

CONFIDENTIAL

24 August, 1942

Captain Shepherd.

Subject: Boarding of Honduran SS CONTESSA.

1. The following is quoted for your information from a report of the boarding of the Honduran SS CONTESSA at Boston, Mass., on 26 July, 1942.

"Boarding Officer then interviewed Wm. H. Cato, Lieut. (j.g.), Officer in Charge of the Armed Guard who stated that the lifeboats, to which he and his crew, together with some Army personnel were assigned, are stowed inboard on the after well deck. These boats which are swung out by means of booms cannot be lowered except by the use of a steam winch which must be operated by the civilian crew. Boarding Officer inspected these boats and the rig for them and noted that this rig is at its best awkward and impracticable and under adverse conditions would be impossible."

F. E. POLLIO

LMD:mjc

mjc LMD MAR