

Wednesday. 1/2/87

Recd 6/2



## HOTEL WINDSOR

SPRING STREET  
MELBOURNE

WDR

Dear Mr Roberts,

### "W.D. ATLAS" INQUIRY

Our counsel is still continuing his final address to the Court and will finish to-morrow. Gerrard and I have been attending each day and we have been advising counsel on technical matters and on tactics, whilst leaving the legal matters to him. I feel slightly less dissatisfied with him than I did previously but I still hold the opinion that we could have made a better choice.

The Court is exceedingly reluctant to accept our main plea that "steerability" of this ship is not our responsibility. It is on this aspect, rather than on stability, that I fear we shall fall. There is a fair chance that two of the three assessors, who are technical men, will not share the Court's reluctance and it is open to them to inform the Minister of any disagreement they might have with the Court's findings. Whether or not





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they will do so is quite unpredictable. Our counsel and our solicitors share my fears and I have now got from the latter a written expression of their present views and of the consequences if we fail.

I am taking advantage of my visit to Australia to see as many as I can of the people who matter to us. I have already had technical discussions with the General Manager and with the Naval Architect to the Australian Shipbuilding Board in Sydney and I have appointments next week in Melbourne with the Chairman of the Australian National Line and with the Secretary to the Department of Shipping and Transport. I also intend to see the shipbuilders in Whyalla and Brisbane for technical discussions on the application of the new Load Line Convention, which apparently is bothering them somewhat at present.

I am returning home on Friday / Saturday, 10<sup>th</sup>





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and 11th February and should be in office about the 13th or 14th. There are still some points of the Society's policy in the "ATLAS" case to be decided and instructions given to our lawyers out here before the Court issues its findings. There is time enough for us to make up our minds when I get back.

With kindest regards.

Yours sincerely,

W. Macmillan

W. J. Roberts, Esq.

London-



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