1 equipment/coal, 2 other).
Odessa	23-Jan-2006	Sixteen vessels in port operating of which 9 loading (1 scrap, 7 metal, 1 grain), 5 discharging (1 passenger vessel, 1 baggage, 2 bananas, 1 citrus), 2 discharging/loading containers; 3 vessels in roads of which 1 to discharge sugar, 2 to load discharge containers; 62 vessels due of which 32 to load (23 metal, 2 pig iron, 1 oil, 3 timber, 1 ferroalloy, 1 barley, 1 wheat), 10 to discharge (1 metal, 2 bananas, 3 citrus, 1 equipment, 1 ore, 2 oil), 20 to load/discharge containers.

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