

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

In the Matter of: *
*
* Docket No. DCA03MM032
SS NORWAY *
*

Monday
June 2, 2003

INTERVIEW OF:

INGVAR BJORK

PRESENT:

ROB JONES, NTSB
JIM WALSH, NTSB

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 MR. JONES: If you could just state your
3 position and your name?

4 MR. BJORK: Yes, my name is Ingvar Bjork. I
5 am -- And I am staff captain onboard since two years.

6 MR. JONES: Two years.

7 And how long have you been with the NCL?

8 MR. BJORK: For two years, but I working
9 before with Star Cruises since 1997.

10 MR. JONES: Okay. Ingvar, if you could just
11 take us through your duties a little bit prior to the
12 incident and then what first alerted you to the
13 problem, the accident? And then what transpired after
14 that, where you were, that would help us?

15 MR. BJORK: Yeah. I start this morning, so,
16 I was on the bridge during arrival to Miami. And after
17 arriving, I went to my cabin and I make one telephone
18 call and I take a shower, you know, to rest a little
19 bit. And around 6:35 I hear this explosion, and first
20 I thought it was a collision, some other ship. There
21 was an explosion, the boiler. Since I was a kid, I
22 have all the time being afraid for boilers. It is high
23 pressure. I don't, so, with that.

24 So, I went to the bridge, the Captain was
25 already on the bridge wing. I went out and I see

1 people on the pier, people in the water. And I see a
2 lot of smoke around the aft stack. So, I call the fire
3 chief to take a look up there in this area, and I speak
4 to the Captain that I had better go down and make an
5 assessment.

6 So, I went down through the main galley, down
7 to the Biscayne Deck. And I see the situation, and I
8 went up to the bridge again. And I assist the
9 Captain.

10 MR. JONES: So you made a, you made a run
11 down.

12 MR. BJORK: Yes.

13 MR. JONES: And came back up?

14 MR. BJORK: Yes.

15 MR. JONES: Okay. And while you were assisting
16 the Captain, you were answering radios from your --

17 MR. BJORK: Yes, I was reading all the
18 declaration and control with the people on the shore,
19 you know, I have port security officer on the pier to
20 assist. And this fire team, we get from shore side,
21 with the, we get in connection with our people.

22 And so I also because it was a lot of
23 casualties, so I also need medical team for the
24 different bases in the ship that we have there.

25 MR. JONES: So, you left the bridge and lead

1 the medical team?

2 MR. BJORK: No, no, no. That was on the radio.

3 MR. JONES: Okay. On the radio.

4 MR. BJORK: Yes.

5 MR. JONES: All right. And when you heard,
6 you were in contact with the fire chief, chief fire
7 fighter?

8 MR. BJORK: Yes, on scene commander.

9 MR. JONES: Okay. So, he is the on scene
10 commander.

11 MR. BJORK: Yes.

12 MR. JONES: Talking directly to you.

13 MR. BJORK: Yeah.

14 MR. JONES: And then you are advising the
15 Captain.

16 MR. BJORK: Yes.

17 MR. JONES: Okay.

18 MR. BJORK: And also the fire team from the
19 shore, their fire chief, there was a report up to me.

20 MR. JONES: Okay. And did they, the fire
21 team, and who is in charge of that fire team that was
22 relaying messages to you on the radio?

23 MR. BJORK: The fire chief onboard.

24 MR. JONES: Your fire chief.

25 MR. BJORK: Yeah. When the situation was

1 over, the chief of the shore fire team report up to me
2 what they have done.

3 MR. JONES: Okay. The team from this vessel
4 never entered the space? Did they stay outside the
5 space?

6 MR. BJORK: No, they also enter the space.

7 MR. JONES: So, they entered the space and --

8 MR. BJORK: Yeah.

9 MR. JONES: Did they perform any evacuations?

10 MR. BJORK: Yes.

11 MR. JONES: Okay.

12 MR. BJORK: And I have a special board on the
13 bridge with the drawing over the ship, you know, a
14 safety, when I make the notes, which area has been
15 evacuated.

16 MR. JONES: Okay. -- on the bridge?

17 MR. BJORK: No, no, we use these other teams.

18 MR. JONES: Okay. So, is that, is that like a
19 dryboard you were working on?

20 MR. BJORK: Yes, a dryboard, yes.

21 MR. JONES: And just transcribe the notes.

22 MR. BJORK: Yes. I mean, mostly for my own
23 notes, you know, to keep track of the medical teams and
24 fire teams, what they are doing, and also how the
25 evacuation with the passengers is going.

1 MR. JONES: Okay. The passengers were
2 mustered.

3 MR. BJORK: Yes, they were mustered on the
4 International Deck.

5 MR. JONES: Okay. And that was through a PA
6 message.

7 MR. BJORK: Yes.

8 MR. JONES: And also --

9 MR. BJORK: The seven short, one long.

10 MR. JONES: Okay. And did someone report to
11 you about the passengers?

12 MR. BJORK: Yes.

13 MR. JONES: All mustered.

14 MR. BJORK: Yes.

15 MR. JONES: And present and counted for.

16 MR. BJORK: Yes. And also like this, you know,
17 when all the evacuation -- they also report any muster,
18 went out and search the ship. And then I get the final
19 report when is everything is done, how many people we
20 have missing.

21 MR. JONES: Okay. And how many did you have
22 missing?

23 MR. BJORK: We have in the first stage, there
24 was 41, I don't remember if, but it was around 41
25 missing and that we take care, we do a search and find

1 them.

2 MR. JONES: And that was the passengers?

3 MR. BJORK: Yes, yeah.

4 MR. JONES: So, after that 41 initial missing.

5 MR. BJORK: Yeah.

6 MR. JONES: All passengers were accounted for
7 at the next go around?

8 MR. BJORK: Yes.

9 MR. JONES: And how about crew?

10 MR. BJORK: That was the same.

11 MR. JONES: Crew --

12 MR. BJORK: Yes, because we have, the crew was
13 also mustered, and all the lists also, we have lists on
14 that, they also report up to the bridge.

15 MR. JONES: Okay. Because we had heard a lot
16 of crew had left the vessel.

17 MR. BJORK: Yes, 103 crew members left the
18 vessel.

19 MR. JONES: Okay.

20 MR. BJORK: And that we put on one special
21 spot and security officer, he make the check up of
22 these crew members. He do the count.

23 MR. JONES: Okay.

24 MR. BJORK: And then he reported up to me on
25 the bridge.

1 MR. JONES: Okay. And about what time did you
2 know when you had 103 crew members ashore during the
3 emergency, when that security officer reported that?

4 MR. BJORK: Yeah, there was, everything was
5 arranged with the fire team, and blanch, so, yes, at
6 the time when we have these nine serious casualties, we
7 have in the ship hospital. So, we started to deal with
8 this 103 crew members we have on the pier.

9 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Could you see them
10 from the bridge? Were they just standing by --

11 MR. BJORK: No, I couldn't.

12 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay. So there was
13 sign of them at the time?

14 MR. BJORK: No.

15 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay.

16 MR. BJORK: So I give the order, you know, to
17 put everybody together in a group and count them.

18 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: All right. Do you have
19 any idea the crew members that were missing was
20 just a --

21 MR. BJORK: There was, there was a space, of
22 course when the explosion, you know, a lot of people
23 wake up and they start to come up from the C Deck, up
24 to B Deck and they are coming in close to, to the crew
25 gangway and when they coming also the security was

1 there, you know, of course, in a situation like this,
2 you know, that showed them the way off the ship.

3 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes.

4 MR. BJORK: That is for the safest. I have
5 done the same. I have not sent them back into the ship
6 again.

7 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes. And when they
8 left, they went through, not, not, the side port where
9 the crew members were going out --

10 MR. BJORK: No, no, that was not, not that
11 door.

12 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: So, they left from the
13 lower, that lower starboard forward --

14 MR. BJORK: Starboard aft, you know.

15 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Starboard aft.

16 MR. BJORK: Yeah.

17 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: So, after the --

18 MR. BJORK: This gangway is very close to the
19 entrance to the control room.

20 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay.

21 MR. JONES: That is where all of them went,
22 that was the only way shore?

23 MR. BJORK: Yeah, they went this way and they
24 went up.

25 MR. JONES: Okay.

1 MR. BJORK: They went up, the crew, what we
2 call the crew gangway.

3 MR. JONES: Yes.

4 MR. BJORK: The one close to the control room.

5 MR. JONES: Yes.

6 MR. ESQUEA: How many gangways were set at
7 that time?

8 MR. BJORK: We have --

9 MR. ESQUEA: We have that crew gangway.

10 MR. BJORK: Yeah, and so we have forward,
11 Biscayne forward, and Biscayne aft.

12 MR. ESQUEA: Biscayne, so, there were three
13 gangways at that time.

14 MR. BJORK: Yeah, yeah.

15 MR. JONES: Three gangways or two --

16 MR. BJORK: Well, one gangway and the ramp
17 for the -- We came out this morning.

18 MR. JONES: Right. And the side port for
19 garbage was open.

20 MR. BJORK: Yeah.

21 MR. JONES: But, only two ramps.

22 MR. BJORK: There were two ramps, one forward
23 and one aft.

24 MR. JONES: Okay. And then just the garbage,
25 the garbage port was open.

1 MR. BJORK: Yeah.

2 MR. JONES: And that is where guys kept going
3 out.

4 MR. BJORK: Yes.

5 MR. JONES: Okay. So your duties on the bridge
6 at the time was just to coordinate with the, with the
7 medical teams and the emergency squad, the muster teams
8 and the life boat.

9 MR. BJORK: Yes.

10 MR. JONES: And report to the Captain.

11 MR. BJORK: Yeah.

12 MR. JONES: Okay. That is about all I have
13 right now.

14 LIEUTENANT LASALLE: Lieutenant LaSalle with
15 the Coast Guard.

16 The security that was at the gangway, is that
17 the ship's security or is that --

18 MR. BJORK: Yes, it was the ship's security.

19 LIEUTENANT LASALLE: Do you know which
20 security officer who was on scene or on duty?

21 MR. BJORK: Yes, I know.

22 LIEUTENANT LASALLE: Okay. Who were they?

23 MR. BJORK: You can get the list, you know,
24 there was Security Officer Nigel.

25 LIEUTENANT LASALLE: Nigel.

1 MR. BJORK: Nigel. And Bahodo(ph).

2 LIEUTENANT LASALLE: Are these --

3 MR. BJORK: Yes. And Nigel is British.

4 LIEUTENANT LASALLE: Okay. And was, you, guys,
5 I know --

6 MR. BJORK: You know why they are all like
7 that, because there is a guard, when you open a -- you
8 put the guard on the door.

9 LIEUTENANT LASALLE: Right. And this is an
10 engineering question and you can't answer it that is
11 fine. You guys made repairs to number 23, not made
12 repairs, but you did some maintenance on it 10 days
13 again, on the 15 of May. Were you guys using 23 on
14 the steam back? Do you know if 23 was up and running
15 fine?

16 MR. BJORK: Yeah, I, what I, nobody had
17 reported anything else to me.

18 LIEUTENANT LASALLE: But, you normally just --

19 MR. BJORK: Yeah.

20 LIEUTENANT LASALLE: You would --

21 MR. BJORK: If there is any of discrepancy or
22 problem with the boilers, it would be reported on our
23 nine o'clock meeting.

24 LIEUTENANT LASALLE: Okay. That is all I have.

25 MR. JONES: Okay. I think that is it.

1 MR. BJORK: It is in all these reports.

2 (Pause.)

3 MR. JONES: Okay. Thank you.

4 MR. BJORK: Okay. If there is any further
5 questions, I am around.

6 MR. JONES: Okay. Thank you, sir.

7 (Whereupon, the interview was concluded.)