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ADDRESS REPLY TO:
COMMANDER, NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT
AND REFER TO NO. 661

TREASURY DEPARTMENT

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

U. S. COAST GUARD (10)

NEW ORLEANS, LA.

REC'D NOV 4- 1941



OFFICE OF COMMANDER
NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT

3 November, 1941.

From: Captain of the Port, New Orleans, La.
To: Commandant.
Subject: Panamanian S.S. LA PLAYA.

1. Information was received in this office, about 1400 on 31 October, 1941, that the Panamanian S.S. LA PLAYA was in a sinking condition at the Erato Street Wharf. Chief Boatswain S. Halvorsen, was directed to proceed to the LA PLAYA and make an immediate investigation.

2. Mr. Shiley, officer in charge of the Federal Bureau of Investigation office here in New Orleans, was notified by telephone.

3. Upon arriving at the LA PLAYA, and in company with Mr. A. Hunter, Port Engineer for the United Fruit Company, the Coast Guard investigating officer obtained the following information: The LA PLAYA is undergoing a major overhaul at the Erato Street Wharf. The Junior Engineer, Pierre Thaddeus Desdunes, misunderstood the orders of the Chief Engineer to repair a valve adjacent to the Kingston valve. Upon removing several nuts on one side of the Kingston valve, which was partly open, the water pressure forced the side of the bonnet upwards, permitting about 10 tons of water to enter the vessel before the nuts could be replaced on the bonnet.

4. Mr. A. Hunter, Port Engineer, and Mr. J. A. Marquette, Assistant Port Engineer for the United Fruit Company, made positive statements that no attempt was made to sabotage the vessel.

5. Mr. Desdunes has been employed by the United Fruit Company for the past three years. He resides at 2461 North Robertson Street, New Orleans, Louisiana.

6. The Federal Bureau of Investigation advise that their investigation shows no sabotage involved and that they consider the case closed.

7. In view of the above, it is recommended that no further action be taken.

INTELLIGENCE

REC'D NOV 4- 1941

ANS'D

F. J. Birkett
F. J. BIRKETT,
Acting.

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sabotage file*

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