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SPECIAL INFORMATION FOR LIMITED DISTRIBUTION

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The Norwegian "HOEGH SILVERSTAR" sailed with the following:

1. Loaded general cargo. Took on Bunkers only.
2. One case of Airplane parts - License No. 3344
3. 10 Airplanes - License No. 4143

The American SS CHARLES McCORMICK put in to bunker from Columbia River en route to New York. Rounding the breakwater the ship was precariously listed to port an estimated 20 degrees with the deck line at the water's edge. This is a large 5804 ton ship. The patrol notified S.O.P. San Pedro, who inspected the vessel about 0200 while it was fueling. With most of the fuel aboard, the ship still carried a pronounced list. It has a heavy deck load of timber in addition to all timber cargo below decks except a small amount of lead in lower holds. Apparently the ship did not have sufficient weight below to give it good stability for the high weights of top cargo. There was reasonable grounds to suspect the ship might not be laden in a seaworthy manner for the voyage to New York. The company was notified. A Marine surveyor was employed to supervise correcting the stability. The tanks were pressed up and the ship sailed with only about a 2 degree list. The surveyor approved the ships condition. Nevertheless it is suspected that on the 2900 mile voyage to the Canal Zone the ships tanks will become slack again and the vessel will again be badly listed over during the voyage. The ship was in good condition only for the time of its departure here.

The American PAT DOHENY when observed about to depart Long Beach to Columbia River was seen to be overloaded about 190 tons and still receiving fuel cargo. The Master was notified and pumped back to the storage depot sufficient fuel to bring the ship up to the marks.

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There is a succession of vessels being detected in overloading here/the condition is destroying their margin of buoyancy needed in the ship should it experience damage to the hull structure during the voyage. This is the second Richfield tanker recently seen to be overloaded here.

(From Los Angeles Report dated 2/17/41)