

CONFIDENTIAL

ADDRESS REPLY TO:
COMMANDER, NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT
AND REFER TO No. 601-64 CONFIDENTIAL

TREASURY DEPARTMENT
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD
NEW ORLEANS, LA.



OFFICE OF COMMANDER
NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT

17 May, 1941.

From: Commander, New Orleans District.
 To: Commandant.

Subject: Eugene Van SCHOENBERG, master Panamanian S.S. LUBRAFOL;
 report on.

Reference: (a) Letter, Captain of the Port, Port Arthur Area,
 16 May, 1941 (601-64 CONFIDENTIAL).

Inclosure: (A) Extract of a report of U. S. Immigration Inspector
 James W. Leflar, Port Arthur, Texas.
 (B) News clipping regarding Panamanian tankers at Port
 Arthur, Texas.

1. The inclosures which were received by this office under reference (a), are forwarded for the information of Headquarters.

INTELLIGENCE

REC'D MAY 18 1941

INS'D

J. L. Ahern
J. L. AHERN.

see German Sympathizer file.

"The following is an extract of a report of U.S. Immigration Inspector, James W. Leflar!"

It is desired to report that the undersigned, with Inspector Aldridge of this office, while making a routine check of detained aliens aboard the Panamanian SS LUBRAFOL, now tied up in the Gulf basin at Port Arthur, Texas, became engaged in conversation with the chief mate, Eugene Van Schoenberg, of that vessel.

"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 of 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 SPIDOLEINE, and the SS BELGIAN GULF, which are also tied up at this port. Although the 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."

This report is being made in view of the present changing conditions and the fact that should these vessels be turned over to the British it is apparent there would be a large number of alien seamen from these vessels who will be thrown upon our hands either as deserters or in some other manner, and whose presence would not be to the best interests of this government.

JUDGE PROPOSES USE OF TANKERS FOR BRITISH AID

"The following is an extract of James W. Leflar!"

It is desired to report that of this office, while making a Panamanian SS LUBRAFOL, now tied became engaged in conversation with that vessel.

"This officer stated that in Panamanian vessels, which are at present in Texas, by court order, were turned over to the British; that they were not to do anything in their power to aid the British Government. It was further stated that they might be called upon to support their own families and for that reason people. It has been brought to the attention of the master and other crewmen by them to obtain the necessary documents. The officer stated that the same conditions apply to the SS GOOD GULF, the SS SPIDOLEINE and the SS LUBRAFOL. Although the attitude of the apparent feeling is such that they are more sympathetic to the British government than our own or the American government.

This report is being made in view of the fact that should these vessels be turned over to the British, it is apparent there would be a large number of British subjects who will be thrown upon our hands either in the event of their presence would not be to the

Randolph Bryant Makes Recommendation on Former Belgian Vessels at Lawyer Conference in Sherman

Federal District Judge Randolph Bryant yesterday recommended that four oil tankers tied up in Port Arthur which he had awarded to the Gulf Oil company in a previous decision be used in carrying oil for Great Britain.

The recommendation was made at a conference of attorneys for the Gulf company and the Belgian government in exile, which also claims title to the vessels, in Sherman.

Judge Bryant ruled that Gulf had the right to possession of the Good Gulf, Lubrafol, Spidoleine and Belgian Gulf, following trial of the case here in March. The case attracted international interest.

It was pointed out at Sherman yesterday that the ships could either take oil all the way to England or be used in transporting South American oil to North American ports for transfer to British ships.

(Turn to page 8 column 7)

JUDGE PROPOSES USE OF TANKERS

(Continued from page one)

The conference of attorneys, of whom Terry Duff of Beaumont, representing the Gulf, is one, lasted throughout yesterday and will be resumed today.

Sam Lipscomb, local attorney for Belgium, did not attend the conference because of press of heavy duties here, he said.

The conference was called to work out details of the final adjudication, to compute costs and amounts of bonds required and to discuss dis-

tion Inspector,

Inspector Aldridge
aliens aboard the
Port Arthur, Texas,
ne Van Schoenberg, of

of the other Pana
basin at Port Arthur,
government the crews at
and not turn them over
British but would do
e; that they had been
time that they would
d tie to the British
y petroleum products
ould be used against
mpathy with the English
signed at various times

Friday, May 16, 1941

position of the ships while the case is in litigation.
St. John Garwood of Houston, attorney for Belgium, indicated that the case would be appealed to the circuit court at New Orleans.

these vessels who
in other manner, and
government.