

# Specialists fly in to work on Australis

Twenty-six "specialised technicians" from Chandris Line's headquarters in Athens, Greece, arrived in Suva yesterday to help to repair the fire damage in the 35,000-ton liner *Australis*.

The liner's galley, damaged by fire at sea last Thursday while the ship was on her way from Auckland to Suva, was still a charred mess.

The blackened walls were being chipped ready for painting by about 50 members of the crew and Suva men while electricians worked on restoring wiring for lights.

The Greek technicians began work as soon as they arrived by air from Athens. "They will work around the clock to finish the repairs to the galley and the damaged cabins," the liner's master, Captain D. Challioris, said.

## CONTINUE

"The galley should be ready for painting by Thursday and if the appropriate authorities pass the work, the ship should be ready by Friday," he said.

Chandris Line's Australian representative, Captain J. L. Arlaud, said the Greek technicians included electricians and plumbers.

"They will continue in the ship when she leaves Fiji and complete repairs," he said.

Materials for the repairs

not available in Suva have begun to arrive from overseas.

The ship's departure will depend on one man yet to arrive — a representative of the American Bureau of Shipping, the equivalent of Lloyds of London.

## LOST

"After the repairs are completed, he will inspect the galley and cabins and if he is satisfied, he will certify that the ship is fit to sail," Captain Arlaud said.

A Lloyds surveyor from Japan arrived at the weekend from Pago Pago to inspect the *Australis*.

Mr Don Aidney, managing director of Williams and Gosling, agent for Chandris in Suva, said a number of passengers' passports were lost in the fire.

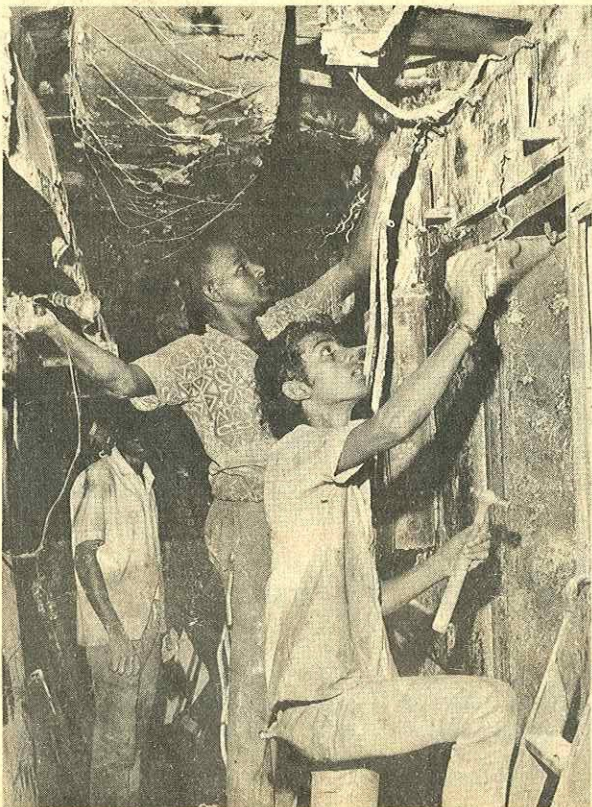
He praised the work of immigration, Customs, marine and health officers.

"They did a magnificent job in making things easier for anyone in the ship," Mr Aidney said.

## LEFT

More than 230 passengers were transferred from the ship to hotels in Suva yesterday.

They took the rooms of passengers from the *Australis* who have been flown to America and England.



SUVA electricians Messrs Gabriel Joseph and Seth Pal (nearest camera) working in the gutted galley of the liner *Australis*. About 30 Suva people are employed on repair work.

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