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August 4, 1975

DOMINICAN NAVY DETAINS U. S. VESSELBackground:

The Dominican Navy fired over, boarded, and took into port early Monday a U. S. <sup>Curran</sup>-owned ocean-going tug that was within 14 miles of the coast en route to Puerto Rico. <sup>to court com. etc.</sup> The vessel was released by Dominican authorities shortly after arriving in port. They indicated the vessel resembled one which their authorities were on the lookout <sup>for</sup> and that it was boarded when it continued on course without stopping after being hailed. The Dominicans have been nervous about ships in their waters since several guerrillas allegedly were landed on the Dominican shore by Puerto Rican nationals.

Q. Where is the U. S. owned tug that was detained by the Dominican Republic yesterday?

A. As you may know, the vessel was released by Dominican authorities shortly after arriving in port. It is now on its way to its destination in San Juan.

FYI: The Dominican Republic claims a 6 mile territorial jurisdiction and another 6 mile customs securities and fishing zone. The Dominican Government claims that the tugboat was within the 6 to 12 mile range and fearing a smuggling attempt, sought to detain the ship for inspection.