



Inmarsat

7 August 1991

40 Melton Street, London NW1 2EQ
United Kingdom

Medisink Teknisk Bistandsgruppe
Ulakroken 12
Stavanger 4028
Norway

Dear Mr Emnetu Tesfay:

Re: Illegal Distress Alert From a Land Mobile Terminal

We have been advised that your Inmarsat-C land mobile earth station:

Manufacturer:	EB Nera
Model:	Saturn-C
IMN:	492420720

generated a maritime distress alert at 14h39 on 01 August 1991.

No land mobile earth station is authorised to transmit a distress alert. Transmissions of distress alerts by land mobile earth stations are strictly in contravention of the access authorisation that has been granted to your terminal. We must insist that you do not, under any circumstances, allow such transmissions from your land mobile earth station again.

These distress alerts serve a life-saving function for members of the maritime community. They are used only in cases of extreme need and their transmission may initiate a life-saving procedure to be instituted that involves personnel and resources in many locations. A distress alert is automatically connected to a Land Earth Station Operator and/or to a Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre. Such procedures are initiated in the belief that a ship requires immediate assistance.

It is evident that false distress alerts are thus extremely wasteful of costly and dedicated resources. They might also stop those resources from being used where they are really needed.

I am sure you therefore understand how important it is that your terminal does not repeat this false distress alert.

We would be interested in any additional information which you may be able to provide about the occasion of this false alert.

Yours faithfully

Neil Teller
Inmarsat-C Project Manager

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