

ST. MAARTEN PIER COMPLETED;RECORD CRUISE SEASON ANTICIPATED

The million dollar pier project on the Caribbean island of St. Maarten in the Netherlands Antilles is now completed and, according to advance reports, a record number of cruise ships will be calling at this half Dutch, half French island between now and the end of the 1964 - 65 season next spring. The new pier, under construction since October, 1962, can accommodate the largest cruise ships now plying the Caribbean.

It provides 1,312 feet of mooring space, with a 33-foot water depth along 394 feet of its lateral length. It is located at Point Blanche, a short distance from Philipsburg, capital of St. Maarten's Dutch side.

Completion of the pier puts St. Maarten on par with many of the other Caribbean islands as far as accessibility to cruise ships and their passengers is concerned. The project is a part of the ten-year economic development plan sponsored by the Netherlands for the furtherance of growth and development in all the islands comprising the Netherlands Antilles group. St. Maarten has recently seen dramatic upsurge in popularity as a tourist mecca.

Caribbean Cruise Line's Reviera was the first American cruise ship to moor at the new pier when it made its first of several calls on July 5. Several other lines have indicated St. Maarten on their itineraries between now and the beginning of the winter cruise season - an unusual occurrence during the minimum cruise travel period. Among these are Inces Line's Victoria and Furness Line's Ocean Monarch

Between November 30 of this year and the end of the '64-'65 season, approximately 30 ships will call at St. Maarten; 12 are already firmly scheduled. Zim lines's new Shalom, Inces Line's Victoria, American Export's Atlantic, Norwegian American's Oslofjord, and a ship of the Home Lines are among those already indicating St. Maarten on itineraries. According to Bergen Line officials, their Meteor will make 10 calls at St. Maarten from Puerto Rico during the season. Holland-America line has also expressed interest in scheduling calls there.

At the pier's inaugural ceremonies held recently, the Dutch battleship H.M.S. Amsterdam visited the island and became the first ship to moor at the pier. Several well known names in American show business have "discovered" St. Maarten and television star Mitch Miller was on hand for the ceremonies.

Press Release

METHODIST NEWS (Week ending July 11th 1964)

-Last Monday the Methodist Church welcomed Mr. Leonard Rock, a student at the Union Theological Seminary, who will be spending the Summer vacation working in the Methodist churches on both sides of the island. Mr. Rock is a native of Barbados, and he has not been to St. Maarten before. We welcome him warmly to our shores, and hope that many members of the community will be able to meet him. They will have an opportunity of hearing him preach in all the churches: This Sunday (12th July) Mr. Rock will be at Marigot at 8:30 a.m., Cole Bay at 10.30 a.m., and Philipsburg at 7.15 p.m.