

An order in council in respect of the Polar Sea is being issued pursuant to subsection 12(2) of the Arctic Waters Pollution Prevention Act. This subsection of the Act was expressly intended to provide vessels owned or operated by a sovereign power other than Canada, with an exemption from regulations relating to design, construction, equipment and manning of vessels, where the government is satisfied that equivalent standards are met and sufficient pollution protection is provided.

Canadian officials will be on board the Polar Sea during its voyage through Canadian waters as observers and advisors. Mr. Crombie has directed his Inuvik District Manager to participate in the voyage. Transport Canada will be represented by two Canadian Coast Guard icebreaker captains.

Technical support is being provided by the Canadian Coast Guard in the form of routeing advice, communications, and ice reconnaissance. Canadian Forces aircraft will monitor the progress of the Polar Sea.

If further information is required please contact Mr. L.H. Legault (995-8901) or Mr. B.M. Mawhinney (992-2728).