

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

ADDRESS REPLY TO:  
COMMANDER  
EASTERN AREA  
U.S. COAST GUARD  
U.S. CUSTOM HOUSE  
NEW YORK 4, N.Y.



•P15

16 November 1961

Captain Tuve T. Smolensk, Master  
SS JERUSALEM/4XVI  
c/o American-Israeli Shipping Company, Inc.  
42 Broadway, New York 4, New York

My dear Captain Smolensk:

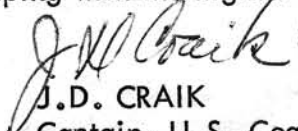
On behalf of Rear Admiral Edwin J. Roland, U.S. Coast Guard, Search and Rescue Coordinator, U.S. Atlantic Maritime Region, it is my great pleasure to commend you for the prompt and highly effective action by your ship, your staff and your crew during a serious medical situation at sea on November 11, 1961.

Your action began when SS JERUSALEM answered the emergency radio call for help by the Spanish registered SS CONDE DE FONTANAR, then in a position 700 miles southwest of the Azores. SS JERUSALEM, enroute to New York, was over 300 miles beyond the position of the freighter, nevertheless, you promptly turned back to help. On being advised by Coast Guard New York that, at the time, no other vessels carrying a doctor were closer, you maintained your diversion. Within 12 hours you located the Spanish ship, and completed a noteworthy at-sea transfer of her injured crewman who was in critical condition. After examination by your ships surgeon you properly reported the medical opinion that the life of this patient very likely depended on immediate surgery by specialists not available to you.

In view of this information, Coast Guard New York arranged for a Coast Guard amphibian aircraft to land in the open sea near you in order to remove the patient to a hospital in Bermuda. Such an operation carries serious risks to the plane, its crew and the patient; favorable sea conditions and accurate reporting from the scene are most important. Your actions were very effective and contributed highly to the successful execution of this air evacuation. I regret that I cannot now report the patient recovered because, at present, his condition continues critical.

It gives me further pleasure to observe that the SS JERUSALEM was cited in January, 1960 for dramatic assistance to two injured seamen of the Panamanian tanker CHRYSSI. Your regular messages in support of the Coast Guard's AMVER program is additional evidence of your deep interest in humanitarian effort at sea.

The performance of SS JERUSALEM in Atlantic Search and Rescue well deserves recognition in the maritime world, and is in keeping with the highest traditions of the sea.

  
J.D. CRAIK  
Captain, U.S. Coast Guard  
Deputy Area Commander