

W556-0048 114

PARKER GARRETT & CO.,

St. Michael's Rectory,  
Cornhill, E.C.3.

4th July 1955

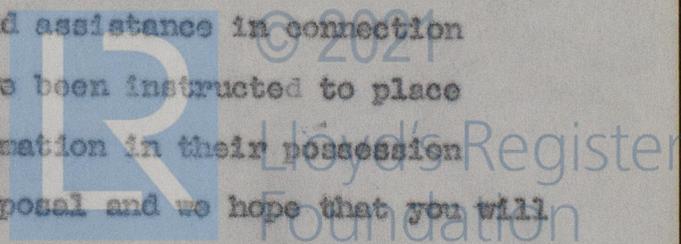
Sir,

Your Reference MM/IM  
S.S. "Millpool"

Our clients, Lloyd's Register of Shipping, consider that it is desirable that Counsel should be instructed to watch the proceedings at this Inquiry on their behalf and Mr. W.L. McNair has been instructed accordingly.

So far as our clients are aware there is no reason why they should seek to be made parties to the Inquiry; <sup>as</sup> at all events they do not/at present advised propose to apply to be made parties but they will be guided in this matter by the course which the Inquiry takes as it develops.

In any case and whether they are made parties or not they of course desire to render the Court <sup>and your Department</sup> all possible information and assistance in connection with the Inquiry and we have been instructed to place their records and any information in their possession without reserve at your disposal and we hope that you will  
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not hesitate to ask us for anything which you think would be of assistance.

There is one matter personal to the Society itself which is regarded as of considerable importance. In the Inquiry into the loss of the s.s. "Blairgowrie" which has recently been concluded Counsel who appeared for the relatives of the officers and crew drew attention to the fact (or alleged fact) that the Classification Society which was concerned in that case is exclusively controlled by shipowners, shipbuilders and ship repairers. We are not concerned to express a view as to how far this criticism is justified by the facts in the case of the Classification Society connected with that case. What we are concerned to point out is that in the case of Lloyd's Register of Shipping there could be no justification whatever for such an observation. This Society's Register was in its origin, in the latter part of the eighteenth century, a list of ships classified by Lloyd's Underwriters to the exclusion of any other class of interested persons, and for the purpose of their underwriting business. In course of time a rival Register Book published by shipowners came into being and in 1834 these two Registers were fused with a new constitution under the name of Lloyd's Register of THE S., B. of T. British/

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British and Foreign Shipping and the constitution provided that the superintendence of the affairs of the Society should be entrusted to a Committee in London composed of twentyfour members consisting of an equal proportion of merchants, shipowners and underwriters and that in addition the Chairman of Lloyd's and the Chairman of the General Shipowners' Society for the time being should ex officio be members of the Committee. This is still the basis of the Society's constitution although in the course of time the Committee has been enlarged by the addition of representatives of the principal out-ports and of shipbuilders and marine engineers.

Our clients therefore desire to emphasise that the Society (as indeed its name implies) originated with those interested in marine underwriting and that that interest has always been and still is very fully represented both on its General Committee and on its Classification Sub-Committee.

In case there is any fear that the remarks of Counsel at the other Inquiry to which allusion has been made should be supposed by the Court to be of general application to Classification Societies, our clients would appreciate it very much if the Solicitor General in opening the case for

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the Board of Trade in the present Inquiry could see his way to draw attention to these facts regarding our clients' history and constitution. So far as the constitution and management of the Society is concerned the facts as above stated appear from Section 7 of the Society's Rules and Regulations which are of course available to you. But we are instructed to say that if the Solicitor General considers that it would be desirable to give formal evidence of these facts or if the Court itself considers that this should be done our clients will be quite prepared to tender a responsible official of the Society to give this evidence.

We shall be very much obliged if you will bring this suggestion to the notice of the Solicitor General for his favourable consideration.

We are, Sir,

Your obedient servants,

PARKER GARRETT & CO.

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Great George Street,  
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Foundation