

COPY.

Lloyd's Register of Shipping.

71, Fenchurch Street, E.C.3.

Confidential

10th August, 1949.

AIR MAIL

Enclosure

Dear Sir,

Reverting to previous correspondence between us regarding the case of the "MAGDALENA", I have to inform you it has now been decided to hold an Official Inquiry into the circumstances attending her stranding at the Royal Courts of Justice in London on Monday, the 26th September.

It is understood from an executive of the Ministry of Transport here that when forwarding your sworn deposition the Consul General At Rio expressed the wish that certain parts of it dealing with the salvage arrangements should be regarded as confidential. The Ministry foresee legal difficulties in complying with this wish and it is now probable that they will call for your attendance at the Inquiry.

In giving you this preliminary warning, I have to add that if they should subsequently decide your attendance will not be required, it will be necessary for you to forward an amended sworn statement for presentation and reading in open court. It would not be possible, of course, to treat it as a privileged document, and from the point of view of the Society's good relationship with the Brazilian Government, it is desired that certain passages of your previously sworn deposition should be deleted.

I therefore return herewith the original statement and have to request you will forward as soon as possible an amended deposition and copy, altering or omitting any sentences to which objection might be taken by the Brazilian Authorities, and in particular those passages ringed in red.

The statement should be signed by you but need not be sworn before the British Consul, and will be circulated by the Ministry to all parties to the Inquiry provided of course your personal attendance is dispensed with.

Please regard this request as a matter of urgency and, at the same time, advise me by cable whether you could make efficient arrangements for your duties to be undertaken locally.

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It is estimated that if your attendance is required here you may be away from your port for say three weeks, and if you are unable to make local arrangements for so long a period, we shall probably appeal to the Buenos Aires' Surveyors for a locum from their staff.

Yours faithfully,

Clerk to the
Classification Committee

M. Caldwell, Esq.,
RIO DE JANEIRO.



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P.S. Since writing the above, the Ministry have requested that we will arrange if possible for you to arrive in London about five days before the opening of the Inquiry. They add they will be responsible for the costs in connection with your transport and attendance, and I shall be glad if, in your cable, you will let me have a note of the provisional arrangements you are able to make to comply with this request. Meantime we still require your amended deposition by airmail.



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