

CasualtyWeek

Feb 2 2007

Ferry operators fear heavy hit from P&I super-cover

Special \$1bn cover comes at a cost, writes James Brewer - Friday 2 February 2007

PASSENGERSHIP operators face a substantial increase in their liability insurance costs under a deal being finalised on behalf of the industry by the International Group of P&I Clubs.

They will pay the lion's share of premium for a special \$1bn of extra reinsurance cover that the clubs are buying collectively to act as a shield against a shipping accident that might provoke giant claims.

Many companies running ferries in areas including Scandinavia, the Mediterranean and Canada — where, generally speaking, they believe the risk is relatively low — fear they will be particularly hard hit.

Premiums

Although individual mutuals may increase basic premiums by only a few percentage points in the February 20 renewals, the passengership sector will see a 71% increase in the reinsurance element that is added.

In total, the effect could be a 30%-40% increase in a typical company's liability insurance outgoing this year.

In other sectors, dry cargo and tanker, the reinsurance contribution will be similar or marginally lower to the present contribution.

The extra reinsurance, reported to have been led by leading insurer ACE in London, has been negotiated alongside the renewal of what is already the world's largest

reinsurance contract, the Group's excess of loss facility for \$2bn cover.

It is believed that, in general, the group has managed to secure the contract on terms little changed from last year, which is a tribute to its good claims record considering the volatility of the reinsurance market.

Perceptions

Passengership operators have been aware of the rising perceptions of risk on their side of the industry, but they had hoped for more breathing space.

Stephen Hawke, leader of the P&I sector at one of the top broking firms, Aon PLF, said: "A number of our clients have made clear their displeasure.

"This is not just about the allocation. They are unhappy about this being decided on their behalf at such a late date.

"They did not generally expect that one of the side effects of having their cover reduced would be to pay more money for it.

"Previously there was no limit on passenger claims, so the Group overspill mechanism would have come into play on an individual claim if it exceeded the reinsurance level of \$2bn."

Now the extra \$1bn cover will sit on top of that \$2bn.

Mr Hawke said: "In no other sector of insurance would you find less than a month before your renewal you were not totally sure about the cover or know what the price was going to be.

"Some people feel that if this had to come it should have waited a year instead of making them rebudget at a late stage.

"For some of the large ferry operators this is a significant, non-negotiable increase."

Lloyd's, led by Catlin, will again supply a large amount of the insurance capacity needed for the usual \$2bn of cover.

A number of Bermudean reinsurers are believed to have agreed to provide some of the additional capacity needed this time.

From February 20 the individual P&I club retention will rise to \$7m from \$6m, with larger claims up to \$30m pooled and the group "captive" insurer, Hydra in Bermuda, responsible for the next tranche of any claim up to the \$50m level.

Would you like casualty information as it happens ?

**Lloyd's
Casualty**

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

Vessel	Type	Flag	Class	GT	DWT	Bit	Casualty
<i>CLYDE FISHER</i>	molasses tanker	BHS	LR	8,446	12,984	2005	Arrived Belfast Jan 21 and made heavy contact with No.1 Oil Jetty while berthing. Damage to walkway and puncture of hull. Completed repairs and sailed Belfast Jan 24.
<i>CMA CGM CLAUDEL</i>	container	LBR	NV	27,093	34,629	2002	Blown from moorings at Rotterdam, Jan 18 and struck the Maasviakte Oil Terminal jetty. 1,600 cubic metres of oil spilled. 50-60 metres of jetty ruined. Vessel arrested. Oil cleanup progressing Jan 23.
<i>HAJ JAMAL</i>	general	PRK	—	861	1,524	1966	Sank 85 miles off Larnaca Jan 22. Six of the 7 crew rescued.
<i>HEROEY</i>	fishing	NOR	—	1,084	1,200	1995	Grounded off Kristiansund in lat 63 02.8N, long 07 17.2E, Jan 25. Eight crew abandoned on liferafts. Heavy list. Sea is penetrating the wheelhouse. Leaking diesel oil. Tug proceeding.
<i>HO FENG NO.6</i>	general	PAN	CR	5,619	6,709	1984	Has fire in No.1 hold in lat 09 08S, long 143 19E, near Daru Island, Jan 19. Crew evacuated. Salvage teams en route. SvitzerWijismuller appointed as salvors Jan 20. Fire remains under control and list has decreased by two degrees Jan 24.
<i>HSC GOTLANDIA</i>	ferry	SWE	LR	5,632	450	1998	Reported Jan 19: Mooring lines broke and damages sustained due to striking the berth at Faroesund. Large hole in hull, water ingress. Temporary patching effected. No decision regarding permanent repairs.
<i>NIJORD</i>	general	MLT	RS	2,696	3,214	1980	Ran aground in the Irbe Straits, Gulf of Riga Jan 21. Understand grounding due to crew's negligence. Refloated by tug Jan 22 and proceeding to Riga shipyard. In lat 57 01 5N, long 24 07 49E, Jan 24.
<i>NOBEL</i>	general	KHM	—	6,913	9,995	1975	Sank after a collision with <i>Si Hang Fen Jin</i> near Ningbo Jan 23. All 19 crew rescued. Most cargo of logs salvaged.
<i>OCEAN GLOBE</i>	bulker	BHS	BV	25,498	43,246	1995	Grounded in shallow waters outside Cadiz in lat 36 33.7N, long 06 18. 3W, Jan 22. Water leakage. Refloated Jan 23 with tug assistance and berthed at Puerto Real, Cadiz, to discharge cargo.
<i>PING YANG NO.8</i>	general	BLZ	—	1,424	1,453	1987	On fire and adrift off Enshu Nada, in lat 34 28N, long 137 55.6E, Jan 23. All ten crew rescued. Salvage ships battling to extinguish fire. Understand vessel in tow for lat 34 24.5N, long 137 56.6E, Jan 24.
<i>SANDRA</i>	general	ANT	LR	2,545	3,850	2001	Under tow to Cartagena Jan 20 by tug <i>Tacoronte</i> due to propeller problems. Arrived same day. Repairs to be carried out at Cartagena. ETC Feb 14.
<i>SCI TEJ</i>	container	MHL	BV	32,630	33,310	1989	Berthed (under tow of two tugs) at the Steubenhoeft, Cuxhaven Jan 17 due Machine problems. ETC repairs one week
<i>SODADE</i>	general	VCT	GL	2,472	3,055	1985	Reported Jan 18 anchored in the River Humber disabled and dragging anchor. Tug <i>Irishman</i> making fast. LOF signed to SMS Towage Ltd. Under tow to Alexander Dock, Hull. Arrived same day. Under repair Jan 23, ETC Jan 26.

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The following reports are reprinted from Lloyd's List



ACACIA (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

Barcelona, Jan 19 — Roll On Roll Off *Acacia* is still at Costa quay. — Lloyd's Agents.

ACCORD (Philippines)

Manila, Jan 19 — The Philippine Coast Guard reported today that the Philippine-registered general cargo *Accord* (741 gt, built 1985) ran aground near the entrance of Tabaco Port in Albay province, southern Luzon island on Jan 17. The vessel was reported to be listing at a 3.5 degree angle on the port side and was taking in water from a hole on the starboard side. A passenger ferry, *Premship IX* is currently rendering assistance to the stricken vessel. Cause of grounding is still to be determined. It is also not known how many persons are onboard the *Accord*. A Coast Guard diving team has been dispatched to the vessel to conduct underwater hull inspection to determine the extent of the damage. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Manila, Jan 20 — The Philippine Coast Guard reported that a small oil spill had developed around general cargo *Accord* which ran aground on Jan 17 near the entrance of Tabaco port. "About 400 litres of oil had spilled into the sea creating a 200 metre oil slick," Lieutenant Cmdr. Nelson Torre, head of the Tabaco Coast Guard detachment said. Torre said they were waiting for the arrival of the inflatable oil spill boom from Lafayette Philippines Inc, in Rapu-Rapu, and an absorbent boom from Shell's depot in Pasacao, Camarines Sur to help contain the spread of oil spill. Torre pointed out that the *Accord* had ran aground near the 625-hectare Curangon shoal in Malinao town, Albay. The oil spill was now threatening the shoal which serves as the spawning and nursery ground for different endangered species of fish, corals and other marine life. *Accord*, carrying 58,000 sacks of rice, was on its way from Manila to Tabaco City when it ran aground. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Manila, Jan 21 — The Philippine Coast Guard reported that salvors have been able to patch a hole in the starboard hull of general cargo *Accord*. The vessel was taking in water from a hole in its bottom hull and the vessel was also leaking oil. With the sealing of the hole, the list on the vessel had been stabilized and the oil leak plugged. The vessel's cargo of 58,000 sacks of rice is expected to be offloaded onto another vessel in the coming days to lighten the ship and make it easier to refloat and pulled out of its grounded position by tugs. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Manila, Jan 22 — The Philippine Coast Guard reported that a new hole in the bottom hull of general cargo *Accord* has been discovered. The hole is beneath the vessel's centre bunker storage tank containing 15,000 litres of fuel oil. "The only thing preventing the oil from escaping into the sea is the bottom hull being deeply imbedded in the coral and sand," Tabaco Port Coast Guard detachment head Lieutenant Commander Nelson Torre said. To prevent another oil spill, Torre explained that the *Accord's* oil tanks will be first emptied using an electric pump. The fuel oil will be pumped into steel drums which will then be transferred to another vessel. The crew will then offload its cargo of 58,000 sacks of rice to another ship. The removal of the cargo is expected to lighten the ship enough for it to float to the surface. Divers will then be able to reach the hole and install a patch. Torre said that the *Accord's* crew is now waiting the arrival of an electric pump so they can start emptying its fuel tanks. *Accord* was on its way from Manila to Tabaco City when it ran aground on Jan 17 near the entrance to Tabaco Port. It's 24-man crew is safe. The grounding has caused a minor oil spill, however, which is threatening a nearby shoal serving as a marine spawning and nursery ground. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Manila, Jan 23 — The oil spill from general cargo *Accord* has been contained with the arrival of oil spill booms donated by mining firm Lafayette Philippines Inc, which is based in near-by Rapu-Rapu, Lieutenant Commander Nelson Torre, Coast Guard Tabaco detachment commander reported. The booms were installed on the starboard side of *Accord* where the oil had collected. About 400 litres of fuel oil had leaked out of the vessel before a hole in the starboard side was plugged. Another hole in the centre hull will be repaired once *Accord's* oil tanks are emptied. Torre pointed out that *Accord* had ran aground near the 625-hectare Curangon shoal in Malinao town, Albay. The oil spill threatened the shoal which serves as the spawning and nursery ground for different endangered species of fish, corals and other marine life. With the booms in place, damage to the shoal has been averted, Torre said. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Manila, Jan 24 — The Philippine Coast Guard believes that stormy seas coupled with human error caused general cargo *Accord* to run aground while entering Tabaco port in Albay Province on Jan 17. "The *Accord* was buffeted by strong winds and waves that day but we suspect that a navigational error likely caused the vessel to venture into shallow waters," said Lieutenant Commander Nelson Torre, Coast Guard Tabaco detachment commander. He said that the crew's culpability will be determined by a Special Board of Marine Inquiry to be convened next week. In the meantime, the Coast Guard is focusing on the

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containment of an oil spill resulting from the grounding of the *Accord*. "We are now focusing on containment and cleaning operations. The investigation will follow," Torre said. He said that the vessel had ran aground near a protected marine shoal but there appeared to be minimal damage to the area as the oil spill was immediately contained. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Manila, Jan 25 — Emptying of general cargo *Accord's* fuel oil tanks began Tuesday with the arrival of electric pumps from Manila. Salvors are pumping out its contents of 15,000 litres of fuel oil to prevent an earlier oil spill from getting worse. The fuel oil is being pumped into steel drums which will be transferred to another ship. As of Wednesday 20 drums have been filled. The Philippine Coast Guard which is monitoring the refloating operations said that turbulent seas were hampering the oil pumping operations as these had to be stopped whenever the waters became too rough. He also noted that the ship's engine-room was completely flooded because of heavy seas. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

AL BARAKAT 1 (Bolivia)

Chittagong, Jan 22 — According to local agents, chemical tanker *Al Barakat 1* expected to arrive at RM-8 of Chittagong Port Authority on Jan 24. — Lloyd's Agents.

ALASKAN FRONTIER (U.S.A.)

London, Jan 25 — A US Coast Guard press release, dated Jan 22, states: Crude oil tankers *Alaskan Frontier* and *Alaskan Navigator* have been outfitted with new anchors and are back in service. Two other vessels, crude oil tankers *Alaskan Explorer* and *Alaskan Legend* each had a new temporary anchor installed and are operating under restrictions outlined by the Coast Guard. The decision to replace all the anchors on these vessels was made by the vessels' owners, Alaska Tanker Co, after it was discovered the original anchors were showing signs of metal failure. The Coast Guard, Washington Department of Ecology and Alaska Tanker Co are still investigating the cause of the failure of the anchors.

ALASKAN NAVIGATOR (U.S.A.)

See *Alaskan Frontier*.

AMALTHEA (Marshall Islands)

London, Jan 19 — Container Carrier *Amalthea* passed Skaw, southbound, 1644, Jan 18 and according to Lloyd's MIU AIS was in lat 54 29 10N, long 12 15 10E, at 0911, UTC, today, speed 17.5 knots, course 2.2 degrees.

AQUILA (Netherlands)

Maassluis, Jan 24 — General cargo *Aquila* left Delfzyl on Jan 24 and is now at Den Helder. — Lloyd's Agents.

ARISBE (Hong Kong)

London, Jan 19 — Information received, dated Kiel today, states: Bulker *Arisbe* (19602 gt, built 1986)

broke from its moorings at Waalhaven (Rotterdam). Tug *Smit Rusland* assisted to reberth the ship. (Note — *Arisbe* arrived Rotterdam 1425, Jan 17 and according to Lloyd's MIU AIS was still there at 0759, UTC, today.)

London, Jan 20 — Information received, dated Kiel today, states: Bulker *Arisbe* was pushed onto barge carrier *Spruce* (7258 gt, built 1975) in Rotterdam-Waalhaven by the strong winds on Jan 18. (Note — *Spruce* arrived Rotterdam 1440, Jan 8 and according to Lloyd's MIU AIS was still in port at 1028, UTC, today.)

AURE (Norway)

Trondheim, Jan 23 — Vegsund Slip AS, Eidsnes, inform today that Roll On Roll Off *Aure* arrived at their yard on Jan 12 for repairs and they estimate to complete next week. Whereafter the ferry will resume her sailing between Hundevik and Hestoy. — Lloyd's Agents.

B.L. I (Greece)

Piraeus, Jan 25 — Product tanker *B.L. I* (664 gt, built 1964), with 1,380 tons of crude oil and 100 litres of lubricating oil, ran aground in shallow waters at Ermoupolis port, Syros island, yesterday evening, Jan 24. All her eight crew members were reportedly healthy and secure. No pollution or ingress of water was reported. Her departure was prohibited until class inspection. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Jan 25 — Following received from Piraeus RCC, timed 1135, UTC: Product tanker *B.L. I* grounded at Ermoupolis, Syros Island, at 1715 yesterday evening and was refloated at 2330 same day. Vessel has now sailed.

BACO-LINER 2 (Liberia)

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

BADRINATH (Liberia)

Hamilton, Bermuda, Jan 18 — Refrigerated general cargo *Badrinath* is still in Bermuda waters with final repairs due to be finalised by tomorrow. — Lloyd's Agents.

Hamilton, Bermuda, Jan 19 — Refrigerated general cargo *Badrinath*: Further parts are required to complete the engine repair. These parts will now be flown to the Island within the next few days and final repairs are expected to be completed by Jan 24. ETD now Jan 24 or 25. — Lloyd's Agents.

Hamilton, Bermuda, Jan 24 — Spare parts for refrigerated general cargo *Badrinath* arrived today and the ETD is possibly this afternoon. — Lloyd's Agents.

Hamilton, Bermuda, Jan 25 — Refrigerated general cargo *Badrinath* left port at 0715 today for sea trials. It is expected that she will continue the voyage to Wilmington, USA, later this morning. — Lloyd's Agents.

BCL IWONA (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Jan 19 — Container Carrier *BCL Iwona* sailed Hamburg 2300, Jan

17 and passed Brunsbuttel 0200, Jan 18 bound Szczecin.

BITUMEN GLORY (Singapore)

London, Jan 20 — A SMIT Salvage report, states: Asphalt tanker *Bitumen Glory*, Malaysia for India, cargo 4,300 tonnes of bitumen, had an engine-room fire. Subsequently the accommodation also caught fire which forced the entire crew to abandon the ship. The entire crew was rescued by a passing ship. In the meantime SMIT Salvage Singapore was contracted on LOF 2000 to render immediate salvage assistance. Tug *Smit Langkawi*, which was on passage in the Strait of Malacca, was instructed at full speed to the last given position of the casualty. *Smit Langkawi* found the casualty still smouldering and burning and started fire fighting and cooling operations. After a few hours a SMIT Salvage team from Singapore arrived and assisted in stabilising the casualty and prepared it for onwards towage into a safe port. Upon arrival in Penang the casualty was redelivered to the owners.

Penang, Jan 24 — Understand from the Penang Marine Department Boarding Officer that asphalt tanker *Bitumen Glory* has requested permission to enter port but is not currently in Penang waters. — Lloyd's Agents.

BORGIN (Lithuania)

London, Jan 19 — Following received from Halifax RCC, timed 1335, UTC: Trawler (All types) *Borgin* (1103 gt, built 1984) is currently drifting about 300 miles east of St. John's with engine problems. Coast Guard are sending a tug to the scene and the vessel is in contact with its owners regarding further assistance. *Borgin* is drifting at one knot.

London, Jan 23 — Following received from Halifax RCC, timed 1435, UTC: Trawler *Borgin* effected engine repairs at 0825, UTC, Jan 20, and proceeded to St. John's.

BRILLIANTE (Gibraltar)

London, Jan 18 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: General cargo *Brillante* (3782 gt, built 1997) was assisted by tug *Oceanic*, together with the tug *Bugsier 2*, to Bremerhaven, and was berthed at the Columbus quay in Bremerhaven at 0900, today. *Brillante* had already had machine damage on Jan 17. It was planned to tow the vessel to Brake during the night by two tugs. As they were unable to reach the vessel, due to the swell, the Bugsier-tug *Oceanic* was called and towed the vessel into port. *Brillante* had sustained a failure of the main engine. Repair works are carried out at the W_{ortsila} L26 in Bremerhaven. (Note — *Brillante* sailed Kemi Jan 11.)

Bremen, Jan 24 — General cargo *Brillante* is presently moored at Bremerhaven, at the Fischerei-Hafen. There a repair crew is trying to repair the engine so that the vessel can proceed under its own power to Brake, hopefully tomorrow. At Brake the

vessel will discharge its cargo. Originally it had been planned that, after discharge at Brake, vessel would sail to Husum for repairs but whether this is still the plan has not been confirmed by the agents. — Lloyd's Agents.

CABO BUENA ESPERANZA (Argentina)

London, Jan 22 — Following navigation warning issued Jan 20: Fishing *Cabo San Juan* is towing fishing (general) *Cabo Buena Esperanza* (711 gt), in lat 47 02S, long 63 41W, line length 600 metres, speed five knots, course 355 deg, bound Puerto Madryn.

CALA PALMA (Italy)

London, Jan 20 — A press report, dated today, states: Lloyd Werft Bremerhaven is to repair refrigerated general cargo *Cala Palma* it was announced yesterday. Repairs should be completed in November.

CAP SAINT PAUL (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

London, Jan 24 — Following navigation warning, issued today, states: Fishing (general) *Cap Saint Paul* (768 gt, built 1982) reported on fire and 22 crew abandoned in lat 01 34.4S, long 09 06.7W at 1812, UTC, Jan 23.

CAPE MARTIN (Cyprus)

London, Jan 25 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: The Aker-Yard in Wismar delivered Container Carrier *Cape Martin* (27968 gt, built 2007) on Jan 25, after repairs due to its collision with a quay in the storm "Kyrill" on Jan 18, to the "Emissionshaus Konig & Cie. GmbH & Co. KG", Hamburg. On Jan 26 it is to depart for Philadelphia on its maiden voyage.

CAROLA (Antigua & Barbuda)

Miami, Jan 22 — General cargo *Carola* (6382 gt, built 2000) sustained engine damage in the Florida Straits and is being towed to Miami, where ETA today. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Carola* arrived Port Arthur Jan 15 and according to Lloyd's MIU AIS was in lat 25 48.7N, long 80 0 44.87W, 10.3 nautical miles from Miami, speed 3.8 knots, at 1508, UTC, today.)

London, Jan 23 — Following received from Coast Guard Miami, timed 1950, UTC: General cargo *Carola* arrived Miami a few minutes ago in tow of tug *Rhea*. (See issue of Jan 24.)

Miami, Jan 24 — General cargo *Carola* arrived Miami under tow yesterday afternoon with machinery damages. Reported that repairs are to be made at Miami and the vessel may be here for several weeks. — Lloyd's Agents.

CATHERINE R (Republic of Ireland)

London, Jan 18 — Following received from Dublin MRCC, timed 2225, UTC: Fishing *Catherine R* was reported safely alongside at

Burtonport at 1800, UTC, yesterday. Divers were still working to free the propeller at 2000, UTC.

CEC HUNTER (Isle of Man)

Oporto, Jan 25 — General cargo *CEC Hunter* entered the port of Viana do Castelo on Jan 12. The vessel is presently at the shipyard being repaired. Date of departure is foreseen as Jan 29. — Lloyd's Agents.

CELTIC ENDEAVOUR (U.K.)

Maassluis, Jan 22 — General cargo *Celtic Endeavour* (2568 gt, built 1985) was towed into Ijmuiden at 0504, this morning, with a problem concerning the main engine. Vessel had technical engine problems, which are being investigated at this moment. If the problem is fixed, it will continue voyage. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

Maassluis, Jan 25 — General cargo *Celtic Endeavour* is still in Ymuiden. Engine repairs have commenced. It is not yet known when it will sail. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

CITY OF CLEVELAND (U.S.A.)

London, Jan 25 — A press report, dated Jan 24, states: A barge (tow of tug *City of Cleveland*, 783 gt, built 1983) sideswiped a piling on the Mississippi River Bridge at Natchez today but officials said there was minimal damage to the bridge or the barge. The span linking Natchez and Vidalia, La., remained open. The Mississippi Department of Transportation and the U.S. Coast Guard had crews on the scene to inspect the structure. MDOT bridge maintenance supervisor Buddy Vines said the southbound barge hit the support on the Vidalia side of the older westbound bridge about 0600 hrs. Vines said the tug pilot told officials that river currents caused him to lose some control of the barges upriver, and he couldn't correct his course by the time he came to the bridge. The pilot of *City of Cleveland* would undergo drug tests, a routine step, Vines said.

London, Jan 25 — A press report, dated Jan 24, states: Tug *City of Cleveland*, pushing 18 barges, hit the Mississippi River Bridge at about 0515 today, officials said. The southbound barges collided with the support on the Vidalia side of the older westbound bridge. Damage was minor, not enough to close the bridge, Mississippi Department of Transportation officials said. The tug pilot told officials river currents caused him to lose some control of the barges upriver, and he couldn't correct by the time he came to the bridge, MDOT Bridge Maintenance Supervisor Buddy Vines said. When the barges collided with the support, one of the barges broke loose and drifted downstream for about a mile and sank. The barge was carrying grain. Workers pushed the barge into the bank to secure it so it wouldn't damage other vessels. MDOT officials will inspect the bridge again once the water level goes down to see if the barges did additional damage, Johnson said.

CITY OF LIVERPOOL (Mongolia)

See "Sri Lanka" under "Political & Civil Unrest".

CLAUDIA (Netherlands)

London, Jan 23 — General cargo *Claudia* arrived Terneuzen Jan 22.

CLYDE FISHER (Bahamas)

Belfast, Jan 24 — Molasses tanker *Clyde Fisher* (8446 gt, built 2005) arrived at Belfast from Pembroke on Sunday (Jan 21) and made heavy contact with No.1 Oil Jetty whilst berthing, resulting in damage to Dolphin walkway and puncture to hull of vessel's aft stern quarter. Vessel shifted on Monday to Harland & Wolff for repairs. Vessel is expected to complete repairs today and sail around 2000, UTC. — Lloyd's Agents.

Belfast, Jan 25 — Molasses tanker *Clyde Fisher* completed repairs and sailed from Belfast for Campbeltown at 2020 hrs, Jan 24. — Lloyd's Agents.

CMA CGM CLAUDEL (Liberia)

Amsterdam, Jan 18 — Gale-force winds caused a crude oil spill and disrupted shipping at the port of Rotterdam today, port officials said. Port authorities estimated the crude oil loss at up to 1,600 tonnes, a spokesman said. "A container vessel drifted away because of the wind and bumped into an oil jetty at the Maasvlakte Oil Terminal, causing an oil spill," a spokesman for the port said. "The oil was still in the pipes when it spilled," the spokesman added. "We don't remember such a big spill for years." — Reuters.

Maassluis, Jan 18 — Container Carrier *CMA CGM Claudel* (27093 gt, built 2002) was blown away from its moorings in high winds at Rotterdam today, causing it to strike the Maasvlakte Oil Terminal jetty. Fifty to sixty metres of the jetty is ruined. — Lloyd's Sub-agents. (Note — *CMA CGM Claudel* arrived Rotterdam Jan 17 from Antwerp and, according to Lloyd's MIU AIS, was located stationary in lat 51 57 36N, long 04 04 12.42E, at 1519, UTC, today.)

Maassluis, Jan 18 — Container Carrier *CMA CGM Claudel* is back at ECT terminal. About 1,600 cubic metres of oil spilled in the port of Europoort. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

London, Jan 18 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: VBSK, the Hamburg based manager of Container Carrier *CMA CGM Claudel*, on time charter to CMA CGM, reports that at 1238, local time, today, the vessel broke adrift from the ECT Terminal in Europa Haven, Rotterdam, when 12 lines parted during very strong wind gusts of up to force 9. She was then blown across the harbour and made contact with an oil loading jetty at the Rotterdam Maasvlakte Oil Terminal. As a result, an amount of oil was spilt into the dock from the terminal facility. Initial reports suggest that some 1,600 cubic metres may have entered the dock. No injuries have been reported on board the vessel. Following the incident, the Harbour Authority immediately

deployed four tugs to reposition *CMA CGM Claudel* on her original berth, which was successfully accomplished. Two tugs are to remain alongside until the weather abates.

London, Jan 19 — Due to an accident involving Container Carrier *CMA CGM Claudel* yesterday afternoon at the MOT Maasvlakte, Jetty No.2 has sustained heavy damage and will be out of order for a long period. As some cargo lines were broken, there is some pollution in the harbour, about 1600 cbm of crude oil. Due to the adverse weather, it has been difficult to clean the harbour and the Caland canal, entrance to all oil harbours Europoort. This may cause some delays for vessels entering/leaving the Europoort.

London, Jan 20 — A press report, dated Jan 19, states: Authorities started today to clean up an oil spill at Rotterdam by Container Carrier *CMA CGM Claudel*, officials said. Shipping was still partly disrupted at Rotterdam as a result of the storm, as were some barge operations on the Amsterdam-Rotterdam-Antwerp route, officials said. The spill was estimated to involve between 500 and 800 tonnes of crude oil. "Two ships are cleaning the mess today and will most probably finish the job tomorrow," a port spokesman said.

London, Jan 20 — A Lloyd's List report, dated Jan 19, states: Container Carrier *CMA CGM Claudel* is being held while investigations take place into an incident when the vessel broke free of its moorings and drifted into an oil jetty in Rotterdam in heavy storms, causing an 800 tonne oil spill. Chartered by CMA CGM and managed by Hamburg-based VBSK, it is believed that 12 mooring lines parted in vicious gusts of wind at midday yesterday. General average has just been declared so the managers hoped that the vessel could depart the port over the weekend or on Monday. Director of the Maasvlakte Oil Terminal, Bert Jaski, said that the ship was not allowed to go yet because the terminal had a "big financial claim" on the ship. Investigations were under way. Around 80 m of the oil jetty, including pipes had been ripped away and it is likely that it will be out of action for at least a few months, he estimated. A second MOT jetty is still in use. VBSK, manager, said an average adjuster had been appointed and DNV had cleared the vessel to resume passage following completion of minor repairs to one void space. "The vessel remains in Europa Haven while negotiations are completed with the various interests involved and securities put in place." The vessel's master and managers are cooperating fully with all the relevant local authorities on the incident. Port of Rotterdam authority had immediately deployed four tugs to reposition the vessel to its original berth and two tugs remained alongside as the storm peaked with wind speeds reaching Force 11. Port spokesman Tie Schellekens said a coast guard plane had flown over the site and harbour

authority and ministry of transport vessels had been working on the clean-up operation throughout the night. Vessels were also being warned to look out for oil in the harbour, though most looked like it had been contained fairly locally.

Maassluis, Jan 22 — Container Carrier *CMA CGM Claudel* is arrested and now berthed at YANGH berth at the 4th petroleum harbour (that is near ECT). The oilspill cleaning is still in progress, but most of it is cleaned. — Lloyd's Sub-agents.

London, Jan 22 — Reports from VBSK, managers of Container Carrier *CMA CGM Claudel*, on time charter to CMA CGM, dated Hamburg Jan 19: state: Having declared "general average" and appointed an average adjuster, the vessel remains in Europa Haven while negotiations are completed with the various interests involved and securities put in place. Classification Society DNV have cleared the vessel to resume passage following completion of minor repairs to one void space which occurred when the vessel came into contact with the oil loading jetty. The vessel's master and managers are cooperating fully with all the relevant local authorities on the incident which occurred when 12 mooring lines parted in wind gusts of force 9 and above, yesterday. Managers hope that the vessel will be in a position to sail over the weekend or early next week.

Dated Hamburg today: The vessel has been cleared by Class for sea and has recovered the anchor lost in the accident. The vessel is subject to a court order pending the necessary security being put in place for cargo interests and for damages to the oil terminal jetty. It is hoped that all matters will be resolved and the vessel able to resume passage within 48 hours.

CMA CGM DEBUSSY (France)

Hamburg, Jan 19 — Container Carrier *CMA CGM Debussy* sailed Hamburg for Rotterdam at 1830, Jan 17. — Schiffsmeldedienst GmbH.

COBALTWATER (Netherlands)

London, Jan 20 — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS chemical tanker *Cobaltwater* was in lat 53 59 31N, long 08 19 18E, at 0604, UTC, today, speed 14.9 knots, course 97.5 degrees.

DCI DREDGE AQUARIUS (India)

London, Jan 24 — A press report, dated Jan 23, states: The dredging work of the Sethusamudram channel project has sustained a set back as the 107-tonne driller of cutter suction dredger *DCI Dredge Aquarius* (2094 gt, built 1977) broke while trying to cut the Ramar Sethu or Adams Bridge. "The Ramar Sethu, it seems, is too strong for the dredger that its 'spud' (driller) broke, while drilling the bridge and it is considered a major set back", a top official of the Sethu Samudram Channel project said. "We are keeping our fingers crossed on the nature of damage sustained by the spud. If it is a vertical fracture, it

would be impossible to repair. On the other hand, if it had cut into two we will be able to retrieve the spud and weld it", he added. The official said they have requested the manufacturer to repair the spud, which would cost about Rs.2.5 crore. If the Holland-based equipment manufacturer was unable to repair the spud, the project could suffer inordinate delay. However, some officials were confident of repairing the spud within the time frame. A floating crane, towed by tug *DCI Tug-VII*, arrived here today to help the engineers retrieve the spud for repair. Repair work could be carried out only in Kochi Ship yard. An expert committee has come to Sethu to see the nature of damage sustained by the spud, he said adding a Russian dredger is also coming to expedite the project.

DE ZWERVER (Belgium)

London, Jan 21 — Information received, dated Kiel today, states: Tug *Zeehond* salvaged fishing *De Zwerver*, Z596 (366 gt, built 1988) yesterday evening after the vessel got nets entangled in the propeller in the North Sea at 2300 hrs and was unable to steer. On the Scheldt fishing *Albrecht Rodenbach* towed *De Zwerver* into the lock.

DENNIS F.

London, Jan 18 — Pusher tug *Dennis F.* (built 1922), under way from Terneuzen to Antwerp, pushing barge *Wiljaco*, loaded with coal, had problems caused by the strong winds and high waves. The barge got so much water in the hold that she was sinking near buoy No. 35 off Zeedorp. Tug *Multratug 12* and *Multraship Responder* came from Terneuzen to assist *Dennis F.* At about 1300 hrs the barge was disconnected from the tug and *Multratug 12* and tug *Holland* who came later to assist. The barge was pushed to the side of the fairway and pushed aground near the dyke to prevent her from sinking. Later *Multrasalvor* also came to assist. Probably the salvage of the barge will be not before tomorrow.

London, Jan 20 — Pusher tug *Dennis F.*: Barge *Wiljaco* was salvaged Jan 18 and towed to Terneuzen. Salvage vessel *Walrus* and tug *Multratug 15* were involved in the salvage.

EAGLE PHOENIX (Singapore)

Portsmouth, UK, Jan 22 — On the evening of Jan 20, in Novorossiysk commercial port, lightning struck crude oil tanker *Eagle Phoenix* (56346 gt, built 1998). As a result the vessel caught fire and eight fire engines were called, but the ships crew put out the fire independently. — Correspondent.

EFI THEO (Panama)

London, Jan 22 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: Bulker *Efi Theo* (25047 gt, built 1997) ran into the embankment of the Kiel Canal, close to the Ruesterbergen pilot station near Rendsburg, at 1422, Jan 21, after being caught in strong winds, despite the assistance of tug *Bugsier*

20. The canal was closed to traffic until *Bugsier 20* refloated the vessel about one hour later. The vessel was then towed to Kiel, where it berthed late in the evening for investigations.

ELBE HIGHWAY (Bahamas)

London, Jan 22 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: At 2215, Jan 21, vehicle carrier *Elbe Highway* (23498 gt, built 2005) contacted the Southern lock of the Kiel Canal in Brunsbuettel. As the anchors fell immediately two chains of fenders in the lock broke but the ship thus came to a standstill without crashing into the gate. *Elbe Highway* sustained only minor damage. (Note — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS, vehicle carrier *Elbe Highway*, which arrived Bremerhaven Jan 20 from Zeebrugge, in lat 54 21 38.46N, long 10 02 12.36E, at 0617, UTC, Jan 22.)

London, Jan 24 — Vehicle carrier *Elbe Highway* arrived Malmo Jan 22.

EMSLAND (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Jan 19 — General cargo *Emsland* has now sailed from Montrose and, according to Lloyd's MIU AIS, was reported at New Holland as of 1031, UTC, today.

ENFORCER (Netherlands)

London, Jan 18 — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS, general cargo *Enforcer* was located stationary 2.2 nautical miles from Bangor, Co Down, in lat 54 41 25.35N, long 05 41 37.28W, at 1546, UTC, today.

London, Jan 22 — General cargo *Enforcer* sailed Dublin Jan 21.

EREN C. (Panama)

Taranto, Jan 17 — General cargo *Eren C.* arrived Taranto today from Odessa. — Lloyd's Agents.

EXXON VALDEZ (U.S.A.)

London, Jan 22 — A press report, dated Jan 17, states: Exxon Mobil Corp. is asking a federal appeals court to reconsider its December decision demanding the oil giant pay \$2.5 billion to compensate thousands of fishermen and other Alaskans for the 1989 tanker *Exxon Valdezoil* spill. An Anchorage jury had ordered the company to pay \$5 billion in punitive damages, which are meant to punish a company for misconduct. The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, in the third time it heard one of the nation's longest running cases, cut the award in half, saying \$2.5 billion was enough punishment. Late Friday, the company asked the San Franciscobased appeals court to rehear the case.

FAST JEF (Belgium)

London, Jan 18 — Following received from Coastguard Humber MRSC, timed 1900, UTC: General cargo *Fast Jef* (2066 gt, built 1996), upbound in the River Humber, cargo steel and timber, has broken down near the Humber Bridge, near buoy 28. A tug is on scene and another has been ordered. The intention is to tow to King George Dock, Hull. (Note — *Fast Jef* sailed Szczecin Jan 14 and arrived

Hull Jan 17, and according to Lloyd's MIU AIS was in lat 53 43 12.85N, long 00 22 27.94W at 1850, UTC, today.)

London, Jan 19 — Following received from Coastguard Humber MRSC, timed 0402, UTC: General cargo *Fast Jef* is safely alongside at King George Dock, in Hull.

Hull, Jan 23 — General cargo *Fast Jef* is having a new turbo-charger fitted today. Subject to completion of repairs, the vessel is expected to sail this evening for Flixborough. — Lloyd's Agents.

FIONA (Netherlands Antilles)

Falmouth, Jan 22 — Refrigerated general cargo *Fiona* completed repairs and sailed from Falmouth Jan 20, bound for Kaliningrad. — Lloyd's Agents.

FREITIND (Norway)

Trondheim, Jan 23 — The owners of general cargo *Freitind* have advised that the vessel is still at Kvernhusvik Shipyard, Hitra, with no change in her situation. — Lloyd's Agents.

FRONTEK (Singapore)

London, Jan 19 — Product tanker *Frontek* sailed Singapore 0657, Jan 16, for Pulau Batam.

GAZ DE FRANCE PROVALYS (French Southern Territories)

Marseilles, Jan 24 — Liquid Natural Gas Carrier *Gaz de France Provalys* berthed at Marseille on Dec 17 and started the preparation of the engine repairs. The vessel entered the drydock on Jan 12, where her shaft and propeller have been removed. Completion of repairs expected Jan 31. — Lloyd's Agents.

GERHEIN G. (Antigua & Barbuda)

London, Jan 22 — Following received from Aarhus MRCC, timed 1035, UTC: General cargo *Gerhein G.* (910 gt, built 1988) grounded outside Thyboron at 1852, UTC, Jan 21. No damage reported or oil spill. Vessel refloated by own means shortly after and is now in port at Thyboron for inspection. (Note — *Gerhein G.* sailed Rotterdam Jan 14 for Aalborg and according to Lloyd's MIU AIS was reported 14 nautical miles from Aalborg on Jan 18.)

GOLDEN SKY (Cyprus)

London, Jan 19 — A Tsavlis Salvage report, dated Jan 18, states: Bulker *Golden Sky* laden with approximately 25,000 tonnes of muriate of potash, grounded approximately five nautical miles off Ventspils on Jan 15. During the incident the vessel was on a passage from Ventspils to India. The same date Tsavlis Salvage was contracted to render salvage services under LOF 2000 with SCOPIC clause incorporated into the agreement. Tsavlis immediately appointed Alpha marine agents to attend all requirements and local tugs were dispatched to assist the vessel. Eighteen of the 24 crew were taken off the vessel, with six remaining on

board. The following day, Jan 16, an experienced salvage team, consisting of Salvage Masters, Salvage Engineers, riggers and divers flew from Athens and Holland respectively to the casualty. By noon the salvage team had managed to board the casualty despite of the adverse weather conditions and to perform inspections. Upon completion of the inspections the situation of the vessel was as follows: The engine-room was flooded; the cargo holds Nos 2 and 3 flooded/contaminated with oil; all starboard side double bottom tanks flooded and contaminated with oil; the port side double bottom No 1,2,4 and 5 flooded and the 4 forepeak tank was also flooded. Later in the evening a charter aircraft flew from Athens to Riga with all necessary salvage and anti-pollution equipment. A lot of the equipment, such as flooding oil booms and skimmers, was hired from Latvian coast guard for the protection of the environment. Meanwhile, diesel driven-generators are on stand by to transfer on board electricity to run the equipment and a helicopter of Latvian coast guard is hired to perform transportation for both personnel and equipment. Due to adverse weather conditions today operations stopped, waiting for weather to permit continuity.

London, Jan 21 — Following received from Tallinn MRCC, dated today: Bulker *Golden Sky*: Efforts by salvors and Latvian authorities to have vessel towed to a safe place are expected to be carried out tomorrow.

London, Jan 22 — A press report, dated today, states: A rescue operation began on Monday (Jan 22) to refloat bulker *Golden Sky*, but low visibility meant the helicopters were having to work slowly, Hermanis Cernovs, head of the coast guard said. He said it would probably require several days to unload the fertilizer from the vessel before the vessel can be freed from the sea bottom.

London, Jan 23 — A press report, dated today, states: Bulker *Golden Sky* that ran ashore near the Latvian coast has been damaged, and its fuel is leaking into the Baltic Sea. The fuel spillage from *Golden Sky* has already killed tens of birds on the coast of Ventspils. Progress in cleaning up the fuel has been slow due to stormy weather. Latvian environmentalists said that even if the spill is localized, the local ecology could still face substantial damage as potassium salts, once in the water, can be fatal for sealife and birds.

GRACE (Netherlands Antilles)

Ferrol, Jan 19 — General cargo *Grace*: Transshipment of cargo to general cargo *Reest* was carried out and the *Reest* sailed 2300, Jan 17, for Rotterdam. Repairs to the *Grace* are expected to continue for one more month. — Lloyd's Agents.

GRACECHURCH JUPITER (Antigua & Barbuda)

Limassol, Jan 17 — Container Carrier *Gracechurch Jupiter* arrived

Limassol Jan 17 from Piraeus and sailed same day for Haifa. — Lloyd's Agents.

GRAND ANEMI (Malta)

Portland, Oregon, Jan 18 — Bulker *Grand Anemi* departed Portland, Oregon on Jan 13, and is reported to be headed for Iraq. — Lloyd's Agents.

GRANDE ARGENTINA (Sweden)

London, Jan 18 — Vehicle carrier *Grande Argentina* (56660 gt, built 2001), sailing from Antwerp to sea, had problems with her steering gear after sailing from Antwerp this morning. The vessel began to drift but tugs of the Union made fast and accompanied her to Terneuzen. It was then decided to anchor the vessel in the Put van Terneuzen and keep her there until the strong gale-force winds decrease. Four tugs were on standby, two tugs made fast forward and two tugs were made fast after. (Note — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS, *Grande Argentina* in lat 51 20 51N, long 03 51 49.56E, at 1534, UTC, Jan 18.)

London, Jan 19 — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS, vehicle carrier *Grande Argentina* was in lat 51 23 57N, long 01 59 44.94E, at 0749, UTC, today, speed 16.6 knots, course 221 degrees.

GRANDE PORTOGALLO (Italy)

London, Jan 20 — Roll On Roll Off *Grande Portogallo* sailed Antwerp 1033, Jan 19 for Bristol.

HAGONOY (Philippines)

Manila, Jan 18 — Herma Shipping and Transport Corp, the owner and operator of non specific tanker *Hagonoy*, has formally requested the Bureau of Fire Prevention to release the vessel so it can be repaired. The tanker is being detained by Fire prevention officials pending the completion of their arson investigation. Once released the tanker will proceed on its own power from Manila's Pasig River, where it is now moored, to Herma Shipyard in Bataan province, north of Manila. On board repairs will be carried out on storage tank no. 5 located on the starboard side, where the explosion originated. Herma officials said they hope that the vessel will be released by next week. — Lloyd's List Correspondent. (See issue of Jan 19.)

Manila, Jan 23 — Herma Shipping and Transport Corp, the owner and operator of non specific tanker *Hagonoy*, reported that the tanker left it's Pasig River anchorage on Sunday (Jan 21) on its own power for Herma Shipyard and Engineering in Bataan province. The tanker arrived at Herma Shipyard yesterday where it is now awaiting the availability of a drydock. She will undergo repairs to her No.5 storage tank, pilot house and pump house. Her annual class survey will also be carried out. — Lloyd's Agents.

HAI JAMAL (North Korea)

London, Jan 22 — Following received from Larnaca RCC, timed 1100, UTC:

General cargo *Haj Jamal* (861 gt, built 1966) sank 85 miles off Larnaca today. One crew member is missing.

London, Jan 22 — A press report, dated today, states: Rescuers pulled six crewmen out of the sea and were searching for a seventh after general cargo *Haj Jamal* sank in rough seas off Cyprus, authorities said today. *Haj Jamal* issued a distress signal at 0540 hrs (0340 UTC), and a Cypriot police helicopter picked up five crewmen some 85 nautical miles off Cyprus' southern coast, officials said. A German frigate rescued a sixth sailor, while police said they were still seeking a seventh crew member. All seven seamen were Syrian nationals, police said. The ship was headed to Syria from Egypt.

London, Jan 22 — A press report, dated today, states: Two German frigates patrolling off the Lebanese coast as part of international security efforts have aided in the rescue in six of the seven crew of general cargo *Haj Jamal* sinking off Cyprus, Cypriot police reports said today. The ship, which had been travelling from Egypt to Syria, was carrying 1,300 tonnes of sugar and sank due to rough seas early on Monday, 94 nautical miles east of Cyprus. The seventh crew member of the ship is still missing. A Cyprus police official said that a man was picked up by a German frigate 85 nautical miles off the Cyprus coast between Lebanon and Israel. A Cypriot police helicopter and a Marine Police vessel rescued, the other five people who were taken to another German frigate in the area and treated for hypothermia. They were then airlifted to Larnaca General Hospital, while the man who was first spotted remained on the German frigate to help with the search for the wreckage.

Limassol, Jan 23 — General cargo *Haj Jamal*, Egypt for Syria with 1,300 tonnes of sugar, sank some 90 nautical miles from Cape Kiti, Cyprus, early Jan 22. Five crew members were rescued by the Cyprus Port Police and one was rescued by German Naval vessel *Karlsruhe*. One crew member is still missing. The rescued crew members were hospitalised, and arrangements are being made for their repatriation. — Lloyd's Agents.

HAPPY FALCON (Isle of Man)

London, Jan 20 — Information received, dated Kiel today, states: Liquid Petroleum Gas Carrier *Happy Falcon* (3366 gt, built 2002) was pushed into the embankment of the Kiel Canal on Jan 18 close to Holtenu. The ship had been trying to turn around when it was caught by storm winds and pressed towards the wrong canal side. Tugs helped the ship back into deep water and it could be berthed with only minor damage. On the whole the Kiel Canal was closed for nearly six hours for any traffic. Twenty ships had to wait for passage in Kiel, about 50 in Brunsbuttel. The canal was reopened at 2145 hrs as wind pressure decreased. (Note — *Happy Falcon* sailed Antwerp 1208,

Jan 17, for Hamina, passed Brunsbuttel 1226, Jan 18 and according to Lloyd's MIU AIS was in lat 55 27 14N, long 14 48 12E, at 1756, Jan 19, speed 14.9 knots, course 70 degrees.)

London, Jan 25 — Liquid petroleum gas carrier *Happy Falcon* arrived Hamina Jan 21 and sailed Jan 22.

HEROEY (Norway)

London, Jan 25 — Following received from Stavanger RCC, timed 1030, UTC: Fishing (general) *Heroey* (1094 gt, built 1995) grounded off Kristiansund in lat 63 02.8N, long 07 17.2E at 0500, local time, this morning. Eight crew abandoned into liferafts and picked up by another fishing vessel. Understand vessel is still aground and nearly capsized.

Trondheim, Jan 25 — A local newspaper reports that fishing (general) *Heroey* grounded at about 0500 hrs, today, at Bjugna, about two nautical miles north-east of Kvitholmen Lighthouse, Hustadvika, West Norway. The crew of eight was saved by fishing vessel *Fonnes* and arrived at Kristiansund about 0800 hrs. Salvage vessel *Det Norske Veritas* arrived at 0550 hrs, but due to heavy seas (wind near gale) it is impossible to get a hawser on board. *Heroey* has a heavy list, at 0900 hrs estimated at 40 degrees to starboard. At 1000 hrs reported that sea is penetrating the wheelhouse. A tug from Kristiansund is on its way to the scene and coast guard vessel *Eigum* is estimated to arrive this evening. Leaking of diesel oil reported (170 tons light oil on board). — Lloyd's Agents.

HO FENG NO.6 (Panama)

London, Jan 19 — Following received from Australia RCC, timed 0455, UTC: The 19 crew of general cargo *Ho Feng No.6* (5619 gt, built 1984) are currently being evacuated from the vessel. The vessel, at anchor in lat 09 08S, long 143 19E, near Daru Island, has a fire in No.1 hold and has a cargo of timber.

London, Jan 19 — Following received from Australia RCC, timed 0825, UTC: All crew members are now off general cargo *Ho Feng No.6* which is still on fire. Tug/supply *Pacific Responder* is proceeding to the area. It is understood a salvage contract is being negotiated. (Note — According to LMIU AIS *Pacific Responder* was in lat 16 44 28S, long 145 46 21E, speed 12.9 knots, course 330.5 degrees.)

Ymuiden, Jan 19 — SvitzerWijmsmuller Salvage Singapore was contracted earlier this morning to come to the assistance of a 100 metre long general cargo vessel (general cargo *Ho Feng No.6*) 250 miles east of Port Moresby. The vessel is fully loaded with plywood in its holds and logs on deck. Fire erupted in No.1 hold and the crew, who started to fight the fire, were taken off the ship. A fire-fighting-1 equipped tug is proceeding to assist while one of SvitzerWijmsmuller Papua New Guinea based salvage managers is expected on site tomorrow. Further salvage team

members, including fire fighting specialists, are being flown in from SvitzerWijismuller Salvage offices in Singapore and The Netherlands. — SvitzerWijismuller Salvage BV.

London, Jan 20 — Following received from Australia RCC, timed 0102, UTC: Salvors appointed to salvage general cargo *Ho Feng No.6*.

London, Jan 24 — Following received from Australia RCC, timed 0046, UTC: Salvors appointed to salvage general cargo *Ho Feng No.6*. List decreased by two-degrees. Fire in No.1 hold remains under control. (See issue of Jan 23.)

Ymuiden, Jan 24 — The fire that had been raging in hold 1 of 100 metre long general cargo *Ho Feng No.6* was brought under control, but is not extinguished yet, by the SvitzerWijismuller Salvage team. The fire erupted on the vessel on the Jan 19 while at the “outward clearance area” of the Papua New Guinea port of Daru. The vessel has been loaded with veneer in hold 1, veneer and plywood in hold 2 and logs on deck. After the crew had abandoned the vessel, a FIFI-1 fire fighting salvage tug arrived about 24 hours later at the moment that also the SvitzerWijismuller Salvage Papua New Guinea based salvage manager arrived. Action was taken to start battling the intense fire in hold 1 and try to separate and save hold 2. Support teams including a salvage master and fire fighting experts were immediately brought in from SvitzerWijismuller Salvage offices in Singapore and The Netherlands and these arrived in Papua New Guinea some 24 hours later. The actions of the team resulted in that on Jan 22 the fire had been brought under control with actions then being aimed at extinguishing it and preventing pollution. Operations to achieve this control included the transfer of fuel from tanks directly underneath of the intense fire to correct this dangerous situation. Support craft and equipment to further extinguish the fire and transfer oil from the casualty to receiving tonnage are being mobilised in. In order to replace the initial prime fire fighting vessel that has to be released for other commitments agreement was reached with the Australian Authorities to make their Emergency Towing Vessel (ETV), the Pacific Responder, available and release it from its duties. This tug with FIFI-1 had already taken up station close to casualty considering the vessel is at the edge of the very vulnerable Great Barrier Reef and very close to Australian waters. This is the first time this ETV is used in earnest. — SvitzerWijismuller Salvage BV.

HOLBERG (Uruguay)

Montevideo, Jan 18 — Fishing *Holberg* arrived Montevideo Jan 17. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Jan 22 — A press report, dated Jan 21, states: The Uruguayan flagged scallop trawler *Holberg*, which ran aground in the Falkland Islands and was later refloated by a team of

divers from the Uruguayan Navy, finally arrived in Montevideo over the weekend, towed by the *Mariana Rojamar II*. Last November 5, *Holberg* ran aground in Port Purvis, West Falklands while trawling for scallop and ended lying on its port side about a hundred metres from the shore. All thirty crew members and two observers managed to abandon the vessel but she was also carrying over 200 tons of marine fuel and lubricants, and low quantities of diesel fuel begun leaking with an oil slick gradually extending a mile long. The owners of the vessel *Fripur*, one of Uruguay's main fishing corporations, tried to contract a local company to help contain the leak and rescue the vessel, but ended having to call a divers' team from the Uruguayan Navy that arrived in the Islands in mid December. Eighteen days later; January first, they had completed the task in spite of several days of adverse climate conditions. The diversø team arrived in another Uruguayan flagged trawler, *Mariana Rojamar II* which was then used to tow the later stabilized *Holberg* back to Montevideo. The vessel's re-floatation and salvage with significant minimum pollution was described as “extremely good news” by Falklands Fisheries Director, John Barton. The Falklands' Environmental Planning Officer Dominique Giudicelli commented that “the salvage of the *Holberg* has been conducted in a very professional manner and to high environmental standards by the salvage crew onboard *Mariana Rojamar II*.” “There should be few long-term environmental effects on the Port Purvis environment from the wrecking of the *Holberg*”, added Giudicelli.

HONG AN (Belize)

Yokohama, Jan 24 — General cargo *Hong An* (1195 gt, built 1986), Toyohashi for Tianjin, and general cargo *Tin Yi* (1371 gt, built 1978), Kinuura for Ningbo, were in collision in the Kurushima Strait at 0052, local time, Jan 20. *Hong An* sustained cracking/scratching damage to port shell and bending to stanchion. *Tin Yi* sustained scratching damage to starboard bow. No water ingress, oil spill or personal injury has been reported. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Tin Yi* sailed Kinuura Jan 18 for Ningbo, *Hong An* sailed Toyohashi Jan 18 for Xingang.)

HSC GOTLANDIA (Sweden)

Gothenburg, Jan 19 — Ferry *HSC Gotlandia* (5632 gt, built 1998) lines broke and the vessel sustained damage after striking the berth at Faoesund. The vessel is temporarily out of service and has been moored in the port of Faoesund since August. Line's technical dept confirm around 8 - 10 lines ashore in aft plus sping to be on the safe side. The lines broke and vessel hit a concrete pier inside the port basin. The vessel sustained a hole of “several square metres in the hull and a part of the vessel was filled up with water between two bulkheads

towards engine-room. We also found a crack in vessel's side to engine-room, and pumps working and can cope with the situation - no risk for additional damage they claim. Divers have placed external and temporary steel plates over the crack to minimise the flow - as a temporary repair and for the vessel to proceed towards a shipyard. This will take some weeks to repair, and commenced discussions with various yards. — Westax Marine Services AB.

Stockholm, Jan 23 — Ferry *HSC Gotlandia* has been moored at Farosund since Oct 20. On Jan 14/15 the mooring lines broke and vessel drifted against the opposite pier sustaining a big hole on the starboard side. Temporary repairs are now being made of the damaged area about 10-15 square metres. Decision not yet taken which shipyard will be used for permanent repairs. — Lloyd's Agents.

IBRAHIM G. (Turkey)

Istanbul, Jan 22 — Chemical tanker *Ibrahim G.* (6285 gt, built 1980) had an engine problem passing north to south around Kavak Point at 1600, local time, Jan 22. Vessel to take pilot and go to Buyukdere anchorage area — Turkish Straits.com. (Note — *Ibrahim G.*, Batumi for Ambarli, passed Istanbul Jan 22.)

Istanbul, Jan 24 — Chemical tanker *Ibrahim G.* is still waiting, anchored at Buyukdere, for repairs and will sail after completion. — Lloyd's Agents.

INEZ ANDREAS (U.S.A.)

London, Jan 21 — A press report, dated today, states: Tug *Inez Andreas* (1206 gt, built 1974) slammed into the Union Pacific Railroad Bridge yesterday morning, causing its components to break loose and drift off in the Mississippi. Loose barges could be seen floating freely beneath the I-55 bridge in Memphis just before 0600 yesterday. *Inez Andreas*, out of Decatur, Illinois, lost its load after crashing into the Union Pacific Railroad bridge. Investigators must now determine how *Inez Andreas* lost control of 42 barges in tow. Until they were recovered, a 12 mile stretch of the river was closed to commercial vehicles. The barges were heading towards President's Island carrying salt, aluminum and various fertilizers. Coast Guard officials said that none of those ever posed a pollution threat to the river. Coast Guard officials say it could be days before the results of that investigation are available. The railroad bridge will be inspected to determine if its safe for trains to pass. No one was hurt as a result of the accident.

London, Jan 22 — A press report, dated today, states: A 12-mile stretch of the Mississippi River is open again after it was closed for several hours yesterday. Coast Guard officials said the stretch of river downstream from the Interstate 40 bridge between West Memphis, Arkansas, and Memphis, Tennessee, was closed after several barges broke free from a tug (*Inez Andreas*) and crashed into a railroad

bridge. Coast Guard Lieutenant Gerald Thornton said about 10 barges drifted free around 0600 yesterday, but all were caught by about 1500 hrs and the river was reopened shortly afterward. No one was injured and there were no reports of pollution leaks following the incident. Thornton said 10 of the barges were empty while 22 were loaded with fertilizer and other non-toxic material. The barges were being pushed downstream to a harbor at McKellar Lake Tennessee, after having set off from Decatur, Illinois. Thornton said he didn't know what caused the barges to separate from the tug but currents related to high-water conditions on the river could have been a factor. He said terrorism has been ruled out.

IRAN HENGAM (Iran)

London, Jan 21 — Following received from Stavanger RCC, timed 1115, UTC: Crude oil tanker *Iran Hengam* (160930 gt, built 2003), bound Singapore, was reported adrift with engine problems 20 miles south-east of Kristiansand at 1430, local time, yesterday. At 1700 hrs vessel reported it was underway, and no assistance required, however, two hours later it again reported problems. At 0630, local time, vessel report its engines were running but not at 100% and it was proceeding at reduced speed. (Note — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS *Iran Hengam* was in lat 57 38 29N, long 08 21 47E, at 1034, UTC, today, speed 6.3 knots, course 62.5 degrees.)

IRENE E.M.

(St. Vincent & Grenadines)

London, Jan 19 — A press report, dated today, states: The owners of bulker *Irene E.M.* (21947 gt, built 1980), held in Delaware waters last year on suspicion of illegally dumping waste oil in the ocean, will be pleading guilty to environmental charges. Late Thursday (Jan 18), prosecutors sent a letter to the court indicating that Chian Spirit Maritime Enterprises Inc. and Venetico Marine S/A, the owners and operators of the *Irene E.M.* have reached a plea deal with the government. If the company stands by the agreement, and District Judge Gregory M. Sleet accepts it, the business would pay \$1.25 million in fines and agree to adopt and follow a new environmental compliance plan. The *Irene E.M.* case was noteworthy because Washington-based federal prosecutors used a controversial and little-known practice allowing them to hold the Romanian captain and eight members of her Romanian and Philippine crew in the area for seven months without charge while the investigation was ongoing. The crew's passports were taken and they were kept at a Philadelphia motel, unable to leave the area without permission or return to their native countries. The vessel, meanwhile, was allowed to go on its way with a replacement crew. All spoke little to no English and had no family or friends in the country. Maritime law experts said the seven-month near-incarceration was

unprecedented. It was only after the crew filed suit in federal court that the government agreed to resolve charges against the captain and chief engineer, letting both immediately return to Romania and released the rest of the crew after they provided depositions. The case had been set to go to trial on Jan 29 in US District Court in Wilmington. No date has yet been set for representatives of Chian Spirit and Venetico to appear in court to enter the guilty plea.

JACQUES CARTIER B.C. (Canada)

London, Jan 23 — Tug *Jacques Cartier B.C.* (72 gt, built 1962), while towing loaded barge *Maqinna*, (2165 gt), was docking at LaFarge at North Vancouver Depot, the tug was pulled in by the barge and girded, listed to starboard, water entered accommodation, and towline broke, at 0115, PST, Jan 21.

JAKE VINCENT DOS (Philippines)

London, Jan 24 — A press report, dated today, states: General cargo *Jake Vincent Dos* (498 gt, built 1977), loaded with about 1,000 tonnes of animal feeds for delivery to a business establishment in Dumaguete ran aground Monday (Jan 22), at the marine sanctuary in Barangay Banilad. Capt. Laurencio Demape, master of *Jake Vincent Dos* came from Subic Bay and the vessel was bound for the Ducomi pier in Bacong. He said he mistakenly presumed upon seeing the pilot house of Sta. Monica Beach Resort that it was the Ducomi pier in Bacong, so he manoeuvred for docking until it got stuck in the corals. All of the 15 crew members and five passengers on board the vessel, including two children were safe, a report from the Philippine Coast Guard in Dumaguete said. Bantay Dagat chief Marcial Macias said that, while the vessel was seen in the marine sanctuary area at around 0230 hrs, they noticed that the ship did not move and was already stuck in the corals. Macias said that, based on his inquiry from one of the crew members, the ship was travelling from Olongapo City and was supposed to dock in DUCOMI wharf in San Miguel, Bacong, to unload the feeds for New Bian Yek Commercial. Macias immediately contacted the Philippine Coast Guard and the Fisheries Division of the City Agriculture office and conducted an inspection of any suspected contraband. Dwight Arnaiz of the City Agriculture Office was also present to assess the extent of damage wrought on aquatic resources, such as the coral reefs. The Coast guard advised the ship master to file his marine protest with the Bureau of Marine Inquiry and Silliman University Marine Laboratory to assess the damage. Arnaiz said they will demand that the shipping company pay for the damage they have done to the corals. Arnaiz suggested that the vessel wait for high tide in order to sail back. He said the ship

should not use their engine in extricating itself from the sanctuary, but instead use a tug to move it.

London, Jan 24 — A press report, dated today, states: General cargo *Jake Vincent Dos*, loaded with animal feeds, ran aground dawn "Tuesday" (Jan 23). The cargo ship of Villa Shipping Lines based in Larena, Siquijor, was supposed to dock at the DUCOMI wharf in San Miguel, Bacong town, to offload the feeds for the New Bian Yek Commercial when the ship's master miscalculated its docking procedure.

JOMI (Bahamas)

London, Jan 24 — General cargo *Jomi* sailed Swansea Jan 22.

JONRIX (U.K.)

London, Jan 19 — Following received from Coastguard Humber MRSC, timed 0402, UTC: General cargo *Jonrix* (1987 gt, built 1977), Scotland for Rotterdam, in ballast, is currently drifting, not under command, in lat 55 26.5N, long 01 17.5W, at 2.3 knots course 130 degs. Owners are attempting to arrange tug assistance.

London, Jan 19 — Following received from Coastguard Humber MRSC, timed 0618, UTC: Owners of general cargo *Jonrix* have arranged for tug assistance. A tug is due to arrive alongside the vessel at 1100, UTC.

London, Jan 19 — Following received from Coastguard Humber MRSC, timed 0627, UTC: The tug going to attend general cargo *Jonrix* is *Ormseby Cross*.

London, Jan 19 — Following received from Coastguard Humber MRSC, timed 1302, UTC: General cargo *Jonrix*: Tug *Ormseby Cross* established tow at 1228, UTC and is bound Blyth, where eta 1600, UTC, today.

London, Jan 19 — Following received from Coastguard Humber MRSC, timed 1853, UTC: General cargo *Jonrix* reported safely alongside in Blyth at 1641, UTC.

London, Jan 21 — A SvitzerWijsmuller BV report, dated Jan 20, states: SvitzerWijsmuller Salvage was instructed early yesterday morning to assist a drifting vessel (general cargo *Jonrix*) on the storm-swept North Sea just north-east of Newcastle Upon Tyne. The vessel drifted in a SE-ly direction at 2.3 knots. SvitzerWijsmuller tug *Ormseby Cross* departed immediately from its base and arrived alongside before noon yesterday. A connection was established at 1228, UTC, and the convoy headed for Blyth. At about 1700, UTC, the casualty had been delivered safely in the port of Blyth whereupon *Ormseby Cross* departed back to its base.

London, Jan 23 — General cargo *Jonrix* arrived Rotterdam Jan 21.

KADRIAH II (Malaysia)

Karachi, Jan 21 — Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) has ordered an inquiry into a slight collision involving combined chemical and oil tank *Kadriah II* (18023 gt, built 1988) and product tanker *Victory Prima* (3508 gt,

built 1982) on the Chittagong port channel at Guptakhal area yesterday, Jan 20. Understand from the port authority that it was minor accident which reported at around 1145 hrs when *Victory Prima*, loaded with palm oil, was heading towards the port jetty for berthing while *Kadriah IIP*, with *naphtha*, was leaving the port. No injuries were reported but *Kadriah II* has slight damage. A surveyor is being engaged to ascertain damage while P&I Club was also informed. There is no chance of any pollution as vessels has double hull. *Prima Victory* berthed to discharge cargo. Later, the port authority has formed a two-member committee headed by Harbour Master Captain Jafar Ullah to probe the matter. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

London, Jan 24 — Product tanker *Victory Prima* sailed Chittagong Jan 23.

KAGOY

London, Jan 24 — Following navigation warning issued Jan 23 : Fishing (general) *Kagoy* (491 gt, built 1976) adrift in lat 36 42.7S, long 56 13W.

(later) Fishing *Botral III* towing fishing (general) *Kagoy* in lat 36 40.3S, long 56 14.5W, line length 300 metres, speed five knots, course 359 degrees, bound Montevideo.

KC BEATRICE (Philippines)

London, Jan 18 — A press report, dated Jan 19, states: Two persons died while 10 others were rushed to hospitals after inhaling fumes believed to be toxic gas from the cargo hold of a commercial ferry *KC Beatrice*, docked at the local wharf in Zamboanga City on Thursday (Jan 18). Dr. Michael Macrohon, department head of the emergency room of the Brent Hospital in R.T. Lim Boulevard, Zamboanga City, said the two were rushed to the hospital, but were declared dead on arrival. Six of the 10 others who suffered from inhalation injury or suffocation were also brought to Brent. Philippine Coast Guard Zamboanga Station commander Joseph Badajos said the ferryboat, *KC Beatrice*, arrived early Thursday morning from Jolo, Sulu, carrying passengers and cargoes. He said Ladjapailu and Capito, both representatives of cargo owners, went down the cargo hold immediately after it was opened. When the porters noticed that Ladjapailu and Capito had collapsed, several followed the two down to try and rescue them, but they too felt drowsy and lost consciousness, he said. Badajos said he has ordered a probe into the incident. A Special Board of Marine Inquiry will be convened to ascertain the cause of the deaths and injuries and determine the liability of parties responsible, he added. "We have coordinated with the Department of Health, Department of Science and Technology, Environment Management Bureau, and Bureau of Quarantine to determine what toxic chemical affected the cargo representatives and porters," he said. He said he issued the temporary hold-

departure order for *KC Beatrice* pending the result of the investigation. Macrohon asked the vessel's captain to open the cargo hold to let fresh air circulate first before having the cargoes unloaded. The cargoes then will be inspected and investigated to determine what caused the deaths. "We cannot rule out gas poisoning here, but we have to investigate further to determine what really caused the death of the two," he said. He said the vessel usually carries copra, seaweed, and assorted dry goods and fertilizer from Jolo to Zamboanga City three times a week. Vicente Custadillo, 34, of Talon-Talon, Zamboanga City, one of those who suffered from suffocation, said in an interview that when he went down the cargo hold, the smell was like that of the chemical used for poisoning rats. The City Government's Emergency and Disaster Response Team (EDRT) under City Health Officer Rodelin Agbulos was immediately dispatched to assist the victims at the pier and in hospitals where the victims were rushed. Upon receipt of the report, Mayor Celso Lobregat also proceeded to the Brent Hospital where most of the victims were brought. All the six, and the others who were rushed to the Zamboanga City Medical Center, are now in stable condition. Most of the victims were laborers of a Zamboanga-based stevedoring company and they were about to unload cargoes at the ferry's stockroom when they fell ill. Health authorities initially pointed to an engine leak, which allowed the deadly carbon dioxide gas to escape, as the cause of the incident, according to Lobregat. The local coast Guard and Maritime Command are investigating the case.

Manila, Jan 20 — The Philippine Coast Guard has issued a temporary hold and departure order for general cargo (not ferry as before reported) *KC Beatrice*, 494.45 gt, and its crew pending the results of an investigation to determine what killed two persons and injured 10 others when they entered the ship's cargo hold. The vessel is now detained at Zamboanga Port. The Coast Guard also reported that it would convene a Special Board of Marine Inquiry in Zamboanga City to ascertain the cause of the deaths and determine the liability of parties involved. *KC Beatrice*, carrying copra, seaweed, fertilizer and assorted dry goods, arrived in Zamboanga Port from Jolo on Thursday (Jan 18). Two cargo owners representatives were killed and 10 stevedores injured when they entered the ship's cargo hold and were overcome by what is believed to be toxic fumes. — Lloyd's List Correspondent. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

KEOYOUNG SUN (South Korea)

Yokohama, Jan 24 — Combined chemical and oil tank *Keoyoung Sun* (870 gt, built 1996), Ulsan for Kainan City, and Roll On Roll Off *Visayan Trader* (4182 gt, built 1978), Vladivostok for Kobe, were in collision

in the east Akashi Strait at 0306, local time, Jan 20. Both vessels sustained cracking damage to their bows. No water ingress, oil spill, or personal injury has been reported. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Visayan Trader* arrived Kobe Jan 20 and sailed Jan 21 for Vladivostok. *Keoyoung Sun* arrived Kobe Jan 20 and sailed Jan 21 for Wakayama.)

KHUDOZHNIK ZHUKOV (Russia)

See under "Miscellaneous".

KIOWA SPIRIT (Bahamas)

Halifax, Jan 24 — Crude oil tanker *Kiowa Spirit* arrived safely alongside, under tow, at Saint John, New Brunswick, on Jan 18. The vessel sustained main engine main bearing damage and is under repair. — Lloyd's Agents.

KOTOBUKI MARU NO.38 (Japan)

Honolulu, Jan 25 — Fishing (general) *Kotobuki Maru No.38* is currently drydocked and undergoing repairs at Marisco, Ltd., Barber's Point Deep Draft Harbor, Kapolei, Hawaii. Estimated repairs will be completed early next week. — Lloyd's Agents.

KRATEROS (Malta)

London, Jan 25 — Bulker *Krateros* sailed Vancouver Jan 21.

KYROS (Cook Islands)

London, Jan 19 — Following received from Stavanger RCC, timed 0355, UTC: General cargo *Kyros* (771 gt, built 1966) grounded at 0130 hrs, today, in lat 63 32N, long 09 49E, near Trondheim. Vessel has six crew on board. There is no visible damage, but as the water levels are dropping, no attempt to refloat the vessel will be made until high tide, at around noon today.

London, Jan 19 — Following received from Stavanger RCC, timed 1600, UTC: General cargo *Kyros* was refloated and arrived alongside at Lensvika around 0500, local time, today.

Trondheim, Jan 24 — General cargo *Kyros* sustained only minor damage and left Lensvik for Trondheim, where arrived at 1545 hrs, Jan 19. A diver examined the vessel and she left Trondheim at 1750 hrs, same day, for Bodo, Northern Norway. Owners inform that the vessel is presently in Finnmark, Northern Norway. Repairs will be carried out at Kvernhusvik Shipyard, Hitra, on Feb 7. — Lloyd's Agents.

L/B JUAN (U.S.A.)

London, Jan 19 — Following received from Coast Guard New Orleans, timed 1530, UTC: Supply *L/B Juan* remains in the same position. Salvage operations have been suspended due to bad weather. (See issue of Jan 16.)

London, Jan 24 — Following received from Coast Guard New Orleans, timed 1445, UTC: Supply *L/B Juan* remains aground in the same position. The vessel is almost completely submerged.

LAI KING (Hong Kong)

Cape Town, Jan 22 — The replacement crankshaft has been fitted to general cargo *Lai King*. The liners are currently been brought on board. The fly wheel vibration dampers have been fitted. The main bearings have been tightened up, however there is a problem with the clearance on one. As a result they may have to slack again. If all goes well they hope to conduct sea trials around Jan 31- Feb 1. — Lloyd's Agents.

LAURETTA (Panama)

Vancouver, Jan 19 — Bulker *Lauretta* sailed Prince Rupert port 1600 yesterday. No damage due to the dragging at anchor. Vessel remained afloat (in harbour) with the assistance of pilots and smit tugs. — Lloyd's Agents.

LOVE MUSIC (Malta)

London, Jan 22 — A press report, dated Jan 21, states: General cargo *Love Music* (6500 gt, built 1987) has been the victim of heavy weather. The vessel, Singapore for Northern Europe, when exiting the Bay of Biscay the movements of rolling acting on the arm of one of the cranes on board the vessel caused it to twist. The decision was then made to initially divert the ship towards Douarnenez Bay then finally towards Brest. The ship arrived there and repairs will be carried out by Sobrena. (Note — *Love Music* sailed Singapore Dec 10, passed Cape Finisterre 1924, Jan 17 and arrived Brest Jan 19.)

Brest, Jan 24 — General cargo *Love Music* completed repairs and departed Brest at 1000, today, bound for final destination Fredericia. — Lloyd's Agents.

LT BIANCA (Italy)

Piraeus, Jan 25 — Container carrier *LT Bianca* (13420 gt, built 1983) struck the pier during berthing manoeuvres at Ikonio, Piraeus port, yesterday evening (Jan 24). Considerable material damages both to the vessel and the port's pier were reported. All 22 crew members were reportedly healthy and secure. No pollution was reported. The vessel's departure was prohibited until class inspection. — Lloyd's Agents.

Piraeus, Jan 25 — Container Carrier *LT Bianca*, from Taranto, has sustained a crack at her stern (approximately 1.5 metres x 20 cm) high above the waterline and is expected to remain in the Piraeus area for repairs. — Lloyd's Agents.

MAERSK DENTON (Germany)

Portsmouth, UK, Jan 23 — French shipping authorities reported this morning that Container Carrier *Maersk Denton* (45803 gt, built 2002) was grounded near Le Havre. The vessel was free again at 0930. It got stuck when leaving Le Havre on its way to Newark. According to the authorities in Cherbourg no damages and pollution were found. Understood that three tugs were required to get it

afloat again. — Correspondent. (Note — *Maersk Denton* sailed Rotterdam Jan 22 for Le Havre, with ETA New York Jan 31, and according to Lloyd's MIU AIS was stationary in lat 49 28 15.43N, long 00 10 10.66E at 1355, UTC, today.)

London, Jan 24 — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS Container Carrier *Maersk Denton* was in lat 49 34 36.08N, long 00 18.49W, 17 nautical miles from Courseulles sur Mer, France, speed 21.2 knots, course 290 deg, at 1823, UTC, Jan 23.

MAGALLANES (Chile)

Santiago, Jan 19 — Roll On Roll Off *Magallanes* is already under repair at Talcahuano. Estimated time of completion is March. — Lloyd's Agents.

MARCALA 1 (Argentina)

London, Jan 22 — Following navigation warning issued Jan 20: Fishing *Maria Rita* towing fishing (general) *Marcala 1*, line length 500 metres, speed four knots, course 034 deg, nound Mar del Plata.

MARIELLE BOLTEN (Liberia)

Freeport, Jan 19 — General cargo *Marielle Bolten* went out on sea-trials two days ago. At midnight last night, *Marielle Bolten* came past us on its way back into Freeport. Vessel berthed at about 0200 hrs. On checking with the agent just now he advised that it will probably be at Freeport for another four days before it departs. — Lloyd's Agents.

MARINA (Greece)

London, Jan 22 — Lloyd's Casualty representatives in Piraeus report: During the early hours of Jan 21, while passenger ro/ro *Marina* (7895 gt, built 1971) was making departure manoeuvres at the port of Kalymnos, the vessel's anchors became fouled. At the time of the incident the vessel was scheduled for the 0350 hrs voyage to Leros-Patmos-Piraeus with 60 passengers, 25 cars, 35 trucks and three motorcycles on board. At 1445 hrs, following successful efforts to clear the anchors, the vessel departed for the scheduled voyage.

MAROULA (Greece)

London, Jan 20 — Understand salvage services were rendered to product tanker *Maroula* by salvors Diavolos-Arhaggelos under Lloyd's Open Form dated Nov 28 following engine breakdown.

MATSUSHIMA (Cambodia)

See *Sansha Maru No.45*.

MELDERSKIN (Norway)

London, Jan 23 — Information received from Sandnes, dated today, states: Roll On Roll Off *Melderskin* is still at Wartsila, undergoing repairs. ETC unknown.

MIGHTY SERVANT 3 (Netherlands)

London, Jan 22 — A press report, dated today, states: Dockwise has

contracted SMIT Salvage to salve semi-sub HL vessel *Mighty Servant 3*. Over the last weeks SMIT Salvage already conducted a complete diving survey to investigate the situation and remove the vessel's bunker oil and pollutants that were on board. Now all the bunker oil is removed, the salvage operation can start. The cause of the incident will be further investigated once the vessel is lifted. As soon as the vessel is fully recovered Dockwise intends to award a repair contract to a yard still to be nominated. The company expects to have the vessel back in operation in the first quarter of 2008.

MIGNON (Sweden)

See *Zim Mediterranean*.

MOGAMIGAWA (Japan)

London, Jan 22 — A press report, dated today, states: Crude oil tanker *Mogamigawa*, that collided with a US nuclear-powered submarine in the Arabian Sea, arrived in Singapore Sunday (Jan 21) to unload its oil cargo. The *Mogamigawa*, laden with crude, berthed near Raffles Lighthouse. It was expected to enter Shell's oil terminal later in the day to unload its oil. There were no visible signs of damage to the vessel above sea level. The tanker, operated by Kawasaki Kisen Kaisha Ltd., collided with a 6,300-ton submarine, the *Newport News* of the US Navy's 5th Fleet, on Jan 9 after passing the Strait of Hormuz. The submarine sustained damage at its bow, but its nuclear reactor, hull and mast were unaffected. Kawasaki Kisen said the tanker sustained several dents and holes, which have been plugged temporarily, and lost part of its propeller blades.

London, Jan 22 — Sembawang Shipyard, Singapore, will carry out repairs crude oil tanker *Mogamigawa*. K Line confirmed that Sembawang Shipyard, with its 400,000 dwt capacity, 364 metre long Premier dock had received the contract to carry out repairs to the tanker. Company spokesman Masato Yamaguchi said the vessel would enter dry dock next week once the discharge of the ship's cargo was completed and preparatory work, including tank cleaning, had been done. The tanker arrived in Singapore yesterday and started unloading its cargo of 280,000 tonnes of crude oil at the Shell terminal. The vessel is on long-term time charter to Showa Shell Sekiyu. Mr Yamaguchi said discharge of the cargo is likely to take two or three days and was expected to be finished on Wednesday. He said the company had "no idea" how long the repairs would take to finish but he expected them to "take a week or more". Asked by Lloyd's List if the cost of repairs would be recovered from the US military, Mr Yamaguchi said that was an issue for the insurers.

MSC NAPOLI (U.K.)

London, Jan 18 — Following received from Coastguard Falmouth MRCC,

timed 1524, UTC: Container Carrier *MSC Napoli*: All 26 crew members safely transferred to shore. Search and Rescue operations terminated but salvage operations continuing. Roll-on roll-off *Birka Carrier* on scene, helicopters Rescue 193 and Rescue 194 also on scene.

London, Jan 18 — Following press release from the Maritime and Coastguard Agency, timed 1855, UTC, today, states: All day Falmouth Coastguard have been working closely with their French colleagues, on a French led operation following on from the MF DSC distress call from Container Carrier *MSC Napoli*. All 26 crew from the British registered vessel have now been recovered to Culdrose by rescue helicopter. Currently the vessel is in a stable position 45 miles South East of the Lizard. A salvage contract has been agreed and awarded to a consortium of Klyne tugs, Smit International and Les Abeilles. Robin Middleton, Secretary of States Representative for Salvage and Intervention and leading the MCA Salvage Response Unit said, The MCAs Emergency Towing Vessel, *Anglian Princess* and a French tug are on scene. A French salvage team is being transferred onto the *MSC Napoli* by helicopter and will assess the stability and integrity of the vessel to decide if the vessel can be towed. The current plan is to tow the vessel to a port and discharge the cargo ashore. The vessel is carrying 2,394 containers, a small proportion of these are believed to contain insecticides and pesticides.

London, Jan 19 — Reported Container Carrier *MSC Napoli*, is being towed by fire fighting tug *Abeille Bourbon* to Lyme Bay.

London, Jan 19 — Following received from Coastguard Falmouth MRCC, timed 0636, UTC: Container Carrier *MSC Napoli* parted tow from fire fighting tug *Abeille Bourbon* at 0512, UTC. Tug is now recovering the towing gear. Tug *Abeille Liberte* is on scene and standing by. Tug/supply *Anglian Princess* standing by. A salvage crew are expected on scene to assess the situation at 0730, UTC.

London, Jan 19 — Following received from Coastguard Falmouth MRCC, timed 0900, UTC: Container Carrier *MSC Napoli* is still adrift with tugs in company.

London, Jan 19 — Container Carrier *MSC Napoli* was taken back under tow late morning after a French salvage team took onboard a new tow cable after being dropped on to the vessel by French naval helicopter. The maritime prefecture in Brest said that the vessel was continuing to be towed in an easterly direction so as to keep strain on its damaged hull to a minimum. A spokesman said that there were two vertical cracks in the vessel's hull. The two cracks, including one of 1.50 metres, were situated above the water line on either side of the vessel's bridge. He added that the vessel's structure appeared to be stable but that more would be known when the six-man salvage team had

completed their evaluation of its structure, expected in mid-afternoon. "There has been no deterioration for the moment," he said, adding that a decision as to the vessel's destination would only be taken once the results of the salvage team's inspection were known. French salvage expert Charles Cladden, who was a member of the team which went onboard *MSC Napoli*, said that the team would need three hours to carry out a serious assessment of the vessel's structural state and its capacity to stay afloat. "The objective is to bring the vessel to a sheltered zone as quickly as possible so as to preserve the integrity of its floater which will avoid any problem," he said. Robin Middleton, Secretary of State's Representative for Salvage and Intervention, said: "The current plan is to tow the vessel to a port and discharge the cargo ashore. Meanwhile, French reports just in state that an oil slick 5m wide and 5km long has developed in the wake of the vessel. Earlier attempts to tow the vessel Lyme Bay have failed this morning after *MSC Napoli* parted tow from tug *Abeille Bourbon* in the early hours. Tug *Abeille Liberte*, was on scene with the supply tug *Anglian Princess* on stanby.

London, Jan 19 — A Maritime and Coastguard Agency press release states: The operation to salvage Container Carrier *MSC Napoli* has now started and the ship may be towed to Lyme Bay. After discussions between the French Authorities and the UK's Secretary of State's representative Robin Middleton and salvors, the decision was taken to tow the vessel to a position in Lyme Bay as the preferred destination where a salvage operation can take place in relative safety. Tug *Abeille Bourbon* is towing the vessel and the MCA tug supply *Anglian Princess* is escorting the tow. Smit International, the contracted salvors are mobilising maritime salvage equipment from Holland to Lyme Bay. The vessel is carrying 2,394 containers; only a small proportion of the cargo is classed as hazardous according to the International Maritime Dangerous Goods Code. These products consist of some retail perfumes, industrial and agricultural chemicals. Robin Middleton, Secretary of State's Representative for Salvage and Intervention and leading the MCA Salvage Response Unit said "I have been working closely with the French Government and the salvors to carry out a risk assessment of the various options available to us. The most favorable option is to tow the vessel to a sheltered location where the salvage operation to remove the containers or make out temporary repairs can be carried out. The Maritime and Coastguard Agency Counter Pollution and Response branch will be working with the Salvage Consortium and other agencies to minimise any risk of pollution or damage to the environment. "The Marine Accident Investigation Branch is investigating this incident as the vessel is registered within the UK."

London, Jan 20 — Following received from Coastguard Portland MRSC, timed 0823, UTC: Container Carrier *MSC Napoli* is now in Lyme Bay, with tugs in attendance, while discussions are in hand as to what steps to take next.

London, Jan 20 — A Maritime and Coastguard Agency press release states: Container Carrier *MSC Napoli*: The weather overnight has been very poor with 45 knots of wind and a 5 metre swell. *MSC Napoli* has suffered serious structural failure. The large cracks on both sides of the ship have worsened during the night. The stern of the ship is gradually settling lower in the water and deteriorating. The forecast is for South West wind veering Westerly 6 to gale 8, occasionally severe gale 9. Risk assessments have been carried out and continually updated. The priority is to gain as much shelter as possible and keep the vessel in one piece. Therefore the decision has been made to beach the vessel and ballast it down east of Sidmouth. The environmental sensitivities in the Lyme Bay area have been fully assessed as part of the operational planning process. The process involved an Environment Group which included representatives from local and national environment regulators. The beaching location was selected based on minimising the impact of any spillage and enabling salvage work to remove the vessel and cargo to take place. The local authorities and environmental groups have been notified and all agencies are working together to ensure that there is no pollution from the vessel until such time as the salvage operation can remove containers and pollutants contained within it.

London, Jan 20 — Following received from Coastguard Portland MRSC, timed 1250, UTC: Container Carrier *MSC Napoli* is at this moment being beached in lat 50 40.01N, long 03 10.02W.

London, Jan 20 — Following pollution report received from Coastguard Portland MRSC, timed 1316, UTC: Container Carrier *MSC Napoli*: Pollution confirmed in lat 50 37.96N, long 03 09.05W. Extent: Five km in length and width 0.3km, coverage 85%, area coverage 1.125km square, minimum estimated quantity 1.278 cubic metres, maximum estimated quantity 13.635 cubic metres. Wind 270 westerly 30-35 knots. Sheen 40%, rainbow 40%, metallic 20%. Spill detected visually and with radar. Pollution is dispersing behind casualty. Vessel's bow beached in lat 50 40N, long 03 10W.

London, Jan 20 — Container Carrier *MSC Napoli*, abandoned by its crew during violent storms in the English Channel, will run be aground on the southern English coast to stop it sinking, the Coastguard said today. The vessel, with wide cracks on both sides and listing heavily, would be beached on the coast at Lyme Bay and the cargo taken off, a spokeswoman said. "We understand there is a small amount of potentially dangerous cargo

on board — such as insecticides, pesticides or perfume — and the beaching to stop it breaking up is environmentally the best option,” she said. A spokeswoman for South African stainless steel maker Columbus Stainless said today that the vessel was carrying 160 tonnes of nickel, correcting information from the company yesterday that it was carrying 1,000 tonnes. — Reuters.

London, Jan 21 — A press report, dated Jan 20, states: Coastguards and anti-pollution teams are on alert after Container Carrier *MSC Napoli* carrying potentially dangerous chemicals was beached off the Devon coast. She was run aground following “serious structural failure.” Fifty containers were thrown into the sea today, but it is not thought they contained hazardous goods. The drifting vessel was being towed to Portland Harbour in Dorset for a salvage operation, but the Maritime and Coastguard Agency decided to beach it in Lyme Bay, near Branscombe, instead, following the structural failure. It is now firmly aground but rolling in storms, an MCA spokesman said. Two French coastguard tugs are holding the ship in place. Chris Lawson of the Environment Agency said containers holding the most hazardous substances, such as pesticides, were in the cargo hold of the boat, and there was “very little risk” of them leaking. The ship has been surrounded by a 1km oil-protection boom to protect the sea from any possible pollution. Mr Lawson said the priority was to safeguard approximately 3,000 tonnes of fuel on board and pump it out of the vessel over the next two to three days. An MCA spokesman said the environmental sensitivities in the Lyme Bay area had been fully assessed before the decision to run it into the ground. The ship’s cargo, starting with potentially hazardous materials, will now be taken ashore from the ship’s current position by salvage crews. “The oils will be the first priority, the ship’s bunkers, fuel oil, and then the containers which are considered most hazardous first,” said the MCA’s Paul Coley. An investigation has been launched into why a vessel investigated only six months ago should have suffered so much damage so quickly.

London, Jan 21 — A Maritime and Coastguard Agency press release timed 0045, today, states: Coastguards are on alert tonight after severe gales rocked beached Container Carrier *MSC Napoli* throwing up to 50 containers into the sea as it suffered a 35 degree list to starboard. Anti-pollution teams are also on standby although the Agency does not believe any of the containers containing chemicals have been dislodged tonight. French tug/supply *Argonaute* has put a boom in place and this vessel is also able to received up to 1,500 tons of *MSC Napoli*’s bunkers. The British Coastguard tug *Anglian Princess* has now gone to Portland to pick up further salvage gear, including pumps.

There will be another tug arriving tomorrow morning, and product tanker *Blackrock* is also due to arrive to begin offloading the oil. An Environment Group has been set up and its members include representatives from Devon Council, Natural World England, Environment Agency, Fisheries and Heath & Protection Agency who are presently looking at prioritising sites of protection. Coastguards are advising that a Temporary Danger Area has also been set up around the vessel extending to a range of 3 miles and 2000 ft. After the vessel was beached, as the tide has gone out teams have worked to drag the ship in as far as possible before attempting to secure it but gale force nine winds have hampered the efforts. Robin Middleton, Secretary of States Representative in Maritime Salvage and Intervention who is leading the MCA’s salvage response team said : “The vessel is now aground but tonight’s storms are making it roll. A number of containers have been lost overboard, we think about 50.” “They are heading in the Branscombe area and the local Coastguard Rescue Officers have been alerted.” “It is believed that none of them contain hazardous goods. A Coastguard helicopter was scrambled earlier this evening with a structural engineer on board to assess the vessel from above.” Mr Middleton said that the environmental sensitivities in the Lyme Bay area were fully assessed before the decision to beach *MSC Napoli* was made. He said: “The beaching location was selected based on minimising the impact of any spillage and enabling salvage work to remove the vessel and cargo to take place. “The local authorities and environmental groups have been notified and all agencies are working together to ensure that pollution is minimised.” The ship was towed by tug *Abeille Bourbon*, with the MCA tug *Anglian Princess* escorting. Devon and Cornwall Constabulary are advising the public to avoid the Sidmouth/Branscombe area.

London, Jan 21 — A Maritime and Coastguard Agency press release, states: Overnight following the adverse weather conditions the situation surrounding Container Carrier *MSC Napoli* deteriorated and the vessel rolled over to 30 degrees. In total 158 containers are believed to have been lost, of which two contained dangerous goods. One of those contains perfume and battery acid, and the other contains small car parts such as air bag pre-tensioners. The owners of the vessel have now appointed contractors to recover containers and materials lost from the vessel. The Coastguard Rescue Officers and police have been searching the shoreline and so far about 40 containers have been located ashore. During the night oil leaked from the crack on the port side. The remaining tanks are reported to be intact. Oil has been seen on the shoreline at Beer Head. There have

been isolated reports of two seabirds contaminated with oil. The salvage operation is continuing, with anchors being deployed today. It is expected that pumping operations should commence tomorrow after preparations are completed today. Shore side emergency response is taking place with booms being deployed at the river mouths. Weather today is fine and clear with light winds, but the inshore forecast is west veering north west Force 6-7 (strong breeze - near gale) decreasing 4 (moderate breeze) or 5 (fresh breeze), squally showers, good visibility, sea state rough or very rough.

London, Jan 21 — Following received from Coastguard Portland MRSC, timed 1752, UTC: Container Carrier *MSC Napoli* pollution report: Easterly direction of oil lat 50 41 31N, long 03 03 06W. Slick extends 9.5 kilometres by 0.3 kilometre and consists of 60% sheen, 20% rainbow, 10% metallics and 10% discoloured. The slick had shifted westwards for a while but is now drifting east. Debris has been spotted as far east as Chapman’s Rocks.

London, Jan 22 — A Maritime & Coastguard Agency press release, dated today, states: Update 0600, Jan 22: A sheen of oil has been sighted coming from Container Carrier *MSC Napoli* which is suspected to come from waste oils in the flooded engine spaces. This sheen has spread to about 8 km which is breaking up and dissipating. There is an increasing confidence that no major tanks have been breached. Some oil ashore was been reported in the Branscombe and Sidmouth areas, however, investigations have not managed to find any evidence of oil on any beach. The RSPB have also reported to the MCA that some oiled birds have been recovered. 63 of the “lost” containers have been identified and their positions have been plotted and 49 have been identified by their reference number so that their contents are now known. The contents and stowage positions of 98% of the cargo manifest has now also been identified. The vessel remains in stable condition and there has been no fundamental change to the structure. It continues to have a list of 25 degrees during high water reducing to 18 degrees during low water. The salvage team have managed to further secure the vessel by deploying a starboard ground anchor and have accessed the No.6 port tank. It is now believed that the oil which has spilled from the casualty so far has come from small tanks within the flooded engine-room space and not from the ship’s bunker tanks of heavy fuel oil. Her owners have appointed a private security company to guard the beached containers. The owners have also appointed a contractor to corral and remove those spilled containers and that contractor will mobilise to site later today and recovery will begin tomorrow. Salvage equipment has been now been transferred onto the vessel so that pumping arrangements can be

configured at first light this morning. During the day the salvors will be assessing the situation regarding the vessel and planning for the recovery of the oils remaining on board. Over flights will also continue by MCA surveillance aircraft. The River Axe and the River Brid have protection booms have been deployed and additional protective equipment is being deployed to the likely affected sites. Robin Middleton, the Secretary of State's Representative for Maritime Salvage and Intervention, who is leading the MCAs response team said that the decision to tow the vessel, which was drifting in the middle of the English Channel, to the English coastline and not the French side was taken to avoid deeper water and a greater threat. He said that had the vessel sunk in deep water it would have been "a greater threat to the environment."

London, Jan 22 — A Maritime and Coastguard Agency press release, timed 1700 today, states: Following an inspection by salvors it has now been confirmed that the oil released from the beached Container Carrier *MSC Napoli* has come from the engine spaces at the time of beaching and that no fresh oil has been spotted in the water. The sheen of used oils is now extending for about three to four miles before dissipating. Following an aerial inspection from the Coastguard Helicopter "Whiskey Bravo" earlier today it has also been confirmed that the number of containers lost was 103 and not 200 as earlier suspected. The location of 76 containers of those 103 has now been identified. A barge has also now been chartered in Rotterdam and is currently being fitted with two very large cranes of 500 and 400 tons. The contents and stowage positions of 98% of the cargo manifest has now also been identified. *MSC Napoli* remains in stable condition and there has been no fundamental change to the structure. The vessel continues to have a list of 25 degrees during high water reducing to 18 degrees during low water. The ship's owners have appointed a private security company to guard the beached containers. The owners have also appointed a contractor to corral and remove those spilled containers, and that contractor will mobilise to site later today and recovery will begin tomorrow. Salvage equipment has been now been transferred onto the vessel so that pumping arrangements can be configured at first light tomorrow morning. During the day the salvors have been assessing the situation regarding the vessel and are still planning for the recovery of the oils remaining onboard to begin tomorrow. Over flights will also continue by MCA surveillance aircraft, The River Axe and the River Brid have protection booms have been deployed and additional protective equipment is being deployed to the likely affected sites.

London, Jan 23 — Following pollution report received from Coastguard Portland MRSC, timed

1638, UTC: At 0803, UTC, overflight of Container Carrier *MSC Napoli* by Atlantic 405 reports sheen in immediate vicinity of vessel. At 1259, UTC, small amount of debris spotted by Atlantic 405, the largest is pallet sized, in lat 50 28N, long 02 51.57W. At 1430, UTC, overflight by Coastguard helicopter WB of ship's position, length of ship out to two kms, to south of ships position, 20 metres wide estimated at two to eight tonnes 100% IFO 380. Tug/supply *Argonaute* and vessel *Elan* on scene booming and attempting recovery. Test spraying appear successful. Second spraying authorised. (See issue of Jan 24.)

London, Jan 23 — A press report, dated today, states: Work has started on pumping oil from Container Carrier *MSC Napoli*. This afternoon product tanker *Forth Fisher* pulled alongside the beached *MSC Napoli* and started to pump out the 3,500 tonnes of oil from the ship's tanks. The process will carry on throughout the night and is expected to take a week. Hundreds of looters descended onto Branscombe Beach to scavenge the washed-up cargo from around 40 of the vessel's containers. The swarms of people, which have since died down, have been blamed by salvage officials for greatly increasing the environmental impact of the wreck after containers were ripped open and unwanted goods scattered along the World Heritage Site coastline. The quantity of looters forced Devon and Cornwall police to set up road blocks and prevent any members of the public driving to the beach. The relief effort continues and MCA officials have said they expect both the oil pumping and the beach clean up to take about a week. Paul Coley, deputy director operations for the MCA, added that the complete removal of the vessel could take up to a year. The main access to Branscombe Beach has been sealed off by a 100ft long metal fence as the first stages of the huge clean-up operation swung into action. More fences are expected to be built and will be guarded by a private security firm. A trickle of beachcombers are still at the beach but the majority have now left. Acting Receiver of Wreck Mark Rodaway said the actions of the looters had increased the environmental impact by 800%.

London, Jan 23 — A Maritime and Coastguard Agency press release, timed 1926, UTC, states: Work continues today to save the cargo of Container Carrier *MSC Napoli*. In addition work has begun to clear cargo from beaches. A contractor has now constructed a fence across the main area of Branscombe beach, which became the main scavenging site yesterday. People invaded East Devon beaches yesterday and today to remove cargo from the containers which had been washed up. They trampled over gardens and verges, and brought large vehicles and roughly constructed "stretchers" through villages in order to take away cargo ranging from nappies and empty barrels to BMW motorbikes. In

addition, containers which held people's personal possessions were looted and their property discarded on the beach. These activities have caused damage estimated to be 800 % more significant than the damage caused by the incident itself. Product tanker *Forth Fisher* is now on scene at the site of *MSC Napoli* and started to pump the first of the heavy fuel oil from the vessel. Work will continue for the next week to transfer all of the oil from the vessel. Since the vessel was run aground, there has been a minor leakage of oil from the crack in the port side which has now been stopped. This consisted of used oil and sludge from the engine-room. In addition there has been another small leakage of fuel. This was identified and plugged by divers. This provided us with the opportunity to test the effect of spraying dispersants on the oil. The test was successful and the oil sprayed was observed to be dispersing. In addition oil containment booms were deployed to trap the leaking oil. Each of the tanks on board the ship will be pumped out on a step by step basis. At the same time, cranes will be loaded onto barges in Rotterdam and will arrive at the vessel within a week. The operation to remove the containers will take a number of months. Once this has been completed, the process of removing the ship will begin. The whole operation is likely to take up to a year. The contractor who has erected the fence across the main area of Branscombe Beach has started to bring in diggers, dumper trucks and cutting equipment. From tomorrow, the area will become a work site and there will be no public access to the beach, with access to the village restricted to residents. This will be rigorously enforced by police and Coastguards.

London, Jan 24 — A press release from Zodiac Maritime Agencies Ltd, London, managers of Container Carrier *MSC Napoli*, timed 1430 today, states: Pumping of fuel from the vessel commenced at 1430 yesterday. The fuel is being transferred from the beached vessel to product tanker *Forth Fisher*. This vessel was mobilised from Falmouth by SMIT Salvage, the salvage contractor for this operation. In addition, two barges will arrive on scene later in the week to undertake the discharge of containers from *MSC Napoli*. Barge *Bigfoot*, equipped with two cranes (500 tonnes lift capacity and 250 tonnes lift capacity), will depart Rotterdam this afternoon. *Bigfoot* is expected to arrive off Branscombe during late Friday or early Saturday morning. Its role is to lift off containers and place them on board the second barge, arriving from Rouen tonight. This barge will land the containers. It is intended that the discharge operation will commence during the weekend. The programme for discharging the containers will be shaped by two priorities: to recover 161 containers designed for carriage of chemicals and, secondly, lighten the vessel, to reduce stresses on the hull and so prevent further deterioration.

The latest report from the salvage team confirms that the vessel's main fuel tanks are intact. There is an oil sheen around the vessel and the vessel remains boomed as a precautionary measure. The fuel transfer to *Forth Fisher* is likely to take one to two weeks, subject to weather conditions. The team working on *MSC Napoli* are using the salvage vessel *Union Beaver* as a floating base. This operation is proceeding with the ultimate aim of achieving a refloating. However, it will be some time before it becomes clear as to whether this is achievable. The *MSC Napoli* was carrying 2,394 containers of which 103 were lost from the vessel, most during the violent storm of last week. Work continues to recover the containers and 70 have now been accounted for, 50 recovered from the beach and 20 located in shallow water and awaiting recovery. A total of 33 containers have yet to be accounted for. Weather conditions at the scene remain favourable for the salvage operation, with winds from the north. The vessel is located in a relatively sheltered position.

London, Jan 24 — A Maritime and Coastguard Agency press release, timed 1548, UTC, states: The operation to pump oil from Container Carrier *MSC Napoli* is now well underway. Salvors have been pumping oil from the vessel at a rate of 30 tonnes per hour. The operation began again this morning. By midday today over 275 tonnes had been removed from port side tank No.6 and preparations were underway to start pumping oil from port side tank NO.5. This will start later today. The process of pumping oil is an uncomfortable and challenging one. Salvors are working in extremely difficult conditions, for example having to climb through small manholes in the deck, wearing breathing apparatus to insert hoses and move them about within the structure of the tank in order to suck out the oil. The salvors must rest for health and safety reasons, therefore they are unable to work between midnight and first light. However a second crew are en route and it is hoped that 24 hour pumping will be achieved. Yesterday five tonnes of oil leaked from an air pipe from the vessel which has now been plugged. This was boomed and sprayed with dispersant and has now dissipated. 990 seabirds have been reported as being washed up on the shore; of these 354 have been taken for treatment at RSPB Centres. The River Brid and Axe have been boomed to help prevent oil entering. Other rivers may need to be boomed if tidal and wind conditions change. The weather forecast over the next three days is favourable for the oil recovery operations with 17 -18 knot north to north-easterly winds. The number of containers lost from the ship still stands at 103. Of these 50 have been positively identified on the shore; 20 are still afloat and will be recovered by boat; and 33 are unaccounted for and are presumed sunk. The owners of the ship have charted a vessel to locate the sunken

containers using sonar. A fixed wing aircraft has flown over the shipping lanes to ensure that there are no containers which could be problematic to shipping. Branscombe beach has now been cleared of people and is fenced off as a worksite. Private contractors have begun the operation to clear the debris left by those who scavenged the site at the beginning of the week, as well as clearing the containers on shore. The Receiver of Wreck is working with e-Bay regarding a number of items which were advertised on its site after Mondays activities. Those who have already acquired items of wreck are reminded that they must by law report it to the Receiver of Wreck. In the meantime items should be secured and held until the Receiver of Wreck contacts the legal owner of the property.

London, Jan 25 — Zodiac Maritime Agencies Ltd of London, managers of Container Carrier *MSC Napoli*, report that rapid progress is being made in pumping fuel from the vessel. Around one-third of the fuel has been removed so far. Pumping continues on a round-the-clock basis. By 0800 hrs today (Jan 25), 1,150 tonnes had been transferred to the lightering tanker *Forth Fisher*. Pumping began at 1430 hrs, Tuesday (Jan 23). All the fuel on board *MSC Napoli* will be pumped to the *Forth Fisher*. This vessel was mobilised from Falmouth by SMIT Salvage, the salvage contractor for this operation. *MSC Napoli* has four main fuel tanks and two smaller tanks. The oil transfer began from fuel tank No. 6, portside. Pumping began yesterday from a second tank (fuel tank No. 5, portside). Due to the vessel's list, the two main starboard fuel tanks are under water and more difficult to reach. For this reason a special "hot-tap" system will be used to penetrate the submerged tanks and recover the oil. It is now expected that at least another week will be required to recover all the fuel. Meanwhile, barges are assembling to undertake the discharge of containers from the vessel. The large barge *Bigfoot*, equipped with two cranes (500 tonnes lift capacity and 250 tonnes lift capacity), departed Rotterdam yesterday afternoon (Jan 24) and is expected to arrive off Branscombe during Friday (Jan 26). Its role is to lift off containers and place them on board the second barge, *Boa Barge 21*, which has arrived from Rouen. This barge will land the containers at Portland. It is intended that the discharge operation will commence during Saturday (Jan 27). There are two priorities: to recover containers designed for carriage of chemicals and, secondly, to lighten the vessel and so reduce stresses on the hull and prevent further deterioration. The discharge operation will commence at the stern, with the big barge moored to form the cross of a "T" with *MSC Napoli*. This will position the barge well clear of the *Forth Fisher*, which is moored to the portside. The salvage team reports that the vessel's main

fuel tanks remain intact. There is an oil sheen around the vessel and it remains boomed as a precautionary measure. The personnel working on *MSC Napoli* are using the salvage vessel *Union Beaver* as a floating base. The salvage operation is proceeding with the ultimate aim of achieving a refloating. However, it will be some time before it becomes clear as to whether this is possible. Temporary repairs are under way on board the vessel. The team is using special resin to fill cracks and pumps are being used to remove water from cargo holds 3 and 4. More pumps have been mobilised, to reinforce this effort. *MSC Napoli* was carrying 2,394 containers, of which 103 were lost, most during last week's violent storm. Work continues to recover the containers and 70 have now been accounted for: Fifty on the beach and 20 located in shallow water and awaiting recovery. A total of 33 containers have yet to be accounted for. A vessel equipped with sidescan sonar is engaged in a search for these containers. Weather conditions at the scene remain favourable, with a high pressure system expected to persist until Saturday at least. Winds are light and from the north and north-west. The vessel is located in a relatively sheltered position. The longer term weather outlook is fair.

MULYA AKBAR (Indonesia)

Manila, Jan 24 — Indonesian cargo vessel *Mulya Akbar*, carrying 425 tons of fertiliser, sank off Indonesia's Sulawesi's western coast on Sunday (Jan 21) en route to Donggala district, police reported on Tuesday. Six crew members survived the accident, while two other crew members and one passenger are still missing. The vessel reportedly sank after being swamped by three-metre high waves. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

NEHRU-SHATABDI (India)

Kochi, Jan 19 — Repair work on the hopper dredger *Nehru-Shatabdi* has been completed and released from the dry dock at Cochin Shipyard. However the dredger will commence its normal dredging operations after completion of detailed survey which is scheduled by the end of Jan. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

NEW CARISSA (Panama)

London, Jan 22 — A press report, dated Jan 21, states: Two jack-up barges from Florida will attempt to remove the 1,200-ton stern of wood-chip carrier *New Carissa* off Coos Bay's North Spit in spring of 2008. Louise Solliday, the director for Oregon's Department of State Lands, told the Coos Bay Lions Club that the Florida company, Titan, is the only salvage operation with the type of barge to pull the stern toward sea. "There will be no landward activity," Solliday said. The barges each have six legs and can be raised 20 to 30 feet above surfline, allowing Titan's team of about 30 divers and welders to work in relative safety, she said. They will

use torches to cut through the shipwreck. One barge will be outfitted with a crane to hoist the pieces, Solliday said. The scraps will be placed on awaiting vessels to go to a salvage yard, which the state says it can sell them for between \$25,000 and \$30,000. In 2005, consultants from Titan said the hull is buried in about 40 feet of sand and said their equipment can remove all of it. "If they are not able to do that, they will cut the ship off at the sand line and leave the rest of the hull there," she said. Actual removal, not counting setting up for the job, is expected to take about three months. The state delayed the removal, originally expected this summer, because of nearing permit deadlines and ongoing negotiations with Titan and the ship's owner, Green Atlas Shipping. In addition, the state needs to secure a wide variety of other state and federal permits. Removal cost is not to exceed \$18 million, by order of the Oregon Legislature's Emergency Board. Last May, after years of squabbling and appeals, the state approved a \$22 million settlement with Green Atlas.

NIJORD (Malta)

London, Jan 22 — A press report, dated today, states: On Sunday Jan 21) night only light winds were blowing in the Irbe Straits, the narrow entry to the Gulf of Riga. Nonetheless, neither the good weather nor Coast Guard warnings were sufficient to stop general cargo *Nijord* (2696 gt, built 1980) running aground. The ship ignored several radio warnings, neither replying nor changing course, the head of the Latvian Coast Guard, Hermanis Cernovs, told national radio on Monday. Investigation showed that the master and half the crew had been drinking, he added. "The weather conditions were good at the time, so the main reason for the accident was the crew's negligence," Cernovs said. Latvian Interior Minister Ivars Godmanis condemned the incident, telling the LNT TV news channel that "it is dangerous to let these seamen out of the country." Drunk driving on land carries legal penalties including loss of licence, he added. At present, salvage workers are on the site, working out the best way to move *Nijord*, a spokesman for the Latvian Coast Guard told Deutsche Presse-Agentur dpa. There is no sign of any oil spill or environmental threat from the ship, he added.

London, Jan 22 — A press report, dated today, states: Latvian authorities said Monday (Jan 22) that the captain and several crew members of a Maltese-flagged cargo vessel that ran aground in the Baltic Sea were drunk at the time of the accident. General cargo *Nijord*, which was not carrying a cargo, ran aground off Latvia's northwestern coast late Sunday night despite relatively calm weather, said Hermanis Cernovs, head of the coast guard. No one was injured. The vessel had been sailing from France to Riga, Latvia's capital. Cernovs said that five of the *Nijord*'s

nine crew members, including the captain, were under the influence of alcohol. Blood samples confirmed the results, he added. The captain was taken to shore and later returned to the vessel, and the crew was trying on Monday to rescue the vessel.

London, Jan 22 — Information received, dated Kiel today, states: General cargo *Nijord* was refloated at 1600 today by the Latvian tug *Ventspils* and is now proceeding to a Riga shipyard. (Note — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS *Njord* was anchored in lat 57 26 41N, long 21 31 22E, at 2105, UTC, today, and *Ventspils* was in lat 57 24 08N, long 21 34 33E, at 2110, UTC, today, speed 2.4 knots, course 60.6 degrees.)

London, Jan 23 — A press report, dated today, states: The Merchant Shipping Directorate of the Malta Maritime Authority is investigating the grounding of the Malta-registered general cargo *Nijord* which occurred off Latvia's north-western coast on Sunday (Jan 21). The Maltese authorities are cooperating with the Latvian Authorities in the investigation of this accident. Latvia's naval coast guard service head Hermanis Cernovs said that five of the nine crewmembers on the ship were under the influence, including the master, when the ship ran aground. According to The Baltic Times, Mr. Cernovs told LNT television "The weather conditions were good at the time, therefore the main reason of the accident is negligence of the crew." The ship was on its way from France to Riga, when at around 2200, CET, it ran aground on a sand bank. The vessel has been refloated and is expected to proceed to Riga for dry dock inspection. There were no injuries among the nine crew members of Latvian and Russian nationality. No pollution was caused by the accident. Before the accident the crew of the ship had been warned to change course, but did not react to warnings and radio messages, said The Baltic Times. A tug was sent to the place of the accident to tow the ship away yesterday. (Note — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS *Njord* was still anchored in lat 57 26 42N, long 21 31 28E, at 1815, UTC, today.)

London, Jan 24 — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS general cargo *Njord* was moored in lat 57 01 50N, long 24 07 49E, (Riga area) at 1855, UTC, today.

London, Jan 25 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: After investigating the grounding of general cargo *Nijord* off Latvia, the Latvian National Police drew up an administrative protocol against the ship's master, a Russian citizen, whose blood-alcohol test showed 1.4 permills. Police have charged the master with violating naval transport regulations and endangering the safety of his crewmembers and other ships. Such an offence carries a fine of up to 100 Lats (142 Euros). Ultimately, the Latvian Maritime Administration safety inspectorate will decide on the master's administrative punishment.

One day after the ship ran aground, representatives of the Latvian Coast Guard, Border Guard and State Police boarded the ship to conduct an investigation. *Nijord* was pulled from the sandbar at 1535 hrs, with the help of a tugboat, a coast guard boat and a border guard ship. The coast guard ship *KA-14 Astra* escorted *Nijord* to Ventspils. The body of the ship had not been damaged.

NIKOLAY ZABOLOTSKIY (Ukraine)

See *Yeditepe S.*

NJORD B.FSU

Trondheim, Jan 23 — Umoe Sterkoder Yard, Kristiansund, inform that repairs to floating storage tanker *Njord B.FSU* were completed on Jan 19. However the vessel is still at Kristiansund waiting for better weather conditions. — Lloyd's Agents.

NOBEL (Cambodia)

Portsmouth, UK, Jan 23 — General cargo *Nobel* (6913 gt, built 1975), Vanino for Ningbo, cargo 8,550 cubic metres of wood, sank early this morning near Ningbo. Nineteen Russian seamen were rescued by the a local Chinese vessel which was in the area. Water began to enter two holds of the vessel at 2300, local time, yesterday. This morning the master sent a distress signal. Because of the swift aid of the Chinese seamen, none of the Russians suffered. — Correspondent.

Antwerp, Jan 25 — In the evening of Jan 22, general cargo *Nobel*, Russia for Ningbo, with 96,496 logs, collided with the Chinese motor vessel *Si Hang Fen Jin* in the waters of Jintang Anchorage, near Ningbo. After the collision, water ingressed to hold No.2. *Nobel* subsequently sank at about 0300 hrs, on Jan 23. All 19 crew were transferred to *Si Hang Fen Jin*. The logs on board drifted on the surface and most were salvaged. — DPS-Teamhead Surveyors.

NORRONA (Faroe Islands)

London, Jan 19 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: Passenger ro/ro *Norrone* is due at Dock 11, Blohm & Voss, Hamburg at 0500 hrs, Jan 21. (See issue of Jan 19.)

London, Jan 22 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: Passenger ro/ro *Norrone* arrived at Dock 11, Blohm & Voss, Hamburg, with some delay, on Jan 21.

London, Jan 25 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: Passenger ro/ro *Norrone*, which is at present under repair at Blohm & Voss in Hamburg, is to re-enter service for the Smyril Line on Feb 3.

OCEAN GLOBE (Bahamas)

London, Jan 23 — Following received from Madrid MRCC, timed 1055, UTC: Bulker *Ocean Globe* (25498 gt, built 1995), cargo 38500 tonnes coke, grounded in shallow waters outside Cadiz at 2214, UTC, yesterday. Vessel remains aground. (Note — *Ocean Globe* sailed Houston Jan 7 and

according to Lloyd's MIU AIS was stationary in lat 36 33 47.56N, long 06 17 58.46W at 1050, UTC, today.)

Cadiz, Jan 23 — Bulker *Ocean Globe*, carrying 38000 tonnes of coke, has run aground off the Port of Cadiz, where Maritime Rescue and Safety and Harbourmaster Office are coordinating operations aimed to tug the vessel to port. The vessel was coming from Houston, USA, and ran aground last night at 2315 at the "Bajo del Diamante" (shoal of the diamond) while sailing to discharge at the Cabezuella quay at Puerto Real, Cadiz. At 0600, today, four tugs have tried unsuccessfully to refloat the vessel. Operations will be resumed at 1830, today, on high tide. Also, since the vessel carries 600 tons of fuel, Maritime Rescue has means coming from several ports, including a one kilometre containment barrier, extraction machinery, bilge pumps and trucks over the quay and divers, to help to pull out the fuel. The vessel position at the time of grounding was in lat 36 33.7N, long 06 18.3W. — Lloyd's Agents.

Cadiz, Jan 23 — Bulker *Ocean Globe* has a water leak that does not affect the fuel tanks, containing 600 fuel tons. Parties, Maritime Rescue and Safety, Harbourmaster Office, are considering lightering the cargo, to try to tug the vessel to port. Arranges are being made to bring a tug and a barge from the Port of Huelva to carry out the operations, which will presumably start later this evening/tonight. Also, fuel would be pulled out at the same time to avoid any future damages. — Lloyd's Agents. (See issue of Jan 24.)

Cadiz, Jan 23 — Bulker *Ocean Globe* was refloated at 1815, local time, after operations carried out by five tugs including Maritime Rescue and Safety vessel. The vessel is now berthing at the Cabezuella quay, Puerto Real, Cadiz, to discharge its cargo of 38,000 tonnes of coke. — Lloyd's Agents.

ODESSA (North Korea)

Durres, Jan 24 — General cargo *Odessa* (1132 gt, built 1967) grounded at Durres in an area between the beach and near the port early this morning. Vessel has no cargo board. The salvage operations are in course, but due to bad weather without results up to now. Vessel is still in the same position. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Odessa* sailed Odessa Jan 12 and passed Dardanells 0705, Jan 15 and according to Lloyd's MIU AIS was in lat 41 18 45N, long 19 28 13E, at 1719, UTC, today.)

Durres, Jan 25 — General cargo *Odessa* is safely afloat again. The vessel was removed from the grounding position by her own power. No damages have been reported and the vessel is currently at the outer road of Durres. — Lloyd's Agents.

ODISK (Sierra Leone)

Mariupol, Jan 23 — General cargo *Odisk* completed discharge of cargo at Kerch and was detained for an investigation into the incident. The vessel is lying afloat under police protection, with no crew on board. Seven crew members, including the

vessel's master, are in the local hospital but are out of danger. — Lloyd's Agents.

OLVY-01 (Panama)

Labuan, Jan 25 — General cargo *Olyv-01* is still aground at Labuan. The port has not received any advice from the owner on any salvage operations to be carry out. — Lloyd's Agents.

ORIENT WIND (Cambodia)

Vladivostok, Jan 22 — General cargo *Orient Wind*, water ingress Jan 16: Divers were engaged to inspect and fix the problem. They arrived on board of salvage vessel *Lazurit*. Two trips were undertaken by the divers. Through corrosion of the bottom plate (size approximately 9 mm) was revealed on engine-room bottom plate (IVO 142 frame, about 3 m to port from centreline). During the first trip divers plugged the hole by wooden tap. During the second trip they installed the metal patch with porous rubber seal. The said patch was secured by the bolt and nut. The crew planned to install the cement box from engine-room side. Classification society (GMB - Nakhodka branch) was advised on the matter. Their representative arrived on board for inspection. Vessel is presently at the roadstead, awaiting for loading. — Lloyd's Agents.

ORLANDO (Netherlands)

London, Jan 21 — Dutch inland general cargo *Orlando*, 1043 dwt, built 1956, length 81.8 metres, owned by Orlando Vof, Zwolle, Lelystad for Lemmer, had engine trouble in the IJsselmeer yesterday morning. The master feared that the high waves might smash the hatches and the vessel could sink or capsize. The lifeboat *Koningin Beatrix*, from Urk, came alongside and took off the master's wife and their four children and landed them in Urk. Tug *Coby* and the lifeboat *Anna Dorothea*, from Lemmer, came to assist *Orlando*. After *Coby* had made a towing connection, it towed *Orlando* safely to the harbour of Urk. While returning from Urk to the casualty, after landing the family of the master, it was discovered that the engine of lifeboat *Koningin Beatrix* was on fire. As a precaution the engines were switched off, the fuel connection and air inlet closed and the four crew let go the anchor. Later it was towed back to Urk by the lifeboat *Anna Dorothea*. There the fire brigade was already on the quay, but the fire was extinguished already on its own. The cause of the fire is not known yet. *Koningin BeatrixM* will be replaced by the reserve lfeboat *Knmr*. (see photo from internet)

OUR HERITAGE (U.K.)

London, Jan 21 — A Maritime and Coastguard Agency press release, timed 1045, UTC, today, states: Stornoway Coastguard were alerted at 0640, this morning, by the Fraserburgh register fishing vessel fishing (general) *Our Heritage* (54 gt, built 1976) that they were taking on water one mile southeast of the Island

of Soay off the southern coast of Skye. The crew of four reported that they had lost engine power as a result of the water ingress and were in need of assistance. A "Mayday" broadcast was made to shipping in the area and the Mallaig RNLI lifeboat was requested to launch and the Coastguard Rescue helicopter from Stornoway was scrambled with pumps on board. The lifeboat when on scene placed two crew members and a pump on board. With the lifeboat's pump working with the vessel's own pumps the situation was quickly brought under control. The lifeboat established a tow with *Our Heritage* and the Coastguard Rescue helicopter was released from the incident. The vessel is being towed to Mallaig Harbour where the Mallaig Coastguard Rescue team will meet them. Martin Collins, Watch Manager, Stornoway Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre, says: "The crew of 'Our Heritage' were quick to alert us to their problem and as a result the Mallaig lifeboat took just 40 minutes to reach their position. The relatively calm weather conditions aided the fast response this morning and will make for an easier tow back to Mallaig".

PASSADEN (Finland)

Hull, Jan 19 — According to the Dock-master at Immingham and its Agents, general cargo *Passaden* had a main engine turbo-charger failure while passing the Immingham Oil Terminal after departure from Immingham at 1030, Jan 16. The vessel was taken in tow and escorted to Grimsby Dock where it berthed at 1500 same day. Vessel conducted repairs and departed Grimsby 0330, yesterday for Rotterdam. — Lloyd's Agents.

PETROKREPOST (Liberia)

London, Jan 24 — Crude oil tanker *Petrokrepost* sailed Tampa Jan 21.

PING YANG NO.8 (Belize)

London, Jan 23 — Following navigation warning issued today: General cargo *Ping Yang No.8* (1424 gt, built 1987) on fire and adrift off Enshu Nada, east coast of Honshu, in lat 34 28N, long 137 55.6E, at 1330, UTC, today.

London, Jan 23 — A press report, dated today, states: The entire crew of 10 Chinese sailors has been rescued from general cargo *Ping Yang No.8* that caught fire 70 nautical miles southeast of Nagoya today. The vessel had 10 sailors and 800 tons of disused electrical machinery on board. It caught fire on this morning, but the cause was not known, said sources with the China Maritime Search and Rescue Centre. The centre asked for assistance from Japanese authorities, who sent a salvage ship, a fireboat and two helicopters to rescue. Six salvage ships were still battling to extinguish the fire.

London, Jan 23 — Following navigation warning issued today: General cargo *Ping Yang No.8* on fire and adrift in lat 34 29.6N, long 138 00E, at 1800, UTC, today.

London, Jan 24 — A press report, dated today, states: Japan's Coast Guard rescued 10 crew members from a freighter off Japan's south-east coast after the ship caught fire, officials said Tuesday. General cargo *Ping Yang No.8*, carrying scrap metal, rubber and other materials, caught fire about 75 kilometres off Cape Irako on Japan's south-east coast shortly after noon on Tuesday, Japan Coast Guard said in a statement. The entire crew of Chinese nationals was rescued, according to Coast Guard official Satoshi Matsuya. Six patrol boats were trying to secure the vessel, which is still afloat and drifting. The ship was heading from Funabashi, just east of Tokyo, to a Chinese port of Haimen near Shanghai, said another Coast Guard official, Masayuki Shimizu. He said the cause of the fire was still under investigation.

London, Jan 24 — Following navigation warning issued today: Situation at 0930, JST, today: Cargo vessel on fire (general cargo *Ping Yang No.8*) "towing for" lat 34 24.5N, long 137 56.6E.

PIONER KHOLMSKA (Russia)

See *Tatarstan*.

PRINSESSE RAGNHILD (Norway)

Portsmouth, UK, Jan 21 — passenger ro/ro *Prinsesse Ragnhild* (35438 gt, built 1981) met some severe weather in the North Sea yesterday evening when a huge wave smashed in some of its front windows causing lots of water to leak into the bridge area. — Correspondent. (Note — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS *Prinsesse Ragnhild* was in lat 58 25 37N, long 05 44 12E, at 1213, UTC, today, speed 17.7 knots, course 311 degrees.)

London, Jan 23 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: Passenger ro/ro *Prinsesse Ragnhild* will undergo repairs at Bergen. The vessel's booked cargo has been transferred to other vessels.

QUEEN ELIZABETH 2 (U.K.)

See "Outbreak Of Virus On United Kingdom Vessel" under "Miscellaneous".

RAVANDA (Turkey)

London, Jan 23 — General cargo *Ravanda* sailed Porto Nogaro Jan 19 for Koper.

ROBERTA TABOR (U.S.A.)

London, Jan 19 — A press report, dated today, states: Salvage operations to recover two barges (that were under tow of tug *Roberta Tabor*) stranded in the Ohio River won't begin before Monday (Jan 22), when high water recedes, the US Coast Guard said. River Salvage Co. of Crescent, Pa., has been hired to secure the two barges that broke loose early Tuesday (Jan 16) when cabling or a coupling snapped just after the tow had cleared McAlpine Locks. Two runaway barges were secured, but one remains partly submerged on the Indiana shore midway between the Sherman Minton and K & I bridges, and another is

partly underwater and lodged at the McAlpine Dam. Both are out of the commercial channel and aren't impeding river traffic. One of the stranded barge's cargo of salt spilled in the river, while the other barge lost about 1,450 tons of liquid fertilizer. The high water diluted the spillage, and there was no environmental damage, the Coast Guard said. US Environmental Protection Agency staff members, who were initially on the scene to monitor the spill, are no longer on site, the Coast Guard said.

London, Jan 19 — A press report, dated today, states: The U.S. Coast Guard has approved a salvage plan for the first of two barges (that were in tow of tug *Roberta Tabor*) stranded in the Ohio River and it should be secured early next week, a Coast Guard spokeswoman said today. Lt. j.g. Tina Owen said a salvage plan for the second partly submerged barge lodged against Gate 2 of McAlpine Dam probably will be submitted for Coast Guard review on Monday (Jan 22), with the hope that it will be secured by the end of next week. The salvage plan was approved for a barge that lost a load of salt and is aground on the Indiana shore midway between the Sherman-Minton and K&I bridges. Owen said the salvage plan submitted by Wes Sanders, a contract marine surveyor hired by American River Transportation of Decatur, Ill., calls for at least two large pumps to empty the water from the stranded barge. That should allow it to float again, at which point it will be pushed by tow to the McBride floating area in New Albany to be surveyed for damage, Owen said. She said the weather and the river level, which is falling after cresting Wednesday, will determine exactly when salvage operations can begin. Salvaging of the barge stuck at McAlpine, which lost a load of liquid fertilizer, might be a bit trickier because it will be harder to reach. Neither remaining barge is interfering with commercial river traffic and the high water diluted the spilled salt and liquid fertilizer, causing little or no environmental damage, the Coast Guard said.

London, Jan 24 — A press report, dated Jan 23, states: High water continued today to impede the effort to refloat two barges (that were in tow of tug *Roberta Tabor*) in the Ohio River, the U.S. Coast Guard said. The barges broke loose from a tow a week ago when cable or couplings holding them together snapped soon after they passed through McAlpine Locks. Both stranded barges are out of the commercial channel and not hindering river traffic. One barge is aground near the Hoosier shore midway between the Sherman Minton and K&I bridges. The Coast Guard has approved a salvage plan for its recovery that will involve pumping out the water and refloating it. Lt. Cmdr. Phillip Ison, a Coast Guard spokesman, said the recovery effort won't begin until the river level "goes down a little more." The second barge is lodged near Gate 2 of McAlpine

Dam, and Ison said the corps has not yet approved a marine surveyor's salvage plan for that vessel. He said the barge probably will be cut in half and the two pieces removed by a crane mounted on a barge. If the river continues to recede, both barges could be secured by late this week, Ison said.

ROKIA DELMAS (Panama)

Nantes, Jan 25 — Roll On Roll Off Container Car *Rokia Delmas* is still in the same position with cargo removal still in progress (about 30 containers remaining on board underdeck, plus wood packages). Cargo removal delayed by prevailing weather conditions. The cutting up of the vessel is not likely to start until all cargo is removed. — Lloyd's Agents.

ROMMEL (Philippines)

Manila, Jan 12 — The Philippine Coast Guard reported that it had issued an emergency salvage permit to Landing Craft Transport, Inc. to refloat the sunken tug *Rommel*, built 1983. The Coast Guard said that it had issued the permit because the wreck posed both a hazard to navigation and a threat to the marine environment. Manila-based Landing Craft Transport is the owner of *Rommel*. The tug is operated by sister company Asian Shipping Corp (ASC). *Rommel* sank on Jan 2 off Tingloy town in Batangas province, south of Manila during a storm. Refloating of *Rommel* is expected to begin within the month. — Lloyd's Agents.

Manila, Jan 18 — The Philippine Coast Guard reported that refloating of tug *Rommel* has started and is being undertaken by its owners, Landing Craft Transport Inc. The Coast Guard said that the vessel is under 50 feet of water. Salvors are reported to be encountering difficulties because of rough seas. The Coast Guard said that it wants the vessel removed from the area as it has begun to leak oil. The vessel is carrying about 25,000 litres of fuel oil in its oil tanks. — Lloyd's Agents.

Manila, Jan 22 — The Philippine Coast Guard reported that attempts to refloat the sunken tug *Rommel* on Monday (Jan 22) had to be called off because of rough seas. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

RONA (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

London, Jan 19 — General cargo *Rona* arrived Riga Jan 11 from Kaliningrad and sailed Jan 15 for Rosyth.

ROSELLA (Panama)

Buenos Aires, Jan 24 — Bulker *Rosella* is still under repair. There is no estimated time of repairs completion. — Lloyd's Agents.

SANDRA (Netherlands Antilles)

London, Jan 20 — Following received from Madrid MRCC, timed 1220, UTC: General cargo *Sandra* (2545 gt, built 2001) is currently being towed to Cartagena, where eta 1700, UTC,

today, from Sagunto, by tug *Tacoronte*, with propeller problems. Repairs are to be carried out at Cartagena.

London, Jan 23 — Following received from Madrid MRCC, timed 1050, UTC: General cargo *Sandra*, in tow of tug *Tacoronte*, arrived safely in Cartagena at about 1700, UTC, Jan 20.

Valencia, Jan 24 — General cargo *Sandra* arrived at Cartagena on the Jan 20 in tow of tug *Tacorante*. Apparently she has a problem with her helm. The vessel commenced repairs in Navantia dry dock on Jan 22. They have dismantled the helm and the repairs are going to take approximately three weeks, as they are waiting for some spare parts of the helm. — Lloyd's Agents.

SANSHA MARU NO.45 (Japan)

Yokohama, Jan 24 — General cargo *Sansha Maru No.45* (499 gt, built 1997), Oita for Tokuyama, and general cargo *Matsushima* (660 gt, built 1983), Komenotsu for Shikama, were in collision in lat 33 45.43N, long 131 45.78E at 2040, local time, Jan 21. Both vessels sustained slight damage but no water ingress, oil spill, or personal injury has been reported. — Lloyd's Agents.

SAVA LAKE (Latvia)

Aarhus, Jan 23 — General cargo *Sava Lake* (2030 gt, built 1990), fully loaded with a cargo of steel, bound Randers, grounded approximately 1200, Jan 22, in lat 56 36.3N, long 10 21.7 E. Environmental vessels are on their way. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Sava Lake* sailed Bremen Jan 20 and passed Skaw southbound at 0051, Jan 22.)

Copenhagen, Jan 23 — According to a press report, the Latvian registered general cargo *Sava Lake* ran aground at the entrance to Randers Fjord. There is no sign of any pollution as the vessel is standing on a sandy bottom. A vessel from the Navy's environmental fleet is on the way to the scene of the grounding. — Correspondent.

London, Jan 24 — Following received from Aarhus MRCC, timed 1100, UTC: General cargo *Sava Lake* is still aground. Negotiations regarding salvage are still ongoing.

SCI TEJ (Marshall Islands)

London, Jan 19 — Information received from Kiel, dated today, states: Container Carrier *SCI Tej* (32630 gt, built 1989) berthed at the Steubenhoeft in Cuxhaven Jan 17 due to machine problems. Before this, the partially loaded vessel anchored on the outer Elbe Roads. As the crew was unable to repair the machine, the ship was towed to Cuxhaven by tugs *Bugsier 12*, *Bugsier 15*, *Bugsier 20* and *Taucher Otto Wulf 3*, where it berthed at 0900 hrs. The repair works will last for about one week.

SEA MASTER ONE (Bangladesh)

Chittagong, Jan 22 — The vessel which grounded at Chittagong Dec 7 and is now being cut into pieces is Bangladesh-flagged inland general

cargo *Sea Master One*, 498 gt, registration No M-10059 issued by Mercantile Marine Dept, Bangladesh, dated Apr 10, 2006. Vessel is owned by Mariners Services Traders. — Lloyd's Agents.

SEASpan 404 (Canada)

London, Jan 22 — Tug *Seaspan Crusader* (148 gt, built 1974), while towing barge *Seaspan 404* (775 gt, built 1966), en route Duncan Bay, reported the barge capsized in lat 50 04N, long 125 17W, at 1853, PST, Jan 18. (Note — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS *Seaspan Crusader* was moored in lat 48 55 43N, long 123 42 14W, at 1945, UTC, today.)

London, Jan 22 — Following received from Victoria, BC, RCC, timed 1950, UTC: It is believed the capsized barge has been towed to Vancouver.

SEASpan CRUSADER (Canada)

See *Seaspan 404*.

SENOPATI NUSANTARA (Indonesia)

Manila, Jan 20 — Three Indonesian warships, *Pulau Rengat*, *Layang* and *Leuse* scoured waters about 30 miles north of Mandalika Island yesterday in an effort to find the wreckage of the sunken ferry *Senopati Nusantara*, Antara News Agency reported. "Divers and the crews of the three warships have begun combing area 4, about 34 miles north of Mandalika Island," Lt Col Toni Syaiful, spokesman of the Eastern Indonesian Fleet Command said. The decision to scour the area was taken after the Indonesian Navy received information from one of the survivors on the possible location of the sunken ship, he said. The Navy had earlier marked eight points as the possible location of the sunken ship. However, only the wreckage of an old ship that gone down a long time ago was found, he said. "If no clue is found in area 4, the naval divers will move north to waters about 60 miles from Mandalika Island," he said. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

SHAH BADAR-I

Chittagong, Jan 23 — Status regarding lightering vessel *Shah Badar-I* remains unchanged, as the Dry Dock is occupied by other vessel. — Lloyd's Agents.

SHENG SONG 1 (China)

London, Jan 19 — A press report, dated today, states: Container Carrier *Sheng Song 1*, 2993 gt, collided with another ship and sank at the mouth of the Yangtze River last night due to poor visibility caused by dense fog. The 14 crew members on board were rescued hours after they were pulled into the water in the accident, said the Shanghai Maritime Safety Administration's Wusong Branch. The branch received a report about the collision around 2300 yesterday and immediately imposed traffic control in the city's north-east Waigaoqiao sea area, where the accident happened. "We dispatched six motorboats and one tug to the site to search for the

crew," said an official with the branch. "Several river cleaning boats and salvage boats also participated to search for the ship's missing containers." *Shengsong-1*, the boat's name in Chinese pinyin, is a 2,993-ton container carrier. It was holding 165 containers in total, with on its deck. The Jiangsu company-owned ship collided with another ship at Waigaoqiao area off of Shanghai as the visibility then was less than 1,100 metres. The condition of the other ship was not mentioned. The branch has recovered 59 containers from the waterway and four patrol boats are still searching for the 30 remaining containers, which pose as a threat to passing ships. Shanghai issued its first yellow fog alert of the year yesterday morning, which means the visibility is less than 500 metres, and it dispersed the alert at noon. "However, the visibility on the water last night was still very poor," said the branch.

London, Jan 19 — A press report, dated today, states: Container Carrier *Sheng Song 1* and general cargo *Yue Shun* collided about 2300 on Thursday (Jan 18) in Waigaoqiao waters. The 2,993-ton Jiangsu Province vessel, *Sheng Song 1*, overturned after the collision. Amazingly, all 14 crew members of the vessel were pulled out of the icy waters uninjured. By yesterday afternoon, maritime workers had found 30 of the 33 containers that floated away after the accident. The Wusong Maritime Safety Administration said visibility on the water has been "terrible" since Thursday.

SIERRA LARA (Panama)

London, Jan 19 — Refrigerated general cargo *Sierra Lara* arrived Falkenberg Jan 17.

London, Jan 24 — Refrigerated general cargo *Sierra Lara*, in tow, arrived at Falkenberg on Jan 17. Understand that the vessel has sustained damage to her prop shaft, propeller blades and bow thruster, along with various denting damages to her hull and bow bulb. *Sierra Lara* is to remain at the yard until the end of this month.

SILVERY SHARK

London, Jan 19 — A press report, dated today, states: Rescuers took 140 people off passenger (cruise) *Silvery Shark*, 53 metres long, Gaozhen township to Chongqing, with 115 passengers and 25 crew on board, stranded yesterday in the Yangtze River off Chongqing Municipality of southwestern China. Sources with the China Maritime Search and Rescue Center said the vessel, of Fengdu Silvery Shark Shipping Service Company, ran aground about 20 metres from the bank at Dabeijiao at 0440 hrs. Rescue boats *Patrol 31137* and *Navigation 1266* arrived at the site about one hour later to ease resulting congestion on the river. It took only 25 minutes for the *Victory*, which arrived at 0550 hrs, to rescue

all the stranded. The passengers have been put aboard the *Hairui Four* to continue their journey.

SKAGERN (Sweden)

Poznan, Jan 23 — General cargo *Skagern* is still under repairs, which are expected to be completed in approximately two weeks. — Lloyd's Agents.

SKY WONDER (Malta)

Buenos Aires, Jan 18 — Passenger (cruise) *Sky Wonder* (46087 gt, built 1984) was grounded yesterday evening with approximately 1600 passengers at 3 km. off the port of Buenos Aires, while the vessel was heading for Punta del Este, in Uruguay. Even though the cause of the grounding has not been established yet, the Argentine Coast Guard has reported that the vessel was apparently moved towards a sandbank due to high winds. Three tug boats are attempting to free the vessel from its condition and two coast guards are assisting it. There is a helicopter hovering over the area to make sure the situation is under control. — Lloyd's Agents. (Note — *Sky Wonder* sailed Santos Jan 14 for Buenos Aires and according to Lloyd's MIU AIS was in lat 34 36 19.49S, long 58 16 47.68W, 5.9 nautical miles from Buenos Aires, speed 6.2 knots, at 1847, UTC, today.)

London, Jan 18 — A press report, dated today, states: Passenger (cruise) *Sky Wonder*, with 1600 Brazilian tourists onboard, ran aground on Thursday (Jan 19) in the Rio de la Plata, before Buenos Aires, Argentine naval authorities said. Argentine media reported that the *Sky Wonder* got stuck in the early hours of Thursday three kilometres away from the port of Buenos Aires and that several units were working to solve the problem to allow the vessel to continue its journey. The authorities said there were no injuries and indicated that the strong wind and sea currents pushed the cruise liner to a bank of sand. After three tug-boats failed in the effort to "rescue" the vessel, the plan was to wait for high tide. The *Sky Wonder* has left Buenos Aires for the Uruguayan resort city of Punta del Este.

London, Jan 18 — A press report, dated today, states: Passenger (cruise) *Sky Wonder* was underway again Thursday (Jan 18) after being grounded for several hours in the Rio de la Plata that leads to Buenos Aires harbour. Strong winds and sea currents had pushed *Sky Wonder* to a bank of sand three kilometres outside Buenos Aires, the vessel's last port of call, authorities said. Argentine naval authorities said that the problem was solved, just as the capital's hotels were preparing to accommodate the guests on board. *Sky Wonder* was headed to the Uruguayan resort city of Punta del Este. Passengers were offered the chance to leave the vessel and spend the day in Buenos Aires, although most chose to remain aboard. Three tug-boats at first failed in the effort to rescue the vessel, but finally

succeeded at high tide. A 50-year-old man suffered a heart problem and had to be treated ashore, but no other injuries were reported. *Sky Wonder*, which left Buenos Aires on Wednesday evening, was set to stop at the nearby Argentine city of La Plata on Thursday so that technicians could check the state of the vessel.

Buenos Aires, Jan 19 — According to the Argentine Coast Guard, passenger (cruise) *Sky Wonder* was taken to La Plata roads in order to be inspected yesterday afternoon. As reported by our Sub-agents at port of La Plata, there was change of pilot at La Plata roads. No repairs were made, as it was not necessary. The vessel continued in its way to its final destination, Punta del Este. — Lloyd's Agents.

SODADE (St. Vincent & Grenadines)

London, Jan 18 — Following received from Coastguard Humber MRSC, timed 1800, UTC: General cargo *Sodade* (2472 gt, built 1985), which anchored in the River Humber and disabled, is now dragging anchor. Vessel is being blown out to sea. Tug *Irishman* is proceeding from Grimsby to make fast.

London, Jan 18 — Following received from Coastguard Humber MRSC, timed 1841, UTC: General cargo *Sodade*, 10 persons on board, cargo attalpulgit, has anchor down close to the Tetney Mono Buoy/ pipeline and dragging anchor. Vessel is dragging clear of pipeline. Humber RNLi lifeboat on scene. Tug *Irishman* on scene and making fast to casualty.

London, Jan 18 — Following received from Coastguard Humber MRSC, timed 1900, UTC: Tug *Irishman* now has a line on general cargo *Sodade* and is moving vessel to anchorage with a view to berthing when the weather moderates. Humber RNLi lifeboat now stood down.

London, Jan 18 — A press release from the Maritime and Coastguard Agency, dated today: General cargo *Sodade*, with ten people on board, is currently sheltering with the assistance of the tug *Irishman* in the bull anchorage of the River Humber without any power and a dragging anchor. The vessel had a pilot board to take it up river early this afternoon; the vessel was without power at this stage. Humber Coastguard offered assistance and requested the launch of the RNLi Humber lifeboat to the scene. Graham Dawson, Watch Manager, Humber Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre says: "The vessel's anchor was dragging and with nearby pipelines it was essential to have a tug assisting the vessel to keep a safe position. It is fortunate that the winds are from the west and assisting in keeping the vessel in safer deeper waters."

London, Jan 19 — Following received from Coastguard Humber MRSC, timed 0402: General cargo *Sodade* is now being towed to Alexander Dock, Hull, ETA 0535, UTC.

London, Jan 19 — Following received from Coastguard Humber MRSC,

timed 0618, UTC: General cargo *Sodade* is now entering Alexander Dock, Hull, in tow of tugs *Irishman* and *Tradesman*.

London, Jan 20 — Understand salvage services were rendered to general cargo *Sodade* by SMS Towage Ltd under Lloyd's Open Form dated Jan 18.

Hull, Jan 23 — General cargo *Sodade* is currently undergoing repairs which are expected to be completed by the end of this week. — Lloyd's Agents.

SPAR GARNET (NIS)

Falmouth, Jan 24 — Bulker *Spar Garnet* is presently leaving the dockyard. — Lloyd's Agents.

Falmouth, Jan 25 — Having completed repairs bulker *Spar Garnet* sailed from Falmouth on Jan 24 bound for Klaipeda. — Lloyd's Agents.

SPRUCE (Marshall Islands)

See *Arisbe*.

STELLAR SEA (U.S.A.)

London, Jan 19 — A press report, dated today, states: Fish factory *Stellar Sea*, that caught fire, was being towed Wednesday (Jan 18) by a Coast Guard cutter to Dutch Harbor, officials said. Fire on board the *Stellar Sea* started at 2220, Tuesday, and was extinguished in about an hour, Coast Guard officials said. No one was injured. The fire left the 316-foot processing boat, which carries a crew of 142, without power or propulsion about 90 miles north of Dutch Harbor. The Coast Guard dispatched the cutter *Mellon* to assist the vessel. The cutter took the *Stellar Sea* under tow until a commercial tugboat could finish the job, said Chief Petty Officer Barry Lane. The first civilian tug dispatched from Dutch Harbor had a problem with its propulsion system and turned back, Lane said. *Mellon* will continue towing the processor until a second tug arrives, Lane said. With relatively calm seven-foot seas, weather was not a problem, Lane said. "There's no foreseeable danger to any of the crew members at this time," he said. The cause of the fire had not been determined.

London, Jan 18 — A press report, dated today, states: Fish factory *Stellar Sea*, that was crippled by an engine fire in the Bering Sea, is scheduled to arrive at Dutch Harbor early this evening.

London, Jan 18 — Following press release from Coast Guard Juneau, Alaska, dated today, states: Fish factory *Stellar Sea*, currently under tow by the commercial tug *James Dunlap*, is expected to arrive in Dutch Harbor at approximately 1600, local time, today. The Coast Guard North Pacific Search and Rescue Coordination Center has released the CGC *Mellon* from the scene, but continues to closely monitor the situation. Upon arrival in Dutch Harbor, a Coast Guard Marine Safety Technician will conduct an examination of the vessel. The weather on scene is north-north-west winds at 19 knots, with waves at eight to 11 feet.

London, Jan 19 — Following received from Coast Guard Juneau, timed 0525,

UTC: Fish factory *Stellar Sea*, under tow of tug *James Dunlop*, arrived safely at Dutch Harbour at 1538 hrs, Jan 18.

Seattle, Jan 23 — Fish factory *Stellar Sea* arrived Dutch Harbor on Jan 18 and disembarked the crew. The US Coast Guard kept all crew off the vessel until a Marine Chemist certified the vessel safe for entry. The crew were allowed back on the vessel on Jan 20. The vessel is currently undergoing repairs to the electrical system, which was damaged in the fire. The main area of damage is the starboard cableway in the engine room. Det Norske Veritas are reportedly allowing temporary splices of electrical cables in the wire way. Clean-up and restoration of house systems are being conducted by crew, along with electricians flown up from Seattle. Trident Seafoods provided one electrician to aid in the repairs. To date, one of the vessel's generators has reportedly been run and has tested satisfactorily. The vessel's refrigeration system has been tested and is operational. CSX has replacement, charged carbon dioxide bottles for the vessel's engine-room fire system en route, with an ETA of Jan 30. The fire was reportedly caused by a broken oil seal on the main engine actuator, disabling the vessel and damaging the engine-room interior and adjacent equipment. Understand the vessel will be temporarily repaired and ready to be cleared by Coast Guard and DNV late next week, and will then resume crab processing operations. The crab fleet that uses *Stellar Sea* as a processor is also idle in Dutch awaiting its repair. Some of the vessels have catches on board and, rather than accept the lower prices at Ackutan, have allowed the catch to remain in the live tanks, resulting to a high mortality rate and the loss of the catch. — Lloyd's Agents.

SUNNA (NIS)

Kirkwall, Jan 23 — General cargo *Sunna* is still at Lyness. General cargo *Sava Hill* is due to arrive Jan 24-25 to tranship the vessel's cargo. — Lloyd's Agents.

TATARSTAN (Russia)

London, Jan 25 — General cargo *Pioner Kholmaka* arrived Vanino Jan 17, and fish factory *Tatarstan* arrived Vladivostok Jan 19.

TAURUS (Estonia)

London, Jan 18 — Trawler *Taurus* (1780 gt, built 1985) was reported aground 80 to 100 m from the dock in Bay Roberts in lat 47 35.30N, long 53 15.54W at 2220, UTC, Jan 16. Vessel reported refloated and secured in Bay Roberts, Newfoundland, at 1035, UTC, Jan 18.

TIN YI (Cambodia)

See *Hong An*.

TONG CHENG (China)

Honolulu, Jan 19 — General cargo *Tong Cheng* arrived off port yesterday,

Jan 18, and is being escorted offshore by the USCG Cutter *Walnut* pending an action plan, as mandated by Homeland Security, US Coast Guard, Incident Command System. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Jan 22 — A press report, dated today, states: The U.S. Coast Guard is monitoring a damaged Chinese cargo ship (general cargo *Tong Cheng*), which will make an unscheduled stop in Hawaii today. Bad weather created a 56-inch hole in the ship's hull, the Coast Guard said. The vessel is about 70 miles west-southwest of Oahu. Navy dive teams went underwater to patch the hole and found that so far no pollution is leaking into the water, officials said.

London, Jan 22 — Following received from Coast Guard Honolulu, timed 2010, UTC, today: General cargo *Tong Cheng* has effected some repairs and is scheduled to arrive at Honolulu anchorage at 1700, local time, today where it will carry out further repairs.

London, Jan 23 — A press report, dated Jan 22, states: The US Coast Guard is monitoring a damaged Chinese cargo vessel, which will now make an unscheduled stop in Honolulu Harbor. General cargo *Tong Cheng* is about 70 miles west-southwest of Oahu. The vessel ran into a storm, which ripped a 56-inch hole in the vessel's hull. A Navy dive team tried to patch the crack and found that so far no pollution is leaking into the water. The vessel is carrying an assortment of cargo including plywood, clothing, fuel and ammunition.

London, Jan 23 — A Coast Guard Honolulu press release, dated Jan 22, states: General cargo *Tong Cheng* has requested authorization for an unscheduled entry into the port of Honolulu to effect repairs to a crack in its hull below the waterline. The Coast Guard dispatched a C130 aircraft, a multi-purpose vessel and an assessment team to the *Tong Cheng* to conduct a preliminary assessment of the damage and to determine if there was any pollution as a result. A sheen was initially observed; however, the source could not be identified. Over flights this morning reported no further sighting of pollution. *Tong Cheng* is approximately 50 miles southwest of Oahu and is under constant monitoring by the Coast Guard. A Unified Command, comprised of the Coast Guard Captain of the Port and representatives from U.S. Customs and Border Protection, the State of Hawaii, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the Shanghai Ocean Shipping Company, *Tong Cheng's* owners, are monitoring the situation from Honolulu. A team of technical experts from the USCG Salvage Engineering Response Team, U.S. Navy Mobile Diving Salvage Unit One, and commercial entities conducted a thorough assessment of the vessel's structural integrity while offshore. Based on that assessment the vessel was granted permission to enter the Captain of the Port Honolulu zone to

effect repairs. The Coast Guard will continue to monitor repairs, and the vessel will receive a safety inspection prior to its departure from Honolulu.

London, Jan 23 — Following received from Coast Guard Honolulu, timed 1755, UTC: General cargo *Tong Cheng* arrived anchorage B, Honolu at 2030, local, yesterday. A soft patch has been fitted to the vessel by a US Navy diving team. Today a double patch will be welded to the vessel.

London, Jan 24 — A press report, dated Jan 23, states: General cargo *Tong Cheng* was forced yesterday to make an unscheduled stop to repair a 56-inch crack on its hull below the waterline. Coast Guard Petty Officer Russ Tibbets said it was not immediately known how long the repair will take. Its crew of 26 will not be allowed to leave the ship while it is anchored off Honolulu Airport's reef runway. Tibbets said the ship's cargo consists of steel, plywood, diesel engines, PVC resin, clothing and ammunition. The ship had left South Korea and was on its way to the Caribbean. The ship notified the Coast Guard on Jan 13 that rough seas on Dec 26 had damaged its No. 2 cargo hold below the waterline on its port side. A Coast Guard C130 aircraft and an assessment team were dispatched to the *Tong Cheng* to conduct a preliminary assessment of the damage and to determine if there was any pollution as a result. Tibbets said a sheen of oil was initially observed Friday when the cargo ship was 75 miles west-southwest of Honolulu. However, the source could not be identified, he said, and nothing else was reported after the first sighting. On Sunday a team of technical experts and divers from the Coast Guard's salvage engineering response team, Navy Mobile Diving Salvage Unit One from Pearl Harbor, and commercial companies assessed the damaged hull and placed a temporary patch, Tibbets said.

Honolulu, Jan 25 — General cargo *Tong Cheng* is currently anchored in the Honolulu Hazardous Anchorage and is being partially dewatered along with the installation of a cofferdam over the patched fractures in the side shell. After completion she is to enter the Barber's Point Deep Harbour to effect temporary repairs. — Lloyd's Agents.

TONG YEUAN 2 (Taiwan)

London, Jan 19 — Following received from Hong Kong MRCC, timed 0436, UTC: Fishing (general) *Tong Yeuan 2*, BJ4740, was abandoned by her five crew today, in lat 22 09N, 115 05E, following ingress of water. The five crew were initially rescued by container carrier *Ever Peace* and then airlifted to Hong Kong by helicopter. Understood vessel is now in a semi-submerged/sunken condition.

TOR BELLONA (U.K.)

London, Jan 21 — Following received from Coastguard Humber MRSC, timed 1225, UTC, today: Roll On Roll Off Container Car *Tor Bellona* (22748

gt, built 1980) while manoeuvring to leave Immingham earlier today, within Immingham port limits, was in contact with two LASH barges. One of the barges sank and the other was holed. The holed barge is now being made watertight and is in the process of being discharged. *Tor Bellona* sustained no apparent damage and has proceeded. (Note — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS *Tor Bellona* was in lat 53 37 43N, long 00 08 48W, at 0605, UTC, today, speed 9.6 knots, course 111.9 degrees.)

TORM ANHOLT (Panama)

London, Jan 23 — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS, bulker *Torm Anholt* was in lat 25 15 31.2N, long 79 59 09W, at 1506, UTC, Jan 19, proceeding on a course of 206 deg at 11.8 knots.

TRANS FREJ (Antigua & Barbuda)

Stockholm, Jan 19 — General cargo *Trans Frej*, Vesteras for Goole via Oxelosund and Helsingborg, grounded near Oxelosund Jan 15. Refloating efforts have been initiated and are currently still ongoing with a barge at the scene to remove containers. The job will probably last over the weekend. Owners/insurers have appointed a third party salvage company to deal with the situation. Minor damage to the ballast tanks have been detected according to diving inspections. — Lloyd's Agents.

Gothenburg, Jan 20 — General cargo *Trans Frej* aground near Oxelosund: On the evening of Jan 18 the Coast Guard reported that later the same evening it was scheduled that some barges with a crane would arrive at the grounding site, but would not start salvage effort until first thing Monday morning, Jan 22. It is required to discharge all containers on deck and some below deck, before any refloating attempts can be made. Before the attempt, all bunker oil onboard is to be pumped to other vessel/barge/tanker in order to lighten ship. The entire salvage operation is scheduled to proceed over a period between five and 10 days, pending the weather situation. Today and for tomorrow winds increasing. — Westax Marine Services AB.

Stockholm, Jan 22 — General cargo *Trans Frej*: Planned activities for the next 24 hours include: Continue the lightening operation. Discharging steel plates. Prepare all ruptured tanks for blow down. Monitor vessels movement and ballast/deballast according to the lightening process. — Lloyd's Agents.

Gothenburg, Jan 23 — At 1635 hrs, yesterday, general cargo *Trans Frej*, having been aground since Jan 14, was after having discharged a great deal of the containers with steel products, pulled off the ground assisted by two tugs. The discharging commenced during the weekend and continued on to discharge containers from the deck and the hold into barges with cranes. Only some 150 tons remained when vessel could be pulled off the ground and brought to the port of Oxelosund for further diving

inspections and discharging of tanks. The Coast Guard vessel checked but no spillage noted during the entire operation. — Westax Marine Services AB.

Gothenburg, Jan 23 — The diving survey of general cargo *Trans Frej* revealed damage to the ships bottom. Two small cracks, 15 and 30cm long in two bottom tanks. Master confirms that the remaining cargo is to be discharged at Oxelosund. No shipyard decided yet. — Westax Marine Services AB.

London, Jan 24 — Understand salvage services were rendered to general cargo *Trans Frej* by Titan Maritime (UK) Ltd under Lloyd's Open Form.

TZINI (Malta)

London, Jan 23 — Following received from the operators of bulker *Tzini*, dated today: *Tzini* is still at Suao and has completed temporary repairs. The vessel is expected to sail in tow Jan 27-28, bound for a shipyard in Vietnam.

VENTO DEL GOLFO (Turkey)

London, Jan 23 — Container carrier *Vento Del Golfo* arrived Tuzla Jan 22.

VICTORY PRIMA (Indonesia)

See *Kadriah II*.

VISAYAN TRADER (Panama)

See *Keoyoung Sun*.

VOLGO-BALT 246 (Russia)

See *Yeditepe S.*

WARFLETH (Antigua & Barbuda)

Falmouth, Jan 22 — General cargo *Warfleth* completed repairs and sailed Falmouth Jan 21, bound for Henglo. — Lloyd's Agents.

WILJACO F9

See *Dennis F.*

WIZARD (Panama)

London, Jan 18 — Following received from Coastguard Dover MRSC, timed 1535, UTC: Fire fighting tug *Wizard* (347 gt, built 1969), Margate Roads for Piraeus, lost starboard anchor and three shackles of cable and is hove-to in anchorage in lat 51 24.79N, long 01 23.62E. Vessel hopes to re-anchor using remaining gear when weather decreases. Wind, westerly force nineteen (severe gale-storm) sea rough. (Note — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS *Wizard* was in lat 51 25.27N, long 01 27.11E, speed 2.4 knots at 1708, UTC.)

London, Jan 18 — Following received from Coastguard Dover MRSC, timed 1825, UTC: Fire fighting tug *Wizard* is underway and proceeding to Dover Port as of 1819, UTC.

Dover, Jan 23 — A new anchor was fitted on board fire fighting tug *Wizard*, and the vessel sailed Dover Jan 22. — Lloyd's Agents.

WORLD DYNASTY (Panama)

London, Jan 22 — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS chemical tanker *World Dynasty* was located stationary 7.5 nautical miles from Tanjung

Pelepas, Malaysia, in lat 01 13 28.53N, long 103 33 29.53E, at 1038, UTC.

WU CHANG HAI (China)

London, Jan 23 — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS, bulker *Wu Chang Hai* was in lat 31 31 34.56N, long 121 30 03.24W, at 0138, UTC, Jan 23, proceeding on a course of 141 deg at 13.9 knots.

YACHT DESTROYED BY CRANE, PORT HUENEME, UNITED STATES

London, Jan 19 — A press report, dated Jan 18, states: A \$3 million yacht was destroyed when the crane unloading it from a cargo ship fell over, port officials said. The 78-foot yacht was on its way from Europe to a private yacht company in Newport Beach when the accident occurred, Port of Hueneme maritime services director Pete Wallace said yesterday. The 34-ton yacht was about 100 feet off the ground Tuesday (Jan 16) when the crane unloading it became unbalanced and tipped over, he said. The crane operator crawled out uninjured, Wallace said.

YANNIS P. (Greece)

Portsmouth, Jan 22 — Crude oil tanker *Yannis P.* (83616 gt, built 2002) caught fire as a result of lightning strike while moored at Shaekharis in Novorossiysk Jan 20. According to the Novorossiysk Commercial Seaport press service the fire was extinguished within 25 minutes. No victims or damage were reported. — Correspondent.

London, Jan 24 — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS, crude oil tanker *Yannis P.* was in lat 41 24 40.44N, long 29 22 59.52E, at 1118, UTC, Jan 24, proceeding on a course of 235 deg at 6.4 knots. (See issue of Jan 24.)

London, Jan 24 — Following received from the managers of crude oil tanker *Yannis P.*, dated today: During loading operations at Pier No 1, Novorossiysk, at 1940, local time, Jan 19, an incident of mast riser fire was caused by an electrical storm. This was immediately tackled by the crew and extinguished within one minute.

YEDITEPE S. (Turkey)

London, Jan 21 — Following received from Ankara MRCC, timed 1015, UTC: Bulker *Yeditepe S.* (10513 gt, built 1978) lost steering while anchoring due to an engine failure in Bosphorus and as a result contacted general cargo *Volgo-Balt 246* (2600 gt, built 1983) and general cargo *Nikolay Zabolotskiy* (3712 gt, built 1975), which were at anchorage, at 0900, local time, Jan 19. Damage minor. (Note — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS: *Yeditepe S.* was an anchor in lat 40 57 18N, long 28 53 39E, at 1027, UTC, today, *Volgo Balt 246* was at anchor in lat 40 57 45N, long 28 54 50E, at 1022, UTC, today and *Nilolay Zabolotskiy* was at anchor in lat 40 57 42N, long 28 54 35E, at 1003, UTC, today.)

YUE SHUN (China)

See *Sheng Song 1.*

ZIM MEDITERRANEAN (Israel)

Leghorn, Jan 24 — At about 1710, local time, Jan 23, container carrier *Zim Mediterranean* (53453 gt, built 2002), while berthed alongside Darsena Toscana quay, Leghorn Port, due to very strong south-westerly wind, broke the forward mooring lines and came into contact with the port side forward shoulder and bow of vehicle carrier *Mignon* (67264 gt, built 1999) which was berthed alongside the opposite Lucca quay. The extent of the damage is presently being assessed. — Lloyd's Agents.

Seizures & Arrests**ANNIE SIERRA (Cyprus)**

Karachi, Jan 25 — The Sindh High Court has ordered Port Qasim Authority to arrest bulker *Annie Sierra* for non payment of crew wages, in the amount of US\$25,000. The vessel will not be permitted to sail until payment is made. The vessel has been under arrest at Port Qasim since Dec 1, over another matter. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

BLUEBIRD**(St. Vincent & Grenadines)**

London, Jan 19 — According to Lloyd's MIU AIS, general cargo *Bluebird* is currently at Liepaja.

CHERYL ANNE (Philippines)

Manila, Jan 19 — The Philippine-registered tug *Jacob 1* and barge *Cheryl Anne* are still detained at Surigao port, Mindanao island, southern Philippines, the Bureau of Customs said Friday (Jan 19) Both vessels are under the custody of both the Philippine Coast Guard and Bureau of Customs pending the resolution of administrative charges filed against the shipowner and cargo owner for violation of the country's environmental laws. The two vessels were seized by Customs officials on Sep 1 last year at Surigao for attempting to smuggle 440,000 gallons of used oil into the country. Used oil is classified as a hazardous waste whose entry is strictly regulated. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

EASTERN POS (South Korea)

London, Jan 19 — General cargo *Eastern Pos* sailed from Hong Kong at 2203 hrs, Jan 18.

IMAN T. (North Korea)

Bucharest, Jan 23 — General cargo *Iman T.* is still at Constantza, under arrest. Between Oct 31 and Dec 6, last year, the vessel was detained by the High Court of Cassation and Justice, pending completion of investigations in a criminal case. Inquiries revealed that on Dec 6 the High Court of Cassation and Justice lifted the detention, but on the same day a court arrest order was obtained by Mittal

Steel of Galatz, Romania, pursuant to an application against the owners of *Iman T.* filed with Constantza Court of Appeal, for breach of a carriage contract/damages. — Lloyd's Agents.

JAPANESE FISHING VESSEL DETAINED BY RUSSIA

London, Jan 22 — A press report, dated Jan 21, states: A Japanese fishing vessel was detained off shore the South Kurils yesterday for poaching in Russian territorial waters. A patrol ship of the Sakhalin Coast Guard Department of the Federal Security Service chased the vessel, which was trying to dodge an inspection. The vessel with six Japanese crew members, which is registered at the Hokkaido Island, was carrying about 1.5 tonnes of fish. It was convoyed to Yuzhno-Kurilsk on the Kunashir Island for a closer inspection. The Japanese Foreign Ministry has demanded explanations and a quick solution of the problem, Tokyo diplomats told Itar-Tass.

PATRICIA (Philippines)

Manila, Jan 24 — Non specific tanker *Patricia* is still under arrest, with no immediate prospects for release. — Lloyd's Agents.

SAOR-2 (Ukraine)

Batumi, Jan 18 — Visited the Coast Guard department regarding fishing (general) *Saor-2* and following reported: Vessel was detained near the region of Ochamchire. According to Georgian rules this area for sailing, for fishing is close. This area is forbidden for sailing. The vessel was arrested on this forbidden area. Presently she is in Poti, the sum of claim is 40,000 gel in US\$23,392. — Lloyd's Agents.

SKY (Cambodia)

Ashdod, Understand that general cargo *Sky* was purchased recently and is going through repair etc. — Lloyd's Agents.

Ashdod, Jan 23 — Understand that general cargo *Sky* has been sold at auction for about US\$ 300,000. Identity of buyers not known, however the operators/ship agents are a company called Dynamic. — Lloyd's Agents.

SUNGAI JULAN 1 (Malaysia)

London, Jan 25 — A press report, dated today, states: Philippine authorities have been holding tug *Sungai Julian 1* (271 gt, built 2003) and its seven Indonesian and five Malaysian crewmen for over three weeks for alleged oil smuggling, officials said today. The vessel was caught illegally unloading oil at the Poro Point special economic zone in San Fernando town, 230 km north-west of Manila, said regional customs chief Edward Baltazar. Baltazar said he issued an order for the vessel's seizure and detention after security personnel caught the vessel's crew in the act of siphoning oil from the vessel to a tanker truck parked along the pier on Jan 1. Since then, the vessel

has been detained at the port and its 12 crewmen prevented from leaving the vessel. Documents submitted to the port authority said the vessel, which was towing a barge loaded with logs from Malaysia to China, would dock at Poro Point only to get provisions, but the crewmen apparently tried to smuggle the oil in collusion with at least two Philippine customs personnel, he said. The vessel was carrying more than 77,000 litres of what is believed to be marine diesel oil worth at least pesos 2.7 million (US\$55,248), but it was not clear how much of the oil had already been unloaded, he said. No arrest order has been issued because investigation into the case has not been fully completed. It is still unclear how the tanker truck was able to leave the port premises. Baltazar said the crewmen face possible smuggling charges.

Pollution**BAYOU PEROT, LOUISIANA, UNITED STATES**

London, Jan 23 — A Coast Guard New Orleans press release, dated Jan 22, states: The Coast Guard is working with local, state and federal agencies today to respond to an oil spill in Bayou Perot La. The oil spill is the result of a damaged sweet medium crude oil wellhead near mile marker 20 of the Gulf Intercoastal Waterway, which was discovered shortly after midnight Saturday (Jan 20). Crews from Coast Guard Sector New Orleans, and Marine Safety Units Morgan City, and Houma, are responding to the spill. The owner of the well, ExPert Oil & Gas LLC of Covington, La., is working with Environmental Safety and Health Consulting and Training Group and Wild Well Control to locate and secure the source of the spill and to conduct cleanup operations. More than 3,200 feet of oil containment boom has been deployed to prevent the oil from spreading, although it has not yet been determined how much oil has entered the water. HH-65 Dolphin helicopter crews from Coast Guard Air Station New Orleans conducted two overflights yesterday to monitor and assess the situation. The captain of the port for the Port of New Orleans has closed the GICW between mile markers 16 and 35. Guard Guard Sector New Orleans is currently investigating the cause of the accident.

London, Jan 24 — A Coast Guard Houma press release, dated Jan 23, states: The Unified Command has reopened the Intracoastal Waterway near Bayou Perot, La., at approximately 0800 today after a portion of ICW was closed due to a damaged oil wellhead that started spilling sweet crude oil into the bayou early Sunday. The ICW was closed

early Sunday between mile markers 19 and 21 when oil from the damaged wellhead entered a portion of the ICW. Cleanup crews have contained and removed the oil from the ICW, and the unified command has reopened the waterway to all vessel traffic. More than 25,000 feet of oil containment boom has been deployed around the wellhead in Bayou Perot and along the neighbouring shoreline. Most of the oil from the wellhead has been contained within Bayou Perot and Little Lake, and oil has been removed from the ICW and Lake Salvador. The Unified Command is positioning crews and equipment today, and operations are scheduled to begin tomorrow morning to secure the wellhead.

ROTTERDAM, NETHERLANDS

See *CMA CGM Claudel*.



AUSTRALIA

London, Jan 19 — A press report, dated today, states; The town of Coober Pedy is being threatened by flooding, as heavy rainfall continues in South Australia's far north. Other communities have been cut off by the storms in far north South Australia. Food and medical supplies will be dropped by air into Oodnadatta, William Creek, Tarcoola and Marree, which have been isolated by flooding and road closures. The State Emergency Service (SES) is working to sandbag areas of Coober Pedy but says it is getting difficult to move around the town. SES state duty officer Alan McDougall says flooding is up to 50 cm deep in some parts of the town. Mr McDougall says numerous houses and business have been flooded, and many more are being threatened as the rain continues. SES crews are also working in the state's south-east, where flooding is affecting the main street of Meningie.

London, Jan 22 — A press report, dated Jan 21, states: Repairs to flood-damaged roads in South Australia are expected to take weeks and cost hundreds of thousands of dollars. The damage bill is still being worked out, as the clean up in the state's north continues. The State Emergency Service says flood damage to homes is not serious. But Transport Department spokesman Peter Short says roads have not fared as well, particularly near Hawker. SES spokesman Colin Goodrich says some people are still stranded but are not in any immediate danger.

London, Jan 22 — A press report, dated today, states: The operator of the Whyalla steelworks in South Australia is facing a damage bill of between \$15 million and \$30 million because of floods in the area. OneSteel says steel manufacturing at the plant had to be shut down but is expected to

resume later today. Executive general manager Mark Parry says the transport of iron ore has also been disrupted with the flooding damaging rail lines. "The major damage is certainly the rail line that runs between the iron ore mine at Middleback Ranges to the steelworks," he said. "We've got crews currently assessing that and commencing repair work but that's one area of the plant we expect to be out for the next week."

EUROPE

London, Jan 20 — A press report, dated Jan 19, states: The increasingly severe hurricane-force winds over northern and north-eastern Europe have caused delays and cancellations to airline services across the continent. The storm has also had an impact on Swiss flight operations, causing severe delays. Swiss has been forced to cancel 78 flights. British Airways has cancelled 130 flights from Heathrow to Manchester and Liverpool. In Frankfurt's Airport 188 flights have been cancelled. France has also problems where 19 flights from Paris Roissy Charles de Gaulle Airport have been cancelled and the same situation is in the three major airports of Switzerland where around 100 flights have been cancelled. Big were also the problems in the railways with Eurostar canceling all its itineraries between London-Paris and London-Brussels. In Germany for the first time of the country's railway network history, the authorities had been forced to cancel many itineraries. Deutsche Bahn has announced that many lines are remaining closed from falling trees. Huge problems are also facing the railway connections to Holland, Poland and Czech Republic.

London, Jan 20 — A press report, dated Jan 19, states: Poland and the Czech Republic are the latest countries to have been hit by a storm that has swept northern Europe leaving at least 43 people dead. At least six people were reported killed in Poland as winds of more than 200km/h were recorded. Germany, the UK, France, Belgium, and the Netherlands were picking themselves up today after the storm passed. Some services returned to normal, but thousands of travellers were still stranded and homes left without power. Late today, high winds reached Russia and Ukraine, with a pipeline carrying Russian oil to the EU via Ukraine being temporarily shut down after power was knocked out. Roads, rail lines and electricity pylons have been taken out of action across northern Europe by falling trees, collapsing walls and flying wreckage. In Germany, the 11 dead included an 18-month-old baby killed by a door that was ripped off its hinges in Munich, while a 73-year-old man died in Augsburg when a barn door fell on him. Eleven people were killed in Britain. In the Netherlands, an 11-year-old boy was killed in the town of Riel when he was blown into a car, AFP reported. As the storm moved east, a Polish crane operator in the

southern town of Katowice was reported killed when his machinery collapsed, and another died in Zaborow, near Warsaw, when the roof of his house fell in. At one point, in the Czech Republic a million people faced power cuts. A million households in Germany also suffered blackouts and tens of thousands of homes in Poland, Austria, northern France and the UK were also hit. Normal rail operations were resuming in Germany after the entire network was closed down as a precautionary measure for the first time in its history. The disruption came after Berlin's new central station, the biggest rail hub in Europe, was evacuated after the winds tore off a two-tonne steel girder, which crashed 40m (130ft) onto a stairway.

HURRICANE "KATRINA"

London, Jan 22 — A press report, dated Jan 21, states: On the eve of trial, State Farm has agreed to pay an estimated \$1 million to settle a lawsuit by a Mississippi Gulf Coast resident whose house was destroyed by Hurricane "Katrina." The settlement came a week after a jury ordered the insurer to pay \$2.5 million in punitive damages to a homeowner with a similar case. State Farm and lawyers for the homeowner confirmed the settlement Friday (Jan 19). They would not say how much State Farm would pay, but trial lawyers not involved in the case said simple mathematics and logic suggested that the insurer had agreed to pay about \$1 million. By settling the lawsuit, the lawyers said, State Farm eliminated the risk of another huge punitive award and more of the bad publicity that has been shadowing it and other insurers that have refused to pay for widespread flood damage caused by Hurricane "Katrina" in August 2005. The benefit to the homeowner, Richard Tejedor, a respiratory specialist from Long Beach, Mississippi, was that he would receive the money soon, the lawyers said, rather than having to wait through the long appeal process expected for the family that won the court decision last week. The settlement also eliminated the slim possibility that the same federal judge and another jury of Mississippi coast residents would be less sympathetic to Tejedor than to the other family, which was awarded the full \$223,000 for which they had insured their home plus \$2.5 million in punitive damages. The trial on the Tejedor case had been scheduled to begin Monday. State Farm settled with Tejedor as it was in the midst of negotiations to settle hundreds of other Hurricane "Katrina" lawsuits and reopen up to 35,000 damage claims that had been closed. In an eventual settlement, State Farm is expected to pay at least \$130 million. Other insurers are then expected to settle similar lawsuits and reopen tens of thousands of damage claims that lawyers for homeowners say were underpaid. That could mean that hundreds of millions of dollars more would pour into the Mississippi coast and jump-start a long-delayed

recovery from the ravages of Hurricane "Katrina." Participants have said that a settlement has been close for two weeks, but that final agreement is being blocked by Jim Hood, the Mississippi attorney general. He said in an interview Thursday that he was holding out for the best deal for Mississippi policyholders. Jack Denton and William Walker Jr., lawyers for Tejedor, had sought \$5 million in their lawsuit, mostly in punitive damages. But other lawyers said that U.S. guidelines generally limit punitive damages to 10 times the amount that a homeowner is awarded for property damage, which in Tejedor's case would amount to considerably less than \$5 million. Lawyers estimated that Tejedor might have received a maximum of a little more than \$1 million from State Farm for punitive damages.

London, Jan 24 — A press report, dated Jan 23, states: State Farm Fire & Casualty Co. agreed to settle hundreds of lawsuits by policyholders and reopen thousands of other disputed claims, a deal potentially worth hundreds of millions of homeowners devastated by Hurricane "Katrina," a company spokesman said. State Farm spokesman Phil Supple said today the company will reopen and review claims for policyholders on Mississippi's Gulf Coast whose claims were denied but haven't sued the company. That part of the settlement could be worth hundreds of millions of dollars for roughly 35,000 policyholders, a person with direct knowledge of the settlement said. "The agreement greatly reduces the time, the risk and the expense of defending multiple claims in individual litigation," Supple said. State Farm's agreement with Mississippi Attorney General Jim Hood and lawyers for more than 600 policyholders resolves a civil lawsuit that Hood filed against the company for refusing to cover damage from the storm surge nearly 17 months ago. The money for the settlement will come from State Farm's assets, Supple said. The accord also resolves Hood's criminal probe of allegations that the Bloomington, Illinois-based insurer fraudulently denied claims after the August 2005 storm. "I hope that this settlement with State Farm will encourage other insurers to join the settlement, so that we can get a quick flow of capital into our coastal counties at this critical time," Hood said in a statement. The settlement calls for State Farm to pay about \$80 million to 639 policyholders, including U.S. Sen. Trent Lott, whose claims were denied after "Katrina," according to the person with knowledge of the settlement. These policyholders, all represented by a legal team led by high-profile attorney Richard "Dickie" Scruggs, will receive an average of about \$125,000. Mississippi's mass settlement does not involve any claims in other states. U.S. District Judge L.T. Senter Jr. was presented today with the portion of the agreement that benefits the

thousands of policyholders who did not sue State Farm. He hasn't been asked to sign off on the deal with Scruggs' clients. Supple said State Farm will review claims filed by policyholders in Mississippi's three coastal counties whose claims were denied but did not sue the company. They can have their claims "reevaluated, and, if they choose, have their claims resolved by binding arbitration," he added. The settlement comes less than two weeks after a federal jury in Gulfport awarded \$2.5 million in punitive damages to a couple who sued State Farm for denying their claim after "Katrina." A judge took part of that case out of jurors' hands, ruling that State Farm is liable for \$223,292 in storm damage to the Biloxi home of Norman and Genevieve Broussard. Hood has investigated allegations that State Farm and other insurers have fraudulently denied claims after "Katrina." Last week, a grand jury in Pascagoula began hearing testimony on those allegations. State Farm attorneys say a federal grand jury has been probing similar allegations. Scruggs and other attorneys have accused State Farm of pressuring its engineers to alter reports and change their conclusions on whether Katrina's wind or water was responsible for damage to homes.

IRAQ

London, Jan 22 — Navigation operations at Basrah Oil Terminal resumed at 0530, today after rough weather in the area eased. Berthing and sailing operations at the terminal had been temporarily suspended due to rough weather since 0800, yesterday.

ISRAEL

London, Jan 22 — A press report, dated Jan 21, states: Ships were ordered to leave Haifa harbour and to anchor outside the breakwater after an overnight storm drove waves to heights of more than three meters, and a harbour pilot boat sank after the surf forced it into a wharf, Israel Radio reported today. It said the high waves covered the harbour breakwater, built by British authorities during the pre-state Mandate period. The contact with the wharf opened cracks in the hull of the stricken boat, used to guide ships in and out of the breakwater. Water then entered, sinking the vessel.

NORTHERN EUROPE

London, Jan 19 — A press report, dated today, states: Europeans worked today to restore services across the continent after hurricane-force winds toppled trees, brought down power lines and damaged buildings, killing at least 47 people and disrupting travel for tens of thousands. Berlin's new main train station was shut down after a two-ton girder fell from the side of the glass facade onto an outdoor staircase. The station was evacuated after the beam plummeted 130 feet Thursday night (Jan 19), but there were no injuries. Virtually the

entire German national railway system shut down during the storm, with trees over many tracks and overhead power lines down, and services were being restored gradually Friday. More than 1 million homes had no electricity in the Czech Republic, which was hit by winds of up to 112 mph, another 1 million households in Germany suffered power losses, while tens of thousands in Poland and Austria also were hit with outages. The flow of Russian oil through a Ukrainian pipeline to other parts of Europe was restored Friday after a temporary shutdown caused when the storm knocked out power to a pumping station. The interruption occurred Thursday night on a section of the Druzhba, or Friendship, pipeline from the city of Brody in western Ukraine to Slovakia and Hungary, but Oleksandr Dikusarov, a spokesman for the Ukrtransnafta pipeline company, said the flow of oil was fully restored Friday afternoon. Hurricane-force winds and driving rain left 14 people dead in Britain, 12 in Germany, six each in the Netherlands and Poland, four in the Czech Republic, three in France and two in Belgium. It was the highest death toll from a storm in Europe since 1999, when gales downed trees and driving snow brought on avalanches, killing more than 120 in three days. Climate researchers had been predicting stormy weather this year for parts of Europe, saying that unusually high temperatures in the North Atlantic, around 1 to 2 degrees above normal, would allow winds to accumulate more moisture and surge in energy. Frankfurt Airport reported that flights were again leaving regularly Friday after some morning delays and 200 cancellations Thursday. National carrier Lufthansa canceled 331 flights across Germany on Thursday, affecting nearly 19,000 passengers, but intercontinental flights were largely on time again Friday, spokesman Thomas Jachnow said. British Airways cancelled 34 incoming flights to London's Heathrow and Gatwick airports and the two main London-to-Scotland rail routes ran reduced services. Eurostar was running full service again, after one early Paris-to-London train was cancelled. Meanwhile, London Bridge station was reopened after being closed after part of a roof collapsed. British train companies warned of delays through the day as repairs were carried out. Thousands of Dutch commuters were stranded overnight when the service was halted on all trains because of obstructions to the tracks and downed power cables. By early Friday, most Dutch trains were running again after engineers worked through the night to clear debris and repair power lines, the railway said. German subways, trams and buses were largely back in service, but only a few long-distance trains were running. The highest winds were felt in the southern state of Bavaria, where gusts of up to 126 mph were recorded.

London, Jan 19 — Pilotage for large vessels at Rotterdam resumed at 0945 this morning (Jan 19) after being suspended due to bad weather yesterday.

London, Jan 19 — Ports around Britain are today recovering from the severe storms that lashed parts of the country yesterday (Jan 18). Below is a round-up of the post-storm status of ports: **ABERDEEN/PETERHEAD**: No delays or damage due to the weather. **BRISTOL CHANNEL**: General weather delays. Storm force winds on January 18 until 1530. Swansea pipe off-loading stopped, OK today. Newport steel coils off-loading stopped all day yesterday due to high winds/rain. OK today. Cardiff tanker operations unaffected. No damages or casualties. **FELIXSTOWE**: No delays or damage due to the weather. **G R A N G E M O U T H / H O U N D P O I N T**. **BRAEFoot BAY**: No delays or damage due to the weather. **IMMINGHAM**: No delays or damage due to the weather. **LERWICK/SCALLOWAY**: No delays or damage due to the weather. **MERSEY/MSC**: General Weather delays. The port of Liverpool, including the Manchester Ship Canal, suspended all arrivals and sailings from 1400 on Jan 18 to 0600 today. No damage or casualties. **PEMBROKE/MILFORD HAVEN**: General Weather delays. From approx 2200 hrs on Jan 17 to 1600 hrs on Jan 18 no cargo operations due to gale force winds and no pilotage movements. Winds of more than 60 knots were recorded yesterday. No damage or casualties. **SOUTHAMPTON**: General weather delays. Southampton port was closed from about 0500 to 2000 hrs on Jan 19. Damage/Casualties *MSC Napoli* in danger, tow re-established this morning. **SULLOM VOE**: No delays or damage due to the weather. **TEES**: No delays or damage due to the weather. **THAMES/MEDWAY**: General weather delays. Sunk went off Station from 0830 18th for about 12 hrs. NE Spit was still operational. No damages or casualties.

London, Jan 19 — A press report, dated today, states: The bill for damage caused by Britain's strongest storms in 17 years may run into hundreds of millions of pounds, insurers say. Eleven people died on Thursday (Jan 18) as parts of the country were battered by gusts of up to 99mph. Thousands of homes remain without power, flooding warnings are in place and travellers still face disruption. Insurance firms have drafted in extra staff to answer calls about damage to property and vehicles. Czech insurance company *Ceska Pojistovna* said it had received about 3,000 damage reports following last night's storm. The company said it estimates there could be up to 12,000 overall, costing the company as much as 200 mln Czech koruna. "In most cases, these are ruined roofs, broken eaves and damaged cars," CP spokesman Vaclav Balek said. Insurance company *Kooperativa* said

it had received more than 2,000 damage reports so far, estimating compensation at 30 mln Czech koruna so far, rising as more claims are made.

London, Jan 20 — A press report, dated Jan 19, states: Drivers were caught up in traffic chaos around Britain's biggest container terminal today with the port set to remain closed all day after gales left stacks of boxes in a dangerous condition. Despite the wind dropping, officials said the Port of Felixstowe would not re-open until this evening because of the numbers of containers which had been blown about or dislodged. Experts made a thorough inspection of the quayside storage parks, where tens of thousands of boxes are kept waiting to be collected by truckers or loaded onto ships, to assess the damage. They found the hours of buffeting by the winds had left several stacks in a hazardous state and will spend most of today making them safe. Many of the boxes are empty, waiting to be returned to the Far East to be filled up with goods for British shops, and are very light and easily moved by the high winds. A port statement said: "The Port of Felixstowe continues to be affected by very strong winds. Early investigations have identified a number of unstable stacks within the container storage areas and a robust recovery plan is being drawn up. There will therefore be a delay between the period when the wind drops and the port returns to normal service. We obviously recognise the inconvenience that this will cause to many of our users but are confident you will understand that safety considerations take precedence in this situation." Current indications are that the port will not return to full operations until about 1900 hrs. Port police said Operation Stack was in operation and all lorries should join the queues on the A14 Port of Felixstowe Road between the dock spur roundabout and Dock Gate One remaining in the outer lane until directed by a Suffolk police officer. Lorry drivers were advised to stay away from the area if possible and to park up and wait until the terminal re-opens.

London, Jan 23 — A press report, dated Jan 22, states: Clients of insurance companies in the Czech Republic have so far made 28,000 claims of damage worth a total CZK 485 million caused by the extremely strong winds that swept the country a few days ago, secretary of the Czech Insurers' Association Tomas Sikora said today. The figures are not definitive, and the damage may still rise by hundreds of millions, according to the insurers' estimates. *Ceska pojistovna* alone expects its clients to raise damage claims worth CZK 500 million in total. *Kooperativa* insurer has so far registered damage worth over CZK 100 million, *Generali* CZK 35 million, *Allianz* an estimated CZK 100 million to CZK 150 million, and *UNIQA* CZK 30 million to CZK 35 million, the companies informed.

PERU

London, Jan 25 — A press report, dated Jan 24, states: Floods and mudslides in central Peru have left at least 16 people dead and scores homeless, the authorities say. Some 20 people are reported missing in the San Ramon district, Junin province, where a state of emergency is in place. On Monday (Jan 22), rivers burst their banks and mudslides buried villages after a weekend of torrential rains. The search for survivors and bodies goes on, but officials say they are struggling to clear the mud and provide food and shelter for those affected. Routes into the region were cut off, completely isolating some of the affected areas and hampering rescue and recovery efforts. Many of the fatalities are reported to be children who were swept away by the landslides in the middle of the night. A number of houses were completely destroyed by the mudslides, leaving about 150 families homeless. Many of them have been sifting through the mud to recover what is left of their possessions. An estimated 4,000 people have been affected by the disaster. Meteorologists have warned that more rain is expected in the coming days.

RUSSIA

London, Jan 18 — A heavy storm is expected at Novorossiysk from this evening, Jan 18, until Saturday (Jan 20) morning, according to the weather forecast for the next 24 hours. The bad weather may prompt the closure of the port for the duration of the storm. The weather forecast for Novorossiysk port, valid from 2200 today to 2200 tomorrow (Jan 19) states: Wind: S 18-23 m/sec, morning/daytime gusts 28 m/sec Sea swell: 1.5-3.0 m, morning/daytime 3.0-5.0 m Visibility: 4-10 km Gale Warning No.20 declared at 1310 today states that southerly winds up to 12-17 m/sec are expected between 1500 and 1800 today at Novorossiysk harbour, with an increase between 0100 and 0500 tomorrow up to 18-23 m/sec. Sea swell of 1.5-3,0 m expected.

TROPICAL CYCLONE "ARTHUR"

London, Jan 25 — Following received from the Meteorological Office: Tropical cyclone located near lat 15.7S, long 160.7W at 0001, Jan 25. Movement past six hours: 105 degrees at 23 knots, position accurate to within 40 nautical miles, position based on centre located by satellite. Present wind distribution: Maximum sustained winds: 65 knots with gusts to 80 knots. Radius of 50-knot winds: 25 nautical miles Radius of 34-knot winds: 55 nautical miles northeast quadrant 75 nautical miles southeast quadrant, 70 nautical miles southwest quadrant, 65 nautical miles northwest quadrant. Forecast for 0001, Jan 26: Position near lat 20.7S, 153.2W with maximum sustained winds of 40 knots and gusts to 50 knots, becoming extratropical. Radius of 34-knot winds 45 nautical miles northeast quadrant, 65 nautical miles southeast quadrant, 60 nautical miles southwest quadrant,

55 nautical miles northwest quadrant. Tropical cyclone "Arthur", located approximately 590 nautical miles east of Pago Pago, American Samoa, has tracked east-southeastward at 23 knots over the past six hours. Maximum significant wave height at 0001, UTC, today, is 10 feet.

TURKEY

London, Jan 19 — Traffic open from North to South at 1130, today, Pilotage suspended due to strong wind south westerly and current in side will be suspended night.

London, Jan 19 — The transit program for southbound traffic in the Istanbul Strait has been cancelled today due to bad weather conditions. (See issue of Jan 20.)

Istanbul, Jan 19 — Traffic suspended from north to south at 2130, Jan 19, pilot service and quarantine service suspended due to strong wind, southwesterly traffic will be open noon Jan 20. — TurkishStraits.com.

Istanbul, Jan 24 — Pilotage services have been suspended on all vessels at 1530, Jan 24, due to strong weather in the Strait of Istanbul. Traffic will be open from north only, without pilot vessel, at 1615, Jan 24. — TurkishStraits.com.

UNITED STATES

London, Jan 19 — A press report, dated today, states: Damages from the crippling late-December snowstorm that blanketed western Kansas with snow and ice, downing power lines and killing thousands of head of cattle, will exceed \$360 million. The Kansas Adjutant General's Department released its damage estimate on Thursday, after a number of assessments in the 44 western Kansas counties that were declared a disaster area by President Bush. Not included in the estimate is damage to individual homes and businesses, which would not be eligible for the federal aid. Sharon Watson, a spokeswoman for the Kansas Adjutant General's Department, which oversees the Kansas Division of Emergency Management, said rural electric cooperatives in the affected counties will be reimbursed \$350 million by the federal government. At least \$10 million will be given to cities, counties and nonprofit organizations. Damage estimates could still grow in the coming weeks, as US Department of Agriculture officials get a bearing on the effect the storm had on the state cattle industry. Information supplied by the governor's office puts damages at more than \$200 million, based only on weight loss of surviving animals.

Earthquakes



INDONESIA

London, Jan 19 — A press report, dated today, states: An earthquake

measuring 5.8 on the Richter scale jolted part of Yogyakarta province at 0944 on Friday (Jan 19) but there was no immediate report of casualty. The quake's epicentre was located in the Indian Ocean about 83 km southwest of Yogyakarta at a depth of up to 30 km, spokesperson of the Yogyakarta Meteorology and Geophysics Agency (BMG) Dian Susri said. "The tremor was felt by people living in almost all areas in the province, including Kulonprogo, Bantul and Yogyakarta," she said.

London, Jan 22 — A press report, dated Jan 21, states: An earthquake measuring 7.3 has struck near the Indonesian island of Sulawesi the US Geological Survey said. It centred in the Molucca Sea at 1927, 1127 UTC, some 160 km south-east of the city of Manado. An official from the meteorology department in Jakarta said there were five aftershocks in the first hour. Indonesian officials put the strength of the quake at 6.5 but said there was no longer risk of a tsunami following initial warnings. A spokesman for the Hawaii-based Pacific Tsunami Warning Center had said there were dangers of a "localised" tsunami, stretching from 100-200km from the epicentre. "After one hour we called the port authority in Manado and there was no rise in sea level. Therefore we cancel the possibility of tsunami taking place," the meteorology department official was quoted by AFP news agency as saying. The Associated Press news agency reported a witness on Sulawesi as saying that at least three residents were injured by the quake. But Indonesian authorities said there were no reports of damage or casualties, AFP said. The earthquake was centred some 51km under the seabed.

London, Jan 23 — A press report, dated today, states: Officials say one person has been killed and two others have been injured after a powerful undersea earthquake rocked northern Indonesia. Weather bureau spokesman Bayu says a series of serious aftershocks have continued to rattle the area. "More than 10 aftershocks have been recorded since the initial earthquake, with the strongest, a magnitude 6.0, striking at 0350 hrs," he said. The weather bureau says the initial quake had a magnitude of 6.5. Police spokesman Benny Bella says there has been no significant damage. "Only small cracks on walls and broken window panels were reported," he said. Bayu says the most recent aftershock, with a magnitude of 5.0, struck shortly after 1000, AEDT.

Political & Civil Unrest



COLOMBIA

London, Jan 19 — A press report, dated Jan 18, states: A pick-up truck carrying 660 pounds of explosives

destroyed a dairy plant owned by Swiss food giant Nestle SA in southern Colombia, an attack police attributed today to leftist rebels. The attack was the second this week against a Nestle facility in Caqueta state, located in the country's impoverished southern half and engulfed in coca, the base ingredient of cocaine. The state is a long-time stronghold of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC. One person was injured in the attack yesterday evening in Doncello, 220 miles south of Bogota, as milk trucks were entering the plant, said Col. William Urrego, police commander in Caqueta. An unidentified man sneaked past security, parked the truck loaded with plastic explosives inside the facility, then ran toward the plant's gates. Minutes later, a blast flattened the plant. Police have not identified or arrested any suspects in the attack, which appeared to be part of a FARC offensive directed against Nestle. The plant was one of six operated by the Swiss multinational in Caqueta, said Mario Miranda, a company spokesman in the capital of Bogota. On Monday (Jan 15), two cold-storage tanks owned by a Nestle supplier outside the town of San Vicente de Caguan were blown up in an attack also attributed to the FARC. No one was injured. Miranda denied Colombian media reports that the FARC in recent days demanded the company pay money or face an attack. "I have no idea why these attacks have taken place," Miranda said. Nestle has operated in Caqueta for 32 years, he said. Caqueta is overrun by rebels who depend on the drug trade to finance their insurgency. Coca is the region's main cash crop, and the United States last year quietly cut off economic aid to the state, citing security concerns and a lack of private investment.

INDIA

Guwahati, India, Jan 20 — A motorcycle bomb killed two people and wounded seven in a crowded market in India's troubled northeastern state of Assam today, police said. They said suspected rebels belonging to the separatist United Liberation Front of Asom (ULFA) were behind the explosion in Tinsukia town, about 600 km east of the state's main city, Guwahati. "The bomb was kept on a motorbike on the roadside," a police officer said. A man died on the spot while another succumbed to his injuries in a hospital, he added. Violence has flared in oil- and timber-rich Assam in recent months after talks between representatives of the rebel group and the Indian government failed to make headway. Two people were killed and 10 others wounded yesterday in a bomb blast at a crowded bus station in Guwahati and earlier this month, 72 labourers, who were not from the state, were killed by suspected ULFA militants, prompting a visit to the region by the prime minister. — Reuters.

Bangalore, Jan 22 — Federal police were deployed and schools were shut

in India's technology hub of Bangalore today after communal rioting between Hindus and Muslims left one 12-year-old boy dead and dozens of people hurt. Protests by thousands of Muslims against last month's execution of Saddam Hussein in Iraq sparked a chain of violence over the weekend (Jan 20-21) between the minority Muslims and nationalist Hindus, police and witnesses said. Riot police patrolled empty streets of downtown Bangalore today but operations in the city's numerous software firms and call centres, mostly outside the city centre, were unaffected. "We are working. There is no change in our schedule," said a spokeswoman for Infosys Technologies Ltd., India's second-largest software exporter. Muslims protesting against the execution of Iraq's toppled president clashed with police on Friday, ransacking shops owned by Hindus and burning at least 15 cars. Protesters at a rally yesterday of the Hindu nationalist Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (National Volunteer Corps) then attacked shops owned by minority Muslims and stoned vehicles, forcing police to fire on rampaging crowds. "All steps are being taken to bring the city to normalcy," Karnataka State Home Minister M.P. Prakash said. Police said at least 150 people had been arrested yesterday. — Reuters.

INDONESIA

London, Jan 19 — A press report, dated today, states: Police in Indonesia say there has been a series of explosions in central Sulawesi province, where officers have been hunting for several suspected militants. They believe at least three blasts were carried out by people on the wanted list. Police have been hunting for 29 people suspected of a series of anti-Christian attacks in Poso district. Ten have already been arrested or killed.

IRAQ

London, Jan 18 — A press report, dated today, states: Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki said 400 fighters from a key backer of the Shiite-led government have been arrested, and a government spokesman said Thursday the US is not giving Iraqi security forces enough money for training and equipment. Al-Maliki's claim sought to address doubts about his willingness to take on the Shiite militiamen, especially the Mahdi Army loyal to his key supporter, the radical cleric Muqtada al-Sadr. Al-Sadr's militiamen are believed responsible for much of the sectarian violence in Baghdad in the past year. Bombers and gunmen killed at least 23 people in a series of attacks as violence surged in Baghdad ahead of a planned US-Iraqi security crackdown. In the deadliest attack Thursday (Jan 18), three car bombs detonated within minutes of each other in front of a wholesale vegetable market near a Shiite enclave on the edge of the predominantly Sunni neighbourhood of Dora in southern

Baghdad, killing 10 people and wounding 30, police said. The 1020 blast blew off part of the metal roof of a loading area. A burned-out van still had its bundle of lettuce and onions tied to the top. About an hour later, a parked car bomb also struck a religiously mixed commercial area on a busy Baghdad street, killing four people and wounding 10 others. The blast burned many cars and shattered nearby windows. Earlier, a car bomb blew up as an Iraqi police patrol passed in a volatile area of central Baghdad, killing four people, including two policemen, and wounding 11, according to police. Gunmen also opened fire on a police patrol near the al-Shaab stadium in eastern Baghdad, killing one policeman and wounding another, police said. Nobody claimed responsibility for the attacks, but car bombings are the hallmark of Sunni militants, who appear to be taking advantage of a waiting period before a planned US-Iraqi security crackdown in Baghdad to step up attacks on Shiites. Two mortar shells hit a residential area in Azamiyah, a predominantly Sunni neighbourhood in northern Baghdad, killing two civilians and wounding 13. A car parked near a police station in eastern Baghdad exploded, killing one civilian and wounding eight. At least three people were killed in the northern city of Mosul, one by a roadside bomb and two who were shot to death when gunmen opened fire on the convoy of a wedding procession.

London, Jan 19 — Six British soldiers were wounded in rocket and mortar attacks on their base in the southern Iraqi city of Basra today, the Ministry of Defence said today. "There were three separate attacks from indirect and direct fire on Basra palace and as a result one soldier sustained serious injuries and five others minor injuries," a ministry spokeswoman said. Four of the soldiers were evacuated to a field hospital for treatment while two were treated at their base, the spokeswoman said. — Reuters.

Baghdad, Jan 20 — Five mortars hit a residential area in northern Baghdad today, killing four people and wounding six more, a police source said. There were conflicting reports, as is common in Iraq, on the number of casualties from the mortar explosions in Suleigh, a mixed area where both Shi'ites and Sunni Arabs live. "I saw three dead and 25 wounded, some of them seriously," said Abu Aliyaa, a resident of the area, who heard five blasts. One source at the nearby Nuaaman hospital said 17 bodies had been brought to the hospital and 49 wounded but there was no confirmation of that or whether all the casualties were from the mortar attacks. A police source put the death toll at four with six wounded. The source said another mortar attack in the neighbouring district of Raghiba Khatoun had killed one person and wounded nine. Mortar attacks rarely kill a large number of people unless they hit a crowded area such as a restaurant or market. — Reuters.

LEBANON

London, Jan 24 — A press report, dated Jan 23, states: Hezbollah-led opposition protesters paralysed Lebanon today by burning tyres and cars in and around the capital, sparking clashes with government supporters amid a general strike aimed at toppling US-backed Prime Minister Fuad Saniora. What had been planned as a peaceful work-stoppage around the country turned into the worst violence since the pro-Syrian Shiite Hezbollah movement and its allies launched its campaign two months ago to oust the government. Black clouds billowed over parts of Beirut as opposition supporters set up burning roadblocks on main routes and at entrances to the capital, as well as in other major cities to enforce the strike. Commuters were stranded and business came to halt in many districts. In some areas across the country, government supporters confronted the opposition protesters in bouts of stone throwing, fist-fights and even scattered gunfire. Dozens were reported injured in Beirut, and police said 25 people sustained gunshot wounds during clashes in towns of central and northern Lebanon, including two bodyguards of a prominent pro-government politician. In some cases, troops negotiated the lifting of roadblocks. Elsewhere, they charged crowds to separate battling protesters and push open roads.

London, Jan 24 — A press report, dated Jan 23, states: Lebanon's opposition began removing roadblocks across the country tonight after suspending a general strike and halting protests aimed at toppling the government, a senior opposition source said. "All roads in various areas, including that leading to the airport, will be reopened shortly," the source said. He had said that the move was agreed by various opposition forces, including Hezbollah, after a day of clashes killed three people and wounded 133. Prime Minister Fouad Siniora said he would stand firm against "intimidation." Earlier today, government supporters confronted the protesters in bouts of stone throwing, fist-fights and even scattered gunfire. Smoke from burning tyres billowed over Beirut. Blazing roadblocks were set up on highways leading to the capital. Roadblocks were also set up in other cities to enforce the general strike called by Hezbollah and its allies. Police said a member of the Lebanese Forces party was shot dead in Batroun. Two people were shot and killed in Tripoli. Police said more than 110 people were hurt. Hezbollah's deputy leader, Shaikh Naim Kassem, told Al Jazeera the opposition would decide later when to call off the protests. The announcement came as Israel said it is watching the protests closely. Several airlines, including Emirates, Air Arabia, Etihad, Oman Air and Middle East Airlines, cancelled flights although Beirut airport remained open. Officials could not confirm whether normal flights would resume tomorrow.

London, Jan 25 — A press report, dated today, states: Cleaners swept smoldering car tyres and bulldozers removed debris and other obstacles from major highways as a tense calm shrouded Lebanon yesterday, a day after violence between government supporters and opponents killed three and injured more than 170. As the country took toll of the worst escalation of the Hezbollah-led opposition's campaign to topple Prime Minister Fuad Saniora's Cabinet, the premier flew to France to attend an international donors' conference. Many schools, banks and shops that had closed on Tuesday (Jan 23) during the strike reopened yesterday after the opposition suspended the walkout. The road to the airport, closed by burning tyres and earthen barricades that Hezbollah supporters set up, was reopened by the Lebanese army shortly after midnight on Tuesday. International flights resumed yesterday morning, enabling the several hundred passengers stranded in the terminal to head to their destinations. But a tense atmosphere hung in the air even as people went about their daily activities. Commuters enjoyed lighter traffic than usual as they drove by still-smoldering tires that street cleaners had pushed to the roadside. The roads from Beirut's southern suburbs, a Hezbollah stronghold, were reopened to traffic yesterday but were still littered with debris, rocks, traces of burned tires and sand barricades. Police, in a final toll of the trouble, reported that three people were killed and 173 injured. Of the 173, 48 sustained gunshot wounds and the rest resulted from blows from sticks or stones. Most of the lightly injured were treated on the spot or at emergency rooms and released. Tuesday's disturbance began after the Hezbollah-led opposition and labour unions called for a general strike that was rejected by the government, its political supporters and business leaders. Opposition supporters took to the streets, to enforce the strike by putting up barricades, mostly of burning car tires. The action paralyzed Beirut and areas across Lebanon before they suspended the strike.

NIGERIA

London, Jan 18 — A press report, dated today, states: Five Chinese telecommunications workers kidnapped in Nigeria nearly two weeks ago have been released and are safe, China's foreign ministry says. "Following efforts, the hostages were all safely rescued on Jan 17," the ministry said in a statement posted on its website. "The Chinese Government thanks the concerned Nigerian people for their support and help." Unidentified men abducted the Chinese nationals on Jan 5 in Nigeria's oil-rich Rivers State in the Niger Delta. The delta region has seen a spate of recent unrest marked by hostage-takings by separatist groups demanding a greater share of the

region's oil wealth. Nigerian officials said shortly after the Chinese were taken hostage that they had established contact with the abductors and were negotiating, but made no announcement on the identity of the abductors or their demands. Italy's ANSA new agency reported earlier on Thursday that Nigerian militants had also released Roberto Dieghi, one of three Italian oil workers taken hostage last month. The three, plus a Lebanese national, were seized by the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND) on Dec 7.

London, Jan 21 — A press report, dated Jan 20, states Kidnappers grabbed seven foreign workers off barge container carrier *Baco-Liner 2* (22345 gt, built 1980) today in the latest hostage-taking in Nigeria's restive southern oil-producing region, officials said. The expatriates are said to all be Philippino, but that information was not verified. The ship was stopped and boarded around 0930 yesterday as it plied the Chanomi Creek, a tributary that connects the Escravos and Forcados Rivers. It reportedly was bound for Warri. The militants who abducted the ship's crew members were said to be from Okorenkoko, the same group that kidnapped several Wilbros workers last year. Wilbros subsequently ceased working in Nigeria. There are rumors among the expatriate community in Port Harcourt, that the ship was still occupied by militants as late as 2000, local time, yesterday. The master and some crew members were said to be held, but authorities have not verified those rumors.

London, Jan 21 — A press report, dated Jan 20, states: The Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger-Delta, MEND yesterday, hijacked a cargo ship and took about 24 foreign nationals on board hostage at the Chanomi Creeks in Warri South West Local Government Area of Delta State. The militant group gave the Federal Government 72-hour ultimatum to meet its demands or all the hostages would be eliminated and the ship destroyed. Delta State government, last night, confirmed the hijack, saying the general cargo ship belonging to a firm identified as Baco-Liner was stopped and seized at Okerenkoko, yesterday morning. The state government, however, said the hostages included six crew members of the ship. It said Governor James Ibori was already intervening in the matter. "The Philipinos, we understand, are okay," the governor's spokesman, Mr. Sheddy Ozoene, said. An official of MEND who confirmed that the organization was responsible for the kidnap said the hostages were in safe condition, as at 1930 hrs but their identities were not confirmed. The group is demanding the immediate release of the former governor of Bayelsa state, Chief Diepreye Alamiyeseigha and the leader of the Niger-Delta Peoples Volunteer Front, Alhaji M. Asari-Dokubo, who is standing trial for treasonable offences. It maintained that the reasons given

so far by the Federal Government for their continued detention do not hold water and warned that except they were released, MEND would continue with its liberation struggle. "If they think that we do not mean it, let them not listen to us, we will bomb and destroy the Chevron Oil Tank Farm in Escravos. Another reason for the action", he said, "is that MEND is disenchanted with the fraudulent diversion of the 13% derivation funds by the governments of Rivers and Bayelsa states and we want them to account for the money collected on behalf of the people of the two states in particular". He said the group also wants the Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC) to pay the Ijaws and the entire people of the Niger-Delta would not sit and watch the governments misappropriate money belonging to the people. Besides, the organization said it was unhappy with the manner the Ijaws of Warri were being treated by the state government, warning that if the issue of resettling the Ijaws of Warri were not tackled before the general elections, this year, "there will be trouble in Delta state". MEND is also asking for the payment of \$1.5 billion to the Ijaw aborigenes of Bayelsa state by the Shell Petroleum Development Company, saying that since the court ordered the oil company to pay the money, it had been foot-dragging. "Our forces are ready for them, let them venture into the creeks and meet us", he added. Also, it is demanding for the payment of N1.5 billion each for the nine Ijaw freedom fighters that were killed, last year, while on a mission to rescue a kidnapped official of the SPDC, the late Mr. Nelson Ujeya, who, himself, was killed in a fierce combat with soldiers.

London, Jan 23 — The Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) on Tuesday (Jan 23) said a total of 24 Filipino seamen, not six as it earlier reported, were taken hostage by Nigerian militants over the weekend. Esteban Conejos, DFA undersecretary for migrant workers affairs, said at a press conference that the Philippine government was able to obtain a "clearer picture of what happened" after coordinating with the seamen's local manning agency and contacts in the African country. "The vessel (barge container carrier *Baco-Liner 2*) has a 24-man all Filipino crew. They were moving to the Atlantic Ocean to the Niger Delta then armed men boarded the vessel and took 17 Filipinos and brought them to a village in Warri. Their vessel is now lying in anchorage off the coast of Warri," Conejos said. He said that, "Therefore, there is reasonable belief that the entire crew of 24 has been held hostage. Because as of this time, the shipowner does not have radio contact on the vessel." The personnel roster of German vessel Baco Liner GmbH lists a captain, a chief officer, engine officers, a chief engineer, two cooks while the others are ordinary seamen. Vice Consul Randy Arquiza and Assistance-to-Nationals (ATN) officer Camalodin

Manggis are already in Warri at the Delta State to assist in on-going efforts to secure their release. Conejos said local Nigerian officials have already identified the kidnappers' negotiator. As of posting time, the DFA has yet to receive information that the kidnappers have demanded ransom. "As of today, all Filipinos are safe and sound. There is food on the vessel and they are being provided food from the village. Food and water is adequate and the seamen are treated well," Conejos said. He told dzBB radio that the rations onboard the vessel is expected to last the crew for a month. Members of the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND) has claimed responsibility for the incident. Interviewed on dzBB radio, Conejos said that the Philippines would not be a participant in the negotiations to release the hostages. "Basically we will use the same strategy to free the Filipino hostages. The negotiator then was not us. The Nigerian government took care of that, as well as the ship owners," Conejos said in Filipino. He added that, "This is the first time that seamen were involved [in a kidnapping by MEND]. The Filipino seamen were coming all the way from Eurpoe and their work was just to deliver cargo to Warri." However, dzBB radio said the abductors have insisted that two of their colleagues be released from custody, namely a Nigerian provincial governor and a leader of a political group. Earlier reports said six Filipinos out of 14 crewmembers of the cargo vessel were abducted as the vessel was approaching the Warri port. Malacanang has ordered a deployment ban of overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) to Nigeria. Both Nigeria and Philippines are dead set to resolve this peacefully and looking into diplomatic measures because of the presence of the German mission in Nigeria."

London, Jan 25 — A press report, dated today, states: Gunmen attacked a Chinese oil company in restive southern Nigeria today, abducting at least two employees and stealing a large amount of cash, police said. One of the assailants died in the attack on the finance offices of the Chinese National Petroleum Company in Bayelsa state and two or three foreign employees were seized, although officials were still determining the exact details, state police Commissioner Hafiz Ringim said. The nationalities of the captives were not known.

SOMALIA

Mogadiscio, Jan 20 — Somali gunmen battled government and Ethiopian troops today in a crowded Mogadiscio market, killing four people in the latest flare-up after a war that ousted Islamists, witnesses and officials said. The shootout — following mortar strikes on the presidential palace after dark yesterday — was the latest flare-up in a guerrilla-style campaign against the allied forces who ended the Islamists'

six-month rule of the south at the New Year. Civilians caught up in the melee said a gunman with an AK-47 opened fire on an Ethiopian military convoy at the livestock market in the north of the capital, triggering a heavy shootout. The Ethiopians fired an anti-aircraft gun into the air, panicked bystanders fled for cover, and a tank ran over a minibus in the confrontation, they added. "We were just setting up our shops when this happened," said an injured woman, writhing from bullet wounds in her back at Mogadiscio's Medina hospital. "A single gunman opened fire at the Ethiopian convoy, and the Ethiopians returned heavy fire." Four people died and about a dozen were injured, the witnesses said, indicating it was civilians who were mainly affected. Government spokesman Abdirahman Dinari, however, said he had only heard of two people dying. He said the incident began when government troops were chasing those behind yesterday's shelling. "They are doing this to try and show Mogadiscio is not a stable place," Dinari said, adding that 16 of the city's quarters supported the government while only one — dominated by Islamists supporters — was against. The African Union (AU), which approved a peacekeeping force for Somalia late yesterday, said the unabated violence in Mogadiscio showed the need for quick deployment. — Reuters.

Mogadishu, Jan 22 — Ethiopian troops and Somali police opened fire on Mogadishu demonstrators on Monday (Jan 22), killing at least three in the latest violence in parts of the capital where support for ousted Islamists ran high, a witness said. Protesters hurled stones and some shot back with assault rifles at the joint security forces, said a local journalist. The clashes took place in a neighbourhood where Ethiopian and government troops fought gunmen on Saturday. The witness said Ethiopian troops returned to a livestock market in the north of the coastal city where an attack on an Ethiopian military convoy triggered a heavy battle on Saturday. "The Ethiopians used something like a bazooka to break down the gate of a house in the area, then they arrested two men inside," the reporter said. "Locals began throwing stones at them, some shot rifles, and then the Ethiopians returned fire." He said three men were killed at the scene and at least five people injured. The demonstrators burned tyres in the streets and stoned vehicles carrying local journalists. At least four civilians were killed in the area on Saturday after the latest in a string of guerrilla-style attacks launched by suspected remnants of the Somalia Islamic Courts Council. The Islamists were chased out of strongholds in Mogadishu and much of the south over the New Year by a combined force of Somali soldiers and Ethiopian tanks, troops and fighter jets. — Reuters.

London, Jan 24 — A press report, dated Jan 23, states: Some 200

Ethiopian troops have been seen leaving the Somali capital, four weeks after they crossed the border to help the government defeat Islamists. "Starting today we will withdraw our forces from Mogadishu," Ethiopia General Suem Hagoss said at a ceremony where warlords surrendered their arms. Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles Zenawi has told the BBC the withdrawal would take place in three stages. The African Union is trying to set up a peacekeeping force to replace Ethiopia. But so far, only Uganda and Malawi have publicly said they would send troops to Somalia. General Hagoss said they were reducing the number of forces in the country, but was not specific on how many soldiers will be moving out before AU peacekeepers are deployed. However, Prime Minister Mohammed Ali Ghedi denied that the Ethiopians had started to leave Somalia, saying they would stay until the African force had arrived.

London, Jan 25 — A press report, dated Jan 24, states: Four people have been injured in a mortar attack at the main airport in Mogadishu. A BBC correspondent said one person was seriously injured in the attack, moments before the arrival of a plane carrying a United Nations delegation. It comes a day after some 200 Ethiopian troops left their base at the airport to return home after helping the government defeat Islamists last month. In Kenya, the US envoy held talks with a top Islamist leader in custody. The BBC's Mohamed Olad Hassan, at the airport in Mogadishu, says it is unclear who is responsible for the attack and where it was targeted. "Several mortar shells landed at the Mogadishu International Airport and dozens of people who were in the airports grounds fled amid fears of more attacks," witness Ahmed Hersi told the French news agency, AFP.

SRI LANKA

London, Jan 19 — A press report, dated today, states: Police say unidentified gunmen have shot dead four Tamil civilians in northern Sri Lanka, despite tight security in the restive region. Three bodies were discovered together, while the other was elsewhere in the town of Vavuniya, 260 km north of Colombo, police said. The killings came three days after six other people were shot dead by unidentified gunmen in the same town. In the island's embattled eastern Batticaloa district, clashes have escalated in the last week between troops and Tamil Tiger rebels, with both sides claiming to have inflicted heavy casualties on each other.

Mankerni, Sri Lanka, Jan 20 — Sri Lanka's army hunted Tamil Tigers in the jungle today as the rebels fled their eastern stronghold after weeks of fierce fighting. Thousands of refugees arrived at crowded camps and some caught for weeks in the crossfire of artillery battles told how the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) had used them as cover,

forcing them to stay put while the rebels retreated. Troops were still searching for withdrawing rebels fleeing inland to jungle areas after giving up the last remaining stretch of eastern seaboard they held under the terms of a battered 2002 ceasefire which now existed only on paper. "They have withdrawn inland to small jungle areas. We now hold the whole coastline in the east," said military spokesman Brigadier Prasad Samarasinghe. "They are burning their equipment, like artillery guns and generators, as they try to escape." "They are fighting in small groups, with mortars and small arms fire," he added. "We are checking the refugees to find any Tigers hiding among them." Yesterday's capture of Vakarai — a town about 240 km north-east of Colombo that belongs to the rebels under the 2002 ceasefire — followed weeks of fierce fighting between the Tigers and the military, who have vowed to drive them from the east altogether. The area around Vakarai was one of several pockets of territory the rebels controlled in the region and their last direct access to the sea in the east, an important supply line. The Tigers' patches of mostly jungle terrain in the east are cut off from their main northern stronghold by army-held areas. The Tigers said overnight they had decided to readjust their positions and pull back, accusing the military of preventing aid from reaching civilians and causing a humanitarian crisis. — Reuters.

London, Jan 21 — A Sri Lanka Ministry of Defence report, timed 1856, local time, today, states: Two clusters of LTTE Sea tiger boats launching from Veththalakerni area attacked general cargo *City of Liverpool* (1595 gt, built 1967), which carries foodstuffs for the civilians in the Jaffna peninsula this evening. *City of Liverpool* was sailing back after unloading food items at Point Pedro harbour when the LTTE sea tigers targeted it at 1545 today. Sri Lanka Navy destroyed two LTTE suicide boats completely when they were moving towards the vessel. Meanwhile, Army launched artillery attack targeting the LTTE boats and Air Force fighter jets also attacked at them to assist the Navy. Sea battle is still going in the South East of the Point Pedro seas.

London, Jan 21 — A press report, dated today, states: "Sea Tigers," the naval wing of the LTTE, today attacked the Sri Lankan food ship, general cargo *City of Liverpool* (1595 gt, built 1967), off the Point Pedro harbour in the northern district of Jaffna. The hull of the ship was damaged in the 45-minute confrontation between the LTTE and the Sri Lankan Navy's Fast Attack Craft (FACs) which had rushed to its rescue, said Com DKP Dassanayake, the Sri Lankan Naval Spokesman. "Water began to seep into the ship and the vessel is now being towed to the nearby Kankesanthurai harbour," he told Hindustan Times. *City of Liverpool* was offloading 1,500 tonnes

of flour at Point Pedro when the Sri Lankan navy saw a cluster of 20 LTTE boats heading for the harbour. The food ship was asked to quit the harbour immediately, and naval craft engaged the attackers about three nautical miles off the harbour. While this was on, about five LTTE boats, including some suicide craft laden with explosives, cut loose and headed for the merchant vessel which was by then in the open sea. The naval escort personnel on board the merchant vessel kept firing at the attackers in an effort to keep them at bay. But one of the suicide boats exploded very near the vessel, damaging its hull and causing a leak. Com Dassanayake denied that the vessel was on fire.

London, Jan 22 — A press report, dated today, states: Sri Lankan soldiers captured a major rebel base in the volatile east and regained control of the area's key highway for the first time in 11 years, the military said, amid a renewed push to break the Tamil Tiger separatists' hold on the district. "They (rebels) have fled the area as our troops are advancing," military spokesman Brigadier Prasad Samarasinghe said on Saturday (Jan 20), as he announced the capture of the rebel base and other small camps in Kathiraveli, a rebel-stronghold in eastern Batticaloa District. Also Saturday, the army also took control of a main road connecting Batticaloa to the port city of Trincomalee, where the Sri Lankan navy has a major base. The rebels had controlled the road for 11 years. Samarasinghe said the army would continue to flush rebels from the east, where both sides hold pockets of territory and the Tigers are fighting to establish an independent Tamil homeland, along with Tamil-dominated areas in the north. On Saturday, troops were searching for and clearing booby traps and mines from Vaharai, an impoverished rebel-held coastal strip in eastern Batticaloa which they captured on Friday. Vaharai has been the scene of heavy fighting for months, with over 500 combatants killed since October, according to the military. The government says the Tigers used Vaharai as a transit point to smuggle drugs and arms into the country and as a base for the sea wing of their more than two-decade insurgency. The army's capture of Vaharai sent thousands of terrified villagers fleeing to safety in neighboring, government-held Mankerni, where they were packed into flimsy tents and in crowded schools. Seeniwasan Giritharan, the area's top government official, said between 5,000 and 6,000 refugees arrived in Mankerni on Friday, and hundreds more were arriving on Saturday. "We believe that the entire population has left Vaharai," he said. But worried Tamil parents said their children were being detained by security forces as suspected rebels. A military official in Mankerni said 11 suspected rebels were detained, and 10 had admitted

involvement with the Tigers. The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity citing military policy, said the arrests were made according to proper procedure.

London, Jan 22 — A press report, dated today, states: The seven Indian crew members onboard general cargo *City of Liverpool* that was attacked by LTTE rebels off the Jaffna peninsula are safe, the ship's owners said today. *City of Liverpool*, which was damaged in yesterday's suicide attack by Tamil Tigers, is now in the port of Kankesanthurai and undergoing repair, PTI reported from Colombo quoting the ship's owners. The seven Indian crew members are safe but an Indonesian chief engineer was wounded in the attack and has been hospitalised, a spokesman for the owner said. "The vessel had unloaded 440 tons of wheat flour when the attack took place and the balance of 1,400 tons of flour will be unloaded today," he said. The Sri Lankan Navy and the LTTE were locked in a sea battle after the Tamil Tigers rammed an explosive-laden boat into the cargo vessel.

SUDAN

London, Jan 24 — A press report, dated Jan 22, states: Rebel commanders in the troubled Darfur region of Sudan say government aircraft have bombed northern areas of the province, in breach of a ceasefire. They said three villages had been hit over the weekend. African Union troops are investigating the claims. The Sudanese government has denied the reports, which come days after President Omar al-Bashir vowed to adhere to a UN peace plan. More than 200,000 people have died and 2.5m have fled their homes in Darfur. A rebel commander, Abdallah Banda, from the rebel Justice and Equality Movement, said three villages had been destroyed by Sudanese aircraft in north Darfur. He did not say how many people had died. The Sudanese army denied the allegation.

London, Jan 25 — A press report, dated Jan 24, states: Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir has confirmed that government forces have been bombing northern areas of the troubled Darfur region. In an interview with the BBC Arabic Service, Mr Bashir said the action did not breach a UN-brokered ceasefire signed earlier this month. He said the government had no option but to use its armed forces in response to attacks by rebel groups. Rebel commanders in northern Darfur said on Monday (Jan 22) that government aircraft had hit three villages over the weekend, claims the Sudanese government strongly denied. But in an exclusive BBC interview broadcast today, President Bashir confirmed his troops had carried out the bombardments. He said the government had no option but to strike as 80% of attacks on civilians in the region were carried out by rebels groups, undermining security.

Labour Disputes

**BANGLADESH**

London, Jan 20 — A press report, dated today, states: Activities at Sonamasjid land port, second largest land port of the country, resume today after a 24-day strike. Port sources said the strike was withdrawn as the authority on Thursday (Jan 18) assured the port users of meeting their four-point demand. The port users went on an indefinite strike on Dec 27. The demands are allowing the importers to store goods in their own warehouses, fixation of import tariff rate as that of Benapole port, permission to import 46 items instead of 16 and extension of the port by acquiring 20 acres of adjacent land. The Bangladeshi importers yesterday sent a message to the Indian exporters to resume their activities from this morning. Immediately after withdrawing the strike, the importers and clearing and forwarding agents held a meeting with Importers Association Vice-President Kabirur Rahman Khokon in the chair.

CYPRUS

Limassol, Jan 19 — The strike continues today and tomorrow. Strikers allowed only the delivery and loading of some perishable goods and livestock both at Limassol and Larnaca ports. — Lloyd's Agents.

London, Jan 20 — A press report, dated Jan 19, states: Cypriot Finance Minister Michalis Sarris said he was worried a strike by truck drivers which entered its fifth day could hurt the island's economy. "We are particularly concerned because the repercussions on the growth rates, (and) employment will be very serious," Sarris said today. "The sooner this strike is resolved the better for the economy." Strikers have halted goods deliveries and blockaded the island's two commercial ports, making exceptions for livestock and perishable exports. Agriculture Minister Fotis Fotiou said the island's farming industry had also been affected.

GUINEA

Conakry, Jan 19 — A general strike in Guinea has halted trains carrying bauxite for export to the port of Kamsar and reduced the number of vessels loading at the port, a senior industry official said on Friday. Guinea is the world's biggest exporter of bauxite, the ore from which aluminium is extracted. Major Canadian, U.S., Russian and South African mining companies have operations there. "The trains have stopped. Activities are blocked at the Sangaredi mine. If in one week this situation is still continuing, we run

the risk of exhausting our security stock (of mined bauxite at Kamsar)," the Compagnie des Bauxites de Guinee (CBG) official, who asked not to be named, told Reuters. His comments reflected a growing impact on the West African country's strategic bauxite industry from the strike, which was launched last week by unions which say ageing President Lansana Conte is unfit to rule and should step aside from power. The stoppage, now in its 10th day, has paralysed economic activity and triggered violent anti-government protests in Conakry and other towns. At least two people have been killed in clashes with police firing tear gas and warning shots. The CBG official, who asked not to be named, said ships were still arriving at the bauxite port of Kamsar, north-west of Conakry, but the number being loaded was reduced by the strike. An Alcoa spokesman has confirmed that some workers have joined the strike at CBG facilities but says it is too early to evaluate the overall impact on operations. — Reuters.

London, Jan 20 — A press report, dated Jan 19, states: Security is tightening in Guinea over a 10-day-old general strike that has paralyzed economic activity and triggered violent anti-government protests. At least five people have been reported killed amid ongoing unrest in the capital Conakry, its suburbs and interior cities. Gunfire rang out in the early morning hours in many parts of the country as security forces tried to contain youth groups setting tires ablaze. The heaviest police presence was in the downtown area of capital, where union leaders had initially planned a march, which did not take place. Officials in the country's strategic bauxite industry said activities in mining towns were being reduced substantially as well, and that the number of boats being loaded for export were starting to be reduced.

Conakry, Jan 20 — At least two people were killed in clashes in the southern Guinean town of Nzerekore today as violence triggered by a crippling strike spread deeper into the West African country, residents said. Union leaders called the general strike, which has paralyzed the country for 11 straight days, because they say President Lansana Conte — a reclusive diabetic in his 70s — is unfit to rule and should step aside. "The protesters started cutting down trees to block roads yesterday, then this morning they gathered at the stadium," said one Nzerekore resident. "When they started blocking roads again the army came out and started shooting." Riot police armed with rifles and tear-gas have clashed with groups of youths in the capital Conakry and in around a dozen other towns across the country in recent days, killing at least five people. However, it is the first time that unrest has been reported as far away as Nzerekore, some 500 km south of the capital Conakry deep in Guinea's

southern forest near the borders with Liberia and Ivory Coast. "The Red Cross told me there were two dead and two seriously injured," said one Nzerekore resident. Another resident in the town, set deep in Guinea's southern forest, said that the local hospital had received three bodies and that some 20 other people had been injured. — Reuters.

London, Jan 21 — A press report, dated Jan 20, states: Violence triggered by a general strike spread to the remote south of Guinea today, killing at least three people as security forces clashed with protesters demanding an end to President Lansana Conte's rule. Riot police armed with rifles and tear gas have clashed with youths in the coastal capital Conakry and a dozen other towns in recent days, killing at least five people. But today's was the first unrest reported as far away as Nzerekore, more than 500 km south of the capital in the volatile forest region. "The protesters went towards the prefect's residence to loot it. The resulting clash with soldiers killed three people and injured 12," Lamine Bangoura, a senior army officer and governor of Nzerekore, told Reuters by telephone. The region around Nzerekore is vulnerable because of its porous borders with Liberia, Sierra Leone and Ivory Coast, across which arms and fighters are smuggled with relative ease.

London, Jan 24 — A press report, dated Jan 23, states: Police shot dead 23 protesters across Guinea, raising to 33 the death toll in almost two weeks of a general strike and demonstrations against President Lansana Conte's rule, medical and union officials said. At least 169 have been recorded injured across the country. The death toll makes today the bloodiest day in the strike that started on Jan 10 at the call of labour unions. With 18 dead and 140 wounded, the capital Conakry recorded the largest number of deaths. In Kankan town east of the country, three demonstrators were killed and 22 wounded, among them seven seriously and in neighbouring Siguiri, two protesters were also shot dead while seven were injured, said Mamadi Conde, Kankan regional secretary general of the National Confederation of the Workers of Guinea (CNTG). Several labour union leaders behind the open-ended strike which has paralyzed Guinea, were arrested this evening by members of the presidential guard, a union official said. A meeting planned for today between the unions and authorities failed to take off due to the violence. Mediation by the presidents of Senegal and Nigeria, Abdoulaye Wade and Olusegun Obasanjo, acting for the 15-nation Economic Community of West African States, has been postponed by a few days at the request of Conakry.

London, Jan 24 — A press report, dated today, states: A violent general strike in Guinea has halted shipments by the world's top bauxite exporter,

Compagnie des Bauxites de Guinee (CBG), its operator Alcoa Inc. said today as disruption spread in the key sector. CGB officials in the West African country had previously said bauxite ship loading operations could continue for around a week using security stocks. But US aluminium company Alcoa Inc., which operates CBG, said activities had been halted since workers there went on strike three or four days ago, bringing to a stop bauxite mining, drying, rail transportation and ship loading operations. Operators tried to get the main bauxite export train back up and running yesterday, but were prevented from doing so by union members, a company official at CBG's Sangaredi mine, near Boke, northwest of Conakry, told Reuters. Alcoa runs CBG through its Halco venture with Canada's Alcan and privately owned Dadco. Halco owns 51% of CBG. Guinea's government holds the rest. London traders say the strike has pushed alumina prices up.

London, Jan 24 — A press report, dated Jan 23, states: Human rights campaigners in Guinea accused President Lansana Conte today of trying to crush a general strike by force as the death toll from violent clashes in the capital rose to more than 30. Hospital officials had previously spoken of at least 17 people killed yesterday in Conakry. But Conakry's Donka Hospital reported today its morgue had received 33 bodies following the clashes between strike supporters and security forces who opened fire to disperse them. "They have 33 bodies. But the second hospital in town also has bodies. There were also people killed in the suburbs," Thierno Maadjou Sow, president of the Guinean Human Rights League, told Reuters. Conakry appeared calmer today but some unconfirmed reports spoke of fresh killings in the outlying suburbs. The strike has halted bauxite shipments by the world's biggest exporter of the ore from which aluminium is extracted. But most of the 10 million population of the former French colony, deemed by Transparency International to be the most corrupt country in Africa, live in poverty.

London, Jan 25 — A press report, dated Jan 24, states: Guinean President Lansana Conte agreed in principle today to name a consensus prime minister, the key demand of unions staging a general strike in which more than 40 people have been killed, mediators said. Union leaders say the reclusive Conte is unfit to rule and are demanding he name a premier to run the impoverished West African country. The two-week-old strike has halted shipments of bauxite from the world's top exporter of the ore, and triggered food shortages in the oceanside capital Conakry as markets and banks remain shuttered. Church mediators met union representatives to deliver Conte's offer, but strike

leaders demanded concrete action from the president before they would end their protest, the third of its kind in a year. Union leaders had said they could no longer negotiate after soldiers and police opened fire on unarmed protesters on Monday (Jan 22), the bloodiest day of the strike so far. They returned to the negotiating table after the personal intervention of Conte's wife, Henriette, late on Tuesday. Hospital officials said at least 33 people were killed in the capital on Monday and more than 150 injured, in addition to at least eight people killed in clashes in the previous days. Security remained tight around Conakry today, a sprawling city of low-rise concrete blocks and tin-roofed shacks. But more people ventured out than earlier this week.

ISRAEL

London, Jan 23 — A press report, dated Jan 22, states: The labour federation argued that the main reason for the renewed labour crisis is management's refusal to negotiate with port union leaders over their differences. Histadrut labour federation officials warned last week that a strike at Ashdod port shutting down imports and exports was only a matter of days. The labour federation argued that the main reason for the renewed labour crisis is management's refusal to negotiate with port union leaders over their differences. The labour federation had already declared an official dispute on Jan 7 but gave the port management an additional week in order to talk with the union about their demands and thereby prevent a strike. In a letter sent by the Histadrut labour federation it was noted that since the work dispute was declared, management had acted irresponsibly, refusing to negotiate. Port official called the dispute declaration a "cynical attempt" to force management to hire relatives of union leaders and workers and added that the port management will not give in and that according to his understanding the strike would begin on Jan 30.

NEPAL

London, Jan 22 — A press report, dated Jan 21, states: Life was paralysed and hundreds of passengers were stranded today in Kathmandu and other parts of the country due to an indefinite transport strike called by bus owners demanding compensation for vehicles vandalised in a recent demonstration. The strike affected life in Kathmandu and other major cities including Biratnagar, Janakpur, Jhapa, Mahottari, Saptari, Sarlahi, Bara, Parsa, Chitwan, Rupandehi, Nawalparasi, Banke, Bardia, Kailali and Dang. Hundreds of passengers were stranded as long-route buses coming towards capital Kathmandu from outside districts were halted at Kalanki, the main entry point to Kathmandu. All the highways including the East-West highway,

Araniko, Tribhuvan and Siddhartha were deserted. The strike was called by the National Federation of Nepal Transport Entrepreneurs to protest vandalism and torching of public vehicles and to press the government to meet its 10-point charter of demands, including compensation for vehicles vandalised in Lahan in South-East Nepal two days ago. Over a dozen of passenger buses and trucks were torched by irate locals in Lahan on Friday following the death of a teenager after a Maoist militia opened fire at activists of Madhesi People's Right Forum protesting the recently-promulgated interim constitution. Meanwhile, the district administration of Siraha reimposed the 15-hour curfew from 1100 to 0200 today to control the situation. Curfew was also imposed in the area yesterday following clashes between the forum and the Maoist cadres, who were opposing the strike.

London, Jan 22 — A press report, dated today, states: Thousands of travellers were stranded across Nepal yesterday due to a strike by bus owners and truck drivers demanding compensation for vandalised vehicles. The strike called by Federation of Nepalese National Transport Entrepreneurs forced all buses off their routes, said spokesman Dinesh Bhandari. It also halted the transport of food, fuel and other supplies on trucks. At the main bus station in the capital, Khatmandu, thousands of people waited in vain yesterday.

London, Jan 23 — A press report, dated Jan 22, states: Nepal's crippling nation-wide bus and truck drivers strike continued for a second day today as workers said civil war violence made it unsafe to drive. Nepalese Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala met with Maoist politicians to resolve the violence as Home Ministry officials met with the National Federation of Nepal Transport Entrepreneurs to end the walkout. The Nepal News reported. Federation members struck after dozens of government buses were torched over the weekend, reportedly by ethnic Madhesi people after a reputed Maoist killed a 16-year-old boy during a Madhesi demonstration. The federation said it had become unsafe to work and sought security assurances from the government, as well as compensation for drivers who had vehicles damaged during protests and riots in recent months. The strike left thousands of travelers stranded and halted food, fuel and other deliveries.

London, Jan 24 — A press report, dated Jan 23, states: Transporters in Nepal have agreed to call off their indefinite strike after the Government agreed to accept their demands, including giving compensation for vehicles torched during recent protests in the country. Home Ministry spokesman Baman Prasad Neupane said an agreement on major demands was reached last night that included

providing compensation to vehicles torched during the recent violent demonstrations. "Vehicles would start plying on all the routes across the country from today as the Federation of Nepalese National Transport Entrepreneurs (FNNT) has agreed to withdraw its strike," Neupane said. "We have called off the strike after the government assured to fulfill our major demands," FNNT representative Bishnu Dhakal said. The transporters had launched an indefinite nationwide transport strike on Sunday to press for their 10-point demands which include among others adequate security to drivers and vehicles and revision of Road Act. Around 25 vehicles were damaged since unrest started in Terai region on Friday last. Fourteen vehicles were torched in Lahan on Friday alone after a clash erupted between workers of the Madhesi Janadhikar Forum and Maoists.

NORWAY

London, Jan 18 — A press report, dated today, states: Four of Norway's largest hospitals are closed by a strike, after arbitration between the employers organisation NAVO and the employees' union failed on overtime early Thursday morning (Jan 18). Among the striking employees are doctors, engineers, economists, lawyers and dentists. The strike will hit planned operations, but emergency help will be given. The Ullevaal Hospital, Aker Hospital, the National Hospital (Rikshospitalet Radiumhospitalet), all in Oslo, as well as the Tromsø University Hospital are affected from Thursday morning. The strike may be escalated from Monday morning, affecting hospitals in Trondheim, Bergen, Stavanger and other places.

PAKISTAN

Karachi, Jan 23 — The dispatch of imported palm oil from ports to factories/refineries in Pakistan is partially suspended following unannounced strike by transporters. According to local media, edible oil producers of the country were in a fix as the two big transport groups, contractors and transporters, which supply imported palm oil from Karachi port and Port Qasim to across the country, had locked horns with each other. It said daily, around 200 oil trucks transport the oil for upcountry but since last Friday (Jan 19) not a single trucker has transported oil for upcountry refineries, a stakeholder said and pointed out transporters have also completely closed down edible oil terminals at Keamari and Port Qasim. The transporters and contractors have developed a tussle, which cropped up between them on certain domestic issues, including commission. Oil tanker owners are demanding more transportation charges and commission for transportation of the palm oil, while the contractors do not want to pay more commission to them, it said. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

Awards & Settlements



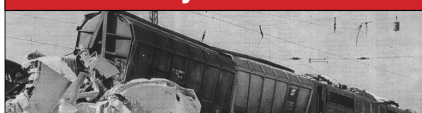
SECURITIES FRAUD, UNITED STATES

London, Jan 23 — A press report, dated Jan 22, states: An Ontario court has given its approval to an estimated \$2.5 billion lawsuit settlement between Nortel Networks Corp. and its shareholders, lawyers for the investors said today. The Ontario Superior Court approval was given last Thursday (Jan 18) and is one of a string of court backings that the settlement requires before it's finalized. The cases the settlement covers relate to whether Nortel misled investors during two separate periods. Last month, the pact got U.S. approval and on Friday, a judge in the Supreme Court of British Columbia also approved it, the lawyers for the investors said in a statement. The settlement still requires approval by the Quebec Superior Court.

WRONGFUL CONVICTION, UNITED STATES

London, Jan 25 — A press report, dated Jan 24, states: A man who spent 15 years in prison for a rape he did not commit has settled with the city of Oklahoma City for \$4 million over botched testimony by a police chemist. The City Council approved a resolution yesterday admitting no liability in the settlement of a federal lawsuit filed by Jeffrey Todd Pierce, who was released from prison in 2001 based on DNA testing. The testing showed sperm and hairs taken from the scene of a rape at an apartment complex could not have been his. The police chemist, Joyce Gilchrist, testified in 1986 that hair left by the rapist was "microscopically consistent" with Pierce's hair. Gilchrist was fired in 2001 after investigations of her work in a number of cases. An FBI report found that Gilchrist misidentified hair and fibres in at least six criminal cases and gave testimony that went beyond what her science showed. Councilman Pete White said the settlement was good for taxpayers and also fair to Pierce. "The city could have been hit for much more," White said. "This guy was wronged, there's no two ways about it. He had no record at all. He was completely clean. He was an innocent man."

Railway Accidents



BLITAR AREA, EAST JAVA, INDONESIA

London, Jan 24 — A press report, dated today, states: Four out of five train cars operating in East Java

derailed early Wednesday (Jan 24) when they were on service from East Java's town of Blitar to the provincial capital of Surabaya. Today's incident did not cause any casualty, Antara news agency reported. The incident was sparked by poor condition of the old train tracks, an official of state owned railway operator PT Kereta Api Indonesia, was quoted as saying

GORE AREA, OKLAHOMA, UNITED STATES

London, Jan 18 — A press report, dated today, states: As many as six railroad cars carrying coal fell into a creek Wednesday (Jan 17) near Gore, Oklahoma, when a railroad bridge collapsed, police said. There were no injuries. Fourteen cars near the back of a 133-car train derailed near this Muskogee County town, said Joe Arbona, a spokesman for Union Pacific. He said six cars went into the creek, but Gore Police Chief Jerry Fields said his men at the scene told him three cars were in the water. Arbona said the train was on a trip from Wyoming to Arkansas when the accident occurred at 1250, CST. Fields said an 80-foot span of the concrete and steel bridge about two miles west of Gore collapsed. Arbona said Union Pacific was bringing in heavy equipment to remove the train cars from the creek, repair the track and rebuild the bridge. He said the railroad company would try to determine why the bridge failed. A device resembling a giant vacuum cleaner was being brought in to remove the coal from the creek, Arbona said. Each car carries 142 tons of coal. Ice has blanketed much of eastern Oklahoma since a weekend storm, but it was not clear whether this played a role in the accident. Another locomotive was being brought in to remove some of the train cars from the area.

HAMBURG AREA, GERMANY

London, Jan 24 — A press report, dated Jan 23, states: A freight train has derailed near Hamburg, forcing the closure of several rail lines heading north from the city. Police said noxious acid fumes leaked from one of the cars. Nineteen of the train's 21 wagons derailed in a rural area between Elmshorn and Pinneberg, northwest of Hamburg this morning, railway operator Deutsche Bahn said. No one was hurt. Chloroacetic acid leaked from one of the cars, federal police spokesman Torsten Jordan said, and recovery workers kept a 100-metre distance from the site of the accident. However, Deutsche Bahn said the site was well away from residential areas and there was no danger to people. The accident forced the closure of main lines from Hamburg to Kiel, the North Sea coast and Flensburg, on the Danish border. There was no immediate information on what caused the derailment.

LOUISVILLE AREA, KENTUCKY, UNITED STATES

London, Jan 18 — A press report, dated today, states: Officials conducting a controlled burn of

thousands of gallons of a flammable liquid left over after a derailment this week expect the blaze to burn itself out later Thursday (Jan 18). A dozen tanker cars derailed Tuesday morning and spilled various chemicals that caught fire, pouring out flames and huge clouds of smoke. No serious injuries were reported but about two dozen people near the crash site south of Louisville checked themselves into a hospital and were released after checkups, authorities said. An 18-mile stretch of nearby Interstate 65 was closed for about 11 hours. The chemicals that spilled when the cars derailed were cyclohexane, methyl ethyl ketone, butadiene and alcohol, according to CSX. Officials said they considered the substances toxic but said they break down when burned. Three cars filled with 90,000 gallons of butadiene, a chemical used to make synthetic rubber, were left intact after the crash but officials decided to drain and burn the chemical rather than move the rail cars. Beginning Wednesday, the chemical was channeled into a freshly dug pit and burned. Two of the three cars were empty by Thursday morning, said Rob Orkies, fire chief for the Zoneton community. Officials with CSX, which operates the line where the derailment occurred, are conducting the controlled burn. The National Transportation and Safety Board is investigating the crash. (See issue of Jan 18.)

London, Jan 19 — A press report, dated today, states: Fire officials have finished burning off chemicals left after a train derailed and ignited a massive blaze south of Louisville earlier this week, forcing nearby residents from their homes for days. The last of a synthetic chemical left in three tanker cars was drained and burned in a pit Thursday night, said John Bastin, a spokesman for the Kentucky Division of Emergency Management. A rail car full of paper products still had some hot spots Friday morning (Jan 19), but Bastin said that was not a major concern. Residents near the crash scene were still not being let back into their homes Friday afternoon, said Rob Orkies, fire chief for the Zoneton community. CSX officials had removed all 80 of the train's rail cars by Friday morning, and workers had removed sections of the track. The rail operator plans to install up to 900 feet of new track, CSX vice president Cindy Sandborn said. Federal officials investigating the derailment have said early inspections indicate the CSX crew acted properly just before it went off the tracks, and that they were examining the equipment and track in their search for the cause.

ORENBURG, RUSSIA

London, Jan 25 — A press report, dated today, states: A cargo train loaded with fuel oil rolled off its rails in southern Russia and spilled oil over a 1.5 square km (0.6 sq mile) area, wrecking tracks and power lines, an Emergencies Ministry spokesman said yesterday. "Around 500 metres of

railway and 500 metres of power lines were damaged," Viktor Beltsov said. "Rail traffic has been suspended and all trains, including passenger trains, are going along a bypass." The accident happened in the mainly agricultural region of Orenburg, between the cities of Samara and Ufa and no casualties were reported. The spill did not contaminate the local water supply and the cause of the accident is still unknown, Beltsov added.



STORM WORM

London, Jan 19 — Computer virus writers have used raging European storms today as a hook to attack thousands of computers in an unusual real-time assault, head of research at Finnish data security firm F-Secure said. The virus, which the company named Storm Worm was sent to hundreds of thousands of email addresses globally, with the e-mail's subject line saying "230 dead as storm batters Europe." The attached file contains the so-called malware that can infiltrate computer systems. "What makes this exceptional is the timely nature of the attack," Mikko Hypponen, head of research at F-Secure said. Hypponen said thousands of computers around the world, most in private use, had been affected. He said most users would not notice the malware, or trojan, which creates a back door to the computer that can be exploited later to steal data or to use the computer to post spam.



FLOODING IN COAL MINE, DONGHE DISTRICT, CHINA

London, Jan 19 — A press report, dated today states: Thirty-five miners have been confirmed trapped in a flooded iron ore mine in north China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, according to the local rescue headquarters. The flood occurred shortly after midnight, Wednesday (Jan 17) morning at Haolaigou Iron Ore Mine in Donghe District, near the city of Baotou, when miners were changing shifts. Only 11 miners escaped, according to rescue headquarters. Dong Hanzhong, chief of publicity with the Baotou City CPC Committee, said water had flooded three of the mine's vertical shafts, trapping the miners below. None of the trapped miners are from the local area - 18 are from southwest China's Sichuan Province. Rescuers were attempting to reach one of the flooded

shafts through a tunnel used to discharge ore residue, said Dong. "We expect to connect with the flooded shaft by noon on Thursday," said Dong, adding four water pumps are in operation. Rescue headquarters has sought extra equipment from coal and electricity firm Shenhua Group Corp. Ltd. Four Shenhua slurry pumps are being transported from Wuhai, a city west of Baotou, to the site. Yang Jing, chairman of the autonomous region, instructed rescuers to do everything possible to rescue the trapped miners.

GROUNDING OF DOCK GATE, FEHMARN ISLAND, BALTIC SEA

London, Jan 23 — Information received, dated Kiel today, states: The dock gate) which had been grounded intentionally off Fehmarn Island is to be salvaged soon after the weather improves. A Danish salvage company was contracted and the sheerleg *Samson* proceeded to Kiel for preparatory works. The dock gate had been grounded in sinking condition on Dec 31. (See issue of Jan 4.)

KHUDOZHNIK ZHUKOV (Russia)

London, Jan 23 — A press report, dated today, states: A unique, single piece of rubbish found floating off a Queensland beach has led to a \$23,000 littering fine for the owners and master of container carrier *Khudozhnik Zhukov* (22369 gt, built 1976). The Far Eastern Shipping Company and master Alexey Gubar pleaded guilty yesterday in Brisbane Magistrates Court to polluting a beach with a large plastic bag at Teewah Village, near Noosa, on Queensland's Sunshine Coast in February, 2005. They were charged with illegally disposing of garbage (plastic) in the sea under commonwealth legislation. The Far Eastern Shipping Company was fined \$20,000, while Mr Gubar was fined \$3,000. A fisherman had found the bag floating in the ocean just off the beach, and an Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service numbered seal allowed it to be traced to the vessel, where it had been used to seal meat products. Australian Maritime Safety Authority chief executive Clive Davidson said the case sent a clear message that no amount of ocean pollution could be tolerated. "This is a significant fine for a single plastic bag and emphasises the importance placed on protection of the environment," he said.

OUTBREAK OF VIRUS ON UNITED KINGDOM VESSEL

London, Jan 25 — A press report, dated Jan 24, states: A highly contagious form of stomach flu sickened hundreds of passengers during a world-wide voyage on passenger (cruise) *Queen Elizabeth 2* (70327 gt, built 1968) in what health officials called an unusually large outbreak. The Centre for Disease Control and Prevention reported 276 passengers and 28 crew members had come down with norovirus by the time the ship docked today in San Francisco for a regularly scheduled

stop, though only four passengers remained sick. The CDC boarded the vessel on Friday (Jan 19) in Acapulco, Mexico, to investigate the outbreak. Investigators determined the emergency sanitation measures put in place by the ship's crew, from disinfecting casino chips to halting self-service at the ship's buffet, were containing the outbreak. "This one was a good example where they had a lot of cases but they did gain control over the spread of infection," Ames said. The infections affected nearly 17% of the ship's 1,652 passengers, a particularly high percentage, said Jaret Ames, acting chief of the CDC's vessel sanitation program. By comparison, a norovirus outbreak last month aboard the world's largest cruise ship, Royal Caribbean's Freedom of the Seas, infected 338 passengers out of 3,823, or less than 9%. (Note — *Queen Elizabeth 2* arrived Acapulco 0700, Jan 19, and sailed 1700 same day. *Queen Elizabeth 2* subsequently arrived Los Angeles Jan 22. According to Lloyd'sMIU AIS, *Queen Elizabeth 2* in lat 37 48 29.43N, long 122 24 20.41W, San Francisco, at 0013, UTC, Jan 25.)

Fires & Explosions



APARTMENT BUILDING, KUSHVA, SVERDLOVSK, RUSSIA

London, Jan 23 — A press report, dated today, states: An explosion occurred in an apartment building in Russia's Ural Mountains Monday, emergency officials said. The Interfax news agency reported that the blast was caused by gas and that several people were hospitalized. A police official said people remained under the rubble and children's cries for help can be heard right now," Interfax quoted regional police spokesman Valry Gorelykh as saying. The agency said the blast was caused by gas.

BUILDING UNDER CONSTRUCTION, DUBAI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Dubai, Jan 18 — At least two workers were killed and 57 injured when a fire broke out today in a tower block under construction in Dubai, state news agency WAM said. An official at Rashid hospital said four workers were killed in the fire. "Three bodies were found on the scene and another died before arriving at Rashid Hospital," a hospital official told Reuters. WAM said 280 Asian workers were trapped in the building before rescue teams evacuated them after

fire broke out in the 37-storey development. "The fire took place suddenly in one of the residential towers that are under construction," it quoted an unnamed official as saying. "Fire started in the electricity and sewage pipes in the upper floors starting from the 31st," it added without mentioning what caused the fire. Earlier, another official at the hospital said 15 of those injured were in serious condition. Dubai Multi Commodities Centre Authority — a state body which set up a free trade zone where the building is located — said it would support an investigation into the cause of the incident without giving further details. Witnesses said civil defence teams fought to rescue workers trapped by the flames in the building, located in a major development area of the city where dozens of skyscrapers are being built. A civil defence department official told Reuters rescue operations were still under way and that a statement on the incident would be issued later today. — Reuters.

BUSH, AUSTRALIA

London, Jan 19 — A press report, dated today, states: Firefighters are having an enforced rest, as rain continues to fall around Victoria's bushfires. Up to 25 mm has fallen in some areas over the past two days, curtailing fire activity but also forcing the cancellation of some backburning operations. Bureau of Meteorology spokesman Scott Williams says more substantial falls are predicted in the north-east over the weekend. The Tatong fire is still out of control and there are concerns the blaze near the Thredbo ski village could cause spot fires over the Victorian border. In East Gippsland, fires have forced the closure of a gold mine. Mutiny Gold says it has removed all personnel and ceased operations at its Cassilis Mine near Swifts Creek. Activity at the mine will not resume until the fire risk has passed. The company has sent its power generator into Swifts Creek to provide electricity for facilities in the town.

London, Jan 20 — A press report, dated today, states: The bushfire threat to the New South Wales Snowy Mountains resort town of Thredbo is increasing, due to high temperatures and strong winds. Fire crews remain on alert. Helicopters have been water bombing the fire fronts, and crews dropped in by helicopter overnight have been felling burning trees. The blaze has so far burnt out almost 4500 hectares of bushland. Hundreds of tourists were evacuated from the popular ski resort earlier this week, while Thredbo's remaining 150 residents were urged to clear gutters and cut back trees in case the fire front edged closer. A cooler change with possible rain is forecast for tomorrow.

London, Jan 22 — A press report, dated Jan 21, states: A contingent of US firefighters will arrive in Victoria tomorrow to join the massive bushfire effort and relieve battle-weary

Australian crews. As the crisis enters its 53rd day, the first 20 of 104 American personnel will fly into Melbourne where they will receive two days training before being dispatched into frontline firefighting duties, Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) spokeswoman Pauline Clancy said. Heavy rain since Friday (Jan 19) had also helped quell the bushfire threat in Gippsland and north-east Victoria, Ms Clancy told AAP. "The rain has been a welcome ally in helping to contain fire activity across all the main firegrounds, but it has also created one or two problems," she said. More than 1.1 million hectares of land has now been burnt across Victoria since early December. Currently, the main focus of the state-wide firefighting effort are the three bushfires at Tatong, Hermit Mountain on the Victoria-NSW border and the Great Divide Complex South fire in Gippsland. Crews on the Gippsland blaze were continuing blacking out operations and asset protection while control lines along the fire edge were being consolidated where possible. Incident controllers would also wait until later in the week to assess conditions at certain sites before deciding where to deploy the US firefighters, a DSE spokesman said.

London, Jan 22 — A press report, dated today, states: Spot fires are causing problems for fire crews battling a large blaze north of Sydney. The bushfire was last night moving north in the Kur-ing-gai Chase National Park after coming within metres of houses at Mt Ku-ring-gai. Firefighters fought off the immediate threat and back-burned behind the houses in case the fire changes direction. Residents were told to keep watch for embers overnight. A Rural Fire Service spokesman said more than 200 firefighters are fighting spot fires being created north of the main blaze by a south-westerly wind. The fire has burnt about 100 hectares of national park. The RFS said the F3 freeway was acting as a containment line and would remain closed for most of the night. On the mid north coast, a large fire is burning in a state forest north of Wauchope, near Port Macquarie. The RFS said the 300-hectare fire started on Saturday (Jan 20) but became bigger yesterday because of hot and windy conditions. It said the fire was not threatening any property.

London, Jan 23 — A press report, dated today, states: Three major bushfires in Victoria's north-east and Gippsland have still to be contained. But rain and continuing mild weather have enabled fire crews to strengthen containment lines and gain the upper hand in the two-month bushfire crisis. Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) state duty officer Dennis Ward said: "We're going to continue to strengthen containment lines. Things are quiet so we will continue to take advantage of the milder weather." Fine conditions with temperatures in the mid-20s are forecast for eastern Victoria for the

rest of the week, Mr Ward said. Fire crews yesterday contained the massive Great Divide North fire, which has burned out 368,400 hectares in of the state's high country. But the 657,000-hectare Great Divide South fire, the Hermit Mountain fire near Corryong in the upper Murray Valley, which has burned more than 5,000 hectares on both sides of the river, and the 33,000-hectare Tatong fire remain threats, Mr Ward said. Almost 400 firefighters, including crews from Canada, the Northern Territory and New Zealand, remain on the Great Divide South complex. Firefighters yesterday began to carve out helipads along the western edge of the Hermit Mountain fire. Specialist rappel firefighters from Canada are to be flown into remote spots by helicopter this week to begin blacking out and mopping up the fire edge. Another 80 US firefighters will arrive in Melbourne today, joining the 27 who flew in yesterday to assist in the protracted bushfire emergency.

London, Jan 24 — A press report, dated Jan 23, states: Firefighters will continue working overnight to contain a fire that is burning in an inaccessible part of the Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park north of Sydney. The Rural Fire Service says there have been some spot fires but no homes are under threat. Police Superintendent Rex Little says it is not yet known if the fire was deliberately lit. "We want to deal with the facts in this matter - it's very early stages," he said. "The problem with a lot of fires is that your crime scene has been destroyed by the actual fire. We need to work through all the circumstances before we can give a definitive answer one way or the other.

London, Jan 25 — A press report, dated Jan 24, states: Overnight rain helped emergency crews battling a fire in the Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park in northern Sydney. A Rural Fire Service said the rain generated a lot of smoke in the area but it is clearing and firefighters should be able to bring the blaze under control later today.

**FIREWORKS FACTORY,
SHORTGATE, SUSSEX,
UNITED KINGDOM**

London, Jan 19 — A press report, dated Jan 18, states: Fire engines damaged when thousands of kilos of fireworks exploded at a Sussex depot have been written off. East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service said nine pumps, three specialist appliances and several cars were lost in the blast at Ringmer, near Lewes. A spokesman said the service could face a shortfall of up to £2m because the cost of replacing specialist appliances was more than their insured value. An investigation is ongoing to try to establish the cause of the fire and explosion at the fireworks depot, at Marley Farm, Shortgate.

**MARINA, NANAIMO,
BRITISH COLUMBIA**

London, Jan 23 — A press report, dated Jan 22, states: Fire crews and an ambulance were still at the scene

today hours after an early-morning fire erupted at a marina in Nanaimo. There were no reports of injuries, but at least six midsize boats were involved in the fire that broke out at about 0300 hrs, manager of Townsite marina Ray Lovestad said today. "I think it's at least six, perhaps eight (damaged boats) and they average in price at around \$80,000," he told CBC News. "You're probably looking at half or three-quarters of a million dollars (in damage) in boats alone, not counting docks and sheds." Lovestad said the Nanaimo Harbour Commission had been scooping up oil and debris from the area this morning. "There's a lot of debris and a lot of fuel and oil drifting around right now. We can see it in the water, even in the dark," he said, adding he suspects the fire began after an electrical spark in a boat. There was no official word on the cause of the fire.

OIL REFINERY, KUWAIT

London, Jan 19 — Kuwait will cut refined oil output by 20,000 barrels per day (bpd) owing to a fire in an oil refinery late yesterday, the official KUNA news agency reported. Chief Executive Officer of Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) Hani Hussein was quoted as saying that the output capacity had to be reduced to 180,000 bpd as some units in Shuaiba oil refinery were switched off. He denied that the accident would have effect on Kuwait's export capacity, saying that ordinary operation would resume as soon as the damage was assessed. The fire started at 1515, GMT, due to oil leaking in one of gas pipelines and lasted for half an hour, KUNA said. The Shuaiba oil refinery, one of three refineries in Kuwait, is located 80 km south of Kuwait City and has a combined production capacity of 200,000 bpd. Kuwait now produces 900,000 barrels of refined oil per day.

PREMISES, KARACHI, PAKISTAN

Karachi, Jan 25 — A huge fire broke in a six-story building, Progressive Plaza, on main Sharea Faisal, in Karachi, Sindh Province of Pakistan on Wednesday. The fire erupted at 2100 hrs and was controlled with the help of 12 fire fighting vehicles after a three-hour long struggle. No casualty was reported in the incident. However, an office of a privately owned insurance company, New Jubli Insurance Co, located on the sixth floor was gutted. The cause of fire and extent of loss are yet to be determined. — Lloyd's List Correspondent.

WILDFIRES, UNITED STATES

London, Jan 23 — A press report, dated Jan 22, states: A fire driven by Santa Ana winds threatened 20 homes as it spread over several acres of brush today, officials said. Mild winds were blowing the fire uphill in steep terrain, said Ventura County Fire Capt. Barry Parker. A helicopter was dropping water over the area of modern homes, many set amid hills on cul-de-sacs, and 200 firefighters were on the lines, officials said. The blaze

broke out as "red flag" warnings were posted for fire danger due to gusty offshore winds and low humidity in the region. Thousand Oaks, a city of 127,000 is about 40 miles west of downtown Los Angeles. The Ventura County Fire Department closed its fire season Jan 15, citing a forecast of reduced potential for major wildfires. Closing the fire season involves changes in work schedules and equipment. A wind-driven brush fire roared through an exclusive beachside area in Malibu this month, destroying five homes, including one belonging to actress Suzanne Somers, and damaging six. Losses were estimated at \$60 million.

London, Jan 25 — A press report, dated Jan 24, states: Firefighters used risky nighttime helicopter flights to help douse a wildfire that temporarily threatened 20 homes in Ventura County foothills, a fire official said. The 30-acre blaze was extinguished despite potentially dangerous fire conditions, including gusty winds and low humidity, county fire Capt. Barry Parker said yesterday. No homes were damaged, and there were no evacuations or injuries, he said. The cause of the fire was under investigation.



**ACCIDENT, GENERAL MITCHELL
INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT,
MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN,
UNITED STATES**

London, Jan 25 — A press report, dated today, states: Two cargo aircraft collided and burned on an airport taxiway Wednesday night (Jan 24), but no serious injuries were reported. Both pilots escaped after the crash between small cargo aircraft at General Mitchell International Airport, though one had a minor hand injury, an official said. The aircraft, a Cessna 402 and a Beech 99, both belonged to Freight Runners Express Inc. of Milwaukee, airport officials said. "I'm told that one (plane) had just landed and was taxiing into the cargo area," said airport director Barry Bateman. "A significant fireball occurred." The airport closed immediately, and crews put out the fire, officials said. It reopened about 2030, about a half-hour after the accident. It was unclear what caused the collision.

**AIRCRAFT HIJACKED,
KHARTOUM, SUDAN**

Khartoum, Jan 24 — A Sudanese passenger aircraft has been hijacked in Khartoum by an unknown gunman who diverted the aircraft to the Chadian capital N'Djamena, an airline official said on Wednesday (Jan 24). "There are 103 people on board," said Ahmed Salih, commercial manager of the Air West airline which operates

the Boeing 737 aircraft. "It was hijacked at 0900, local time, (0600, UTC) and will arrive in N'Djamena at 1100," he said. "So far there is one hijacker with an AK-47 machine gun," he said. He added there were no other demands made by the hijacker, whose identity is unknown. Another source at Khartoum airport told Reuters the aircraft was destined for el-Fasher, the main town in Sudan's western Darfur region. It was not clear how the hijacker got on board the aircraft with a weapon, but Sudanese security is often lax, especially on internal flights. — Reuters.

COLLISION IN AIR NEAR MANTA, ECUADOR

Quito, Jan 25 — Ecuador's first female defence minister was killed in a mid-air collision between two helicopters yesterday after only nine days in office, government and military officials said. Defence Minister Guadalupe Larriva, a 50-year-old former teacher and senior official of a socialist political party supporting President Rafael Correa, died in the crash in a Pacific coastal province east of Quito, Correa said. Correa gave no specific details on the cause of the collision that killed Larriva, her teenage daughter and five military personnel on board the Gazelle helicopters. "We are going to ask friendly countries to help us with the investigation of the accident," Correa said in the port city of Manta, near the crash site. Ecuadorean Vice President Lenin Moreno said he received a report from the military saying it was an unfortunate accident. US firefighters stationed at an air base in Manta rushed to the scene of the crash, a US Embassy spokesman said. — Reuters.

CRASH, BUTLER COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, UNITED STATES

London, Jan 25 — A press report, dated Jan 24, states: Four people from Winchester, Va., suffered minor injuries in an aircraft crash in Butler County, Pa., according to WPXI.com. A private jet apparently overshot a runway during a landing attempt at Butler-Graham Airport and crashed, WPXI.com reported. The twin-engine Lear jet landed on its belly and caught fire, and its tail snapped off. The four people on board were taken to an area hospital.

CRASH, MEDINA SAUDI ARABIA

London, Jan 23 — A press report, dated Jan 22, states: A Bosnian pilot and two Syrian doctors were killed today when a Saudi Red Crescent aircraft crashed in western Saudi Arabia, the official SPA news agency reported. It quoted a Red Crescent official as saying the aircraft was making a routine trip over the Muslim holy city of Medina when it crashed. Only the pilot and the two doctors were on board.

CRASH, NATRONA AIRPORT, WYOMING, UNITED STATES

London, Jan 22 — A press report, dated Jan 21, states: A Gillette man

has been identified as one of two people killed Wednesday (Jan 17) in a western Natrona County aircraft crash. Kyle Moser, 42, of Gillette, was a passenger in a Cessna 182R that was flying from Gillette to Lander, according to Deputy County Coroner Gary Hazen. David Hinkle, 55, of Lander was flying the aircraft. Federal Aviation Administration spokesman Mike Fergus said the men left Gillette for Lander at about 2100 hrs in a Cessna 182R. The single-engine Cessna was registered to Lander-based American Industrial Laundry Inc. The men did not file a flight plan, Fergus said. They were flying under "visual flight rules," meaning the pilot navigated the aircraft visually. Searchers found the aircraft Thursday morning in a remote area in extreme western Natrona County, about 40 miles from Riverton. The FAA and National Transportation Safety Board's Denver office will investigate the crash, Fergus said. He did not know when those investigations would be finished.

CRASH, NIKISKI AREA, ALASKA, UNITED STATES

See N9941M.

EMERGENCY LANDING, BEIJING AIRPORT, CHINA

London, Jan 24 — A press report, dated today, states: A Singapore Airlines Boeing 777-200 made a successful emergency landing at Beijing airport today after the fire alarm in one of the aircraft's two engines was activated, the airline said. Singapore Air said in a statement that flight SQ811 from Beijing to Singapore returned to Beijing about one hour and 40 minutes after take-off. "At this point, there is no confirmation that the alarm was activated by a fire, but the pilot correctly acted in response to the alarm, then returned the aircraft to Beijing as quickly as he was able," the airline said. A spokesman said the alarm could have been activated by a fire, an engine failure known as flame-out, or a short circuit in the fire alarm. He said ground engineers were inspecting the aircraft to find what repairs may be necessary, adding that the aircraft had been in service since late 1999. The aircraft was carrying 227 passengers and 16 crew. Singapore Air said it was making arrangements for them to continue their journey as soon as possible.

London, Jan 25 — A press report, dated today, states: Fire alarms sent a Singapore Airlines Boeing 777-200 back to Beijing airport yesterday morning, less than two hours after the aircraft took off. No one was injured during the incident and investigators found no sign of a fire or increased temperature on the aircraft, the airlines said. The aircraft took off from Beijing at 0835 hrs with 227 passengers and 16 crew members bound for Singapore. After one hour and 40 minutes in the air, a fire siren on the right engine started to alarm

and the pilots immediately returned the aircraft back to Beijing at full speed, the carrier said. "There wasn't a fire and we are still investigating why the siren alarmed," said Wang Yong, a public relations official with Singapore Airlines China. One possible reason is the air current disturbed the heat insulation, which caused the siren to give wrong signals, he said. The aircraft will be left in Beijing until all checks are finished. The carrier said it is trying its best to assist the affected passenger to take other flights to Singapore or their final destinations.

EMERGENCY LANDING, BUDAPEST AIRPORT, HUNGARY

London, Jan 22 — A press report, dated Jan 21, states: A charter flight of the Czech company Travel Service had an emergency landing at the Budapest airport this morning, Slovak TA3 television channel has reported, adding that none of the 180 people aboard was injured. The Boeing 737-800 departed from Budapest for Las Palmas, the Canary Islands. However, some 20 minutes after the takeoff, the pilots registered unusual noise, therefore, they decided to return to Budapest. Before landing the aircraft had to circle over the Hungarian capital for three hours in order to burn part of the fuel and lower its weight. The French press agency AFP writes that another plan has been provided to fly the 164 passengers to their original destination.

EMERGENCY LANDING, COPENHAGEN KASTRUP AIRPORT, DENMARK

London, Jan 22 — A press report, dated Jan 21, states: A charter aircraft, en route from Oslo to Alicante, was forced to make an emergency landing at Copenhagen Kastrup Airport yesterday, DPA reported. A sudden drop in cabin pressure had triggered an alarm on board, a spokesman for the Danish low-budget airline company Sterling was quoted as saying. All passengers, mostly Norwegian tourists, put on their oxygen masks, as the captain lowered the altitude of the aircraft. According to the spokesperson, the pilot had "the situation under control at any time."

EMERGENCY LANDING, DALIAN, CHINA

London, Jan 19 — Cracks on the windshield of a China Eastern MU5615 aircraft from Shanghai to Ha'erbin, in north-east China's Heilongjiang Province, forced the aircraft to emergency landing yesterday midway in Dalian, Liaoning Province. No injuries were reported from the emergency landing. Reason for the cracks is unknown, the report said, citing Dalian aviation administration officials. The officials arranged for the landing after receiving an emergency call from Qingdao aviation center of Shandong Province at 1338 hrs.

EMERGENCY LANDING, KOPITNARI AIRPORT, KUTAISI, GEORGIA

London, Jan 24 — A press report, dated Jan 23, states: A Georgian National Airlines flight from Tbilisi to Thessaloniki was forced to make an emergency landing at the Kopitnari airport, Kutaisi, on Jan 21. The aircraft was carrying 24 passengers. According to the flight plan, the plane should have landed in Saloniki at 0240 hrs but after circling in Turkish airspace, the aircraft returned to Georgia and landed at in Kutaisi. According to officials, the emergency landing was due to a major computer system failure. "We have been sitting in the Kopitnari airport for almost a day, and we insist that the company fly us to Thessaloniki," Irma Razmadze, a passenger on the flight now stranded in Kutaisi, said in televised comments. Representatives of Georgian National Airlines did not specify when the problem would be fixed. Giorgi Kodua, director of GNA, announced that the company was only performing a charter flight, and the party responsible is that which hired GNA for the charter. He said the only action GNA could take was reimbursement of the passengers' airfare. GNA offered to bus passengers back to Tbilisi, but the passengers refused. On Jan 22, GNA agreed to the passengers' demands. Kodua visited the Kutaisi airport and met the passengers. He announced that they were fixing the technical problems on the aircraft and GNA would arrange flights for those passengers who still wanted to fly to Greece. "We will reimburse passengers for the flight. We have already reimbursed a few of the passengers, and others who still want to travel to Greece will be offered other flights," stated Kodua. However, many passengers said that they would no longer fly with GNA.

INCIDENT AT MINANGKABAU AIRPORT, PADANG, INDONESIA

London, Jan 19 — A press report, dated today, states: Air Asia Boeing 737-300 aircraft failed to take-off from the Minangkabau Airport, Padang, today, due to failure to unlock the front wheel. The pilot of the aircraft, which served Padang-Jakarta route, decided to cancel the take off because of the wheel problem, said Cik Dien an official in the Minangkabau Airport. 155 passengers on board are safe without any injuries

N43630

London, Jan 24 — Piper PA-28-180, N43630, operated by Archer Nevada LLC, crashed under unknown circumstances, was the subject of an alert notice and search and rescue, wreckage located near Browns Peak, Wyoming, 33 miles from Laramie, on Jan 17. The three persons on board were fatally injured. The aircraft was destroyed.

N918RW

London, Jan 22 — A press report, dated Jan 21, states: An aircraft with

104 people on board skidded off a runway at Milwaukee Airport, Wisconsin, in snowy weather today after the Northwest Airlines crew aborted the flight as it began accelerating for takeoff, airline officials said. No serious injuries were reported in the late-morning incident. One passenger complained of a sore back and was to be examined, said airline spokeswoman Jennifer Bagdade. The crew of Flight 1726 bound from Milwaukee to Detroit "opted to discontinue its takeoff due to an engine problem," the airline said in a statement. The aircraft came to a stop off the runway surface, the statement said. The aircraft skidded when the pilot applied the brakes, said Pat Rowe, spokeswoman for General Mitchell International Airport. Rowe said that snowplow crews had been working all morning but that she did not know how much snow was on the runway at the time. About 2 1/2 inches of snow had fallen at the airport as of noon, according to the National Weather Service. The 99 passengers and five crew members were bused back to the terminal with their luggage. The airport was closed for 35 minutes afterward, officials said.

London, Jan 24 — Douglas DC-9-31, N918RW, operated by Northwest Airlines Inc., on take-off, experienced an engine problem and aborted the take-off, slid off the end of the runway at Milwaukee, Wisconsin, at 1732, local time, Jan 21. No injuries reported, passengers bused to the terminal.

N9937H

London, Jan 19 — Cessna 182R, N9937H, operated by American Industrial Laundry Inc., crashed under unknown circumstances, subject of an alert notice, search located wreckage at Waltman, Wyoming, 40 miles east of Riverton on Jan 18. The two persons on board were fatally injured, the aircraft was destroyed.

N9941M

London, Jan 24 — Cessna 207A, operated by Alaska Aircraft Leasing LLC, crashed after reporting engine problems, was subject of a search and rescue, wreckage located in Cook Inlet Channel, Alaska, at 1934, local time, Jan 9. Person onboard not located and presumed dead.

PK-KKW

London, Jan 25 — A press report, dated today, states: The US Navy has picked up signals from the flight data recorders of an Indonesian aircraft that crashed into the sea on Jan 1 with 102 people on board, the US Embassy said today. USS *Mary Sears* located signals "on the same frequency of the black boxes associated with the missing aircraft," a statement issued by the US Embassy in Jakarta said. Data from the flight recorders will be crucial in determining the cause of the crash, but retrieving them from the ocean floor at a depth of nearly 5,600 feet will probably be a difficult, expensive and lengthy operation. The

Adam Air Boeing 737-400 (PK-KKW) went missing more than three weeks ago after reporting heavy winds off the western coast of Sulawesi while flying from Indonesia's main island of Java. Three Americans — a man from Oregon and his two daughters — were on board the aircraft. Search teams have since found almost 200 pieces of debris, mostly small pieces of the wings, tail, cockpit and cabin, but no bodies. The embassy did not say when the black box signals were picked up or where on the ocean floor off Sulawesi they were coming from. The hull of the aircraft has not yet been recovered, but the statement said that close to where the signals were coming from "Mary Sears detected heavy debris scattered over a wide area" that was being analysed to verify if it was from the missing aircraft. Eddy Suyanto, the Indonesian air force commander in charge of the search and rescue mission, said he had not been formally informed of the vessel's findings. "One thing is for sure, up until this second, I have not received any report from the Indonesian liaison officers who were on board the vessel," he said. Indonesia said earlier this week it did not have a submarine capable of retrieving the black boxes and would have to rent one. The embassy statement said that "having completed its mission" *Mary Sears* would now depart Indonesian waters on Jan 26.

V5-LUC

London, Jan 24 — A press report, dated today, states: A chartered aircraft carrying a group of lawyers on a flight from Oranjemund to Windhoek was forced to make a crash landing south of Luederitz yesterday. A Cessna 310, registration number V5-LUC, had to make an emergency landing as it approached the Luederitz airport, sources informed late yesterday afternoon. Four Windhoek lawyers who had flown to Oranjemund to attend a court case at the diamond mining town were on board. They are Deon Obbes, Frank Koepplinger, Carli Schickerling and Dee Sauls. They reportedly emerged from the accident shocked and sore, but otherwise not seriously injured. The aircraft's pilot, whose name could not be established, was injured, though, and is feared to have suffered a broken back. The aircraft was supposed to land at Luederitz to take in fuel on its way from Oranjemund to Windhoek, Koepplinger said when he was contacted at Luederitz early yesterday evening. The aircraft appeared to have experienced a sudden engine failure, Koepplinger said. He said while he and the other passengers were experiencing body aches after the event, they did not otherwise appear to be seriously hurt. Their pilot, however, may have suffered a more serious back injury. According to Titus Shuungula, an aircraft accident investigator attached to the Directorate of Aircraft Accident Investigations in the Ministry of Works, Transport and

Communications, an investigator from the Directorate was dispatched by air to Luederitz yesterday afternoon to investigate the incident. Shuungula said according to preliminary information available to him the pilot was the only person injured in the accident. He said he had been informed that the accident took place when the aircraft apparently landed short of the runway. According to Sikongo Haihambo, the Namibia Airports Company's General Manager: Business Development, Marketing and Corporate Communication, his office was informed that the aircraft experienced a suspected engine failure and had to make an emergency landing about five kilometres south of Luederitz Airport at about 1550. Emergency services personnel took the pilot and four passengers to a hospital at the town, Haihambo reported. He added that the aircraft sustained damage to its propeller at least.

Product Recalls



GENERAL MOTORS VEHICLES, UNITED STATES

London, Jan 26 — General Motors Corp. said today it was recalling more than 98,000 Chevrolet Cobalt small coupes to upgrade head impact protection. GM said the recall affects 98,707 vehicles from the 2005-2006 model years that are not equipped with optional roof-mounted side impact air bags. The issue was discovered during compliance testing. There have been no injuries related to the recall. GM spokesman Alan Adler said the head impact protection would only be an issue for motorists not wearing a seat belt.

GEOMETIX INTERNATIONAL LLC TOYS, UNITED STATES

Washington, DC, Jan 18 — The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in co-operation with Geometix International LLC, of Brookfield, Conn, today announced a voluntary recall of about 40,000 sets of MagneBlocks Magnetic Construction Toys. Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed. Tiny magnets inside the building pieces can fall out. Magnets found by young children can be swallowed or aspirated. If more than one magnet is swallowed, the magnets can attract each other and cause intestinal perforation or blockage, which can be fatal. The firm is aware of one incident where a magnet became loose. No injuries have been reported. All types of MagneBlocks construction sets are included in this recall. The sets contain six or more plastic building pieces and six or more 1/2-inch diameter steel balls. Some sets include steel rods. The building pieces are various colors and are shaped in 1 1/2-

inch cubes and three-, four-, and five-sided pyramids. The plastic building pieces have "MagneBlock" imprinted on them. Sold at discount department and toy stores and web sites, and other toy and arts and crafts stores nation-wide. The MagneBlocks magnetic building sets were sold from January 2004 through November 2006 for between \$20 and \$120, depending on the size of the set. Sets currently for sale have improved warning labels. Manufactured in China. CPSC recommends children under six years of age not play with toys containing magnets. If a magnet comes out of one of the blocks in these sets, immediately remove the block from the set and send it to Geometrix International for a free replacement block. — U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission.

HIGHCHAIRS, UNITED STATES

Washington, DC, Jan 18 — The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in co-operation with Graco Children's Products Inc., of Exton, Pa, today announced a voluntary recall to repair about 100,000 Graco Contempo Highchairs. The highchair can collapse if it is not fully opened and locked into place from the storage position prior to use. If the highchair collapses, a child occupying the highchair can be injured. The firm has received 18 reports of the highchair collapsing. There has been one report of an 18 month old male who suffered a bruise on his foot. Additionally, there have been two reports of the highchair collapsing outside of the United States. The Contempo highchairs have an "A" frame design. The highchairs feature six height adjustment positions and three recline positions. The recalled highchairs have model numbers that begin with 3800, 3803, 3804, 3805, 3810 and 3811 followed by a three letter fashion code. Model numbers included in the recall include: 3800COU, 3800DRB, 3800FMT, 3800GGG, 3800GRM, 3800HEM, 3800JEN, 3800LEG, 3800MNS, 3800OWD, 3800SND, 3800TFE, 3800RIT, 3803HRL, 3804CNR, 3805BDA, 3810PEW, 3810PST and 3811PST. The highchairs were manufactured from October 27, 2005 through November 22, 2006. The model number and manufacturing date are printed underneath the snack tray of these highchairs. Sold by Babies "R" Us, Toys "R" Us, Target, Target.com, Wal-Mart, Wal-Mart.com, Burlington Coat Factory, Shopko, AAFES, USA Baby and various specialty retailers nationwide from December 2005 through December 2006 for between \$100 and \$130. Manufactured in China. Consumers should contact the firm to obtain instructions on how to receive a free repair kit. Consumers can continue to use the highchair until the repair kit is received but must make sure it is fully opened first. Consumers should open the highchair until they hear a "click" which indicates the hub is locked into place. — U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission.

TOWER FANS, UNITED STATES

Washington, DC, Jan 24 — The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in co-operation with The Holmes Group, of Milford, Mass., today announced a voluntary recall of about 300,000 Holmes(r)Oscillating Tower Fans. Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed. Electrical arcing in the fan's wiring can cause a fire hazard. The Holmes Group has received 16 reports of property damage, including one reported injury involving minor burns and smoke inhalation. The recall involves the Holmes HT30 Oscillating Tower Fan. The model number can be found on the silver label on the back of the unit. The tower fans are white. "HolmesÆ" is printed on the front of the base. Sold at Target, Bed Bath & Beyond and additional department and specialty stores nation-wide from July 2002 through June 2005 for about \$30. Manufactured in China. Consumers should immediately stop using the fans and contact The Holmes Group for instructions on receiving a free replacement unit. — Consumer Product Safety Commission.

TOYOTA MOTOR VEHICLES, UNITED STATES

London, Jan 19 — A press report, dated Jan 18, states: Toyota Motor Corp. said today it was recalling 533,000 Tundra pickup trucks and Sequoia sport utility vehicles because of potential steering problems. Toyota said the recall involved 2004-2006 Tundra trucks and 2004-2007 Sequoia full-size SUVs. The automaker has received reports of 11 accidents and six injuries connected to the recall, said Toyota spokesman Bill Kwong. The automaker said there was a possibility of excessive wear to a front suspension lower ball joint that could make it difficult to steer the vehicle and stay in the center of the lane. Drivers may also notice more noise coming from the front suspension, Kwong said. Toyota recalled about 775,000 pickups and SUVs in May 2005 - one of its largest recalls ever - because of similar problems with the front suspension. The recall included 2002-2004 model years of the Tundra and Sequoia. Kwong said the company received additional complaints involving newer models of the Tundra and Sequoia, prompting them to issue the recall.

Port Conditions



ITALY

Genoa, Jan 22 — Port situation Jan 22: Genoa: One bulk carrier waiting for berth. Average number days delay in berthing 12-24 hrs. Savona: No vessels waiting for normal berth. No vessels awaiting special berth. La Spezia: No vessels awaiting berths. — Lloyd's Agents.

Port Conditions

PANAMA CANAL

Balboa, Jan 22 — Present backlog of ships awaiting transit exceeds 71

vessels. Consistent heavy arrivals continue to affect the ability of the canal to reduce the backlog and

delays for non-booked ships remain at a level of about three 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		
Abbot Point	31-Jan-2007	Coal: 4 vessels waiting; 4 vessels due by 10/2.
Brisbane	31-Jan-2007	Grain: no vessels. Coal: Fisherman Island coal berth: 10 vessels due by 11/3.
Dalrymple Bay	31-Jan-2007	Coal: DBCT berth 1: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 3 waiting; DBCT berth 2: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 7 waiting; DBCT berth 3: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 2 waiting; other vessels not scheduled: 11 vessels waiting; 29 vessels due by 23/2.
Dampier	31-Jan-2007	Iron ore: Parker Point berth 1: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 5 waiting; 8 vessels due by 16/2; Parker Point berth 2: a 4 week shutdown commenced at 06.00 hrs. 10/1; 1 vessel due ca. 21/2; Parker Point berth 3: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 4 waiting; 3 vessels due by 5/2; East Intercourse Island: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 6 waiting; 3 vessels due by 1/2.
Esperance	31-Jan-2007	Grain: 6 vessels due by 3/2, 5 to load unknown grain cargoes, 1 wheat; up to 1 day's delay expected due to berth congestion, cargo availability and maintenanc. Iron ore: 1 vessel berthed, 1 at anchor; 2 vessels due by 10/2.
Geelong	31-Jan-2007	No. 3 bulk grain pier: 4 vessels due 31/3, all to load wood-chips; no delays expected. A new terminal process management system will be installed starting 29/1 and installation is expected to be completed by 12/2. This should only affect rail receivals, grain shipping and grain road outloading from vertical storage. All other functions can be managed around the upgrade process, including imports if required
Geraldton	31-Jan-2007	Grain: 2 vessels anchored, both to load unknown grain cargoes; 7-14 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability
Gladstone	31-Jan-2007	Coal: R.G. Tanna (Clinton) coal terminal: 3 vessels berthed, 18 waiting; 27 vessels due by 10/3; shiploader No. 1 shut down for repairs and maintenance from 5-8/02; Barney Point: 1 vessel berthed, 1 waiting; 14 vessels due by 21/2
Hay Point	31-Jan-2007	Coal: Berth 1: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 4 waiting; 3 vessels due by 6/2; Berth 2: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 5 waiting; 2 vessels due by 30/1; 8 other vessels due by 14/2, not yet scheduled.
Newcastle	31-Jan-2007	Grain: 1 vessel due 30/1 to load wheat; no delays expected. Coal: Kooragang 4, 5 and 6: 2 vessels berthed and loading, 31 waiting; 46 vessels due by 18/2; 17-22 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; approx. 31 vessels off port awaiting berths; Dykes 4+5: 2 vessels berthed and loading, 17 waiting; 24 vessels due by 17/2; 16-20 days delay expected due to berth congestion and cargo availability; 18 vessels off port awaiting coal.
Port Hedland	31-Jan-2007	Iron ore: BHP Iron Ore Pty. Ltd., Mt. Newman (Nelson Point), "A" berth: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 3 waiting; 7 vessels due by 7/2; "B" berth: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 3 waiting; 5 vessels due by 5/2; 3 other vessels due by 12/2, no e.t.a. received; BHP Iron Ore Pty. Ltd., Goldsworthy (Finucane Island) "C" berth: berth undergoing refurbishment and closed until further notice; Goldsworthy (Finucane Island) "D" berth: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 1 waiting; 9 vessels due by 9/2; Cockatoo Island: 2 vessels due by 10/2
Port Kembla	31-Jan-2007	Coal: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 2 waiting; 14 vessels due by 11/3.
Port Walcott	31-Jan-2007	Iron ore: 1 vessel berthed and loading, 12 waiting; 13 vessels due by 14/2; shippers may experience product shortage which might affect berthing schedules.
Whyalla	31-Jan-2007	Iron ore: 1 vessel berthed; 5 vessels due by 23/2.
Azerbaijan		
Apsheron	29-01-2007	Oil products: One vessel discharging jet fuel at berth.
Baku	29-01-2007	Oil products: Azertrans terminal: Nobel Avenue: One vessel discharging gasoil at berth; Sangachal District: port open; no vessels
Bulgaria		
Bourgas	29-01-2007	Four vessels in port operating, of which 3 loading (1 coils, 1 baryte concentrate, 1 copper concentrate), 1 discharging steel billets; 2 vessels in roads, both to load, of which coils, 1 empty; 6 vessels due, of which 3 to load (1 profiles, 1 steel bars, 1 sulphur), 3 to discharge (1 slabs, 1 lead concentrate, 1 coke)

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Port Conditions

Varna	29-01-2007	Varna East, Varna West, Electrical Power Station, Balchik: Conditions 22-29 January: Twenty-five vessels in port operating of which 17 loading (3 bulk maize, 2 sunflower seeds, 1 containers, 1 soda, 1 caustic soda, 2 sulphuric acid, 1 clinker, 1 STPP, 1 scrap, 2 kaolin, 1 silica sand, 1 industrial salt), 4 discharging (1 bulk coal, 1 petcoke, 1 pipes, 1 equipment in packing cases), 4 discharging/loading containers; 3 vessels waiting in roads, all to load, of which 2 wheat, 1 sunflower seeds.
Colombia		
Barranquilla	31-01-2007	Max. permissible draft: 9.14 m fw. Shore cranes operational; 4 vessels berthed (1 containers, 2 general cargo, 1 bulker), no vessels anchored; 13 vessels due (5 containers, 3 general cargo, 3 bulkers, 2 coal), with no delays expected.
Buenaventura	31-01-2007	Shore cranes operational; 9 vessels berthed (4 containers, 4 bulkers, 1 PCC), 2 bulkers anchored; 34 vessels due (23 containers, 4 general cargo, 4 bulkers, 3 PCC), with 1 day's delay expected for bulkers.
Cartagena	31-01-2007	SPRCTG: shore cranes operational; 4 vessels berthed (3 containers, 1 general cargo), none anchored; 29 vessels due (27 containers, 2 general cargo), with no delays expected; MEB: shore crane operational; 1 container vessel berthed, no vessels anchored; 1 container vessel due, with no delays expected; CONTECAR: shore crane operational; 1 container vessel berthed, no vessels anchored; 3 vessels due (2 containers, 1 general cargo), with no delays expected.
Santa Marta	31-01-2007	Shore cranes operational; 1 bulker berthed, no vessels anchored; 16 vessels due (3 containers, 5 general cargo, 4 bananas, 2 bulkers, 2 coal), with no delays expected.
Cyprus		
Larnaca	30-01-2007	Two conventional vessels discharging at berth; 2 conventional vessels due 31/1; no delays expected
Limassol	30-01-2007	Four container vessels discharging/loading at berth, 2 conventional vessels discharging at berth; 10 vessels due 31/1 (5 containers, 5 conventional); no delays expected.
Egypt		
Adabiya	29-01-2007	Four vessels at berth (loading/discharging), all general cargo.
Alexandria	29-01-2007	Forty vessels at berth (loading/discharging) of which 32 general cargo, 1 bulk cargo, 4 tankers, 3 container vessels; 8 vessels at inner anchorage, 5 at outer anchorage
Damietta	29-01-2007	Thirteen vessels at berth (loading/discharging) of which 9 general cargo, 1 bulk carrier, 3 container vessels; no vessels at inner anchorage, 5 at outer anchorage
Dekheila	29-01-2007	Thirteen vessels at berth (loading/discharging) of which 3 general cargo, 5 bulk carriers, 1 tanker, 4 container vessels; no vessels at outer anchorage
Port Said	29-01-2007	Five vessels at berth (loading/discharging) of which 2 general cargo, 3 container vessels.
Suez	29-01-2007	Five vessels at berth (loading/discharging) of which 2 general cargo, 3 passenger vessels; 2 tug boats; 2 vessels dry-docked.
Suez Canal	29-01-2007	Twenty-two vessels transiting Northbound, 32 Southbound.
Estonia		
Tallin	29-01-2007	Paljassaare (formerly Kopli): Four vessels loading at berth (3 coal, 1 metal), 3 discharging at berth (1 frozen fish, 1 sugar, 1 other); no vessels anchored; 7 vessels due, with 8 days berthing delay expected.
Georgia		
Batumi	26-01-2007	Oil products: 1 vessel berthed, loading crude oil; 3 vessels in roads, all to load crude oil; 3 vessels due by 25/1, all to load, of which 1 kerosene, 1 crude oil, 1 unknown cargo.
Poti	26-01-2007	Oil products: 1 vessel berthed discharging gasoline; 5 vessels due by 30/1, all to load, of which 1 gasoline, 2 gasoil, 1 naphtha, 1 kerosene/jet fuel
India		
Kolkata	29-01-2007	1 vessel operating at berth loading General Cargo, 2 vessels working at midstream discharging (Crude, Logs); 2 vessels waiting and working at anchorage to discharge; 4 vessels under repair; 1 vessel under arrest; 3 vessels under shifting.
Haldia	29-01-2007	14 vessels operating at berth of which 7 vessels loading (POL, Iron Ore-3, Thermal Coal, Rock Phosphate, P. Acid), 5 vessels discharging (Coking Coal, Crude-2, Met Coke, Clnkr.), 2 vessels loading and discharging Containers; 8 vessels awaiting berth at anchorage (3 to discharge, 1 to load, 4 to load and discharge), 8 vessels waiting berth at anchorage (1 to discharge, 7 to load); 4 vessels due (Crude, Iron Ore, Containers-2).
Paradip	29-01-2007	9 vessels operating at berth of which 5 vessels loading (Iron Ore-4, Thermal Coal), 4 vessels discharging (I. Coke, Coking Coal, N. C. Coal, Rock Phosphate); 12 vessels awaiting berth at anchorage (2 to discharge, 10 to load), 2 vessels waiting berth at anchorage (1 to discharge, 1 to load); 36 vessels due.
Visakhapatnam	29-01-2007	19 vessels operating at berth of which 7 vessels loading (Iron Ore-2, Soya-2, Food Grains, I. Sand, Granite & Steel), 12 vessels discharging (Limestone, Coking Coal-4, Urea-3, Rock Phosphate-2, Product-2); 7 vessels not ready to work and waiting at anchorage (2 to discharge, 5 to load); 35 vessels due (Iron Ore-11, Alumina, Soya-2, Granite-2, Rock Boulders, I. Sand, Food Grains, Rock Phosphate, Coking Coal-3, Gypsum, Alumina, Met Coke, Chemical Tankers, Project Cargo, Steel Pipes, A. Coal, Crude & Product Tankers-5, Wheat).
Chennai	29-01-2007	17 vessels operating at berth of which 5 vessels loading (C. Stone, Bary, IOL, Edible Oil, Iron Ore), 6 vessels discharging (PFIN, Log, MOP, Thermal Coal & Steam Coal), 6 vessels loading and discharging

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Port Conditions

		(Steel Coil, Granite Blocks, Project Cargo, High Speed Diesel, MSO, LSHS & Containers); 8 vessels due (Supply, Containers, Thermal Coal, Project Cargo, Naptha).
Tuticorin	29-01-2007	8 vessels operating at berth of which 1 vessel loading General Cargo, 5 vessels discharging (General Cargo, Granite, S. Acid, Ilminite), 2 vessels loading and discharging Thermal Coal; 1 vessel not ready to work and waiting at anchorage to load, 1 vessels awaiting order at anchorage to discharge, 1 vessel under arrest.
Cochin	29-01-2007	6 vessels operating at berth discharging (Steel Plates, Crude, Steel Pipes, Logs, High Speed Diesel & Motor Spirit, Sulphur); 1 vessel awaiting berth at anchorage to discharge; 1 vessel under arrest (Banglar Gourab under arrest by MMD/Court).
New Mangalore	29-01-2007	3 vessels operating at berth of which 1 vessel loading POL Product, 2 vessels discharging (Lime Stone, LPG); 1 vessel waiting at anchorage to discharge; 14 vessels due (Iron Ore Fines -2, Granite Stone, Timber, POL Product, Cement, Pig Iron, Container, LPG, Phosphoric Acid, POL Crude-2, MOP, Methonol).
Mormugao	29-01-2007	4 vessels operating at berth of which 2 vessels loading (Iron Ore, Steel Coils), 2 vessels discharging (Met Coke, PFAD/CPS); 4 vessels working at midstream and loading Iron Ore; 3 vessels awaiting berth at anchorage (2 to discharge,1 to load), 3 vessels waiting at anchorage to load; 2 vessel under dry docked; 7 vessels due (Coal-3, Iron Ore-4)
Mumbai	29-01-2007	20 vessels operating at berth of which 3 vessels loading (Soyabean/ Bagged Sugar/Bagged SBM), 13 vessels discharging (Project Cargo/Machinery/Steel/Logs/General Cargo, Sulphur MOP, POL-3), 4 vessels loading and discharging (Containers Steel, General Vehicle/Wood pulp, Machinery/ Heavy Lift/ Rice); 1 vessel working at midstream discharging Lubricant Oil; 1 vessel awaiting order at anchorage to load; 10 vessels under repairs/dry docked; 5 vessels under arrest; 1 vessels under laid up (Berths not required for cargo operations); 34 vessels due (Containers-5, Oil, Fertiliser, General Cargo-27).
J.N.P.T.	29-01-2007	9 vessels operating at berth of which 2 vessels discharging (High Speed Diesel, Motor Spirit, Super Kerosene Oil), 7 vessels loading and discharging Containers.
Kandla	29-01-2007	16 vessels operating at berth of which 6 vessels loading (Soya-5, Cement), 8 vessels discharging (Wheat, Timber Logs, Steel Coils, Scrap, POL, Chemical-2, Vegetable Oil), 1 vessel working at midstream and discharging Timber Logs; 6 vessels awaiting berth at anchorage (5 to load, 1 to load and discharge), 6 vessels not ready to work at anchorage (6 to load, 2 to discharge).
Ennore	29-01-2007	1 vessel operating at berth discharging Coal, 1 vessel working at inner anchorage loading Iron Ore; 2 vessels due (MV Tamil Anna (Coal), MV Apj Sri Devi (Coal).
Israel		
Ashdod	31-Jan-2007	A strike started in the port of Ashdod early on 31/1. No vessels are operating. Ashdod Port Co. have applied to the Labour Court to instruct the stevedores to return to work
Eilat	31-Jan-2007	No labour problems. One general cargo vessel discharging at berth, 1 car carrier loading/discharging at berth; 1 general cargo vessel waiting at anchorage to discharge; 2 vessels due, with no delays expected
Haifa	31-Jan-2007	No labour problems. Five vessels discharging at berth (3 general cargo, 2 bulkers), 9 loading/ discharging at berth (2 containers, 2 car carriers, 4 tankers, 1 passenger vessel); 2 vessels waiting at anchorage to discharge (1 general cargo, 1 bulker), 4 waiting at anchorage to load/discharge (3 containers, 1 tanker); 7 vessels under repairs/dry-docked; 22 vessels due, with 2-3 days delay expected
Kazakhstan		
Aktau	29-Jan-2007	Oil products: Seven vessels in roads, all to load; 1 vessel due 29/1 to load.
Russia		
Novorossiysk	29-Jan-2007	Seventeen vessels in port operating, of which 13 loading, (1 bulk cement, 1 vehicles, 1 pig-iron, 1 copper, 1 copper WRIC, 1 wire rods/steel billets, 2 wheat, 1 slabs, 1 aluminium, 1 barley, 1 diesel oil, 1 UAN solution), 4 discharging (1 debars, 2 bulk sugar, 1 steel billets); 16 vessels waiting in roads, of which 13 to load (1 copper WRIC, 2 aluminium, 1 vehicles/tin plates, 2 coils, 3 wheat, 1 bulk cement, 1 bulk urea, 1 barley, 1 vegetable oil), 3 to discharge bulk sugar; 78 vessels due, of which 74 to load (4 HBI, 3 vegetable oil, 17 steel billets, 8 copper, 2 wire rods, 3 DRI, 2 scrap, 2 WRIC, 4 slabs, 7 coils, 1 tin plates/equipment, 1 coils/steel sheets, 1 coils/steel billets/steel sheets, 1 coils/slabs, 1 bulk ammonium nitrate, 2 pig-iron, 1 bulk NPK, 3 wheat, 1 equipment, 2 diesel oil, 1 pipes/steel billets, 2 pipes, 1 vehicles, 1 UAN solution, 1 bulk urea, 1 steel blooms, 1 barley), 2 to discharge (1 vegetable oil, 1 bulk sugar), 2 to discharge/load containers. Oil terminal: 3 tankers berthed, all loading, of which 2 crude oil, 1 fuel oil; 4 tankers in roads, all to load crude oil; 6 tankers due, all to load, of which 5 crude oil, 1 unknown cargo.
Slovenia		
Koper	29-Jan-2007	Port working normally. Five vessels berthed of which 1 discharging/loading containers, 1 loading general cargo, 2 discharging bulk cargo, 1 loading bulk cargo; 3 vessels waiting at anchorage, of which 1 to discharge bulk cargo, 1 to load bulk cargo, 1 to load general cargo; 13 vessels due over the next 2 days of which 5 to discharge/load containers, 4 car carriers to discharge/load vehicles, 1 to vessel to load sawn timber, 1 to discharge general cargo, 1 to discharge bulk cargo, 1 to load bulk cargo.

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Port Conditions

Spain

Bilbao	29-Jan-2007	Twenty-six vessels operating (8 tankers, 18 other vessels), of which 5 loading, 13 discharging, 8 loading/discharging.
Sagunto	29-Jan-2007	Eighteen vessels in port operating of which 3 loading (1 general cargo, 1 bulk fertiliser, 1 cement), 14 discharging (10 steel products, 2 gas, 1 fruit, 1 logs), 1 discharging/loading steel products; Outside commercial wharf: no vessels; no delays expected

Turkmenistan

Aladja	29-01-2007	Oil products: One vessel loading crude oil at berth
Turkmenbashi	29-01-2007	Oil products: Port open; Two vessels loading at berth (1 fuel oil, 1 jet fuel); 7 vessels in roads, all to load (2 HPGO, 1 jet fuel, 1 gasoil, 3 others); 1 vessel due 29/1 to load.

Ukraine

Ilichevsk	29-01-2007	Seven vessels in port operating, of which 3 loading (1 steel products, 1 ore, 1 sulphur), 2 discharging ore, 2 loading/discharging containers; 1 vessel in roads to discharge petrol; 27 vessels due, of which 13 to load (8 steel products, 4 sunflower oil, 1 ore), 5 to discharge ore, 9 to load/discharge container
Mariupol	29-01-2007	Thirteen vessels in port operating, of which 12 loading (6 steel, 2 fire-clay, 2 coal, 2 sulphur), 1 discharging equipment; 10 vessels in roads, of which 8 to load (6 steel, 1 coke, 1 sulphur), 1 to discharge equipment, 1 to load/discharge equipment/containers/fire-clay; 44 vessels due, of which 42 to load (30 steel, 3 fire-clay, 4 coal, 2 coke, 1 equipment, 1 slag, 1 sunflower beans/husks), 1 to discharge equipment, 1 to load/discharge steel.
Odessa	29-01-2007	Sixteen vessels in port operating, of which 7 loading (6 metal, 1 scrap), 5 discharging (2 luggage, 1 sugar, 2 general cargo), 2 discharging/loading containers, 2 passenger vessels; 9 vessels in roads, of which 4 to load (2 metal, 1 pig-iron, 1 iron ore pellets), 3 to discharge (2 sugar, 1 citrus), 2 to discharge/load containers; 86 vessels due, of which 38 to load (25 metal, 5 pig-iron, 2 wheat, 1 soya, 1 iron ore pellets, 2 coal, 2 timber), 13 to discharge (2 metal, 3 citrus, 3 sugar, 1 ore, 1 fertiliser, 3 bananas), 35 to discharge/load containers

United States

Galveston, TX	30-Jan-2007	ADM-Farmland terminal: 2 days delay expected.
Kalama, WA	30-Jan-2007	Kalama export terminal: 2 days delay expected; United Harvest terminal: no delays expected.
New Orleans, LA	30-Jan-2007	Mississippi River terminal berthing delays: Cenex-Harstates/Myrtle Grove: 5-6 days delay expected. Cargill-Westwego: 4-5 days delay expected. ADM/Ama: 4-5 days delay expected. Bunge/Destrehan: 5 days delay expected. ADM/ Destrehan: 4-5 days delay expected. ADM/Reserve: 4-5 days delay expected. Cargill/Reserve: 2 days delay expected. ADM/Paulina: 4-5 days delay expected. Zen-Noh/Convent: 3-4 days delay expected. Cargill/Baton Rouge: 1 day's delay expected. Mississippi River mid-stream buoys - estimated berthing delays based on new vessel presented as load-ready and weather permitting: Mile 121.5 ADM (Gemini) - Destrehan: 2 days delay expected; Mile 158.0 Myrtle Grove Midstream terminal: 5 days delay expected; Mile 180.0 Cooper (America) - Darrow: 10 days delay expected.
Portland,OR	30-Jan-2007	Columbia Grain terminal: 3 days delay expected; CLD Irving terminal: 2 days delay expected; CLD, O Dock terminals: no delays expected.
Seattle, WA	30-Jan-2007	Louis Dreyfus (Pier 86) terminal: 2 days delay expected.
Tacoma, WA	30-Jan-2007	Temco terminal: 2 days delay expected.
Vancouver,WA	30-Jan-2007	United Harvest terminal: 1 day's delay expected.

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