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ABBEY 7777

A COMPANY OF THE VICKERS GROUP

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VICKERS-ARMSTRONGS LIMITED

VICKERS HOUSE
BROADWAY, WESTMINSTER
LONDON, S.W.1

Press Announcement No. 56/280

The following is released for publication immediately.


Destroyer ARAGUA to be handed over

At a ceremony on board the ARAGUA, in the Barrow-in-Furness shipyard of Vickers-Armstrongs (Shipbuilders) Ltd. tomorrow, 14th February 1956, the ship will be handed over to the Venezuelan Navy. She will be accepted from the builders by Commander Julio Vale, Chief of Venezuelan Naval Commission and immediately afterwards F.N.V. ARAGUA will commission, under the command of Commander Daniel Gamez, in the Venezuelan Naval Force. Subsequently F.N.V. ARAGUA will 'work up' in the English Channel before sailing for her home port of La Guaira.

The ARAGUA, launched on 27th January 1955, is the third destroyer of the Dragna class to be built at Barrow for the Venezuelan Naval Force since the war. The first was F.N.V. NUEVA ESPARTA and the second F.N.V. ZULIA. All are ships of 2,600 tons displacement, 402 feet in length, 43 feet beam and 12'9" draught - the largest ships in the Venezuelan Naval service. They are air-conditioned throughout.

The ship's company numbers 19 officers and 137 men, many of whom have taken special courses with the Royal Navy. She will operate with a reduced complement until she reaches Venezuela, where she will be fully manned.

*All together
we may have to have
a one man courage on
line for our Venezuela rule*



"ARAGUA".

The following is an outline of the handing-over ceremony on Tuesday:-

Tuesday, 14th February 1956.

10.15. Official party, comprising Senior Officials of the Venezuelan Commission and the firm, leave General Office for the Ship.

Firm's Representatives:- Mr. G.H. Houlden
Mr. W.D. Opher
Mr. L. Redshaw
Mr. J.E. Richardson

10.25. Official party on board the vessel and inspection commenced.

10.30. Signing of official documents handing the vessel over to the Commission.

At the time of arrival of the official inspecting party at the Captain's day cabin, the Firm's house flag will be lowered from the Signal Yard. As soon as this flag is lowered, Venezuelan representatives of the ship's crew will march on board and take up stations allocated by the Captain. Firm's representatives to follow and take up position on the starboard side of the weather deck.

On completion of the signing-over ceremony the Official Party to proceed to the quarter deck where representatives of the firm and the Commission will already be stationed.

Following a short speech by the Chief of the Venezuelan Commission, followed by the Captain of the ship, the Venezuelan flag to be broken at the Ensign Staff followed by the playing of the Venezuelan National Anthem and thereafter the British National Anthem. Official guests then to proceed to the wardroom as guests of the ship's Captain.

Lunch at Works. Firm's representatives and members of the Venezuelan Inspecting Commission.

The following personnel, in addition to the Company's officials, are expected to be present at the ceremony:-

Commander Julio Vale,
Chief of the Venezuelan Inspecting Commission.

Commander Diego Merida,
Deputy Chief of the Commission.

Lt. Cdr. Andres Castro,
Chief Engineer.

Lt. Cdr. Carlos Porras,
Chief of Operations.

Lt. Enrique Fena,
Chief of Armaments Department.

Lt. Oscar Ortega,
Chief of Electrical Department.

Commander Daniel Gamez,
Commander of F.N.V. "ARAGUA".

Lt. Cdr. Guillermo Ginnari,
Second-in-Command F.N.V. "ARAGUA".

Commander Miguel J. Rodriguez,
Venezuelan Naval Attache.

Major Clavo, y Senora,
Venezuelan Air Attache.

Dr. Bernardo Marturet,
Venezuelan Foreign Affairs.

Alderman H. Turner,
Mayor of Barrow-in-Furness.

Mr. S. Ballance,
Chief Constable of Barrow-in-Furness.

Parra Marquez,
Consul General of Venezuela.

Mariano Fernandez, y Senora,
Consul de 2d Clase (London).

Dr. Nelson Hernandez, y Senora,
Secretary Venezuelan Embassy.