



TREASURY DEPARTMENT

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

HEADQUARTERS

WASHINGTON

22 May, 1941.

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Officers apparently in not strong pro-British, their apparent feeling is such that they would more quickly give aid to the local government than our own or the British Government.

Subject: Panamanian SS LHERAFOL; sympathies of chief officer of.

Summary of Information:

U. S. Immigration Inspector James W. Leflar, while making a routine check of detained aliens on board the Panamanian SS LHERAFOL, tied up in the Gulf basin at Port Arthur, Texas, became engaged in conversation with the chief mate, Eugene Van Schoenberg, of that vessel. There follows the Immigration Inspector's comment on his conversation with the aforementioned officer:

"This officer stated that in case his vessel or any of the other Panamanian vessels, which are at present tied up in the Gulf basin at Port Arthur, Texas, by court order, were turned over to the British Government the crews at present on those vessels would not take them out and would not turn them over to the British; that they were not in sympathy with the British but would do anything in their power to aid their own country or France; that they had been under British dominion and rule for so great a length of time that they would do anything in their power to throw off that rulership and tie to the British Government. It was further stated by this officer that any petroleum products which they might be called upon to transport to England would be used against their own families and for that reason they were not in sympathy with the English people. It has been brought to the attention of the undersigned at various times by the master and other crewmen of this vessel that every effort is being made by them to obtain the necessary documents for return to their own country. This

officer stated that the same conditions exist on the other Panamanian vessels, the SS GOOD GULF, the SS SPIDOLINE, and the SS BELGIAN GULF, which are also tied up at this port. Although the

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Panamanian SS LIBRAVOL;
sympathies of chief officer of.

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attitude apparently is not strong pro-Nazi, their apparent feeling is such that they would more quickly give aid to the Nazi government than our own or the British Governments."

Source of Information: Reliable.

Distribution:

Assistant Secretary of the
Treasury Herbert H. Gaston
Operations
Office of Merchant Ship Control
Bureau of Customs
State Department
Military Intelligence
Naval Intelligence
Federal Bureau of Investigation