

NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE CONTACT:
February 9, 2006

Richard Scher
J.B. Hanson
MPA Communications
410 385-4480

NEW DIRECT SERVICE BETWEEN PORT OF BALTIMORE AND WEST AFRICA STARTS NEXT MONTH

BALTIMORE, MD --- Beginning March 1, Maryland's Port of Baltimore will be among two other east coast ports to receive direct Grimaldi/Atlantic Container Line (ACL) calls to West Africa. This new service will complement ACL's trans-Atlantic service with Grimaldi's Europe-West Africa service via Antwerp, Belgium. Grimaldi is the parent company of ACL. Other U.S. ports on this new service are New York/New Jersey and Jacksonville.

"We are pleased ACL has included the Maryland Port of Baltimore as part of this new service," said Brooks Royster, Executive Director of the Maryland Port Administration. "We are already the number one roll on/roll off port in the nation, and this will only enhance our reputation internationally for being a growing and evolving port."

Ships utilized for this new service will be for roll-on/roll-off cargo. It is expected that 75 percent of the cargo will be autos. Import cargo from West Africa will be varied.

"The rising market demand in West Africa supports the introduction of this new tonnage. We anticipate the demand to continue to grow as a result of Grimaldi's long-term commitment to the West African trade," said Robert J. Willman, ACL General Manager of RoRo and Special Projects, North America.

Vessels sailing from the United States will enter the West African cities of Dakar, Lome, Cotonou, Lagos and Tema with connecting service on Grimaldi vessels to Banjul, Conakry, Freetown, Monrovia and other West African ports.

#

