

COPY

Address reply to
Refer to No.

HEADQUARTERS FIFTH NAVAL DISTRICT
Naval Operating Base
Norfolk, Virginia

QS1/EF30/AS-5/GYG/ND5

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CONFIDENTIAL MEMORANDUM FOR: Captain Howard F. Kingman, USN.

SUBJECT: Telegrams to Masters of Ex-Danish Ships. 13 September 1941.

MEMORANDUM FOR: Captain Howard F. Kingman, USN.

SUBJECT: Telegrams to Masters of Ex-Danish Ships.

Enclosures: Four (4) photographs marked (A), (B), (C) and (D).

1. On 13 September 1941, a B-5 officer boarded the M/S Columbia (Panamanian), Ex-Danish M/S by the same name now owned by the U. S. Maritime Commission and operated by U. S. Lines. Contacted Capt. A. R. B. Broner (Danish), Master of vessel. The vessel was seized in Baltimore this year and sailed from Norfolk on 1 August for Lisbon with coal, returning Norfolk 13 September with cork.

2. Conversation with Capt. Broner revealed that while in and Portugal, two attempts were made by Danish owners to induce Master and crew to leave ship and return home, this supplementary to a similar attempt while ship was in Baltimore.

3. On April 18, 1941 Capt. Broner received a telegram from his owners (Enclosure "A") giving him instructions to leave the ship. He said that all Danish ships in this country and all persons connected with Danish ships, i.e., Agents, etc., received the same telegram sent from the same place, at the same time and by the same person. It is signed by the owners, but Capt. Broner says that he has had word that it was actually sent by the Foreign Minister. Some of the men did leave, but a number stayed on.

4. While the ship was in Lisbon, the second telegram, dated 12 August 1941 (Enclosure "B"), was sent him by the Danish Consul General in Lisbon. The Captain went to the Consul 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 long ago and so it shall be." The Captain said that the Consul said that the telegram was sent for him to deliver and he had to do his duty, but intimated that he was not at all implicated.

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JBS. DL 14-COPENHAGEN 99 1130PM APRIL 18TH JOURNAL DL. 6. 3. 1.
 QS1/EP30/A8-5/GYC/ND5

TO CAPTAIN BRONER S/S COLOMBIA C/O BORRINO NEW YORK

MEMORANDUM FOR: Captain Howard F. Kingman, USN.

ORDER YOU OFFICERS AND CREW REMAIN ON BOARD AS LONG SHIP REMAINS

SUBJECT: 4. 12 Telegrams to Masters of Ex-Danish Ships.

PORT BUT IMMEDIATELY LEAVE SHIP IF TRADING STOP IF LEAVING SHIP

YOU OFFICERS AND CREW WILL RECEIVE MAINTENANCE ACCOUNT DANISH

5. Just before he sailed from Lisbon, he received a third telegram from the same source (Enclosures "C" and "D"). The Master of the S/S NORDEN (Panamanian), Ex-Danish ship by same name and which, I believe, has now arrived in Philadelphia from Lisbon, received the second telegram, too, but did not actually get the third, although it was sent to him, because he had already sailed.

6. There were several Danish ships tied up in Lisbon and according to Capt. Broner, repeated attempts have been made by Portuguese acting as German Agents, to induce the crew members to leave the ships and return to Denmark, offering a free passage at the expense of the German Government. A few accepted, but at the end of the trip were presented with a bill for twice the cost of the fare and then forced to work on German operated ships.

7. Because of the length of this report, no dissemination has been made.

..920 AM RECEIVED IN BALTIMORE APRIL 18TH, 1941

Chas. J. Gass

Commander, USNR.

District Intelligence Officer

and crew will receive maintenance account from day

not living supplements on Government account from day

leaving ship to arrival Malaga Denmark not exceeding

period of six months however stop apply Danish legislation

regarding repatriation."

In case you in consequence of above should wish to speak with

me, I beg that you telephone to 52.224 and arrange an appointment.

Respectfully

(Signed) Beach

Lt. Danah Beach.

221

Reference per no. "COPENHAGEN".