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CONFIDENTIAL

NAVY DEPARTMENT
DIVISION OF NAVAL INTELLIGENCE
COUNTER INTELLIGENCE BRANCH

1943 MAR 17 PM 2 55

Op-16-B-
AMS

Date March 16, 1943

MEMORANDUM Intelligence Officer, Coast Guard Headquarters, Rm. 7212,
1300 "E" Street N.W., Washington, D. C.

SUBJECT: SS FERNPLANT

Enclosure: (A) Excerpt from Second Boarding Report, same subject,
dated 3/1/43.

1. Enclosure (A) is forwarded for
information and such attention as may be deemed appropriate.

2. The information forwarded herewith is extremely
confidential in character and its security must be preserved,
by carefully safeguarding its existence and source, as well as
the names of any informants mentioned therein. In no case, if
the report covers an investigation of an individual, shall the
report be shown to the subject, nor shall copies be made of it,
nor shall the Office of Naval Intelligence be mentioned in con-
nection with any action taken on the basis of such report.

3. ~~Ultimate return of this correspondence to COMNAVINT~~
~~is requested.~~ Retain or destroy

J. M. Reynolds
J. M. REYNOLDS
Lieut. Comdr., USNR

*File
ruled
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BY HAND

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EXCERPT WHICH MAY BE OF INTEREST TO COAST GUARD:

"The Chief Officer mentioned two instances along the coast where his ship was challenged by the Coast Guard. He said that on February 23rd, at 1955 ship's time, off St. John's light vessel, bearing 351 degrees, a small craft came up, flashed an "A" once and fired across his bow. Chief Officer said that he did not have time to answer the signal and that he stopped the engine and switched on his running lights. Small craft then answered in Morse to turn off the lights. The small craft came alongside and asked for the ship's name. Chief Officer said that one of the crew members gave out the information. In remarking on this incident, Chief Officer said that his gun crew almost fired their 20 mm. gun. He said that he expected a two letter signal from warships to merchant ships and that he thought this would apply to the Coast Guard. He suggested that all captains proceeding independently should know beforehand when proceeding up the coast that Coast Guard vessels challenge in usual manner by sending "A"'s.

Chief Officer further added that on February 26th, while Subject vessel was off Buoy 14, off Cape Charles, bearing 303 degrees, another craft flashed an "A" at night. His main criticism was that this type of challenge was confusing to him and dangerous, as he almost used his guns as a matter of precaution."

(SOURCE: 3ND Second Boarding Report, SS FERNPLANT, 3/1/43.)

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3/16/43