



INTERNATIONAL
OIL POLLUTION
COMPENSATION
FUND 1992

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
9th session
Agenda item 3

92FUND/EXC.9/6
25 September 2000
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INCIDENTS INVOLVING THE 1992 FUND

DOLLY

Note by the Director

Summary:	The <i>Dolly</i> , carrying a cargo of bitumen, sank in a port in Martinique. The French authorities are considering what measures should be taken to remove the bitumen from the wreck.
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Action to be taken:	Information to be noted.
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- 1 The *Dolly* (289 GT), registered in Dominica, was carrying some 200 tonnes of bitumen when it sank at 25 metres depth in a port in Martinique. So far no cargo has escaped.
- 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.
- 3 The *Dolly* was originally a general cargo vessel, but special tanks for carrying bitumen had been fitted, together with a cargo heating system. The ship probably did not have any liability insurance. The cargo tonnage of the ship is not known. The owner is a company in St Lucia.
- 4 The shipowner had been ordered by the authorities to remove the wreck by 7 December 1999. The owner did not comply with the order, and he had probably no financial resources to do so.

- 5 The French authorities have instructed an international salvage company to investigate what measures could be taken to remove the bitumen from the wreck. It is expected that the salvage company will present its report to the French authorities shortly.
- 6 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. In the Director's view, more details of the ship are required in order to enable the 1992 Fund to take a position on this issue.

7 **Action to be taken by the Executive Committee**

The Executive Committee is invited:

- (a) to take note of the information contained in this document; and
 - (b) to give the Director such instructions in respect of this incident as it may deem appropriate.
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