

CIRCULAR

Shipowners Claims Bureau, Inc., Manager
60 Broad Street – 37th Floor
New York, New York 10004 U.S.A.



Tel: 212-847-4500
Fax: 212-847-4599
E-mail: info@american-club.net
Website: www.american-club.com

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TO MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATION

Dear Member:

SHIPPINGFACTS.COM

It has been a matter of concern within the shipping industry in general – and a subject commented upon within the International Group of P&I Clubs in particular – that global perceptions of merchant shipping have not been as positive as they should.

As part of a coordinated effort to present maritime transportation in a better-informed light, a Round Table of international shipping organizations – BIMCO, INTERCARGO, ICS/ISF and INTERTANKO, with the support of ECSA and OCIMF – has produced a dedicated website at www.shippingfacts.com.

It was thought that Members would be interested in knowing of this and, accordingly, your Managers felt it would be helpful to circulate the attached press release which was recently issued to promote this news.

Given the increasing challenges faced by the maritime community, driven in large part by public ignorance of the vital importance of the shipping industry to the common good of mankind, there is much to be said for using every means of increasing levels of education and awareness.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Joseph E. M. Hughes". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Joseph E. M. Hughes, Chairman & CEO
Shipowners Claims Bureau, Inc., Managers for
THE AMERICAN CLUB



For Immediate Release

16 September, 2004

PRESS RELEASE

SHIPPING INDUSTRY LAUNCHES SHIPPINGFACTS.COM

There is a growing perception that views about the merchant shipping industry, amongst policy makers and the public at large, could be improved.

As part of a co-ordinated effort to present maritime transportation in a positive light, the Round Table of international shipping associations - BIMCO, Intercargo, ICS/ISF and Intertanko – with the support of ECSA and OCIMF, has produced a dedicated web site: www.shippingfacts.com

It will be seen that the site provides basic information about the structure of the shipping industry, its contribution to the world economy, and its safety and environmental performance. The site also contains links with more detailed sources of information about the industry.

The site is principally intended for use by non-specialist policy makers, non-specialist journalists and others such as students who require quick information about shipping.

The site is also intended to demonstrate the industry's willingness to be open and helpful to those seeking information about its activities. It is hoped that shippingfacts.com will foster a greater interest in the transport of goods by sea, and encourage a better understanding of the importance of this vital industry.

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Round Table press contacts:

BIMCO Peter Grube pg@bimco.dk Tel: +45 44 36 6800

INTERCARGO Rob Lomas rob.lomas@intercargo.org Tel: +44 20 7977 7036

International Chamber of Shipping/International Shipping Federation
Simon Bennett simon.bennett@marisec.org Tel: +44 20 7417 2857

INTERTANKO Bill Box bill.box@intertanko.com Tel: +44 20 7977 7023