



INTERNATIONAL
OIL POLLUTION
COMPENSATION
FUND 1971

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
55th session
Agenda item 3

71FUND/EXC.55/18
20 October 1997

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INCIDENTS INVOLVING THE 1971 FUND

EVOIKOS

Note by the Director

1 Introduction

1.1 The Cypriot tanker *Evoikos* (80 823 GRT), carrying approximately 130 000 tonnes of heavy fuel oil, collided with the Thai tanker *Orapin Global* (138 037 GRT) whilst passing through the Strait of Singapore on 15 October 1997. The *Evoikos* sustained damage to three cargo tanks, and an estimated 29 000 tonnes of heavy fuel oil was subsequently spilled. The *Orapin Global*, on ballast voyage, did not spill any oil.

1.2 The *Evoikos* is entered in The United Kingdom Mutual Steamship Assurance Association (Bermuda) Ltd (UK Club), and the *Orapin Global* in the London Steam-Ship Owners' Mutual Insurance Association Limited (London Club).

1.3 Singapore is Party to the 1969 Civil Liability Convention but not to the 1971 Fund Convention, whereas Malaysia and Indonesia are parties to the 1969 Civil Liability Convention and the 1971 Fund Convention, but not to the 1992 Protocols thereto.

2 Impact of the spill

The oil spilled initially affected the waters of Singapore. By 19 October 1997 oil slicks had also drifted into Malaysian and Indonesian waters.

3 Clean-up operations

The Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA) took charge of the clean-up operations and initially focussed on dispersant spraying at sea. However, the dispersant had little effect after two days and

efforts were then made to contain and recover the floating oil. Clean-up equipment owned by East Asia Response Ltd (EARL) and the Petroleum Association of Japan (PAJ) is being deployed.

4 Impact on fishing and tourism

So far, no significant amounts of oil have reached the shore. There are no reports of impact on fisheries and tourism.

5 Claims for compensation

5.1 It is not possible at this stage to make any estimate of the level of the claims which may be submitted.

5.2 The Executive Committee may nevertheless wish to authorise the Director to approve final settlements on behalf of the 1971 Fund of all claims arising out of this incident, to the extent that the claims do not give rise to questions of principle which have not previously been decided by the Committee.

6 Limitation proceedings

6.1 The shipowner has not yet commenced limitation proceedings.

6.2 The limitation amount applicable to the *Evoikos* is estimated at £8 million.

7 Investigation into the cause of the incident

The Singapore authorities are investigating the cause of the incident.

8 Action to be taken by the Executive Committee

The Executive Committee is invited:

- (a) to take note of the information contained in this document;
 - (b) to authorise the Director to make final settlements of all claims arising out of this incident to the extent that the claims do not give rise to questions of principle which have not previously been decided by the Committee; and
 - (c) to give the Director such instructions in respect of this incident as it may deem appropriate.
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