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## MORSE VISIT

STATINTL

Sees Him On Possibility Of Voiding Ship Deal

> By HELEN DELICH [Maritime Editor of The Sun]

Washington, March 6—Aristotle Socrates Onassis, one of the world's richest men, would like to get out of his obligation, to build about 200,000 deadweight tons of ships under the United. States flag because of de-pressed market conditions. In fact, the shipping magnate

was here from his Monte Carlo home this week to confer on the possibility with Clarence G. Morse, chairman of the Federal Maritime Board.

As of today, there is no, change in the demand by the Government that he put this tonnage on the high seas under American flag to pay off a debt accruing from his purchase of surplus war ships under alleged; false premises.

Others Confronted

Other Greek shipowners' also found themselves confronted with charges which they on hsid-

with charges which they considered unfair inasmuch as their purchases were made with the full knowledge of the now-defunct. Maritime Commission.

The reaching an agreement with the United States Government, Mr. Chassis said he would build a 106,000 deadweight ton ship (which would be the largest in the world) and two 46,000-tonners under the American flag. ican flag.

Because of the extremely poor condition of the ship charter market, the shipping magnate would like to be able to get out of this agreement.

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Could Ferfeit \$8,000,000 Bond
He could automatically by
simply forfelting an \$8,000,000
bond he has posted with the
Government. But it is unlikely
that he would be tempted to
sacrifice this sum of money.

In addition to the three ships
mentioned, the Onassis interests
have under construction at
Bethlehem's Quincy (Mass.)
Shipyard two 46,000-tonners for
foreign flag. It is believed that
he will transfer these two to
American registry in order to American registry in order to fulfill that part of his obligation to the Government, and cancel the building of two under for-

eign registry.

As far as the 106,000-ton ship is concerned, speculators believe that if he cannot get the Maritime Administration to agree to cancellation at a "reasonable" loss, he will either postpone its construction or build two or more smaller ships.

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