**PCT** WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION
International Bureau

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification 7 : F17C

A2

(11) International Publication Number: **WO 00/36332**

(43) International Publication Date: 22 June 2000 (22.06.00)

(21) International Application Number: PCT/US99/30252

(22) International Filing Date: 17 December 1999 (17.12.99)

(30) Priority Data:
60/112,892 18 December 1998 (18.12.98) US

(71) Applicant: EXXONMOBIL UPSTREAM RESEARCH COMPANY [US/US]; 3120 Buffalo Speedway, P.O. Box 2189, Houston, TX 77252-2189 (US).

(72) Inventor: RIGBY, James, R.; 3834 Echo Mountain Drive, Kingwood, TX 77345 (US).

(74) Agents: CASAMASSIMA, Salvatore, J. et al.; ExxonMobil Upstream Research Company, P.O. Box 2189, Houston, TX 77252-2189 (US).

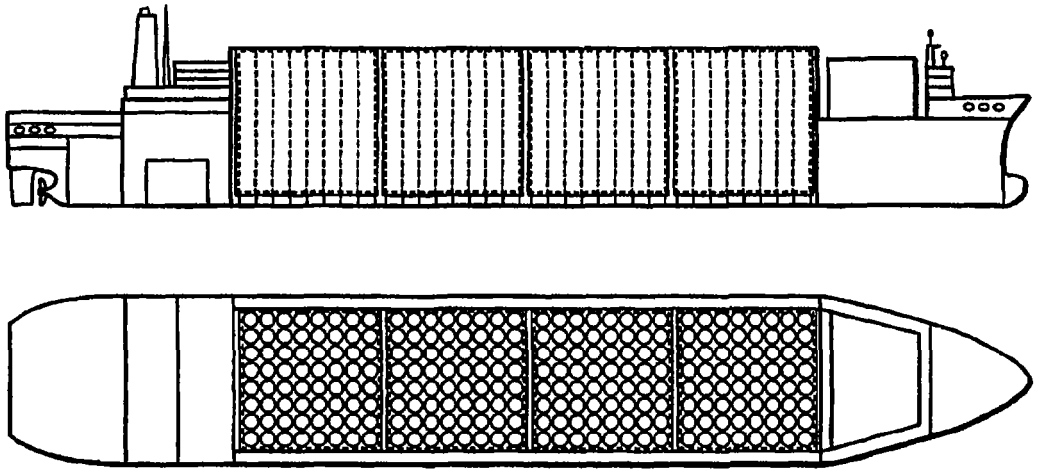
(81) Designated States: AE, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

**Published**
*Without international search report and to be republished upon receipt of that report.*



*G00001*

(54) Title: PROCESS FOR UNLOADING PRESSURIZED LIQUEFIED NATURAL GAS FROM CONTAINERS



(57) Abstract

A process is disclosed for unloading a plurality of containers having pressurized liquefied gas contained therein. A pressurized displacement gas is fed to a first container or group of containers to discharge the liquefied gas therefrom. The displacement gas is then withdrawn from the first container or group and it is separated into a first vapor stream and a second vapor stream. The first vapor stream is heated and passed to the first container or group. The second vapor stream is fed to a second container or group to discharge liquefied gas therefrom. Communication between the first container or group and the second container or group is severed and the foregoing steps are repeated for all of the containers in succession, with only the last container or group emptied of liquid remaining at the pressure of the displacement gas, and all of the containers at the end of the process except the last container or group being filled with a lower pressure vapor.



*162162*