



Maryland Port Administration

NEWS RELEASE

World Trade Center · Baltimore, Maryland 21202 · 410-385-4480 · (Fax) 410-385-4485 · Toll Free 1-800-638-7519

CONTACT:

Richard Berkow
Maryland Port Administration
410-385-4702
rberkow@mdot.state.md.us

Darlene Frank
Maryland Port Administration
410-385-4480

HUAL AMERICA MAKES MAIDEN CALL ON BALTIMORE

BALTIMORE, MD (Mar. 5, 2004) – The newest cargo vessel in the Norwegian-owned HUAL carrier fleet, *America*, made its first call on the Port of Baltimore yesterday. It discharged agricultural equipment manufactured in the Far East, and loaded a variety of American-made vehicles and road construction machines destined for the Middle East.

The 12-deck, 55,000-square meter vessel was built in Gdynia Shipyards in Poland and christened in November 2003. It features flexible deck and holding accommodations and can store up to 6,100 passenger cars.

Maryland Port Administration Executive Director James J. White noted in his welcoming remarks that HUAL had been a partner to the Baltimore port community for more than 34 years, and that the new ship reflected its status as a world-class carrier.

HUAL's Vice President of Marketing Roy Winograd said the *America* was the second of 12 new ships that the Norwegian company planned to build by 2007. When completed, it would give HUAL the largest fleet of flexible Pure-Car-Pure-Truck carriers with movable decks in the world. The massive ultra-modern vessel hosts a crew of 23.

Nearly 300 years old, the Port of Baltimore has consistently remained one of the top U.S. ports for several reasons. Located more than 160 miles inland, Baltimore is the closest U.S. Atlantic seaport to major mid-Western destinations and manufacturing centers. Nestled in the heart of the fifth largest, second wealthiest consumer market in the nation, Baltimore is a prime distribution location. The public terminals of the Port of Baltimore recently surpassed a brand new milestone...7 million tons of general cargo in FY 2003.

###