

REPORT OF THE
NATIONAL PETROLEUM COUNCIL'S
COMMITTEE ON PETROLEUM TANKER TRANSPORTATION

November 17, 1947

In our report submitted under date of June 10, 1947, we indicated the tanker fleet available in the event of a national emergency. Since that time there has been no substantial change in the carrying capacity of the world tanker fleet. As a matter of fact, it is slightly greater today than it was on March 1, 1947. Your recent request to the Committee indicates that you are presently interested in the availability of tankers for commercial operation after elimination from the total world tanker fleet such vessels as are not normally employed in this service. The Committee has reviewed at some length, statistical data available to it, and we find that the availability of tankers for commercial operation as of this date, consists of 1005 vessels translated in T-2 equivalents. The enclosed statement marked Appendix "A" shows how this tanker availability is arrived at.

It is the view of your Committee that the present shortage of transportation not only in our coastwise trade but worldwide, would probably not have occurred had all of these vessels been in operation. As a matter of information, there remained in tieup as of October 1, 1947 - 100 T-2 tankers together with 37 Liberty type tankers. We understand that citizen and foreign applications now on file with the Maritime Commission, exceed in number the total T-2 tankers owned by the Government, and remaining for sale.

Your Committee is of the opinion that the present acute shortage of transportation could be alleviated, if not completely eliminated, by taking the following steps forthwith:

1. Take out of tieup and repair as soon as drydock facilities are available, every T-2 and Liberty type tanker capable of operating after normal repairs.
2. Process immediately all applications consistent with the Ship Sales Act of 1946, now pending before the Maritime Commission so as to hasten the transfer of ships to private ownership.
3. Continue in effect, the temporary permission granted by the Coast Guard, for emergency deeper loading in Coastwise trade and extend, if possible, such temporary authority in respect to foreign voyages.
4. If the Maritime Commission does not have the funds to effect necessary repairs on tankers brought out of layup, they should be furnished such funds.

5. The Merchant Ship Sales Act of 1946 should be amended to extend the operating authority of the U. S. Maritime Commission, thus making it possible to maintain in operating service, those vessels applied and/or contracted for sale but not physically delivered to buyers prior to March 1, 1948.

6. If the Government owned war-built Liberty type tankers are not sold to U. S. citizens pursuant to the Ship Sales Act of 1946, then it is the Committee's viewpoint that the Act should be amended to authorize the sale of this type of vessels to non-citizens.

In addition to the data mentioned above as Appendix "A" we also attach certain statistical data, tables numbered 1, 2 and 3, which, while not entirely relevant to the problem of tanker shortage, will undoubtedly be valuable to the Council in bringing up-to-date, the distribution of tanker fleets by flags, as compared to our previous report of June 10th.

The Committee wishes to reiterate that only the immediate placing in operation of vessels now in tieup, will alleviate the present stringent situation.

COMMITTEE ON PETROLEUM TANKER TRANSPORTATION

/S/ James P. Patterson
Chairman

APPENDIX "A"

T2-SE-A1 EQUIVALENT
 AVAILABILITY OF WORLD TANK SHIP FLEETS
 FOR COMMERCIAL TRANSPORTATION OF PETROLEUM AND PRODUCTS
 (Source: U.S.M.C.)

Item	World Fleets	United States			U.S. Navy	Total U. S.	Total Foreign
		Private & Maritime Comm.		Total			
		Private	U.S.M.C.				
TOTAL FLEET, OCTOBER 1, 1947	1,271	250	343	593	53	646	625
Sold or Final Approval	-	44	(124)	(80)	-	(80)	80
Transferred to U.S. Navy	-	-	(50)	(50)	50	-	-
Approved in Principle	-	18	(58)	(40)	-	(40)	40
FLEET AFTER TRANSFERS	1,271	312	111	423	103	520	745
AVAILABILITY							
Military	(144)	25	-	25	(78)(25)	(78)	(66)
Foreign Not Moving	(55)	-	-	-	-	-	(55)
PDX & Constructive Losses	(30)	-	(30)	(30)	-	(30)	-
In Other Than Petroleum Trade	(37)	(3)	-	(3)	-	(3)	(34)
NET AVAILABLE	1,005	334	*81	*415	-	*415	590

* Includes 55 Z-ET1-S-C3(Liberty Type) tankers equivalent to approximately 26 T-2's.

Note: Parentheses () represent a deduction or minus quantity.

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TABLE I

WORLD TANK SHIP FLEETS AS OF OCTOBER 1, 1947
 ACTUAL NUMBER, GROSS AND DEADWEIGHT TONNAGE AND T2-SE-A1 EQUIVALENT
 TONNAGE
 (Ocean-Going Vessels 2,000 Gross Tons and Over)
 Source: U.S.M.C. - Division of Research

Flag	October 1, 1947					T2-SE-A1 Equivalent		
	No.	Gross Tons	Dead-weight Tons	AVERAGE Dead-weight	SPEED	No.	Dead-weight Tons	% of World
WESTERN HEMISPHERE								
United States	744	6,995,223	11,171,400	15,015	14.07	646.4	10,836,900	50.9
Government	449	4,262,497	6,754,100	15,043	14.27	396.3	6,644,000	31.2
U.S.M.C.	407	3,798,767	6,008,700	14,763	13.87	342.9	5,748,700	27.0
Military	42	463,730	745,400	17,748	17.43	53.4	895,300	4.2
Private	295	2,732,726	4,417,300	14,974	13.76	250.1	4,192,900	19.7
Panama	132	1,063,528	1,688,500	12,791	14.44	100.3	1,681,500	7.9
Others								
Argentina	28	178,235	251,400	8,978	9.52	9.9	166,000	0.8
Brazil	5	30,183	44,000	8,800	10.21	1.9	31,900	0.1
Chile	2	7,586	9,600	9,600	11.00	0.4	6,700	-
Honduras	2	14,071	21,000	10,500	11.29	0.9	15,100	0.1
Mexico	12	74,122	114,600	9,550	10.50	5.0	83,000	0.4
Peru	1	2,820	4,300	4,300	10.00	0.2	3,400	-
Phillipines	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Uruguay	2	20,592	33,600	16,800	14.50	2.0	33,500	0.2
Venezuela	25	72,092	99,300	3,972	9.86	4.0	67,000	0.3
Sub-Total "Others"	77	399,701	577,800	7,504	10.21	24.3	407,400	1.9
Total Western Hemisphere (excluding Canada & including Phillipines)	953	8,458,452	13,437,700	14,100	13.95	771.0	12,925,800	60.7
EUROPE								
Great Britain	436	3,252,332	4,789,500	10,985	11.88	234.1	3,924,700	18.4
Norway	195	1,658,333	2,517,300	12,909	12.20	126.3	2,117,400	9.9
Netherlands	80	409,919	570,700	7,134	11.14	26.1	437,600	2.1
France	33	269,155	410,500	12,439	12.27	20.7	347,000	1.6
U.S.S.R.	25	174,696	266,800	10,672	11.83	13.0	217,900	1.0
Germany	4	32,989	50,400	12,600	12.87	2.7	45,300	0.2
Italy	35	248,433	374,000	10,686	12.08	18.6	311,800	1.5
Sweden	36	322,683	491,100	13,641	13.32	26.9	451,000	2.1
Others								
Belgium	6	47,453	71,600	11,933	12.01	3.5	58,700	0.3
Denmark	11	96,597	149,400	13,581	11.79	7.2	120,700	0.6
Finland	3	21,297	33,500	11,167	10.62	1.5	25,100	0.1
Greece	6	28,235	42,500	7,083	9.84	1.7	28,500	0.1
Poland	1	6,487	9,300	9,300	10.50	0.4	6,700	-
Portugal	5	29,269	44,600	8,920	11.85	2.2	36,800	0.2
Spain	21	121,835	168,800	8,038	11.30	7.8	130,800	0.7
Switzerland	2	11,571	17,900	8,950	10.28	0.9	15,100	0.1
Turkey	1	6,134	9,000	9,000	14.00	0.5	8,400	-
Yugoslavia	1	6,074	9,400	9,400	11.50	0.4	6,700	-
Sub-Total "Others"	57	374,952	556,000	9,754	11.40	26.1	437,600	2.1
Total Europe	901	6,743,492	10,026,300	11,127	11.99	494.5	8,290,300	38.9
JAPAN	9	47,804	68,500	7,611	12.65	3.6	60,300	0.3
CHINA	4	30,475	46,000	11,500	10.00	1.9	31,900	0.1
EGYPT	1	5,917	7,300	7,300	13.00	0.4	6,700	-
L WORLD FLEET	1,868	15,286,141	23,585,800	12,626	13.10	1,271.4	21,315,000	100.0

TABLE II

WORLD TANK SHIP FLEETS AS OF OCTOBER 1, 1947
 ACTUAL CHANGES IN NUMBER, GROSS AND DEADWEIGHT TONNAGE FROM MARCH 1, 1947
 AND SEPTEMBER 1, 1939
 (Ocean-Going Vessels 2,000 Gross Tons and Over)
 Source: U.S.M.C. - Division of Research

	Actual Changes From					
	March 1, 1947			September 1, 1939		
	No.	Gross	D.W.T.	No.	Gross	D.W.T.
WESTERN HEMISPHERE						
United States	-138	-1,203,489	-1,935,800	✓361	✓4,169,218	✓6,737,300
Government	-152	-1,385,171	-2,225,600	✓427	✓4,076,872	✓6,471,500
U.S.M.C.	-151	-1,378,154	-2,214,500	✓407	✓3,798,767	✓6,008,700
Military	- 1	- 7,017	- 11,100	✓ 20	✓ 278,105	✓ 462,800
Private	✓ 14	✓ 181,682	✓ 289,800	- 66	✓ 92,346	✓ 265,800
Panama	✓ 46	✓ 447,764	✓ 723,100	✓ 79	✓ 595,468	✓ 955,700
Others						
Argentina	✓ 1	✓ 3,262	✓ 4,200	✓ 4	✓ 40,433	✓ 60,200
Brazil	-	-	-	✓ 3	✓ 22,283	✓ 31,800
Chile	-	-	-	-	-	-
Honduras	-	-	-	✓ 1	✓ 6,448	✓ 9,800
Mexico	-	-	-	✓ 10	✓ 64,582	✓ 100,100
Peru	-	-	-	-	-	-
Philippines	-	-	-	- 1	- 5,236	- 7,700
Uruguay	✓ 1	✓ 10,296	✓ 16,800	✓ 1	✓ 15,356	✓ 25,900
Venezuela	-	-	-	✓ 2	✓ 7,880	✓ 12,000
Sub-Total "Others"	✓ 2	✓ 13,558	✓ 21,000	✓ 21	✓ 156,982	✓ 239,800
Total Western Hemisphere (Excluding Canada and Including Philippines)	- 90	- 742,167	-1,191,700	✓461	✓4,921,668	✓7,932,800
EUROPE						
Great Britain	✓ 18	✓ 196,282	✓ 320,300	- 6	✓ 82,944	✓ 85,500
Norway	✓ 4	✓ 65,237	✓ 106,800	- 68	- 414,890	- 608,100
Netherlands	✓ 3	✓ 11,128	✓ 13,600	- 25	- 115,689	- 169,300
France	✓ 9	✓ 87,342	✓ 140,600	- 11	- 43,061	- 51,800
U.S.S.R.	✓ 7	✓ 65,009	✓ 100,800	✓ 8	✓ 61,646	✓ 104,300
Germany	- 1	- 6,135	- 9,200	- 30	- 233,685	- 337,300
Italy	✓ 9	✓ 89,882	✓ 146,400	- 45	- 172,501	- 244,700
Sweden	✓ 1	✓ 6,382	✓ 9,800	✓ 16	✓ 154,164	✓ 234,100
Others						
Belgium	-	✓ 4,726	✓ 8,100	- 4	- 22,976	- 29,500
Denmark	✓ 1	✓ 9,185	✓ 14,400	- 2	- 8,773	- 15,000
Finland	✓ 3	✓ 21,297	✓ 33,500	✓ 2	✓ 14,748	✓ 23,700
Greece	✓ 2	✓ 10,146	✓ 15,100	- 1	- 3,121	- 5,600
Poland	✓ 1	✓ 6,487	✓ 9,300	✓ 1	✓ 6,487	✓ 9,300
Portugal	-	✓ 74	-	✓ 4	✓ 26,658	✓ 41,400
Rumania	-	-	-	- 3	- 14,737	- 22,600
Spain	-	✓ 808	- 500	✓ 8	✓ 50,964	✓ 69,500
Switzerland	✓ 2	✓ 11,571	✓ 17,900	✓ 2	✓ 11,571	✓ 17,900
Turkey	-	-	-	-	✓ 2,411	✓ 2,800
Yugoslavia	✓ 1	✓ 6,074	✓ 9,400	-	✓ 2,897	✓ 6,100
Sub-Total "Others"	✓ 10	✓ 69,918	✓ 107,200	✓ 7	✓ 66,129	✓ 98,000
Total Europe	✓ 60	✓ 585,045	✓ 936,300	-154	- 614,949	- 889,300
JAPAN	- 1	- 2,770	- 2,500	- 38	- 392,636	- 544,000
CHINA	-	-	-	✓ 4	✓ 30,475	✓ 46,000
T	✓ 1	✓ 5,917	✓ 7,300	✓ 1	✓ 5,917	✓ 7,300
WORLD FLEET	- 30	- 153,975	- 250,600	✓ 274	✓3,950,475	✓6,552,800

TABLE III

WORLD TANK SHIP FLEET AS OF OCTOBER 1, 1947
 CHANGES IN T2-SE-A1 EQUIVALENTS FROM MARCH 1, 1947 AND SEPTEMBER 1, 1939
 (Ocean-Going Vessels 2,000 Gross Tons and Over)

Source: U.S.M.C. - Division of Research

	March 1, 1947		As % of Mar. 1, 1947	Sept. 1, 1939		As % of Sept. 1, 1939
	No.	D.W.T.		No.	D.W.T.	
WESTERN HEMISPHERE						
United States	-104.1	-1,745,200	86.1%	461.1	7,730,300	348.8%
Government	-125.3	-2,100,600	76.0	378.9	6,352,300	2,277.7
U.S.M.C.	-125.5	-2,104,000	73.2	342.9	5,748,700	-
Military	0.2	3,400	100.4	36.0	603,600	306.9
Private	21.4	355,400	109.3	82.2	1,378,000	149.0
Panama	55.1	923,700	221.9	65.7	1,101,400	289.9
Others						
Argentina	- 1.8	30,200	84.6	1.0	16,800	111.2
Brazil	0.1	1,700	105.6	1.4	23,500	38.0
Chile	-	-	100.0	-	-	100.0
Honduras	- 0.1	1,700	90.0	0.3	5,000	150.0
Mexico	0.1	1,700	102.0	4.3	72,100	714.3
Peru	-	100	100.0	-	-	100.0
Philippines	-	-	-	0.3	5,000	-
Uruguay	1.0	16,700	200.0	2.0	33,500	-
Venezuela	-	-	100.0	0.4	6,700	111.1
Sub-total "Others"	- 0.7	11,700	97.2	9.1	152,600	159.9
Total Western Hemisphere (Excluding Canada & Including Philippines)	- 49.7	- 833,200	93.9	535.9	8,984,300	327.9
Europe						
Great Britain	19.6	328,600	109.1	15.2	254,800	106.9
Norway	6.6	110,600	105.5	- 24.6	- 412,400	83.7
Netherlands	0.6	10,100	102.4	- 7.8	- 130,700	77.0
France	8.0	134,100	163.0	- 1.3	- 21,800	94.1
U.S.S.R.	5.6	93,800	175.6	5.4	90,500	171.1
Germany	- 0.4	6,700	87.1	- 15.6	- 261,500	14.8
Italy	8.2	137,500	178.8	- 8.4	- 140,900	68.9
Sweden	0.5	8,400	101.9	14.2	238,100	211.8
Others						
Belgium	0.6	10,100	120.7	- 1.3	- 21,800	72.9
Denmark	0.7	11,700	110.8	- 0.5	- 8,400	93.5
Finland	1.5	25,100	-	1.1	18,400	375.0
Greece	0.6	10,100	154.5	- 0.3	- 5,000	85.0
Poland	0.4	6,700	-	0.4	6,700	-
Portugal	-	-	100.0	2.1	35,200	220.0
Rumania	-	-	-	1.0	16,800	-
Spain	- 0.1	1,600	98.7	3.0	50,400	162.5
Switzerland	0.9	15,100	-	0.9	15,100	-
Turkey	-	-	100.0	0.4	6,700	500.0
Yugoslavia	0.4	6,700	-	0.3	5,000	400.0
Subtotal "Others"	5.0	83,900	123.7	5.1	85,500	124.3
Total Europe	53.7	900,300	112.2	- 17.8	- 298,400	96.5
JAPAN	-	100	100.0	- 24.6	- 412,500	12.8
CHINA	-	100	100.0	1.9	31,900	-
EGYPT	0.4	6,700	-	0.4	6,700	-
TOTAL WORLD FLEET	4.4	73,800	100.3	495.8	8,312,000	163.9