

VATICAN SHIPS

000706

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
WAR REFUGEE BOARD

INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE April 20, 1944

TO Mr. Pehle

FROM Mr. Friedman

Re: Vatican Ships

A news item with date line Stockholm, April 19, reports that the Vatican has purchased 21 coastal steamers for transporting food from Genoa to Rome, such boats to fly the Vatican flag. It is not stated from whom such ships were purchased, but apparently the report came from the German-controlled Scandinavian Telegraph Bureau.

This item suggests certain interesting possibilities of approaching the Vatican for help in the shipping situation, -

1. Whether or not the news story referred to is true, the Vatican probably does have a fleet of ships. It may be possible to suggest to Vatican authorities what a fine gesture it would be if the Vatican were to make one or more ships available for evacuating refugees;
2. There might also be a possibility of using the Vatican flag on various other ships obtained for refugee evacuation, possibly short-cutting the safe conduct procedure.

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April 20, 1944

Mr. Pehle

Mr. Friedman

Re: Vatican Ships

A news item with date line Stockholm, April 9, reports that the Vatican has purchased 21 coastal steamers for transporting food from Genoa to Rome, such boats to fly the Vatican flag. It is not stated from whom such ships were purchased, but apparently the report came from the German-controlled Scandinavian Telegraph Bureau.

This item suggests certain interesting possibilities of approaching the Vatican for help in the shipping situation. -

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