PRESS RELEASE

I have been informed that steamer service has been established from Charleston to South and East Africa, the Philippines, Shanghai and Hong Kong.

Arrangements for this new service were made recently in New York by Mr. George S. deMerell, Charleston Director for the States Ports Authority, Mr. H. H. Kilpatrick, vice president of the Carolina Shipping Company and officials of the steam ship companies. It is my understanding that two lines will commence regular service within the next month and half. The American South African lines of New York will begin regular sailings to Africa and the De La Rama Steamship line of New York will begin schedules to the Philippines and Far East.

The purposes of these services are to handle exports of textiles from southeastern mills and general cargo from the Hinterland, of Charleston. It is my sincere hope that a substantial export and import traffic will develop as a result of regular sailings. Mr. deMerell has stated that the schedules of these two international lines are the first steps by the Ports Authority in reviving Charleston as an international port.

I urge all business concerns, importers, exporters, bankers, manufacturers and farmers to utilize these facilities to the fullest as they are not only an asset as an outlet for our foreign trade, but also serve toward developing Charleston as a port.

The Ports Authority and those citizens participating in this program are to be commended upon the acquisition of these new lines. As Governor of South Carolina, I welcome and extend my sincere wish for a long and successful operation.

J. Strom Thurmond, Governor
Charleston, S.C. March 8 - Efforts of the South Carolina state ports authority to revive the commerce of the port of Charleston have resulted in the securing of the first regular scheduled steamship service since the beginning of the war.

George S. deMerell, Charleston director for the authority, announced yesterday that monthly steamer service has been established from Charleston to south and east Africa, the Philippines, Shanghai and Hong Kong.

The American South African lines, of New York, will commence regular sailings from this port to Africa the last of this month, and the De La Rama Steamship, of New York, will begin schedules to the Philippines and the Far East in April, Mr. deMerell said.

The lines are scheduling services to handle export movement in textiles from southeastern mills as well as general cargo from the tributary area of this port, Mr. deMerell said. A substantial export and import traffic is expected to develop as a result of regular sailings.

The ships will use the facilities at the North Charleston terminals recently turned over to state control after war time use as a port of embarkation.

Mr. deMerell, representing the ports authority, H. H. Kilpatrick, vice president of the Carolina Shipping Company, Charleston agents for the lines, and officials of the steamship companies concluded arrangements for the new service last week in New York.
The American South African Lines will begin a monthly service from this port the last week of March. Their 10,000-ton freighters will pick up cargo bound for Capetown, Beira, Durban, Lourenco Marques, and other southern and eastern African ports. Their first ship will be "Selma City Victory".

The ships of the De La Rama Steamship Company, which fly the Philippine flag, will start monthly service from Charleston in April. Their first freighter, the "S. S. Bali", is scheduled to load here on April 15 for Manila, Shanghai and Hong Kong.

"The coming of these two international steamship lines is the first big step in the ports authority's efforts to revive South Carolina's maritime importance," Mr. deMerell declared.

"Without regularly scheduled steamer service a port cannot attract cargo. Without cargo a port is idle. The gap has now been bridged."

"The authority with the cooperation of local shipping interests will continue to seek to interest shipping lines and exporters and importers in this port as a logical shipping center for the products of this state, and its southeastern tributary area. The securing of these two lines is only the beginning."
The people of South Carolina are taking over the operation and development of its seaports with the firm intention of restoring the state to the leading maritime position it held a century ago. The economic welfare of the whole state will depend to a large extent on our success in this endeavor. We expect to utilize our seaports as assets to help business and industry locating in our state to get their merchandise and products to the markets of the nation and the world on a competitive basis, and our hope is that business and industry will avail themselves of the facilities at our ports by casting their lot with us.

The doubling of the productive capacity of this country as a result of the war makes it more important than ever before to expand our foreign trade. The prosperity of the United States follows the curve of our foreign trade.

South Carolina, through its seaports, offers the facilities to do its part in promoting commerce between nations, which is so important a factor in world economic stability and the avoidance of war.