

s.s. "MAGDALENA"

Mr. Faulkner, an Executive of the Ministry of Transport, telephoned to say that Mr. Caldwell's statement referred to in his letter of the 27th ultimo had been received at the Ministry. Apparently in forwarding it the Consul General at Rio had expressed the wish that part of it should be regarded as confidential, the item in question being Mr. Caldwell's comment upon the action of the crew of the Brazilian salvage tug in refusing to navigate near the "MAGDALENA" in the early stages of her tow to port.

Mr. Faulkner explained that he was afraid Mr. Caldwell's statement would have to be admitted as evidence as it was already known that he had made one and he did not see how part of it could be suppressed.

Asked for the Society's reactions, I explained that at present we had not received a copy of the statement and that somewhat naturally Mr. Caldwell was wishing to safeguard his relations with the Brazilians with whom he had to live and do business.

Mr. Faulkner appreciated this point of view and promised to talk it over with his colleagues at the Ministry after which he would probably ask the Society to send representatives to the Ministry for further discussion.

After consulting with Mr. Clement I cabled to Mr. Caldwell to airmail a copy of his statement to this Office.

*R.D.*  
14th July, 1949.

Mr. Faulkner again telephoned this afternoon to say that following discussions within the Ministry it had been decided to recommend to Counsel that Mr. Caldwell should be asked to attend the Inquiry to give evidence.

They did not see any other way out of the difficulty and he hoped the Society would be able to arrange for him to be given the necessary leave. The Inquiry was likely to take place somewhere about the end of September, but this information should for the time being be regarded as confidential.

*R.D.*  
15th July, 1949.



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