



INTERNATIONAL
OIL POLLUTION
COMPENSATION
FUND 1992

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
7th session
Agenda item 3

92FUND/EXC.7/3
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INCIDENTS INVOLVING THE 1992 FUND

DOLLY

Note by the Director

Summary:	The <i>Dolly</i> sank in a bay in Martinique carrying a cargo of bitumen. There are fears that fishing and mariculture would be affected if bitumen were to escape. The French authorities are considering what measures should be taken.
Action to be taken:	Information to be noted.

1 The incident

- 1.1 The *Dolly* (289 GT), registered in Dominica, was carrying some 200 tonnes of bitumen when it sank in 25 metres of water in Robert Bay, Martinique on 5 November 1999. So far no cargo has escaped.
- 1.2 There is a natural park, a coral reef and mariculture near the grounding site, and artisanal fishing is carried out in the area. There are fears that fishing and mariculture would be affected if bitumen were to escape.
- 1.3 The *Dolly* was originally a general cargo vessel, but special tanks for carrying bitumen were fitted, together with a cargo heating system. The ship probably does not have any liability insurance. The owner is a company in St Lucia.
- 1.4 The shipowner was ordered by the authorities to remove the wreck by 7 December 1999. The owner did not comply with the order, probably for the lack of financial resources to do so. The French authorities are considering what measures should be taken.
- 1.5 The Director has informed the French Government that the 1992 Fund reserves its position as to whether the *Dolly* falls within the definition of 'ship' laid down in the 1992 Civil Liability Convention and the 1992 Fund Convention and whether therefore the 1992 Fund Convention applies to the incident.

2 Action to be taken by the Executive Committee

The Executive Committee is invited to take note of the information contained in this document.
