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MEDIA RELEASE

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GREENPEACE RAMS JAPANESE VESSEL

The Institute of Cetacean Research (ICR) said today that the Greenpeace vessel deliberately rammed the Japanese research vessel, the Nisshin-Maru in the Antarctic today while it was attempting to transfer cargo.

ICR Director-General Hiroshi Hatanaka said the Arctic Sunrise's bow hit the side of the Nisshin-Maru twice.

"The captain of the Nisshin-Maru confirmed to ICR today that Greenpeace had rammed our vessel, which has sustained some damage. Luckily, no crewmembers were injured."

"Greenpeace and Sea Shepherd should stop at once their dangerous and criminal actions."

Photos of the Arctic Sunrise ramming the Nisshin-Maru were taken by Japanese crew. The Greenpeace vessel collided with the weakest point of the Nisshin-Maru hull.

"Greenpeace knows which part of the ship is strongest and which part of any other vessel is the weakest – we believe they deliberately rammed our vessel to prevent it from transferring cargo," Dr. Hatanaka said.

The collision happened when the Nisshin-Maru was approaching the refueling ship, the Oriental Bluebird. The vessel belonging to Sea Shepherd, the Farley Mowat, appeared at the same time.

Zodiacs from either Greenpeace or Sea Shepherd approached the Oriental Bluebird and activists painted or tried to paint something on the hull. The Nisshin-Maru captain was concerned that the activists had attached a bomb or some other explosive device.

"Greenpeace and Sea Shepherd are working together, and this concerns us greatly. In the vastness of the Antarctic Ocean, it is just impossible to find a ship unless they are cooperating," Dr. Hatanaka said.

Note: In 1999/2000 Greenpeace attached a military-grade transmitting device to the Nisshin-Maru's body. Japanese crew thought it was a bomb but retrieved it and confirmed it was a communications device.

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Visit also: www.icrwhale.org

ATTACHMENT



8 January 2006.- Greenpeace or Sea Shepherd activists throwing ropes and hooks near the Nisshin-Maru's propeller to sabotage it. One rope and a buoy are already in the water.



8 January 2006.- Instant before the Greenpeace vessel "Arctic Sunrise" rams the Japanese research vessel Nisshin-Maru.



8 January 2006.- The Greenpeace vessel "Arctic Sunrise" prow rams the Japanese research vessel Nisshin-Maru on the right starboard bulwark, on the weakest point of the ship's body.