

Golden Bear To Be Friend Ship

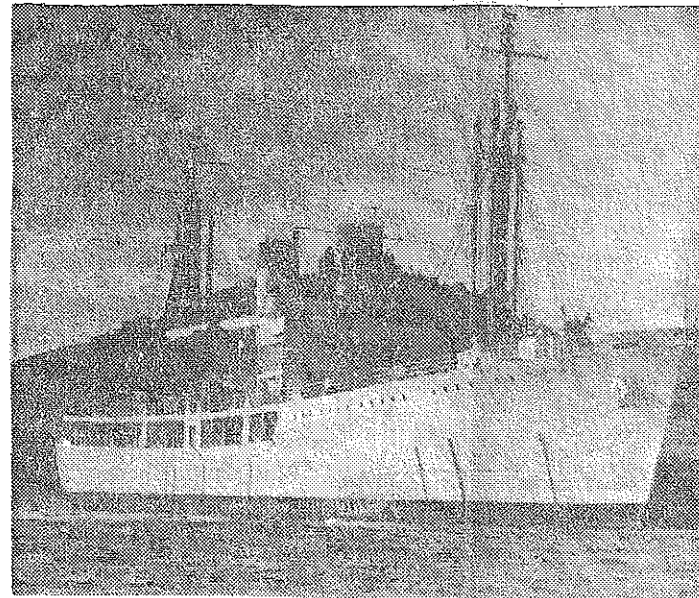
The California Maritime Academy will convert its annual training cruise this year into a friendship trip to Italy, Greece and France, according to an announcement made today in Sacramento by Governor Earl Warren. The Golden Bear, training ship of the Academy, will carry 1,500 tons of relief supplies such as food and clothing contributed by the people of the state.

The plan was submitted to the governor through Captain Henry Blackstone, chairman of the Board of Governors, by the new superintendent of the Academy, Commodore Russell M. Ihrig.

Governor Warren said the Golden Bear will leave its home port, Vallejo, January 15 and take on its first cargo at Oakland. The remainder will be loaded at San Francisco, Los Angeles and San Diego. The Governor disclosed that he will be on board the ship for the trip from San Francisco to Los Angeles. The ship will be manned by 100 youths from the Academy, who will make the journey as a substitute for their annual training cruise which has been to South America in previous years.

The annual 18-weeks cruise had been scheduled to take the midshipmen to Trinidad, Rio de Janeiro and Bahia in Brazil, also Curacao in the Dutch West Indies, with visits of several days at San Diego, Los Angeles, and Santa Barbara enroute back to the Academy base on Carquinez Straits. The new project has the approval of the State Department and the U. S. Maritime Commission.

Maurice Sparling, state superintendent of banks and a former naval officer, has been placed in charge of collecting voluntary contributions from Californians. Plans will shortly be announced by the Governor who will appoint collection agencies. Canned goods of all kinds and all forms of clothing will be the principal items. The advisory committee on Voluntary Foreign Aid of the State Department will conduct the



Training Ship Golden Bear

necessary negotiations and make arrangements to insure the proper reception and equitable distribution of the supplies, and will see that the program reflects the significant American interest. The date for the return of the ship has been set tentatively for May 20.

The Golden Bear, a familiar sight to Vallejoans at her mooring near the Academy, situated just south of the city on Carquinez Straits, is an ex-Navy combat-loaded vessel of 426 feet, capable of 16 knots, with twin screws and turbo-electric propulsion. The vessel is equipped with all modern navigational equipment and is particularly fitted out for use as a school ship. Captain Ralph M. C. Swamy, a graduate of the California Maritime Academy, is commanding officer. All officers of the ship are also the instructors in the professional subjects taught at the Academy, and all but two are graduates of the school. The others are ex-Navy officers of long service.

In announcing the European relief expedition, Governor Warren said:

"The overwhelming response to the Friendship Train in this state shows that the people of California are fully conscious of the significance of the gesture and the necessity to do something to show the people of Europe that American people themselves will do their best to help sustain them in their trial of strength with the forces of Communism. This is a typical American way of proving the benefits of free government to those who are unhappily less fortunate in their political and economic way of life.

"In sending our state training school ship with a cargo of relief food and clothing, as recommended by Commodore Ihrig, we are achieving the maximum training possibilities for the Midshipmen who are to become officers in the Ameri-

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