



ASSISTANT SECRETARY

TREASURY DEPARTMENT

Washington,

*Woj*

*W*

November 17, 1947

Dear Joe:

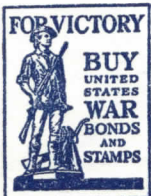
With further reference to the case of the SS COLONEL FREDERICK C. JOHNSON, I am attaching for your information a copy of a letter dated October 30, 1947, addressed to the Maritime Commission from the State Department.

Yours very truly,

*G. W. Foley*

Assistant Secretary of the Treasury

Admiral Joseph F. Farley  
Commandant, United States Coast Guard  
Washington 25, D. C.



Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

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TO  
October 30, 1947In reply refer to  
Le 867N.01

SUBJECT: ES SUBJECT OF LETTER

My dear Admiral Smith:

1. Reference is made to the letter dated October 27, 1947, received from the Legal Department of the Maritime Commission regarding the application of Samuel Derecktor, 500 Fifth Avenue, New York, New York, to transfer the S.S. Colonel Frederick C. Johnson to Panamanian registry, as he states he has sold the vessel to Brownsam Company, Inc., care of Carlos Isaza, Panama City, Panama.
2. Ship have to
3. Ship to watch possibly
4. The ski According to information furnished by the British Embassy, this vessel is believed to be intended for carrying illegal immigrants to Palestine. According to a communication dated October 6, 1947, received from the British Embassy, the vessel was towed to the Norfolk Shipbuilding and Drydock Company, Brambleton Yards, Norfolk, Virginia, on September 7 upon the orders of the Alcoa Steamship Company of Norfolk. The ship is being completely overhauled on the orders of a Captain William Ash. It is stated that a Captain Ash was President of the Weston Trading Company of New York, which was responsible for the operations of the President Warfield, the Trade Winds, and the Northland in this illegal traffic. The vessel is stated to have been formerly the Hudson River excursion boat DeWitt Clinton, which could accommodate 3,000 persons. It is being fitted to carry passengers and cargo.
- CC Commo  
Capt

Under the circumstances, it will be appreciated if the approval of the application for the transfer of this vessel to a foreign flag may be postponed until investigations which are in progress with respect to it are completed.

Sincerely,

For the Secretary of State:

Earnest A. Gross  
The Legal AdvisorVice Admiral William W. Smith,  
Chairman, United States  
Maritime CommissionSECRET