Declassified NARA Project: NW 63684 **DECLASSIFIED** CG-IOF-661 MARA, Date 26 April. 1943 MEMORARDUM: Subject: Panamanian vessel EL ESTRO; report of fire on board. Admiral Parker telephoned to me at 0930 this date the following preliminary report on the case of the ML MSTRO: The vessel was at Caven Point, New Jersey when the (a) fire broke out. (MOTE: Caven Point is an explosive loading terminal believed to have been constructed during the last year or so. It is located between Bayonne and Jersey City). (b) The fire is presumed to have started in the boiler room. (c) A 5-man Board of Investigation has been convened. (a) The fire was incapable of getting under control and the vessel was taken to deep water off Bayonne, where she was grounded and flooded. Coast Guardsmen and others fought the fire for several hours. (e) It is estimated that the vessel had a cargo of from 1800 to 2000 tons of mixed explosives, bombs, projectiles and smokeless powder. (1) The location of the grounded vessel is marked by buoys. and a notice to this effect has been broadcast. (g) Public reaction to the Coast Guard's handling of the disaster was favorable. Mayor LaCuardia has shown such interest and is inclined (h) to focus public attention on New York smarine fire department. (1) Intensification by the Coast Guard of inspection of boiler rooms, galleys and cleanliness of bilges is recommended by Admiral Parker in view of the fact that many fires apparently occur in boiler rooms, galleys and from unclean condition of bilges. Another contributing factor is the fact that fires have occurred on old vessels, some of which are of Panamanian registry. Also, some of the crews are careless and suffer from hang-overs.

Declassified NARA Project: NW 63684 CONFIDENTIAL Subject: Panamanian vessel HL ESTRO; report of 26 April, 1943 fire on board. (1) The ML MSTRO, when the fire occurred, was about to leave her pier, and it is believed she had just Bab Jens: lighted off her boilers. Admiral Parker telephones to so at (1978) this date the followtra pratin A formal report will follow shortly. The versal one at Tryon Point, her daying when the (4) fire troke out, (1973) Seres Point is an explosive lunding topologi believed to know been cometropted during the last year or so. It is longed between F. E. POLLIO The fire is presumed to have started in the builder (b) cc: Admiral Waesche Admiral Gorman Va Harris of investigation has been sauvaked, Captain Fark Commander Coombs ... ... Issue to getting under control and Lieut. Commander Gulick where to seep water off Reyoung, where she can arranged and flander. Court Dearderen and others fruits the five for several hours. it is settlement that the vascal had a sunge of from rates in Mary wood of mixed explosives, bunds, I wishbiles and empreless powder. The location of the grounded versal is merical by burth. 183 and a matter to this effect has been becalined. Public remotion to the Senst Duard's hundling of the Alexandr was ferurable. Mayor LaGuerdie has shown much interest and is inclined to focus public sitentica on for Topkismetus fire department. Intensification by the Court Cuard of inspection of boiler recen, golleys and cleanliness of bilgos is recommended by Admiral Parker in view of the fact that many first appearantly occur in boiler rooms, galleys and from unalous condition of bilges. Another contributing factor is the fact that fires have occurred on old vessels, some of which are of Panamenton registry. Also, some of the craws are careless and suffer from hang-overs.