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- ◆ *Golob's Environmental Business Report* recently reported that the U.N. awarded a total of \$243.3 million to five Middle East nations to fund studies of environmental harm caused by Iraq during the Gulf War. Iran received \$17 million; Jordan \$7.1 million; Kuwait \$108.9 million; Saudi Arabia \$109.6 million; and Syria \$700,000. The Governing Council of the U.N. Compensation Commission ("UNCC") approved the award on June 21 as part of a much larger damages award of \$842 million to six countries – the five referenced above and Turkey. These countries are seeking a total of \$46 billion in compensation for environmental harm caused by Iraq during the war, and an additional \$254 billion for the destruction of infrastructure and the loss of revenues associated with various impaired economic activities. To date, the UNCC has awarded \$35.4 billion to the six countries, including \$15.9 billion to Kuwait in 2000 to compensate for the destruction of oil fields and lost revenues during the war. ***We guess money will make anyone a little more environmentally conscious . . .***
- ◆ The Chemical Transportation Advisory Committee's ("CTAC") Subcommittee on Prevention Through People will meet in Houston, Texas on August 6-7, 2001. The group will discuss the progress and development of its risk guide for the chemical transportation industry. The meeting will be held at the American Bureau of Shipping Offices, 16855 Northchase Drive in Houston, and is open to the public. For more information, contact Lt. Gregory Herold at 1-202-267-1217, facsimile 1-202-267-4570. More information on the CTAC and its activities can be found on-line at www.uscg.mil/hq/g-m/advisory/ctac (Sources: *Maritime Items/Federal Register*)
- ◆ Following our recent articles on dispersant testing by the EPA, we received an e-mail from one of our readers informing us that the EPA, NOAA, and others on the task force reviewing the regulations for approving dispersants are apparently considering the elimination of the requirement for toxicity testing. This is somewhat surprising since toxicity is a significant factor to consider when using a dispersant. Apparently, the scientists are having some difficulty deciding on a test that would be acceptable in all states and reflect indigenous species adequately. ***Our thanks to Charlie Huber for the information, and we'll continue to follow this issue.***
- ◆ The Committee on Appropriations of the U.S. House of Representatives recently approved the fiscal year 2002 Appropriations Bill for Commerce, Justice, State, and Related agencies,

within which is included appropriations for the Maritime Administration ("MARAD"). If enacted in its current form, the bill would fund MARAD at \$231.7 million, including \$30 million for shipbuilding loan guarantees, \$10 million for the disposal of obsolete vessels, \$98.7 million for the Maritime Security Program, and \$13 million for the continuation of capital renovations at the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy. (Source: *Maritime Items*)

- ◆ The Seatrade Awards Secretariat has issued a call for entries for the 2002 Seatrade Awards in the categories of Safety at Sea, Countering Marine and Atmospheric Pollution, Innovation in Ship Operations, New IT Applications for the Shipping Industry, and the Seatrade Personality 2002. For more information or to obtain an application/nomination form, contact Laura Paris

at +44-1206-545121, facsimile +44-1206-545190, or e-mail awards@seatrade-global.com. You can also visit their web site at www.seatrade-global.com to download the forms.

- ◆ The International Conference on Remediation of Contaminated Sediments will be held October 10-12, 2001 in Venice. More information on this event can be obtained on line at www.battelle.org/sedimentscon, or by contacting Marco Pellei, Sediment Conference Coordinator via e-mail (sedimentscon@battelle.org) or facsimile (+41-22-827-2094).
- ◆ **Hey, maybe we should open a branch office in space . . .** Last Friday, astronauts aboard the space shuttle “Atlantis” had to don protective equipment to clean up a battery leak. Apparently, the shuttle pilot discovered a “two inch blob” of a “white, kind of pasty substance we never expected to find” on a space suit. NASA referred to the incident as a level-2 toxic spill – serious but not threatening. The leaking battery was removed from the space suit, and bagged for the return flight home. (Source: *Reuters*)
- ◆ On a sad note, MPC reported the passing of a former employee that some of our members may remember. Ernesto Martinez, 63, passed away on July 14th. He was a resourceful, dedicated worker, and a genuinely good man. He will be missed.
- ◆ Stewart Ellis of Ro-Clean Desmi announced the launching of a new web site at www.cleanupoil.com. The site essentially provides an international directory of oil spill clean up companies and related service entities. It boasts over 1,000 listings in over 40 countries, and 650 links to web sites offering cleanup services. In addition, it lists response organizations in the U.S. by state. **SCAA members should check their listings for accuracy, and let Stewart know of any required changes. If your company is not listed, let Stewart know. He can be reached via e-mail at info@cleanupoil.com or at stewart@ro-cleandesmi.com. Nice job on the web site, Stewart!**
- ◆ As you may know, SCAA’s web site (www.scaa-spill.org) was designed and is being maintained by Media Trends. Owned by Kevin Hobin, Media Trends is a web and graphics design company that also does digital image manipulation, photography, and photo restoration. In the web design area, the company is moving ahead with the latest Internet software as it hits the market. Most recently, Media Trends became a solution partner with cs-live.com Inc., a company based in Ottawa, Ontario. With “cs-live, your sales or support personnel are notified when someone enters your Web site. Thereafter, real-time chat/conversations can be held between your staff and the visitor. For more information on cs-live or the services of Media Trends, contact Kevin Hobin at 1-888-794-4470, or send him e-mail to Kevin@mediatrends.on.ca. Their web site address is www.mediatrends.on.ca
- ◆ **Work/Life/Health:** Just as it’s unwise to skip over people who are ready to be promoted, it’s also not wise to promote people who aren’t ready to move up. Those that are moved up before they’re ready often choose to leave the company before they’ll admit they are in over their heads. Before promoting an employee, give him/her a project very similar to those they’ll be asked to perform in their new position. Evaluate how the employee handles the project. Also, put them in charge of a team to see how they manage people. Above all, be sure the employee has the necessary skills to succeed at the next level before you move them there. (Source: *Positive Leadership*)
- ◆ **Quote of the Week:** “Adversity is sometimes hard upon a man; but for one man who can stand prosperity, there are a hundred that will stand adversity.” – Thomas Carlyle (1795-1881), *On Heroes and Hero Worship. The Hero as Man of Letters*