

ASSOCIATED BULK CARRIERS: DISPOSAL OF 2 VESSELS

16 June 2003

P&O announced today that Associated Bulk Carriers Limited (ABC), the capesize bulk shipping venture in which it has a 50% shareholding, has disposed of a further two vessels. The two vessels sold were Rutland (built 1997 : 170,013 dwt) and Snowdon (built 1998 : 170,079 dwt).

ABC sold the vessels to two companies under the common control of Eurotower Holdings SA ('Eurotower', the owner of the remaining 50% shareholding in ABC). The total sale proceeds were US\$59.8 million, which is equivalent to their book value. ABC's remaining fleet comprises 5 owned and 7 leased/bareboat chartered vessels with an average age of approximately 8 years.

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Notes to editors:

1. P&O holds a 50% interest in ABC, whose vessels are managed by Zodiac Maritime Agencies Limited ('Zodiac'). Zodiac operates a pool of capesize tonnage in which the ABC fleet participates. The pool consists of some 33 vessels totalling in excess of 5 million deadweight tonnes and it is intended that the Rutland and Snowdon will remain in this pool.
2. At 31 December 2002 the P&O Group held a 50% investment in the net operating assets of ABC of £96.9 million and reported £(0.8) million as its 50% share of ABC's operating loss for that year. In 2002, P&O announced that ABC disposed of eight vessels at book value of approximately US\$107 million.
3. Eurotower Holdings SA is a company forming part of the SAMAMA Group (S/A Monegasque d'Administration Maritime et Aérienne) which is a private group of shipping companies with operations worldwide.

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