

***KNIGHTSBRIDGE TANKERS LIMITED***

***FIRST QUARTER 2001  
REPORT TO SHAREHOLDERS***

Bermuda, April 28, 2001

**To the Shareholders of Knightsbridge Tankers Limited:**

Enclosed is our report for the first quarter of 2001. The report contains selected unaudited financial information accompanied by a Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations for the period ended March 31, 2001.

On February 27, 1997, the Company's ship owning subsidiaries purchased five very large crude carriers ("VLCC's") from their previous owners and delivered them to Shell International Petroleum Company Limited ("Shell International"), as charterer, under separate "hell and high water" bareboat charters. Under those charters, the Company's ship owning subsidiaries receive the greater of a Base Rate of hire in the amount of \$22,069 per day per VLCC or a spot market related rate. After inclusion of a component for operating expenses of \$10,500 per day, the spot market related rate must exceed \$32,569 per day for the Company's subsidiaries to receive any additional charter hire over the Base Rate.

Based upon the determination by the London Tanker Brokers Panel the spot market related rate, after inclusion of the component for operating expenses, totaled \$68,506 per day for the period January 1 through March 31, 2001. (The corresponding spot market related rate for the period January 1 through March 31, 2000, was determined to be \$21,713).

Accordingly, on April 17, 2001, Shell International paid to the Company's vessel owning subsidiaries charter hire in the aggregate amount of \$26,102,700 for the period January 1 through March 31, 2001. (For the period January 1 through March 31, 2000, Shell International paid charter hire at the base rate in the aggregate amount of \$10,041,395).

On April 17, 2001, the Board of Directors of the Company declared a distribution to shareholders of record as of April 27, 2001, payable on or about May 11, 2001, in the amount of \$1.39 per share for the period January 1 through March 31, 2001. (For the period January 1 through March 31, 2000, the distribution was \$0.44 per share.)

The Company has agreed to provide information to shareholders that are United States income tax payers by February 15, 2002, so that they may make the appropriate tax reporting and elections with the United States tax authorities with respect to the Company's status as a "Passive Foreign Investment Company". Under present United States tax rules, the amount of income reported by a shareholder is based on the Company's income on an annual basis. Therefore, the Company will provide information enabling shareholders to determine the tax consequences of their investment in the Company, including the treatment of distributions received from the Company, for the entire year ending December 31, 2001.

We are pleased to answer any inquiries that shareholders may have. Our investor relations contacts are: Ola Lorentzon in Oslo, Norway (Tel: 47 23 11 40 00, Fax: 47 23 11 40 44) and Kate Blankenship in Hamilton, Bermuda (Tel: 441 295-6935, Fax: 441 295-3494). The NASDAQ National Market symbol for the Company's Common Shares is "VLCCF".

Very truly yours,

Ola Lorentzon  
Chairman and  
Chief Executive Officer

## **Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations**

Knightsbridge Tankers Limited (the "Company") was incorporated in Bermuda on September 18, 1996. In February 1997, the Company offered and sold to the public 16,100,000 common shares at an initial offering price of \$20 per share. Simultaneously, the Company sold 1,000,000 common shares at a price of \$20 per share to ICB International Limited, an indirect wholly-owned subsidiary of ICB Shipping Aktiebolag (publ) ("ICB"), a Swedish publicly traded ship owning and operating company. The Company used the proceeds of these offerings, together with advances under a \$145.6 million credit facility from an international syndicate of lenders, primarily to fund the purchase by the Company's subsidiaries of five recently constructed very large crude carrier oil tankers ("VLCC's"). Upon their purchase from their previous owners, the VLCC's were delivered on February 27, 1997, to Shell International Petroleum Company Limited ("Shell International"), a company of the Royal Dutch/Shell Group of Companies, under separate "Hell and high water" bareboat charters. The term of these charters is a minimum of seven years, with an option for Shell International to extend the period for each VLCC for an additional seven-year term, to a maximum of 14 years per VLCC. Under the charters, Shell pays the greater of a Base Rate of hire of \$22,069 per day or a spot market related rate, determined quarterly by the London Tankers Brokers Panel. After taking into account a component for operating costs of \$10,500 per day, Shell International pays the higher rate if the award exceeds \$32,569 per day.

### **Results of Operations – Three Months Ended March 31, 2001**

#### **Revenues**

The Company's revenues consisted of charter hire of \$26.1 million for the quarter ending March 31, 2001 compared with \$10.0 million for the first quarter of 2000. This increase is due to the payment of additional hire in the first quarter of 2001 while none was paid in the first quarter of 2000.

#### **Operating Expenses**

The Company's operating expenses consist of (i) fees due to the Company's manager, ICB Shipping (Bermuda) Ltd, an indirect wholly-owned subsidiary of ICB (the "Manager"), (ii) depreciation of the vessels and (iii) administration expenses consisting of payments of insurance premiums for directors and officers liability insurance. There can be no assurance, however, that the Company will not have other expenses or contingent liabilities for which reserves will be required.

#### **Interest income and expense**

Interest income of \$103,138 was earned during the period compared with \$32,803 in the first quarter of 2000, due to the increased cash balances arising from the increased charter hire.

The Company's borrowings under its credit facility have been effectively converted to a fixed rate pursuant to a swap arrangement to which the Company is a party. Interest on the credit facility has effectively been fixed at 7.05 %, which resulted in interest expenses of \$2,232,453 for the first quarter of 2001.

On January 1, 2001 the Company adopted SFAS No. 133, "Accounting for Derivatives and Hedging Activities". SFAS No. 133 requires that all derivative instruments be recorded on the balance sheet at their fair value. Changes in the fair value of each derivative is recorded each period in current earnings or other comprehensive income, depending on whether the derivative is designated as part of a hedge transaction and, if it is, the type of hedge transaction. Upon the adoption of SFAS No. 133 the Company recording the fair value of its interest rate swap which is designated as a hedge against interest paid on the Company's debt. The amount recorded as a liability was \$3,496,905 and an equal charge was made to other comprehensive income, which is a component of shareholders' equity. At March 31, 2001 the interest rate swap had a negative value of \$6,678,437. A separate statement for consolidated comprehensive income is included in the enclosed financial statements.

### **Liquidity and Capital Resources**

Total shareholders' equity of the Company at March 31, 2001 was \$261.1 million compared to \$277.2 million at December 31, 2000. The decrease was due to net income of \$19.3 million for the period January 1 through March 31, 2001 less distribution to shareholders for the fourth quarter of 2000 in the aggregate amount of \$28.7million and the recording of the fair value of the swap in other comprehensive loss.

The Company's long-term debt as of March 31, 2001 and 2000, consists of \$125.4 million borrowed under its credit facility. The balance of the credit facility matures seven years and six months from February 27, 1997. Interest on this balance is payable quarterly in arrears.

### **Currency Exchange Rates**

The international shipping industry's functional currency is the United States Dollar and virtually all of the Company's operating revenues and expenses are expected to be denominated in United States Dollar. Accordingly, the company's operating results, following expiration or termination of the charters with Shell International, are not expected to be significantly affected by movements in currency exchange rates.

**KNIGHTSBRIDGE TANKERS LIMITED**  
**CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS (UNAUDITED)**  
(in U.S. Dollars)

**ASSETS**

<u><b>Current assets</b></u>	<u><b>Mar 31, 2001</b></u>	<u><b>Dec 31, 2000</b></u>
Cash	255,902	247,370
Charter hire receivable	26,102,700	31,116,700
Prepaid expenses	<u>46,329</u>	<u>16,573</u>
<b>Total current assets</b>	<b>26,404,931</b>	<b>31,380,643</b>
Vessels under capital lease, net	367,788,557	372,186,772
Capitalized financing fees and expenses, net	<u>1,079,540</u>	<u>1,172,426</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>395,273,028</b>	<b>404,739,841</b>

**LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY**

**Current liabilities**

Accrued expenses and other current liabilities	<u>2,115,712</u>	<u>2,124,154</u>
<b>Total current liabilities</b>	<b>2,115,712</b>	<b>2,124,154</b>
Credit facility	125,397,399	125,397,399
Other liabilities	6,678,437	-

**Shareholders' equity**

**Common shares, par value \$0.01 per share:**

Authorized and outstanding 17,100,000	171,000	171,000
Contributed capital surplus account	267,588,917	273,809,543
Retained earnings	-	3,237,745
Accumulated other comprehensive income	<u>(6,678,437)</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Total shareholders' equity</b>	<b>261,081,480</b>	<b>277,218,288</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY</b>	<b>395,273,028</b>	<b>404,739,841</b>

**KNIGHTSBRIDGE TANKERS LIMITED**  
**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS (UNAUDITED)**  
(in U.S. Dollars)

	<b>Jan 1, 2001 -Mar 31, 2001</b>	<b>Jan 1, 2000 -Mar 31, 2000</b>
<b>Charter hire revenue</b>	<b>26,102,700</b>	<b>10,041,395</b>
<b>Operating expenses:</b>		
Depreciation of vessels under capital leases	4,398,215	4,398,215
Management fee	187,500	187,500
Administration expenses	<u>12,711</u>	<u>19,060</u>
	4,598,426	4,604,775
<b>Net operating income</b>	<b>21,504,274</b>	<b>5,436,620</b>
Interest income	103,138	32,803
Interest expense	(2,232,453)	(2,209,689)
Other financial costs	<u>(105,330)</u>	<u>(147,394)</u>
	(2,234,645)	(2,324,280)
<b>Net income</b>	<b>19,269,629</b>	<b>3,112,340</b>

**KNIGHTSBRIDGE TANKERS LIMITED**  
**CONSOLIDATED COMPREHENSIVE INCOME (UNAUDITED)**  
(in U.S. Dollars)

	<b>Jan 1, 2001 -Mar 31, 2001</b>
<b>Net income</b>	<b>19,269,629</b>
<b>Other comprehensive loss</b>	
Loss on derivative cash flow hedging instrument	<u>(6,678,437)</u>
<b>Comprehensive income</b>	<b>12,591,192</b>

**KNIGHTSBRIDGE TANKERS LIMITED**  
**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS (UNAUDITED)**  
(in U.S. Dollars)

<b><u>Cash flows from operating activities</u></b>	<b>Jan 1, 2001 <u>-Mar 31, 2001</u></b>	<b>Jan 1, 2000 <u>-Mar 31, 2000</u></b>
Net income	19,269,629	3,112,340
<b>Items to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities:</b>		
Depreciation	4,398,215	4,398,215
Amortization of capitalized fees and expenses	92,886	92,886
<b>Changes in operating assets and liabilities:</b>		
Receivables	4,984,244	1,738,580
Accrued expenses and other current liabilities	<u>(8,439)</u>	<u>(99,882)</u>
<b>Net cash provided by operating activities</b>	<b>28,736,535</b>	<b>9,242,139</b>
 <b><u>Cash flows from financing activities</u></b>		
Repayments of loan	-	(1,681,538)
Distribution to shareholders	<u>(28,728,000)</u>	<u>(7,524,000)</u>
<b>Net cash used in financing activities</b>	<b>(28,728,000)</b>	<b>(9,205,538)</b>
 Net increase in cash and cash equivalents	8,535	36,601
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period	<u>247,370</u>	<u>70,695</u>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at end of period</b>	<b><u>255,905</u></b>	<b><u>107,296</u></b>

**KNIGHTSBRIDGE TANKERS LIMITED**  
**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY (UNAUDITED)**  
(in U.S. Dollars)

	Share capital	Contributed capital surplus account	Retained earnings	Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income	Total
<b>Balance at Dec 31, 1999</b>	<b>171,000</b>	<b>273,809,543</b>	-	-	<b>273,980,543</b>
Net income	-	-	48,723,745	-	48,723,745
Distribution to shareholders	-	-	(45,486,000)	-	(45,486,000)
<b>Balance at Dec 31, 2000</b>	<b>171,000</b>	<b>273,809,543</b>	<b>3,237,745</b>	-	<b>277,218,288</b>
Net income	-	-	19,269,629	-	19,269,629
Other comprehensive loss	-	-	-	(6,678,437)	(6,678,437)
Distribution to shareholders	-	(6,220,626)	(22,507,374)	-	(28,728,000)
<b>Balance at Mar 31, 2001</b>	<b>171,000</b>	<b>267,588,917</b>	-	<b>(6,678,437)</b>	<b>261,081,480</b>