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Case file Number(s): 600000-End

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Last Updated: 11/20/2025

WITHDRAWAL SHEET

Ronald Reagan Library

Collection: WHORM Subject File

Archivist: kdb

File Folder: DI001 Accidents [600000-End]

Date: 7/1/97

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
<u>ltr. case</u> (613092)			
1. letter	from Judy G. Smith to Alby Ziebell	11/8/88	P6 B6
2. letter	from Alby Ziebell	10/5/88	P6 B6
2. report	re collision involving the <i>Coralita</i> (2 pp.)	9/12/88	P6 B6
3. statement	re same topic as item number 2	9/6/88	P6 B6
4. statement	re same topic as item number 2 (2 pp.)	9/6/88	P6 B6
5. statement	re same topic as item number 2 (2 pp.)	9/6/88	P6 B6
6. statement	re same topic as item number 2	9/13/88	P6 B6
7. report	re same topic as item number 2 (3 pp.)	(n.d.)	P6 B6
8 case file (616246)	re correspondence from a woman whose son died in the 1985 Gander, Newfoundland air crash (4 pp.)	10/88-11/88	P6 B6

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P-1 National security classified information [(a)(1) of the PRA].
- P-2 Relating to appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA].
- P-3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA].
- P-4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(a)(4) of the PRA].
- P-5 Release would disclose confidential advice between the President and his advisors, or between such advisors [(a)(5) of the PRA].
- P-6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(a)(6) of the PRA].

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

- F-1 National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA].
- F-2 Release could disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA].
- F-3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA].
- F-4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential commercial or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA].
- F-6 Release would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy [(b)(6) of the FOIA].
- F-7 Release would disclose information compiled for law enforcement purposes [(b)(7) of the FOIA].
- F-8 Release would disclose information concerning the regulation of financial institutions [(b)(8) of the FOIA].
- F-9 Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA].



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

March 14, 1988

LEGISLATIVE REFERRAL MEMORANDUM

TO: Legislative Liaison Officer

SEE ATTACHED DISTRIBUTION LIST

SUBJECT: Draft Statement of Administration Policy on H.R. 2707,
Disaster Relief Act.

The Office of Management and Budget requests the views of your agency on the above subject before advising on its relationship to the program of the President, in accordance with OMB Circular A-19.

Please provide us with your views no later than

3:00 P.M. - TUESDAY, MARCH 15, 1988

Direct your questions to Jim Brown (395-3457), the legislative analyst in this office.

James C. Murr for
Assistant Director for
Legislative Reference

Enclosures

cc: Jim Jordan
Francine Picoult

Ed Rea
Bob Damus

NSC # 8802025

2025
604721
DI001
SPECIAL
DI002
LE
FG006-12

P

**NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT STAFFING DOCUMENT**

TIME STAMP

SYSTEM LOG NUMBER:

2025

80 MAR 15 AM 11
ACTION OFFICER:

DANZANSKY

DUE:

15 MAR, 2:00 TODAY

☐ Prepare Memo For President

☒ Prepare Memo Stevens to Peterson / Murr

☐ Prepare Memo For Powell/Negroponte

☐ Appropriate Action

☐ Prepare Memo

to

CONCURRENCES/COMMENTS*

PHONE* to action officer at ext.

3622

FYI

- ☐ Batjer
- ☐ Bemis
- ☐ Brooks
- ☐ Burns
- ☐ Childress
- ☐ Cobb
- ☐ Cockell
- ☐ Cohen
- ☐ Collins
- ☐ Danzansky
- ☐ Dean
- ☐ Donley
- ☐ Douglass
- ☐ Ermarth
- ☐ Farrar
- ☐ Flower
- ☒ Fortier
- ☐ Frazier
- ☐ Grimes
- ☐ Heiser

FYI

- ☐ Henhoeffer
- ☐ Herbst
- ☐ Howard
- ☐ Howland
- ☐ Jameson
- ☐ Kelly, B
- ☐ Kelly, J
- ☐ Kimberling
- ☐ Kissell
- ☐ Ledsy
- ☐ Lewis
- ☐ Linhard
- ☐ Mahley
- ☐ Matthews
- ☐ McNamara
- ☐ Melby
- ☐ Michael
- ☐ Miskel
- ☐ Oakley
- ☐ Paal

FYI

- ☐ Perina
- ☐ Porter
- ☐ Reger
- ☐ Rodman
- ☐ Rosenberg
- ☐ Ross
- ☒ Rostow
- ☐ Saunders
- ☐ Scharfen
- ☐ Snider
- ☐ Sorzano
- ☐ Steiner
- ☐ Tahir-Kheli
- ☐ Tarbell
- ☐ Tice
- ☐ Tillman
- ☐ Tobey
- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____

URGENT

INFORMATION

☒ Stevens

☐ Powell (advance)

☒ Courtney Penick

☐ Negroponte (advance)

☒ Secretariat

COMMENTS

Logged By

JP

Return to Secretariat

DISTRIBUTION LIST

<u>AGENCY</u>	<u>CONTACT</u>	<u>PHONE NUMBER</u>
Department of Agriculture (01)	Marvin Shapiro	382-1516
Department of Education (07)	Nancy Heindel	732-2670
Department of Energy (09)	Bob Rabben	586-6718
Department of Health and Human Services (14)	Frances White	245-7760
Department of Justice (17)	Jack Perkins	633-2113
Department of Labor (18)	Seth Zinman	523-8201
Federal Emergency Management Agency (10)	Spence Perry	646-4105
Small Business Administration (24)	Cliff Downen	653-7581
General Services Administration (37)	Al Vicchiolla	566-0563
National Security Council		
Nuclear Regulatory Commission (27)	Trip Rothschild	634-1465

The Administration opposes enactment of H.R. 2707 because it contains numerous provisions which, contrary to the Bipartisan Budget Agreement, would result in substantial increases in Federal Disaster Relief expenditures. The Administration believes that any legislation revising the Disaster Relief program must, at a minimum, be deficit neutral.

Should fundamental revisions to the Federal Disaster Relief statutes be deemed desirable by the Congress, the Administration believes that it should be modeled on the provisions of the proposal the Administration submitted to the prior Congress (the "Disaster Relief Act Amendments of 1986").

UNCLASSIFIED
NSC/S PROFILE

RECORD ID: 8802025
RECEIVED: 15 MAR 88 11

TO: STEVENS

FROM: MURR, J

DOC DATE: 14 MAR 88
SOURCE REF:

KEYWORDS: BUDGET
LEGISLATIVE REFERRAL

CONGRESSIONAL

PERSONS:

SUBJECT: DRAFT STATEMENT OF ADMIN POLICY ON HR-2707 / DISASTER RELIEF ACT

ACTION: OBE / STATUS ORIGINAL UNKNOWN DUE DATE: 15 MAR 88 STATUS: C

STAFF OFFICER: DANZANSKY

LOGREF:

FILES: WH

NSCIF:

CODES:

D O C U M E N T D I S T R I B U T I O N

FOR ACTION
DANZANSKY

FOR CONCURRENCE
FORTIER

FOR INFO
PERITO
ROSTOW
STEVENS

COMMENTS:

DISPATCHED BY _____ DATE _____ W/ATTCH: YES NO

OPENED BY: NSMDC

CLOSED BY: NSW

DOC 1 OF 1

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED
ACTION DATA SUMMARY REPORT

RECORD ID: 8802025

DOC ACTION OFFICER

CAO ASSIGNED ACTION REQUIRED

001 DANZANSKY
001

Z 88031514 PREPARE MEMO FOR STEVENS
X 88061612 OBE / STATUS ORIGINAL UNKNOWN

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED
NSC/S PROFILE

RECORD ID: 8802025
RECEIVED: 15 MAR 88 11

TO: STEVENS

SUSPENSE

FROM: MURR, J

DOC DATE: 14 MAR 88
SOURCE REF:

KEYWORDS: BUDGET
LEGISLATIVE REFERRAL

CONGRESSIONAL

PERSONS:

SUBJECT: DRAFT STATEMENT OF ADMIN POLICY ON HR-2707 / DISASTER RELIEF ACT

ACTION: PREPARE MEMO FOR STEVENS DUE DATE: 15 MAR 88 STATUS: S

STAFF OFFICER: DANZANSKY

LOGREF:

FILES: WH

NSCIF:

CODES:

D O C U M E N T D I S T R I B U T I O N

FOR ACTION
DANZANSKY

FOR CONCURRENCE
FORTIER

FOR INFO
PERITO
ROSTOW
STEVENS

COMMENTS:

DISPATCHED BY _____ DATE _____ W/ATTCH: YES NO

OPENED BY: NSMDC

CLOSED BY:

DOC 1 OF 1

UNCLASSIFIED

THE WHITE HOUSE
CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

INCOMING

DI 001

DATE RECEIVED: NOVEMBER 15, 1988

NAME OF CORRESPONDENT: THE HONORABLE ROBERT J. BOULAY

SUBJECT: WRITES IN SUPPORT OF H.R. 2707, THE DISASTER
RELIEF AND EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE AMENDMENTS
OF 1988

ROUTE TO: OFFICE/AGENCY (STAFF NAME)		ACTION ACT DATE CODE YY/MM/DD	DISPOSITION TYPE C COMPLETED RESP D YY/MM/DD
JUDY BLACK		ORG 88/11/15	JB A 88/11/16
99 FEMA	REFERRAL NOTE: <i>Wardley, Peg</i>	I 88/11/16	C / /
Krausnitz, Alan	REFERRAL NOTE:	I 88/11/16	C / /
	REFERRAL NOTE:		
	REFERRAL NOTE:		
	REFERRAL NOTE:		

COMMENTS:

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENTS: MEDIA:L INDIVIDUAL CODES: 2130

IA MAIL USER CODES: (A) (B) (C)

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*****
*ACTION CODES:          *DISPOSITION          *OUTGOING          *
*                      *                      *CORRESPONDENCE:   *
*A-APPROPRIATE ACTION  *A-ANSWERED          *TYPE RESP=INITIALS *
*C-COMMENT/RECOM       *B-NON-SPEC-REFERRAL  *                OF SIGNER *
*D-DRAFT RESPONSE     *C-COMPLETED          *                CODE = A   *
*F-FURNISH FACT SHEET  *S-SUSPENDED          *COMPLETED = DATE OF    *
*I-INFO COPY/NO ACT NEC*                      *                OUTGOING *
*R-DIRECT REPLY W/COPY *                      *                      *
*S-FOR-SIGNATURE       *                      *                      *
*X-INTERIM REPLY       *                      *                      *
*****

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REFER QUESTIONS AND ROUTING UPDATES TO CENTRAL REFERENCE
(ROOM 75, OEOB) EXT-2590
KEEP THIS WORKSHEET ATTACHED TO THE ORIGINAL INCOMING
LETTER AT ALL TIMES AND SEND COMPLETED RECORD TO RECORDS
MANAGEMENT.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

November 16, 1988

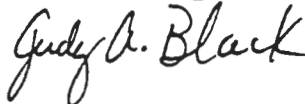
Dear Mr. Boulay:

Thank you for your November 8, 1988, letter concerning H.R. 2707, the Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Amendments of 1988.

I have forwarded your letter to the appropriate officials in White House Legislative Affairs and the Federal Emergency Management Agency for their review and benefit.

Again, thank you for taking the time to let us know your thoughts on this important piece of legislation.

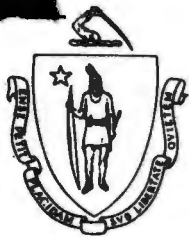
Sincerely,



Judy A. Black
Special Assistant to the President
for Intergovernmental Affairs

The Honorable Robert J. Boulay
Director
Civil Defense Agency and
Office of Emergency Preparedness
P.O. Box 1496
Framingham, Massachusetts 01701

604877



MICHAEL S. DUKAKIS
GOVERNOR

J. Black

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

CIVIL DEFENSE AGENCY AND OFFICE OF EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS
400 WORCESTER ROAD
P.O. BOX 1496
FRAMINGHAM, MASS. 01701-0317



ROBERT J. BOULAY
DIRECTOR

November 8, 1988

Mr. Ronald Reagan
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20006

Dear President Reagan:

My name is Robert J. Boulay, I am the State Director of the Massachusetts Civil Defense Agency and Office of Emergency Preparedness and the Regional Vice President of the National Emergency Managers Association.

I am writing this letter to request your favorable consideration of "The Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Amendments of 1988" (H.R. 2707). This bill is also known as the "Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act."

This bill will greatly assist the various States in reinforcing and maintaining a most vital part of Emergency Management - Disaster Assistance. Planning for Disaster Recovery is an integral part in determining how and when normalcy can be returned to a disaster inundated political sub-division.

With this in mind, I sincerely solicit your approval of H. R. 2707.

Respectfully yours,

Robert J. Boulay
Robert J. Boulay
Director

RJB/sew

613092

ID #

DI 001

WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

☐ O - OUTGOING☐ H - INTERNAL☒ I - INCOMINGDate Correspondence
Received (YY/MM/DD)

88/10/05-

Name of Correspondent: ☒ Mr. ☒ Mrs. ☒ Miss ☒ Ms.

alby Ziebell

☐ MI Mail Report

User Codes: (A) _____

(B) _____

(C) _____

Subject:

Re: Collision - US Warship USS Berkeley /
T.S. M.V. Coralita.

ROUTE TO:

ACTION

DISPOSITION

Office/Agency	(Staff Name)	Action Code	Tracking Date YY/MM/DD	Type of Response	Code	Completion Date YY/MM/DD
	CoKell	ORIGINATOR	88/10/05	TR		88/1/1
	DoS	Referral Note: R	88/10/07	TR	A	88/11/08
	NSC/Counsel	Referral Note: A	88/10/06	TR		88/11/25
	DoS	Referral Note: A	88/10/07	TR		1/1
		Referral Note:	1/1			1/1
		Referral Note:				

ACTION CODES:

A - Appropriate Action
C - Comment/Recommendation
D - Draft Response
F - Furnish Fact Sheet
to be used as Enclosure

I - Info Copy Only/No Action Necessary
R - Direct Reply w/Copy
S - For Signature
X - Interim Reply

DISPOSITION CODES:

A - Answered
B - Non-Special Referral
C - Completed
S - Suspended

FOR OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE:

Type of Response = Initials of Signer
Code = "A"
Completion Date = Date of Outgoing

Comments:

Keep this worksheet attached to the original incoming letter.
Send all routing updates to Central Reference (Room 75, OEOB).
Always return completed correspondence record to Central Files.
Refer questions about the correspondence tracking system to Central Reference, ext. 2590.

RECORDS MANAGEMENT ONLY

CLASSIFICATION SECTION

No. of Additional Correspondents: _____ Media: 2 Individual Codes: 3000 _____
 Prime Subject Code: DI 001 _____ Secondary Subject Codes: ND 013 _____
EG 015 _____

PRESIDENTIAL REPLY

Code	Date	Comment	Form
C	_____	Time: _____	P- _____
DSP	_____	Time: _____	Media: _____

SIGNATURE CODES:

CPn - Presidential Correspondence

- n - 0 - Unknown
- n - 1 - Ronald Wilson Reagan
- n - 2 - Ronald Reagan
- n - 3 - Ron
- n - 4 - Dutch
- n - 5 - Ron Reagan
- n - 6 - Ronald
- n - 7 - Ronnie

CLn - First Lady's Correspondence

- n - 0 - Unknown
- n - 1 - Nancy Reagan
- n - 2 - Nancy
- n - 3 - Mrs. Ronald Reagan

CBn - Presidential & First Lady's Correspondence

- n - 1 - Ronald Reagan - Nancy Reagan
- n - 2 - Ron - Nancy

MEDIA CODES:

- B - Box/package
- C - Copy
- D - Official document
- G - Message
- H - Handcarried
- L - Letter
- M - Mailgram
- O - Memo
- P - Photo
- R - Report
- S - Sealed
- T - Telegram
- V - Telephone
- X - Miscellaneous
- Y - Study

88 OCT -7 AM 9:58

THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE

REFERRAL

OCTOBER 7, 1988

TO: DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE *b*

ACTION REQUESTED:

DIRECT REPLY, FURNISH INFO COPY

REMARKS: ALSO REFERRED TO NSC / COUNSEL AND DOS

DESCRIPTION OF INCOMING:

ID: 613092

MEDIA: LETTER, DATED MAY 10, 1988

TO: PRESIDENT REAGAN

FROM: ALBY ZIEBELL
BARRIER REEF CRUISES
BOX 6605 CMC
CAIRNS AUSTRALIA

SUBJECT: REGARDING COLLISION - U. S. WARSHIP
USS BERKELEY / T. S. M. V. CORALITA

PROMPT ACTION IS ESSENTIAL -- IF REQUIRED ACTION HAS NOT BEEN
TAKEN WITHIN 9 WORKING DAYS OF RECEIPT, PLEASE TELEPHONE THE
UNDERSIGNED AT 456-7486.

RETURN CORRESPONDENCE, WORKSHEET AND COPY OF RESPONSE
(OR DRAFT) TO:
AGENCY LIAISON, ROOM 91, THE WHITE HOUSE, 20500

SALLY KELLEY
DIRECTOR OF AGENCY LIAISON
PRESIDENTIAL CORRESPONDENCE

W21609

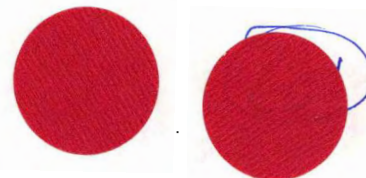
RONALD W. REAGAN LIBRARY

THIS FORM MARKS THE FILE LOCATION OF ITEM NUMBER / LISTED ON THE
WITHDRAWAL SHEET AT THE FRONT OF THIS FOLDER.

CHD

BARRIER REEF CRUISESBOX 6605 C.M.C. CAIRNS, Q. 4870
PH: (070) 53 7477

Fax 070-321641.

**T.S.M.V. "CORALITA"**

YOUR AUSTRALIAN DIVE BOAT

TO:.....WHITE HOUSE.....WASHINGTON.....

ATTENTION:.....MR. PRESIDENT.....

FROM:.....ALBY ZIEBEL.....DATE: 5-10-88.....

MESSAGE:

FOR URGENT ATTENTION:

202-4562461

RONALD W. REAGAN LIBRARY

THIS FORM MARKS THE FILE LOCATION OF ITEM NUMBER 2-6 LISTED ON THE
WITHDRAWAL SHEET AT THE FRONT OF THIS FOLDER.

RONALD W. REAGAN LIBRARY

THIS FORM MARKS THE FILE LOCATION OF ITEM NUMBER 7-8 LISTED ON THE
WITHDRAWAL SHEET AT THE FRONT OF THIS FOLDER.

Dive boat in 'hot water' after collision

A DIVE boat charter company, whose vessel was damaged by the USS Berkeley during its visit here earlier this month is facing collapse.

The vessel, the Coralita, operated by Barrier Reef Cruises, received about \$100,000 worth of damage on September 5 when the destroyer ran into it near Trinity Wharf.

The director of Barrier Reef Cruises, Mr Alby Ziebell, told The Cairns Post yesterday the boat had been laid up for three weeks and a further five weeks of repairs were needed.

In the meantime, the company has been forced to cross charter with other vessels, and according to Mr Ziebell, have lost a lot of money doing it.

"We are steadily losing money this way. While the Coralita is in lay-up we can't make money," he said.

Mr Ziebell said his company's woes first started when they lodged a \$150,000 compensation claim with the Federal Defence Department.

He said the department replied saying it was not liable for the accident and had no

responsibility for the US naval vessel's movements.

Mr Ziebell then approached the Prime Minister's office, writing him a personal letter, but this had not been answered.

After trying another time, with the same result, Mr Ziebell wrote a letter to the leader of the Opposition, Mr John Howard, but this also has remained unanswered.

He said his solicitors had approached the US Government and found if a compensation claim was lodged, the case would have to be heard under American law.

He said if it was heard, and granted, it could take up to three years before he receives his compensation money, he says he needs in at least two weeks.

He said even if the money was awarded, part of the compensation would have to pay for legal and court costs, which were exorbitant compared with fees in Australia.

"If we don't get this money, the company will have folded before the boat's been repaired," he said.

Mr Ziebell said he had extended the company's over-

draft with his bank, but it would only be a matter of weeks before the company could go no further.

"Nobody is interested at all. The US hasn't even formally acknowledged the fact their vessel damaged my boat," he said.

"What makes me angry is it's one rule for them and another for us. It seems the US Government is a hypocrite."

There's a 100 per cent chance we could lose the company if we don't get the money," Mr Ziebell said.

A Defence Department official in Canberra said yesterday the department had no power to act on Mr Ziebell's case.

The spokesman said the department would only become involved when a foreign warship caused harm to a person, not to property.

He said while the department sympathised with his situation and had helped him to the greatest extent they could, they could do nothing more.

The US Naval attaché at the American Embassy in Canberra was unavailable for comment last night.

Collision shows serious accidents are possible

I REFER to a news report (6-8-88) about the collision of nuclear-capable warship USS Berkeley with MV Coralita at Trinity Wharf on Monday.

This seemingly minor incident has confirmed my deepest fears about a possible serious accident involving nuclear weapons in the port of Cairns.

An accident such as happened on Monday is simply due to a small error in judgment.

Yes, even the most experienced sea captains are only human.

The magnitude of any accident does not always relate to the size of the error.

And nuclear accidents can happen. — Marjory Cockburn, Fogarty St.

Marjory Lockbourne, Deputy
Cairns, Miss and Mr. John Cairns
Miss Cairns, Miss Cairns, Miss Cairns

Sunday 2-10-88

Compo wait for cruiser

A Cairns dive charter operator could be in for a long wait for compensation after an accident involving a United States warship in Cairns harbor early last month.

Senator Robert Ray told Parliament last week that on September 5 the USS Berkeley came into contact with the cruiser Coralita, owned by Barrier Reef Cruises, during berthing.

He said the owners faced a five week wait for repairs estimated to cost \$100,000.

Senator Ray said because the claim arose out of navigation of a vessel, arrangements under the status of forces agreement, whereby the Australian Government may settle claims on behalf of the US, do not apply.

Vessel

"I understand that both the owner of the vessel and his insurer have been in contact with the Americans who are awaiting material in support of the claim.

"When this material is available the United States authorities will be prepared to negotiate.

However, West Australian nuclear disarmament senator Jo Vallentine said she has heard that under US law the case could take up to three years.

Careless bully?

WHAT an appalling situation has emerged following the collision of USS Berkeley with the Coralita.

Incidentally, I believe that this ship was carrying nuclear weapons, so had it collided with something much larger, and a fire ensued, the consequences could have been horrific.

While it is comforting to know that the \$100,000 bill will not be borne by Australian taxpayers as originally thought, a delay in compensation of up to three years is disgraceful and a tragedy for Mr Alby Ziebell.

If Cairns has the misfortune to have another of the hazardous vessels in port, people involved in maritime activities would be well advised to keep a wide berth.

Hopefully, Australians, who have been so warmly welcoming US ships, will take note of Mr Ziebell's predicament, revise their thoughts and ask the question — Is our Big Brother a careless bully? — R. Winger, Ocean-der St, Holloways Beach.

Warship involved in collision

AN investigation will be conducted today into the collision of the guided missile class destroyer, USS Berkeley, with a moored vessel in Trinity Inlet yesterday.

Both the Cairns Port Authority and the Department of Harbors and Marine confirmed last night the collision occurred at 5 pm while the 3400 tonne warship was returning from refuelling at No. 10 wharf to No. 1 and 2 wharves. The Cairns Post was told the warship had a department pilot onboard, but the vessel had been under the command of its captain.

The CPA chief executive officer, Mr Bob Manning, last night said an inquiry would be held today into the incident in which the Berkeley damaged the 21m dive boat, Coralite, which was moored at No. 2 wharf.

The warship's propeller guards struck the side of the Coralite, and one witness, Mr Trevor Buschel of the Challenger 1 who saw the accident from the main wharf, said one of the dive ship's bollards was ripped from her deck by the impact.

US captain blames conditions

By staff reporter
BERNARD LANE

THE diving vessel, Coralita, struck by the visiting destroyer USS Berkeley on Monday, was expected to be checked for seaworthiness in Cairns last night.

At the same time, the Marine Board of Queensland is investigating the accident and Canberra may have to compensate the Coralita under a reciprocal defence agreement.

The commander of the Berkeley, Capt. Charles Girvin, also will tell his superiors about the "extreme conditions" which he said caused the accident on Monday at 5 pm.

Capt. Girvin blamed the combination of 20 knot winds on the starboard beam of the 3400 tonne destroyer and a 1.5 knot flood tide on her starboard bow, which pushed her onto the Coralita.

"Unfortunately the elements conspired against us,"

he told The Cairns Post yesterday.

With Capt. Girvin in command and a pilot giving advice, the Berkeley had refuelled and was making her way down the Trinity Inlet towards her berth alongside the No. 1 and No. 2 wharves.

The wharf and the moored Coralita on her port side, she was negotiating the narrow right-hand side of the channel in a wide approach to compensate for the wind and flood tide to her starboard, Capt. Girvin said.

The compensating manoeuvre appeared to be working until she was within 30-60m of the wharf. By then it was too late and the Berkeley's port propeller guard struck the starboard side of the Coralita, Capt. Girvin said.

In Brisbane, a Department of Harbours and Marine spokesman said the damage to the Coralita appeared to be limited to some planking and structure about mid-length on both sides. A sur-

vey last night on the Tropical Reef slipway would determine whether the Cairns-based 21m diving vessel was seaworthy, the spokesman said.

The acting harbormaster in Cairns, Capt. David Plume, yesterday said he would report the accident to the Marine Board, which would make a finding.

Compensation, however, is a matter for the Australian Government to consider under its Visiting Forces Agreement, according to HMAS Cairns Commander Bruce Eddes.

Cdr Eddes said this reciprocal agreement meant Canberra would pay for damage proven to be caused by a visiting US ship and Washington would pay for damage in the US caused by an Australian ship.

But he emphasised the Crown solicitor would decide whether the Australian Government was liable to pay compensation under the agreement.



• Alan Rasbe, the skipper of the Coralita dive vessel, points out the damage done when wind and tide brought the visiting warship USS Berkeley too close on Monday. The destroyer can be seen in the background, moored further up Trinity Wharf. — Francis photo.

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Pan Am 747 Crashes

Pan American flight 103 crashed at 1423 EST today in the Scottish village of Lockerbie, reportedly striking a service station and several houses. The Boeing 747 with 244 passengers and crew aboard went down shortly after takeoff from London's Heathrow Airport enroute New York. It is not known whether there are any survivors. The cause of the crash has not been determined.

Sources: FAA telecon; Press

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