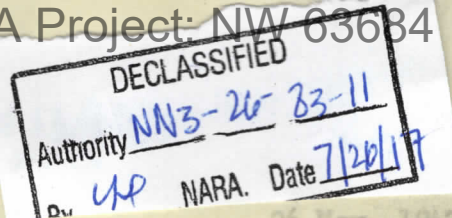


CONFIDENTIAL

(INT)

Chief of Naval Operations



26 May, 1947

CONFIDENTIAL

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From: Commandant

To: Chief of Naval Operations (OP-32-D4)

Subj: Alleged communist activities of crew members of the Honduran  
SS MYRTO, ex-American SS MARY A LIVERMORE

1. Information received from the Coast Guard Investigating Officer, Merchant Marine Detail, Manila, Philippine Islands, is quoted below for your information:

"Information received in this office alleges the above vessel bearing the name MYRTO and sailing under the flag of Honduras, was on 17 April, 1947, at Jolo, Sulu Wharf, R.P. The vessel claimed as its port of origin Puerto Cortes, Honduras. The crew consisted of various nationalities including an Englishman, three Americans, one Finn and fifteen Greeks. It was stated the vessel was believed to be sailing actually without nationality and the flag of Honduras was used primarily as a blind and secondly to insure low customs fees. The Greeks aboard including the master are said to be avidly Communist to the extent of lecturing inhabitants at their ports of call. The second engineer (name unknown) is reportedly the principal proponent of such activity. An audited lecture was extremely anti-American, anti-British and pro-Soviet in tone intimating that Russia would soon right the ills of the world. It was asserted that the Philippines would be the first country in the Orient to be taken by Russia. The report also states the principal port of call for the vessel is said to be New York. The port prior to Jolo was Batavia.

"Lloyds Register fails to disclose the MYRTO, however, it does list the MARY A. LIVERMORE, which the agent states is the same vessel, as vessel #78416, official #244793 built in 1943, owned by W.S.A., port of registry San Francisco, California. The local agents for the vessel in this port is the Everett Steamship Company, who stated the vessel is owned by Arista cia De Vapores. The agent stated further that the vessel had five deserters in Tacloban and that it was in Legaspie as of this date (2 May, 1947) and it would sail 3 May, 1947 for Cebu where it would take on bunkers and from there to Marseille, France. It has aboard 5,150 tons of copra for discharge in Marseille. The ports subsequent to Marseille are unknown. There is also a possibility the vessel called at Zamboanga and there is narcotics aboard in as much as that port is alleged to be the main port for smuggling of narcotics into the Philippines.

"The United States Embassy has been notified of this matter via

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the American Vice Consul.

"There appears to be no infraction of any U.S. navigation laws as the vessel does not come under the jurisdiction of said laws."

2. The records of Coast Guard Headquarters reflect that the U.S. Maritime Commission on 30 August, 1946 authorized the sale of the American SS MARY A. LIVERMORE, official #244793, to the "Compania Internacional De Vapores Limitada" a Panama corporation, with privilege of transferring said vessel to foreign registry and flag, and that on 23 October, 1946 the approval required by Sections 9 and 37 of the Shipping Act of 1916, as amended (46 U.S.C. 808 and 835) of the sale of the SS MARY A. LIVERMORE, official number 244793, to an alien as above set forth, with transfer to Honduran registry and flag, was granted. Further, the records of Coast Guard Headquarters reflect that the Honduran SS MYRTO, ex-MARY A. LIVERMORE, is the same vessel that participated under the latter name in the invasion of Okinawa, which was struck by a Japanese plane on 27 May, 1945 while at anchor in Nakagusuku Bay, Okinawa, at which time 7 of her merchant crew and 4 Navy armed guard personnel were killed and 4 of the merchant crew and 3 armed guard were injured and hospitalized. The vessel did not sink during this attack, but temporary repairs were made and the vessel sailed from Okinawa in convoy 5 June, 1945, later departing Saipan on 18 June for San Francisco.

By direction of the Commandant.

S. Y. HAMMOND  
Lieut. Comdr, USCG  
Chief, Intelligence & Law  
Enforcement Division

SYH/ipb