

CYBERWORLD

TRAGIC INCIDENT IN CHANNEL

Monday, January 29th



MSC Napoli

On Saturday, January 20th 2007, MSC Napoli, which is a British container ship, was run aground in the Channel close to Sidmouth in England.

MSC Napoli left Anvers (Belgium) on January 17th and was bound for Sines (Portugal). The ship has transported around 2,394 containers among which 1,700 tons of toxic products. The cause of this incredible incident is the terrible storm “Kyrill” which has swept away northern of Europe. Effectively, it was in distress on Thursday, January 18th. The captain sent out an SOS and twenty-six members were evacuated by “Seaking” helicopters (British helicopters). They were rescued unharmed in very difficult conditions. On Friday, the ship was tugged to Lyme Bay, on the South coast of England.

A layer of pollution has been detected and 100 tons of hydrocarbons

have got away from the ship. There were more than 1,000 oiled-covered birds among which 600 died. 3 dolphins and a common porpoise have run aground on the coast.

The ship started in 1991, in Normandie under the name of “CGM Normandie”. It also ran aground in March 2001 in the South of Singapore where it was later repaired in a yard. Then, it was bought by a British company under the name of “MSC Napoli”.

The pumping of the 3,500 tons of fuel that were in the tanks of the boat has begun but according to the emergency services, this operation can last one whole year. The decision about what will happen for the boat, refloat it or cut up it on the spot, will be made once the unloading of the containers and the pumping of the tanks is actually finished.

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