

TECHNOLOGY

## Demothballed Freighters To Aid in Missile Test

DEMOTHBALLED FREIGHTERS will help track America's guided missiles as they wing their way across the South Atlantic.

The freighters will be floating instrument stations, supplementing the numerous land stations used for tracking along the world's longest missile test range.

The ships will work out of ports on the northeast coast of South America, receiving performance data from missiles soaring over the 3,000 miles of the Atlantic between St. Lucia in the Lesser Antilles and the Ascension Islands.

Details of the missile tracking program were revealed by the U. S. Air Force's Air Research and Development Command, which announced contracts amounting to more than \$1,000,000 to California industries to demothball, dehumidify, soundproof and make minor alterations to the small cargo freighters.

Science News Letter, October 20, 1956

## Do You Know?

Insects and disease destroy more *timber* in the Central States region each year than does fire.

There is no known cure for elm trees once they become infected with *Dutch elm disease*.

Oil use in the United States is 75 times what it was in 1900.

A small *lamp* for Christmas trees has a bi-metallic strip built into the bulb so that each lamp flashes on and off automatically and individually, several on one string producing a twinkling effect.

A suspension *truck* seat with a natural frequency or vibration rate below that of the truck isolates the rider from most of the disturbing jolts and shocks.

