## DIVERS TO SURVEY THE ANDREA DORIA

Inspection of Sunken Liner Planned by 5-Man Team

A team of four Italians and one American has announced plans to undertake late in July the first major survey of the sunken Andrea Doria.

The team intends to inspect the sunken hulk, take the first motion pictures of it and determine the feasibility of salvaging the luxury liner. The Italian ship sank July 26, 1956, after a collision with the Swedish liner Stockholm in the fog and mist off Nantucket Island. Fifty-one persons perished.

The 29,000-ton Italian liner lies on its starboard side in the mud 225 feet below the Atlan-

tic's surface.

Inside are several million dollars worth of jewels and other valuables belonging to the passengers, a shipment of gold bullion, expensive paintings, five tons of provolone cheese and \$25,000 worth of vermouth. The scrap value of the hull is estimated at \$3 million.

"I'm willing to go out on a limb," said Mendel Peterson, an expert in underwater salvage at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, "and say that there's a good chance of finding paintings and other fragile objects in better condition than the ship's metal."

The ship, often called the

"floating museum of modern art," displayed a number of Italian paintings in its public salons. Many of the other valuables are believed to be well preserved in safes and other airtight storage areas.

The leader of the expedition is Bruno Vailati, 48-year-old Italian television producer-director and amateur oceanographer. He said that his team expected to make two dives a day over a two-week period. They would descend to the wreck from a chartered trawler, the

Narragansett.

So far no serious attempt has been made to reclaim the ship or recover its valuables. The insurance company that paid \$20-million to the owners has received scores of fanciful offers, including such ideas filling the wreck with pingpong balls and towing it on the sea floor until it reached shallower water.

The few divers who have gone down are said to have made only hurried inspections and no detailed photographs. One man disappeared during a dive in the late nineteen-fifties.