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INTELLIGENCE REPORT

Serial VR3-44
(Start new series each year, I. e. 1-43, 2-43)

Monograph Index Guide No. 505-100
(To correspond with SUBJECT given below. See O. N. I. Index Guide
Make separate report for each main title.)

From U.S. Naval Liaison Office at Valparaiso, Chile Date 19 January, 1944
(Ship, fleet, unit, district, office, station, or person)

Reference _____
(Directive, correspondence, previous related report, etc., if applicable)

Source Personal observation & conversation Evaluation A-1
(As official, personal observation, publication, press, conversation with—
Identify when practicable, etc.) A-1 to E-0 etc.
AB/EN 3-10; SER. 4312416-11-10-42

Subject United States Commerce & Shipping Merchant Marine
(Nation reported on) (Main title as per index guide) (Subtitles) (Make separate report for each title)

BRIEF—(Here enter careful summary of report, containing substance succinctly stated; include important facts, names, places, dates, etc.)

Conduct of B. C. HAUSCHILD, Master of ss. JOHN C. SPENCER, in Valparaiso was such as to cast some doubts as to his mental condition.

On the morning of 5 December 1943 the undersigned received a telephone call from Mr. John H. PARMERTON, manager of the local office of W. R. Grace & Company, advising that the Master of the JOHN C. SPENCER (U.S. registry) was in his office and had expressed the determination not to return to his ship, which was due to sail at approximately noon of that day. Mr. Parmerton was instructed to bring the Master to this office, which he did a short time later. The Master of the ship, Mr. B. C. HAUSCHILD, was obviously suffering from a hangover and appeared to be in a highly nervous condition. It developed from conversation with him and with Mr. Parmerton that at about 2 o'clock that same morning Hauschild had been picked up by the police on the streets of Valparaiso on the suspicion of drunkenness, and had been held in the police station until about 7 o'clock in the morning, when the police had been able to get in touch with Mr. Parmerton, who immediately arranged for Hauschild's release. Through some twist of the imagination, Hauschild had convinced himself that Parmerton had been responsible for his arrest, i.e. that Hauschild had been framed by Parmerton, who had arranged for the police to arrest Hauschild. Furthermore, Hauschild stated to the undersigned his determination not to rejoin his ship: in the first place, he stated, he was disgraced in the eyes of his men and consequently would lose all disciplinary control over them; in the second place, Hauschild stated that he was determined to remain in Valparaiso to try to get to the bottom of what motives Parmerton had in order to have instructed the police to arrest him. Hauschild stated further to the undersigned that he was a very sick man and that, in the last case, in order to remain in Valparaiso, he would go into a hospital.

During the entire conversation there were many wild statements made by Hauschild about how he had defied the police during his arrest, how he had challenged them to fight, that he would be willing to take on any eight Chileans, one at a time, in spite of being a sick man - and so forth.

The writer pointed out to Hauschild the fallacy of all his arguments, assuring him that Parmerton had not arranged for his arrest, that there was no way for the crew to find out that Hauschild had spent the early morning hours

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in jail, and finally that Hauschild gave every indication of being in excellent physical condition, except for his nervousness and excitability. Hauschild was given a few drinks which he obviously needed in order to quiet his nerves, and then he agreed in front of Farmerton and the undersigned that he would consider the incident closed and return to his ship. This was at about 10 o'clock in the morning. As a condition for returning to the ship, however, Hauschild insisted in obtaining a joint letter from Farmerton and the undersigned stating that there had been no out of the ordinary incident in connection with his conduct in Valparaiso. At the time there was no objection to giving him such a letter, and the letter was written forthwith. The decision to do so was based on the opinion of the undersigned at that time that Hauschild was merely suffering from a hangover and that the few drinks that he had then had would put him back into good shape. At about 1030 on the morning of 5 December the writer saw the last of Hauschild.

If the story had ended there, the writer would not have considered it necessary to make any report. However, after leaving the office, Hauschild apparently secured several additional drinks which seemed to have the effect of bringing back to his mind all his previous ideas. He was now completely convinced that not only Farmerton, but Farmerton's assistant, Mr. R. B. RABY, had engineered his arrest. He was determined not to embark on his ship until he found out why. Mr. Farmerton's work in loading and unloading cargo for the JOHN C. SPENCER was finished at 1215. At 1400 Hauschild was still arguing on shore, stating that he was not going to sail with his ship. At 1430 he changed his mind and went on board. At approximately 1500 the Harbor Pilot went aboard to take the ship out of the harbor. After clearing the inner harbor, the Pilot anchored the ship in the outer harbor, and refused to permit the Captain of the Port's representative to give the ship clearance, based on the fact that the Captain was under the influence of liquor and in no condition to take command of the ship. The ship was cleared finally on 6 December and sailed after a needless delay of something over 18 hours. The ship proceeded to San Antonio and, according to a rumor brought here, a somewhat similar situation developed. Nothing definite is known in this latter connection, however, except that the vessel took an unusually long time to load cargo and get away from San Antonio.

In conclusion, the writer recommends that these facts be called to the attention of War Shipping Administration. Hauschild appeared to be a mental case, suffering from a persecution complex, and from the belief that he is a very sick man. The writer questions the advisability of Hauschild being permitted to sail again until he gets a clearance from some reliable psychiatrist.

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