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LLOYD'S REGISTER OF SHIPPING

ROTTERDAM

5th December, 1949.

TANKHAVEN I, II & III (B.C. Class)

Dear Mr. Sladden,

14th November I replied to three H- memo's on the above ships as follows:

"In reply to our inquiry Messrs. v. Uden today have given the following reply :

...that these three vessels (TANKHAVEN I, II and III) are solely classed with American Bureau of Shipping since the 7th of April last. We have informed the British Corporation of this fact on the 7th of April last..

The Owners have added that they are sorry that this information had not reached our administration.

I have perhaps been a bit quick in passing on to you Owners' reply, but in the absence of the Managing Director of Messrs. van Uden I could hardly but accept the facts.

However I did not feel satisfied and today had occasion to discuss the matter with Mr. H. de Boer, one of the Managing Directors and a great friend of Lloyd's Register.

The history of these three ships' classification seems to be somewhat obscure.

When they were taken over by Messrs. van Uden, Mr. Auer, representing here at the time both A.B.S. and B.C. succeeded in having the ships transferred to B.C. Class, which from an A.B.S. trustee, would appear to be hardly correct.

Immediately after the amalgamation, in fact on the 7th April last, Messrs. van Uden withdrew the ships from B.C. classification and kept only A.B.S. class.

As the three ships are mostly trading between Palembang and the Straits Settlements, I have asked Mr. de Boer whether he had satisfied himself that A.B.S. service would be available at both ends of their route, e.g. Singapore and Batavia.

Mr. de Boer said he would investigate the matter entirely and would it be possible, meantime, not to deal with vessels' classification?

The ships will shortly have to be directed to Singapore for inspection and when decisions will be reached on this point, the matter of classification will also be considered.

Mr. de Boer is aware of the fact that Classification is not a thing a Ship Owner can hire by the week. He thinks that possibly something could be definitely arranged once he will be in cognisance of all the facts.

My suggestion is : could the three cases be upheld, pending an early decision.

With kindest regards,

Yours sincerely,

Sgd. P. H. van der Weel

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