



TREASURY DEPARTMENT

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

OFFICE OF COMMANDER
BOSTON DISTRICTBoston, Massachusetts,
23 January, 1941.

From: Patrol Inspector C. U. Bishop, Jr.
To : Commander, Boston District.

Subject: Intelligence gained by interviewing officers of the
Panamanian Transport Company tanker I.C. WHITE.

Inclosure: (1) Silhouette drawing of armed merchant cruiser.

1. On 22 January, 1941 the following information was obtained regarding the situation at Santa Cruz, Canary Islands, at the time of the departure of the motor tanker I.C. WHITE, Panamanian registry: that on Sunday, January 19, 1941 a convoy consisting of 7 vessels, 5 of these normal freight carriers, and 2 vessels described as 15-knot, 15,000 ton armed merchantmen, was met about 240 miles west of the Canary Islands, headed NNE towards Gibraltar. This convoy was traveling in two echelons, the left echelon headed by an armed merchant cruiser and the right echelon with an armed merchant cruiser in the rearmost position. These cruisers had clipper bows and cruiser sterns, aft was mounted one defensive weapon against surface craft, and one anti-aircraft weapon on raised platform. On the after Well Deck were cargo hatches, and in the foreward Well Deck there was another cargo hatch. No guns were mounted on forecastle head. The shortness of the fore-castle head would permit the use of weapons on the hatch of the forward Well Deck. It was believed that some of these vessels have been in the port of Santa Cruz.

2. Regarding Santa Cruz there are about 80,000 troops consisting of infantries and engineers for protection and to subdue the present antifacist activities which are growing with the unrest of the people. A few Moorish troops were there and seemed to have very good equipment. However the infantries and engineers were illy equipped. Searchlight batteries were between Lagoona and Santa Cruz where an airport is built on the side of the hills. This is considered a poor airport. No gun emplacements were noticeable in the vicinity and it was also noticeable that in the compound where trucks and other rolling equipment is kept, none of the usual infantry equipment was seen. Searchlight batteries were also stationed in the hills to the right of the break-water. No war craft of any type have been reported as being seen in the immediate vicinity, but that British warships occasionally pass by sufficiently close and fire their guns that a sound may be heard and is considered an attempt to intimidate the inhabitants.

3. It is reported that a German tanker in Santa Cruz, presumably in an immobile status, occasionally takes oil aboard and makes trips of short duration, and it is reported and is common talk that this vessel is refueling submarines on the south side of the

REC'D JAN 31 1941

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TREASURY DEPARTMENT

UNITED STATES CUSTOMS GUARD

601 - CONFIDENTIAL

23 January, 1941

island. The passenger steamer ESPERITO was in Tenerife the day before she was torpedoed and this was shortly after a trip by the German tanker.

4. It is understood that the moneyed interests are very pro-American, but the Communist influence is rapidly growing among the mass of the people.

C. U. Bishop, Jr.
C. U. BISHOP, JR.

601-CONFIDENTIAL

1st Indorsement

Boston, Mass.,
23 January, 1941.

From: Commander, Boston District.
To : Commandant.

1. Forwarded.

T. A. Shanley
T. A. SHANLEY.

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