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Venezuelan Gulf Oil Tankers "ACOSTA", "AFURE", "ARAGUA",
"BOLIVAR", "CARONI", "CATATUMBO", "MONAGAS", "PAEZ",
"PARAGUANA", "PERIJA", "SUCRE", "TOAS", "URDANETA" and
"ZAPARA".

A letter has been received from Mr. French recommending that a special procedure be adopted in the assignment of freeboards to the above vessels to avoid the delay which would ensue, owing to the distance of Maracaibo, if the usual procedure were followed. As many of these vessels are sisters, the Owners request that provisional freeboards may be assigned so that if the Surveyor finds the particulars in any vessel to be exactly the same as those for a ship to which freeboards have already been assigned, the freeboards may at once be marked and verified. Mr. French suggests further that the certificate and copies for all the vessels should be forwarded to the New York Office for issue on receipt of the information that the vessel under survey is a duplicate of one which has already been dealt with.

It is submitted Mr. French be advised that freeboards have been assigned and the certificates forwarded to the Curacao Surveyors in the case of the "BOLIVAR", "CARONI" and "CATATUMBO", and to the New York Office in the case of the "URDANETA". It would appear that the vessels form four different types, viz:-

- A. "CARONI", "AFURE" and "CATATUMBO"
- B. "BOLIVAR", "ACOSTA", "ARAGUA", "MONAGAS", "PAEZ", "PERIJA", "SUCRE" and "URDANETA"
- C. "ZAPARA" and "TOAS"
- D. "PARAGUANA"

Provisional freeboards have been computed for the "ZAPARA" and "PARAGUANA" and it is submitted duplicate photostat copies of these and also of the reports and assignment letters on the "CARONI" and "BOLIVAR" be sent to Mr. French, together with the freeboard certificate and copy for each of the ten vessels to which freeboards have not yet been assigned. He should be advised that his proposal with a view to expediting the assignment of freeboards and issue of

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certificates to these vessels is approved, but that he should ensure that all the conditions of assignment for reasonable compliance with the Convention are fulfilled before issuing the freeboard certificate and copy. He should insert the dates of issue and expiry of the certificate in the appropriate spaces, informing this Office of the particulars. With regard to the date of expiry this should be five years from the recorded date of the last Special Survey, when the major portion of the survey was carried out. It is desirable, however, that as far as possible the expiry date should cover the year of grace, but the period of validity should in no case exceed five years from the date of issue. Mr. French should forward one photostat copy of the report of each of the "type" ships to the Curacao Surveyors together with the necessary instructions.

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