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URGENT - BY HAND

Supreme Court of the Republic of Korea
C/o His Excellency Ambassador Dr Yoon-Je Cho
Embassy of the Republic of Korea
60 Buckingham Gate
London
SW1E 6AJ

29 April 2009

Excellency,

Further to my letter of 21 April 2009, I am writing again on behalf of the International Chamber of Shipping (ICS) and the International Shipping Federation (ISF) in respect of the continuing restriction on the Master and Chief Officer of "Hebei Spirit" from leaving Korea to return home to their families and friends. ICS and ISF are the principal international trade association and employers' organisation for merchant shipowners and ship operators. The membership of ICS and ISF comprises national shipowners' associations from 39 countries, and represents all sectors and trades and about 80% of the world fleet.

We have been closely monitoring the court proceedings in Korea against the Master and Chief Officer for criminal charges in connection with the oil spill that occurred on 7 December 2007.

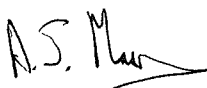
We understand that your Honourable Court announced its judgment on 23 April 2009, overturning that part of the decision of the Daejeon District Court on which the Officers were sentenced to imprisonment. We of course welcome this finding although we note with concern that the case has been remanded back to the Daejeon District Court for further review in the coming months pending which, notwithstanding your decision, the two Officers remain unable to leave Korea where they have now been detained for more than 500 days on charges which you have properly determined were unfounded.

We are advised that the Master and Chief Officer of "Hebei Spirit" are required to appear before the Daejeon District Court as it reviews the case on remand. In the interim we understand that they will be seeking permission from your honourable Court to allow them to visit their homes in India before returning to Korea to participate in the remaining Daejeon District Court proceedings. We are assured by the Master and Chief Officer that they will surely continue cooperating with the Korean court system until the matter draws to a conclusion.

Particularly in view of the fact that the two officers have been cleared of the charges on which their detention was founded, and that their freedom has already been curtailed for in excess of 500 days, we fully support the Master and Chief Officer in their endeavour to seek such permission, and would request that you give this early and favourable consideration.

Thank you for giving this important matter your urgent attention.

Yours sincerely,


H. Spyros M. Polemis
Chairman, International Chamber of Shipping
President, International Shipping Federation