Known by the company we keep?

MELVILLE shares a berth with M/Y TRUMP PRINCESS in Miami, Florida in April 1989. Donald Trump had recently acquired the yacht from Saudi billionaire and arms dealer Adnan Khashoggi. At the time of this port call, Trump’s crew were applying the new name in gold leaf across the stern. All overtures by MELVILLE’s T-shirts-and-shorts-clad crew to get a tour of the yacht were rejected by Trump’s uniformed crew. Originally built as the NABILA in 1980, the yacht served as Khashoggi’s “swimming palace.” At the time of construction, it was the world’s largest private yacht with a length of over 281-ft (MELVILLE at the time was a mere 246-ft). The NABILA appeared in the 1983 James Bond film *Never Say Never Again* as Maximillian Largo’s floating command post FLYING SAUCER. In 1987 when Khashoggi went bankrupt, he settled a debt to the Sultan of Brunei by selling the yacht to Trump for $29M. It is said Trump never really had a “thing” for boats and he mainly used it as a trophy and a place to entertain guests. In the early 1990’s when Trump himself went bankrupt, he sold the yacht at a loss to another wealthy Saudi who renamed it the KINGDOM 5KR. These days KINGDOM 5KR can usually be found in Antibes, France or cruising the French Riviera during the summer months. MELVILLE can usually be found cruising the world’s oceans in the quest for knowledge and looking for other interesting berth mates… such as this one in Fremantle, Australia in 1995 (no explanation needed).
Then there was this interesting berth mate in Iquique, Chile in March 1994... the Cuban cargo ship BAHIA DE COCHINOS. The only coincidental connection there was that both ships were launched in 1969. Clearly one of them aged better than the other and the BAHIA DE COCHINOS was sent to the breakers in 1998 at the age of 29. MELVILLE, at the age of 43, is still looking spry and going strong!