Section 1

What this order does.

This order outlines General Agents’ responsibilities and limited authority in connection with repairs in foreign ports to vessels operated for the account of the National Shipping Authority under General Agency Agreement.

Sec. 2 General Agents’ authority.

The General Agents are hereby delegated authority to undertake for the account of the National Shipping Authority only such emergency repairs outside the Continental United States as may be necessary to enable vessels to complete their voyages, provided the repair costs are not in excess of $5,000 per vessel.

Sec. 3 General Agents’ responsibilities.

In the event the cost of emergency repairs to a vessel in a foreign port is estimated to exceed $5,000, requests for approval shall be transmitted by General Agents by cable or wire addressed to Chief, Division of Ship Repair and Maintenance, National Shipping Authority, Washington, DC 20590, and shall include the following information:

(a) The cost and time to effect permanent repairs on a straight time and overtime basis;
(b) The cost and time to effect such temporary repairs on a straight time and overtime basis as will enable the vessel to return to the United States under its own power or under tow;
(c) Whether required repairs can be effected by the use of facilities under the direct control of the Army, Navy, or other agencies of the United States Government, and if so, at what cost and time; and
(d) Where major repairs are involved, a recommendation regarding the advisability of repairing the vessel or abandoning it.

Note: Records and supporting documents referred to in the above order, shall be retained until the completion of the audit by the General Accounting Office, at which time the Maritime Administration will take custody of the records.

Sec. 4 General provisions.

The General Agents shall keep the Division of Ship Repair and Maintenance in Washington fully posted in detail as to the nature, extent, cost, and estimated time for completion of all foreign repairs where such repairs are for the account of the National Shipping Authority.

As soon as practicable after completion of either temporary or permanent repairs, the General Agent shall forward to the Division of Ship Repair and Maintenance, Washington, DC the following:

(a) A copy of the repair specifications;
(b) An itemized statement of the costs of the repairs supported by copies of invoices;
(c) A copy of the completion certificate showing the repair period, signature of a National Shipping Authority representative (if available), the Agent’s technical representative, the Chief Engineer, and the Master of the vessel;
(d) A report indicating the causes and circumstances leading to the repairs.

General Agents shall forthwith instruct their subagents and other representatives in foreign areas and their Masters and Chief Engineers with respect to their operations, pursuant to this directive.

This directive is intended strictly to limit repairs in foreign waters on vessels under National Shipping Authority control to those absolutely necessary to enable the vessels to complete their respective voyages at a port in the United States.

This directive shall not be construed to affect outstanding directives of the Office of the Comptroller.