

COPY

reply to
to No.

CONFIDENTIAL

TREASURY DEPARTMENT

United States Customs Service

Norfolk, Va.

September 16, 1941

MEMORANDUM FOR: Captain Edward P. Johnson, USNR.

Hon. W. R. Johnson
The Commissioner of Customs
Treasury Department
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Johnson:

There is enclosed copy of confidential report prepared by Commander Charles J. Cass, USNR, District Intelligence Officer, under date of September 13, 1941, having reference to telegrams to Masters of Ex-Danish ships from their former owners in Denmark.

In the present instance the telegrams were delivered to the Panamanian Motor Ship COLUMBIA, formerly a Danish Motor Ship by the same name, of which Captain A. R. B. Broner (Danish) was Master.

The investigation was conducted by a representative of the District Intelligence Office in company with Customs Inspector E. R. Foster of this office.

The Panamanian Motor Ship COLUMBIA made entry at Norfolk September 13 and expects to sail September 17, 1941, for Montreal and Australia.

While the ship was Very truly yours, dated 12 August 1941 (Enclosure "B"), was sent him by the Danish Consul General in Lisbon. The Captain went (Signed) and told him: "This is a big step to take. I must think it over." whereupon the Consul replied: "I think you have already decided." M. M. VIPOND, and so it shall be." The Captain said that the Consul's telegram was sent for him to deliver and he had to do his duty, but intimated that he was not at all inclined.

Enclosure.

mbt

CC- 4 Lt. Jones State
4 Mr. Rose Maritime Commission
1 Mr. Shamhart Office of Merchant Ship Control
1 Enforcement
1 W.R. Johnson