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*"Rummaging in the government's attic"*

Description of document: Reports about damage to the offices of the Export-Import Bank of the United States (EX-IM Bank) and the loss of EX-IM records in the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001, 2001-2002

Requested date: 22-August-2011

Released date: 31-August-2011

Posted date: 19-September-2011

Date/date range of document: 13-September-2001 – 16-December-2002

Source of document: Export-Import Bank of the United States  
Freedom of Information and Privacy Office  
811 Vermont Ave., NW  
Washington, D.C. 20571  
E-Mail: [foia@exim.gov](mailto:foia@exim.gov)  
Fax: (202) 565-3294

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EXPORT-IMPORT BANK  
OF THE UNITED STATES

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August 31, 2011

**Re: FOIA Request #201100095F**

This is in final response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to the Export-Import Bank of the United States (Ex-Im Bank), which we received in our FOIA office via U.S. Mail on August 22, 2011. You asked for copies of “any and all reports about damage to the Ex-Im Bank offices in Six World Trade Center in September 2001”; and “any and all reports on the loss of records by the Ex-Im Bank in that incident.”

A search of our Records Management office, our Office of Administration and Security, our Library and Archives, and our Northeast/Mid-Atlantic Regional Office in New York City did not locate any documents responsive to your request. However, the search of our Archives did locate four documents which you may find to be of interest, although they are not reports. As a courtesy, we are releasing these documents to you in their entirety.

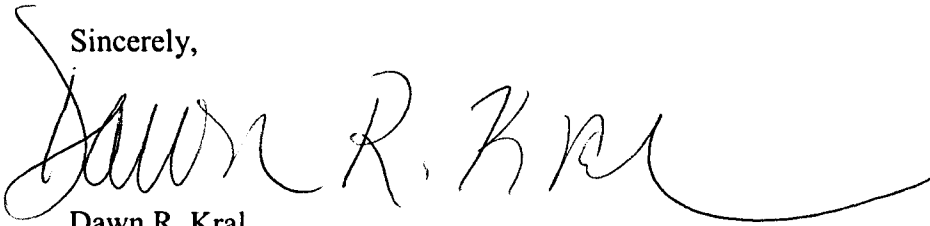
You have the right to appeal the action on this request by writing to the Export-Import Bank of the United States, Attention: Assistant General Counsel for Administration, 811 Vermont Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C., 20571. Any appeal must be received by that office within 30 days from the date of this letter. The phrase “FOIA APPEAL” should appear on the letter and on the outside of the envelope containing the appeal.

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If you have any questions about your request, please do not hesitate to contact me at (202) 565-3248 or by E-Mail at [dawn.kral@exim.gov](mailto:dawn.kral@exim.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dawn R. Kral". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dawn R. Kral  
FOIA Public Liaison

Enclosures

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EDUARDO AGUIRRE  
VICE CHAIRMAN

EXPORT-IMPORT BANK  
OF THE UNITED STATES

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April 3, 2002

Delcour S. Potter  
Chairman, President, and Chief Executive Officer  
Private Export Funding Corporation  
280 Park Avenue  
New York, New York 410017

Dear Mr. Potter: *Del*

I wish to again express my appreciation, and that of the Bank's Board of Directors, to you and to PEFCO and its Board, for hosting Ex-Im Bank's New York Regional Office since the events of September 11.

Your generous offer to provide office space for our New York Office when the space we had been occupying in the World Trade Center was destroyed typifies the outstanding cooperation between our two institutions over the past 30 years in support of U.S. exports. We greatly appreciate not only the temporary use of PEFCO's office space but also the many day to day courtesies that PEFCO extended to our staff.

As our staff re-locates to new space provided by GSA, John Lavelle and our entire New York Regional Office staff join me and our Board in expressing our thanks. We look forward to continuing to work closely with PEFCO in the future in support of our mutual mission to assist U.S. exports.

Sincerely,

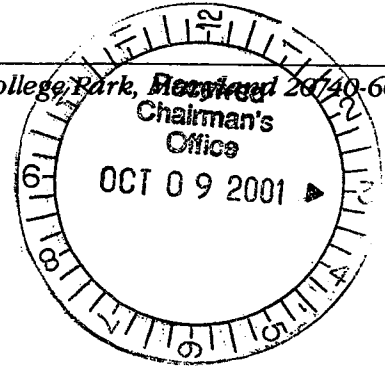
cc: Grandmaison, Renberg, Weaver, Hess, Redway, Lavelle

26, 6028

# National Archives at College Park



8601 Adelphi Road College Park, Maryland 20740-6001



John E. Robson  
President and Chairman  
Export-Import Bank of the United States  
811 Vermont Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20571

Dear Mr. Robson,

On behalf of the staff of the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), I would like to express our sympathy for the losses experienced by the Export-Import Bank of the United States as a result of the tragic circumstances at the World Trade Center in New York City on September 11. We commend the men and women who are working so hard to continue the Export-Import Bank's operations throughout this trying time.

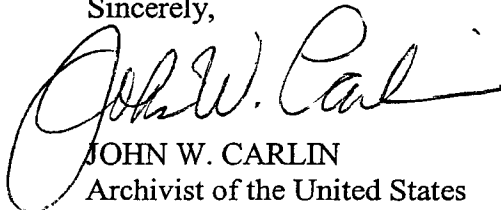
As recovery operations continue, your staff may discover that records needed to document Export-Import Bank matters or provide operational information have been destroyed. It is possible that temporary records currently stored in NARA records storage facilities may be helpful in reconstructing missing or destroyed documentation.

To that end, NARA staff will contact your records staff to determine if the destruction of any eligible records should be delayed. NARA will delay for up to six months, at no cost to the Export-Import Bank, the regularly scheduled destruction of any records belonging to Export-Import Bank offices that were located in the World Trade Center. If you have any questions concerning temporary Export-Import Bank records currently stored at NARA's records center in Lee's Summit, Missouri, the NARA repository that serviced the World Trade Center agencies, please have your staff contact Dean Donovan, Director, at 816-823-5230, or by email at [dean.donovan@nara.gov](mailto:dean.donovan@nara.gov).

If you have any other questions about your New York-based records or need records-related assistance, please contact Diane P. LeBlanc, NARA's Regional Administrator for the Northeast Region, at 781-647-8745, or by email at [diane.leblanc@nara.gov](mailto:diane.leblanc@nara.gov).

The staff at NARA joins the rest of the Federal workforce in sending our condolences to the Export-Import Bank employees who have been affected by this tragedy.

Sincerely,

  
JOHN W. CARLIN  
Archivist of the United States





JAMES H. LAMBRIGHT  
SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE CHAIRMAN

EXPORT-IMPORT BANK  
OF THE UNITED STATES

September 13, 2001

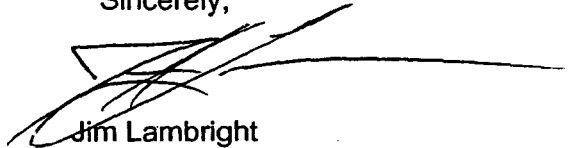
Mr. John Cloud  
Special Assistant to the President  
For International Economic Affairs  
**VIA FACSIMILE**

Dear Mr. Cloud,

The Chairman mentioned his conversation with you this morning. As you gather information on USG responses to the September 11 tragedy, we thought it might help for you to see a list of activities here at Ex-Im. The attached page summarizes our efforts to date. Please call if you have any questions or comments.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Jim Lambright

Export-Import Bank of the U.S.  
Responses-to-Date to September 11 Tragedy  
September 13, 2001

- The Chairman, John Robson, made individual calls to each employee of Ex-Im Bank's New York office. While the building housing the Bank's New York office was demolished (#6 World Trade Center), all employees were accounted for and uninjured. These employees are:
  - John Lavelle
  - Thomas Cummings
  - Sharyn Hess
  - Jennifer Drakes
- The Chairman walked through all floors of the Bank on September 12 and conducted visits with each operating group in the Bank. Regional offices called in to participate.
- The Chairman directed the director of the Bank's New York office to offer counseling and at-home work capabilities to all New York staff as needed.
- Security was increased in the parking garage and at all entrance points.
- Periodic Bank-wide voice mails on September 11 advised employees to continue monitoring media and voice mail for instructions on when to return to work.
- Periodic Bank-wide e-mails have notified staff of blood donation logistics and contact information for relief-effort organizations. Employees were notified that leave would not be charged to take time to donate blood.
- An Employee Assistance Plan meeting has been scheduled to brief staff on coping techniques and counseling availability.
- A long-scheduled all-employee meeting will be held September 20 to address Ex-Im Bank issues, however, the Chairman will probably mention the September 11 tragedy.
- At the request of Senate Appropriations Committee staff, Ex-Im submitted an estimated need for \$500,000 for increased security and relocation of New York staff (from #6 World Trade Center). This may be included in anticipated disaster relief supplemental appropriations.





Remarks by Dan Renberg  
Member of the Ex-Im Bank Board of Directors  
at  
Opening of Ex-Im Bank New York Regional Office  
Dec. 16, 2002

- This historic reopening of our joint commercial offices serves both as a reminder of the tragic events of September 11, 2001 and of the ability of our government to respond to the needs of its citizens in times of crisis. Through the valiant effort by Ex-Im Bank staff, exporters in the New York region were able to earn their livelihood, and now will be able to do so even more effectively.
- It means a lot to me to be part of this occasion.
- This office truly exemplifies the great spirit of New York, and New Yorkers – what President Bush called an amazing spirit of sacrifice and patriotism and defiance
- As the President has said: “Terrorists attacked a symbol of American prosperity. They did not touch its source.

- “America is successful because of the hard work and creativity and enterprise of our people. These were the true strengths of our economy before September 11<sup>th</sup>, and they are our strengths today.”
- The staff of Ex-Im Bank’s New York regional office has demonstrated that strength in spades.
- John Lavelle, Tom Cummings and Jennifer Drakes were in their World Trade Center offices when the terrorist attack came.
- Sharon Hess was in mid-town Manhattan at a training seminar.
- They felt directly the shock of what happened, the grief of losing family and childhood friends.
- But they struggled through, worked together, and came back.
- First they worked out of their own homes.

- Then out of PEFCO's offices (starting in October 2001), and we thank our partner organization for helping us during that time.
- I know none of you will ever forget what happened on September 11, 2001.
- But in the spirit of true New Yorkers, in honor of those lost, you determined to go back downtown, to make a statement that this attack would not shake you, and that you would never give up.
- Now you are back downtown in Ex-Im Bank's own offices, at 20 Exchange Place. (Since late April)
- Because of your personal fortitude, Ex-Im Bank has been able to continue playing its important role in the vital New York marketplace, the financial capital of the world.
- There are more trade finance banks and international companies large and small located in the greater New York metropolitan area than anywhere else in the world. It is a true melting pot.

- Your work here demonstrates that.
- In New York State from fiscal year 1997 through 2001, Ex-Im Bank helped 295 companies in 97 communities to export \$2.9 billion of goods and services.
- Right here in the city, our support has ranged:
  - From I & E Tire Corporation, a 40-year-old small business in Brooklyn, that used Ex-Im Bank short-term insurance to expand in 21 overseas markets,
  - To Coty Enterprises Inc. of Staten Island which used an Ex-Im Bank medium-term loan guarantee to support sales of dump trucks and loaders to Ghana,
  - To Globex International of New York City, which used an Ex-Im Bank working capital guarantee to fill \$14 million of frozen poultry orders from Taiwan, Russia and Korea. Ex-Im Bank financing has helped Globex maintain six jobs.

- A month after the terrorist attack, Ex-Im Bank short-term insurance enabled Recognition Systems a small manufacturer of photographic films located in Port Washington on Long Island, to sell its products in Mexico, the UK and Iceland.
- The New York regional office also handles Mid-Atlantic region customers. B&B leather, a small business in Charlotte, North Carolina, sold leather goods to Germany, Canada and Italy backed by Ex-Im Bank small business credit insurance.
- Small business mandate – 20%. Already nearly 90% of all transactions on behalf of small business.
- One of the great things about being co-located with the US Export Assistant Center is that we can provide one-stop-shopping with our fellow trade-related federal agencies, including Commerce, SBA.

- New York is one of four of Ex-Im Bank's regional offices (the others are Chicago, Long Beach, and Miami) that are co-located either with US Export Assistance Centers or with another federal agency supporting U.S. trade (Miami office is co-located with Commerce, but not in a USEAC).
- I'm delighted to mark the opening of this center.
- I want to salute the Ex-Im Bank staff here for your pride, courage, resilience, and commitment to exports.