

## About the Apollo

Following the publication of an article about the ship "Apollo" (see our edition of Thursday, 6 November 1969) Mr. Richard Wrigley, (Public Relations Officer) and one of his collaborators came to our office and asked us to publish the following rectification they have affirmed us that "Apollo's" visit has a purely humanitarian aim, and that negotiations are now being held with the Moroccan responsibles. We take note of this and will not fail to communicate to our faithful readers more detailed information.

### The Pride of the Panamanian Fleet - Apollo

The story of "Apollo" has always been very clear. The article published in the paper of November 6th 1969 is a mere misunderstanding. We can now raise the mystery on this ship, and narrate her history with the most fidelity.

Since nearly two months, "Apollo" is in the harbor of Casablanca, she has long been in drydock. She is now on the repair dock.

The ship has been transferred and is now the pride of the Panamanian fleet.

Of course she has attracted the attention of many curious, as any vessel would and many people have admired the magical transformation: a tribute to Casablanca workers. The work has been done by close cooperation between the ship's personnel and the Moroccan workers.

The Casablanca authorities and the ship's crew have actually tried to limit the access to the ship's surroundings to curious, but for security reasons. It is normal procedure to limit the access to working yards, the accidents being frequent.

Lately in Casablanca one of the workers who was working on the ship which took Apollo's place in the drydock, fell from the dock and was killed. Therefore the security measures taken to limit work accidents were right and wise.

Having dissipated the misunderstanding created by this close watching which some people have interpreted as being police measures on board and ashore, we can now come back to the story of "Apollo".

The Apollo in her long career has visited many ports of the world. During the second world war she has carried men from England to Hong Kong. She is a sturdy vessel built in Glasgow, Scotland, and intended for the heavy North Seas.

She has been used for many purposes; troop carrier, a freighter, a passenger carrier, and, in 1960 she was chartered as a floating school of philosophy, moved by the idea of teaching an advanced practical philosophy.

The theoretical study is regularly confronted with reality, and the ship allows for any time to transport the students in the country of which they study the philosophy.

As Greece is the natural home of philosophy for European philosophers, the ship stayed seven months quietly in Greek waters while the students on board were carrying their studies. The students being all members of the Colleges of Scientology (name of an applied philosophy) in England, U.S.A., Canada, Australia, New Zealand, France, Scandinavia, made her into one international philosophic center, well known in the whole world. These colleges are expanding more and more, and have gained a great popularity.

Recently the ship has been used as a school of navigation, by a navigation company practising in U.S.A., U.K. and Scandinavia. As a sailing school, she visited Safi, where 569 people visited the ship. On many occasions, people have had the opportunity to visit the ship, among which many personalities.

In Casablanca her machine engines have been completely serviced, and her hull has been repainted, as shown in the picture published in the paper on November 6th 1969.

When this work is completed the ship will be chartered by an American Institute to become a center of research and studies on African development. Preliminary surveys have already been made on this subject.

This in short is the story of "Apollo". When she leaves Casablanca for a short two day sea trial the press will be invited, along with a great number of officials, to admire her performance.

Talking about the excellent work of the Casablanca harbor workers, Captain Robertson said, "I am very pleased with the work that has been done, and I am sure that those trials will be successful."

So, no mystery. The ship is not an espionage center, as it has been advanced. There are children on board, they are the children of officers, they even have their own school. The crew often visits the city, and is well known in many restaurants, of course they like only the good cuisine of Casablanca,

such as they find at the International Seaman's Center.

Money either is not a mystery for anybody. Any ship has on board money to pay provisions and repairs.

The activities of her crew are perfectly normal and the authorities are pleased with her presence. "Apollo" has been a performance for Casablanca repair docks.

The precedent informations are the outcome of a regretful misunderstanding. We hope that "L' Opinion", having visited the ship, and having then in her possession all objective information, will be able to give her readers news on this ship.

The symbol (Published in the "Opinion", 7th Nov. 69) the triangle stands for understanding (the three points are affinity, reality, communication) the horizontal 8 designates "Infinite". Altogether: "Infinite understanding".