

Cherry brandy toast to Dias

Foreign Service

LISBON: South African and Portuguese sailors aboard the Caravel Bartolomeu Dias clinked goblets of cherry brandy yesterday as the vessel headed for Madeira.

They toasted the sunny skies and favourable winds carrying their replica 15th century caravel towards the first stop on their three-month voyage to round the Cape of Good Hope.

"The ship is behaving very well. The crew is adjusting beautifully," said

Captain Emilio de Sousa, contacted by radio from Lisbon.

Captain de Sousa, who lives in South Africa, said most of the crew — four South Africans and 13 Portuguese — had suffered briefly from sea sickness

He said "good winds," sometimes allowing speeds of 6,5 knots, had carried the caravel, named after the Portuguese navigator who first rounded the Cape in 1488, halfway to Madeira.