FD-245b.1 (Rev. 1-9-91)

U.S. Department of Justice

Classification No.

File No. 163A-PA-8591

OFFICE OF LEGAL ATTACHE

Legat PARIS

Bureau File Number 1047692

DO NOT DESTROY

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 08-02-2006 BY 60309 UC TAM/DCG/EHL

FOIPA # 1047692

Field Office Criminal Investigative
and Administrative Files

Serials

Volume Number

_____	Armed and Dangerous	_____	FOIPA
_____	DO NOT DESTROY	_____	NCIC
_____	ELSUR	_____	OCIS
_____	Escape Risk	_____	Suicidal
_____	Financial Privacy Act	_____	Other _____

See also Nos. _____

C 3/24/97

~~TJB 6/25/96~~

(S)

b1
b6
b7C

Title: Edmond Safra, dba
"Republic National Bank
new york city
FPC - Russia organized crime,
OO; Paris

~~SECRET~~

1634-PA-8591-1

O&A

6-25-96
WJ

JUN 25 1996

T 8/19/96

BS to

PA603988.179

A/D

note correction at yellow box (republic)

FD-36 (Rev. 8-29-85)

~~SECRET~~

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:	PRECEDENCE:	CLASSIFICATION:
[X] Teletype	[ ] Immediate	[ ] TOP SECRET
[ ] Facsimile	[X] Priority	[ ] SECRET
[ ] AIRTEL	[ ] Routine	[ ] CONFIDENTIAL
		[ ] UNCLAS E F T O
		[X] UNCLAS

Date 7 01 8/23/96

DATE: 08-03-2006
CLASSIFIED BY 60309 UC TAM/DCG/EHL
REASON: 1.4 (b, d)
DECLASSIFY ON: 08-03-2031

FM LEGAT PARIS (163A-PA-8591) (P)

TO DIRECTOR FBI/PRIORITY/

FBI NEW YORK/PRIORITY/

BT

UNCLAS

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE

b6
b7C

CITE: //5250 AAR 436 W.183

PASS: INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND OPERATIONAL SUPPORT BRANCH,

ATTN: SSA [redacted] NEW YORK, ATTN: SSA [redacted] (C-24).

SUBJECT: EDMOND SAFRA, DOING BUSINESS AS "REPUBLIC NATIONAL BANK," NEW YORK CITY, NEW YORK; FOREIGN POLICE COOPERATION - RUSSIAN ORGANIZED CRIME, OO: PARIS.

REFERENCE RECENT TELEPHONE CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN LEGAT [redacted] AND SSA [redacted] FBIHQ.

REQUEST OF FBIHQ:

THE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND OPERATIONAL SUPPORT BRANCH (INVESTIGATIVE ANALYST [redacted] IS REQUESTED TO

Lead: NY 10/9/96

163A-PA-8591-2

Approved: 72 Original filename: PAR 436 W. 183

Time Received: Telprep filename: PAR 43650.183

MRI/JULIAN DATE: ISN:

FOX DATE & TIME OF ACCEPTANCE:

~~SECRET~~

prep up

b1

^PAGE 2 PA 163A-PA-8591 UNCLAS

REVIEW BUREAU FILES FOR ANY PERTINENT INFORMATION CONCERNING

THE PUBLIC NATIONAL BANK AND EDMOND SAFRA [redacted]

[redacted] (S)

(S)

(S)

(S)

(S)

[redacted] (S)

[redacted] (S)

[redacted] (S)

(S)

LEAD:

NEW YORK AT NEW YORK, NEW YORK. PLEASE CONDUCT APPROPRIATE FILE REVIEWS AND RECORD CHECKS [redacted] (S)

b1

^PAGE 4 PA 163A-PA-8591 UNCLAS

(S)

A PROMPT RESPONSE WOULD BE APPRECIATED.

BT

Office of the Legal Attaché
American Embassy
Paris, France
Telephone [redacted]
FAX: [redacted]

FAX COVER SHEET

TO: NEW YORK
SSA [redacted]

Date: January 13, 1997

FAX: [redacted]

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 08-02-2006 BY 60309 UC TAM/DCG/EHL

b2
b6
b7C

FROM: Legal Attaché, Paris

Total # of pages: 5

SUBJECT: EDMOND SAFRA, DBA REPUBLIC NATIONAL BANK

MESSAGE:

SUBJECT: EDMOND SAFRA,
DBA REPUBLIC NATIONAL BANK,
NEW YORK, NY;
FPC - R0C;
OO: PARIS
163A-PA-8591

[redacted]

Could you have your rotor check on this - we have not gotten any answer.

Who has this lead been assigned to?

Thank you.

[redacted]

163A-PA-8591-3

Date FAXed: 1/14/97

Initials

Office of the Legal Attaché
American Embassy
Paris, France
Telephone: [redacted]
FAX: [redacted]

FAX COVER SHEET

TO: IRU-1, ATTN: SSA [redacted] Date: January 13, 1997

FAX: [redacted]

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 08-02-2006 BY 60309 UC TAM/DCG/EHL

FROM: Legal Attaché, Paris

Total # of pages: 5

SUBJECT: EDMOND SAFRA, DBA REPUBLIC NATIONAL BANK

MESSAGE:

b2
b6
b7C

SUBJECT: EDMOND SAFRA,
DBA REPUBLIC NATIONAL BANK,
NEW YORK, NY;
FPC - R0C;
OO: PARIS
163A-PA-8591

[redacted]

Could you have whoever is covering [redacted] work now look at this?

We have not gotten an answer.

Thank you.

[redacted]

163A-PA-8591-4

[redacted]

Date FAXed: 1/14/97

Initials

From: [redacted]
To: LG-SNADS.PAPO11.PAMAIL
Subject: EDMOND SAFRA, DBA REPUBLIC NATIONAL BANK, NY, NY (163A-PA-8591)

[redacted] REF YOUR FAX 1/13. WE RAN BU INDICES FOR SUBJECT REVEALING THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

163A-PA-8591, 29B-WF-171994-HH, HQ 62-98194, NY 87-0,

HQ 190-65812, 281B-NH-26121 (NK), HQ 62-5, 190-HQ-1013902,

HQ196-0, NY 196-0

WILL REVIEW ALL ABOVE HQ FILES AND ADVISE LEGAT ASAP!

HAVE A NICE HOLIDAY. BEST REGARD, [redacted]

CC: [redacted]

b2
b6
b7C

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 08-02-2006 BY 60309 UC TAM/DCG/EHL

ATTN: Legal Attache [redacted]

I was unable to transmit E-Mail [redacted]

163A-PA-8591-5

SEARCHED ___ INDEXED ___
SERIALIZED ___ FILED ___

JAN 20 1997

[redacted]

TOTAL P.01

~~SECRET~~

Office of the Legal Attaché
American Embassy
Paris, France
Telephone: [redacted]
FAX: [redacted]

b1
b2
b6
b7C

FAX COVER SHEET

TO: [redacted]

Date: February 19, 1997

FAX: [redacted]

FROM: Legal Attaché, Paris

Total # of pages: 5

SUBJECT [redacted] (S)

MESSAGE:

[redacted] (S)

Could we possibly have the file review results soon?

Thanks,

[redacted]

DATE: 08-03-2006
CLASSIFIED BY 60309 UC TAM/DCG/EHL
REASON: 1.4 (b, d)
DECLASSIFY ON: 08-03-2031

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT
WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE

163A-PA-859[illegible] 6

~~SECRET~~

Date FAXed: 2/20/97
Initials [illegible]

~~SECRET~~

FROM: D4PO1G [redacted]

TO: PAPO11(PAMAIL) (S)

DATE: 1997-02-26
TIME: 10:53

CC:

SUBJECT: [redacted] 163A-PA-8591)
PRIORITY: [redacted]
ATTACHMENTS:

Date: 02/26/1997 10:53 am (Wednesday)
From: [redacted]
To: LG-SNADS.PAPO11.PAMAIL (S)
CC:
Subject: [redacted] (163A-PA-8591)

b1
b6
b7C

[redacted] REF YOUR FAX 2/19 AND TELCALL 2/26. PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT THE FOLLOWING FBI HQ FILES RE SAFRA, EDMOND J., DBA REPUBLIC NATIONAL BANK OF NEW YORK, HAVE BEEN LOCATED AT PICKETT STREET (ALEXANDRIA, VA.) AND ARE ENROUTE TO IRU FOR REVIEW:

190-HQ-51633

190-HQ-65812

190-HQ-1013902

WILL REVIEW FOR PERTINENT DATA AND ADVISE RESULTS TO LEGAT BY E-MAIL AND/OR FAX AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. BEST REGARDS,
[redacted]

==========

DATE: 08-03-2006
CLASSIFIED BY 60309 UC TAM/DCG/EHL
REASON: 1.4 (b, d)
DECLASSIFY ON: 08-03-2031

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT
WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE

~~SECRET~~

163A-PA-8591 -7
FEB 26 1997
LEGAT PARIS
12

~~SECRET~~

FROM: D4PO1G [redacted]

TO: PAPO11(PAMAIL)

CC:

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE

DATE: 1997-02-27
TIME: 13:12

SUBJECT: [redacted] 163A-PA-8591)
PRIORITY: (S)
ATTACHMENTS:

Date: 02/27/1997 01:12 pm (Thursday)
From: [redacted] (S)
To: LG-SNADS.PAPO11.PAMAIL
CC:
Subject: [redacted] 163A-PA-8591)

b1
b6
b7C

[redacted] REF YOUR FAX DATED 2/19/97 AND SUBSEQUENT TELCONVERSATION. I HAVE RECEIVED AND REVIEWED THE FOLLOWING FILES:

1. 190-51633 HQ IS A LETTER TO FBIHQ FROM WASHINGTON [redacted] DATED 3/18/90, REQUESTING ALL FBI RECORDS FOR EDMOND J. SAFRA AND REPUBLIC NATIONAL BANK OF NEW YORK. THE FBI RESPONSE LETTER DATED 1/25/97 ADVISING NO BUREAU RESPONSE PENDING ASCERTAINMENT OF SUBJECT'S LEGITIMATE PRIVACY INTERESTS BEING PROTECTED.

2. 190-65812 HQ IS A BUREAU RESPONSE LETTER TO [redacted] [redacted] ABC NEWS, NEW YORK, NY DATED 8/16/91, RESPONDING TO [redacted] FOIPA INQUIRY OF 9/12/89. FOIPA ADVISED THAT A SEARCH OF FBI CENTRAL RECORDS SYSTEM REVEALED NO INFORMATION CONCERNING REPUBLIC NATIONAL BANK OF NEW YORK, WITH THJE EXCEPTION OF ONE DOCUMENT ORIGINATED BY ANOTHER GOVERNMENT AGENCY NOT FURTHER IDENTIFIED.

3. 190-1013902 HQ - REMAINS ON URGENT LOCATE AND INVOLVES ANOTHER FREEDOM OF INFORMATION/PRIVACY ACTS REQUEST. WILL CONTINUE TO FOLLOW AND ADVISE.

4. 62-98194-425 HQ - REVEALS A TELETYPE FROM [redacted] DATED 7/28/89, TITLED EDMOND SAFRA AND AMERICAN EXPRESS, REFERENCING AN ARTICLE FROM "JOURNA DE GENEVE " SAME DATE. THE GIST OF THE ARTICLE STATES THAT AMERICAN EXPRESS APOLOGISES TO SAFRA FOR SLANDERS INVOLVING AMEX AND SAFRA'S COMPANY ACCUSING HIM OF MONEY LAUNDERING. ENTIRE SERIAL 425, ABOVE FILE IS BEING FAXED TO LEGAT NOW. (S)

[redacted] I HOPE THIS HELPS FOR YOUR [redacted] AGAIN, SORRY FOR LONG DELAY ON THIS AND I STILL OWE YOU REVIEW OF 190-HQ-1013902. ADDITIONALLY I MET WITH SSA [redacted] ECONOMIC CRIMES UNIT, CID, WHO ADVISED NO HQ CASES ON EITHER SAFRA, EDMOND J. OR REPUBLIC NATIONAL BANK OF NEW YORK.

DATE: 08-03-2006
CLASSIFIED BY 60309 UC TAM/DCG/EHL
REASON: 1.4 (b, d)
DECLASSIFY ON: 08-03-2031

163A-PA-8591-8

FILED

FEB 27 1997

LEGAT PARIS

~~SECRET~~

PLEASE SEE ALL REFERENCED ABOVE RESULTS SENT LEGAT BY FAX 2/27/97, 1:00 P.M. WASHINGTON TIME. BEST REGARDS. [redacted] b6 b7C

==========

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 08-02-2006 BY 60309 UC TAM/DCG/EHL

[redacted]

SSP
CLASS
SRC'D
SER
XEC

March 18, 1990

Federal Bureau of Investigation
FOI Section
Room 6296
9th St. & Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20535

b2
b6
b7C

re: FOIA REQUEST

Dear FOI Officer:

Pursuant to the federal Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. par. 552, I request access to and copies of the following documents:

- Copies of all records in FBI's files pertaining to any investigations or inquiries, formal or informal conducted by FBI about [redacted] SHAKARCHI TRADING COMPANY,

- Copies of all records in FBI's files containing the name of [redacted] SHAKARCHI TRADING COMPANY,

- Copies of all FBI's investigative reports containing the name of [redacted] SHAKARCHI TRADING COMPANY,

- Copies of all records in FBI's files pertaining to any investigations or inquiries, formal or informal conducted by FBI about [redacted]

190-51633-10

- Copies of all records in FBI's files containing the name of [redacted]

- Copies of all records in FBI's files pertaining to any investigations or inquiries, formal or informal conducted by FBI about Edmond J. SAFRA and/or about REPUBLIC NATIONAL BANK OF NEW YORK

3/21/90

b2
b6
b7C

3-18-97

- Copies of all records in FBI's files containing the name of Edmond J. SAFRA and/or REPUBLIC NATIONAL BANK OF NEW YORK.

- Copies of al records in FBI's files pertaining to any investigations or inquiries, formal or informal, conducted by FBI about [redacted]

- Copies of all records in FBI's files containing the names of [redacted]

I agree to pay reasonable duplication fees for the processing of this request in an amount not to exceed $ 200.00. However, please notify me prior to incurring any expenses in excess of that amount.

Although this request is filed privately, I am acting as a representative of the news media. This information is sought on behalf of the Swiss Broadcasting Corporation. I would therefore appreciate the waiver of any applicable fees.

Through this request, I am gathering information about the alleged role of several Swiss corporations and individuals in the laundering of illegal drug profits. It is my firm belief that the possible dissemination of such information would contribute significantly to public understanding of the ill effects of such illegal activities on Switzerland's institutions.

Should you have any questions about this request, please feel free to contact me at [redacted] I look forward to your reply.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Very truly yours,

[redacted]

318

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 08-02-2006 BY 60309 UC TAM/DCG/EHL

JAN 25 1991

[redacted]

b2
b6
b7C

Request Number: 332,458

[redacted]

This letter is in further response to your March 18, 1990, Freedom of Information Act request for copies of records possibly maintained at FBI Headquarters concerning, among other things, the Shakarchi Trading Company. At that time you also requested copies of any and all records concerning a number of individuals [redacted]

With respect to your requests on individuals, on November 2, 1990, we advised you that searches for responsive records would not even be conducted until the persons' legitimate privacy interests have been resolved by you. The means of doing this, you were told, would be through tendered notarized authorizations, specifically permitting the FBI to disclose personal information to you, or proof of death, if deceased. In that same letter, however, you were also advised that a search for records concerning the Shakarchi Trading Company was ongoing and that you would be advised of the results as soon as possible.

This letter is to advise you that recent re-examination of your request on the trading company has dictated a different response to you. It now appears to personnel assigned to this Section that the trading company must be closely held, and that, therefore, any information concerning it would also necessarily regard [redacted] That being the case, please be advised

MAILED 2
JAN 28 1991
FBI

190-57633-11

1 - [redacted]
SCA:jal

Exec AD Adm. ___
Exec AD Inv. ___
Exec AD LES ___
Asst. Dir.:
Adm. Serv. ___
Crim. Inv. ___
Ident. ___
Insp. ___
Intell. ___
Lab. ___
Legal Coun. ___
Off. Cong. & Public Affs. ___
Rec. Mgmt. ___
Tech. Serv. ___
Training ___
Off. Liaison & Int. Affs. ___
Telephone Rm. ___
Director's Sec'y ___

9 MAY 13 1991

[redacted]

6959

MAIL ROOM [redacted]

[redacted]

that a notarized authorization from [redacted] or proof of death will also be necessary before a search for records [redacted] will be conducted.

Sincerely yours,

J. Kevin O'Brien, Chief
Freedom of Information-
Privacy Acts Section
Information Management
Division

b2
b6
b7C

~~SECRET~~

COVER SHEET

FAX

To: LEGAL ATTACHE TOM BAKER, PARIS

Fax #: (S)

Subject: [redacted] 163A-PA-8591)

Date: February 27, 1997

Pages: 15, including this cover sheet.

b1
b2
b6
b7C

COMMENTS:

[redacted] FURTHER TO MY E-MAIL 2/27 PLEASE FIND ATTACHED RESULTS OF BU FILE. 190-HQ-51633; 190-HQ-65812; 62-HQ-98194-425.
190-HQ-1013902 (FOIPA REQUEST) REMAINS ON URGENT LOCATE. WILL REVIEW AND ADVISE RESULTS ASAP. SORRY FOR DEALY. BEST REGARDS [redacted]

DATE: 08-03-2006
CLASSIFIED BY 60309 UC TAM/DCG/EHL
REASON: 1.4 (b, d)
DECLASSIFY ON: 08-03-2031

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT
WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE

163A-PA-8591-9
SEARCHED ___ INDEXED ___
FEB 27 1997
LEGAL PARIS

From the desk of
[redacted]
LIAISON ANALYST
FBIHQ, CID, IRU-1
ROOM 7458 JEH
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535-0001
Fax [redacted]

~~SECRET~~

SSP

VZCZCFBA271 CLASS
SRC'D
SER
REC

RECEIVED TELETYPE

28 JUL 89 17 30

00 RUEHFB

DE RUEHSW #5050/01 2091609

ZNR UUUUU

O 281607Z JUL 89

FM USIS BERN

Leaks of Classified Information to the

b2

TO RUEHIA/USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE

RUEABND/DEAHQS WASHDC IMMEDIATE

RUEBWJA/DEPTJUSTICE WASHDC

RUEATRS/DEPTTREAS WASHDC

RUEHFB/DIRFBI WASHDC

INFO RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA

ZEN/AMCONSUL ZURICH POUCH

BT

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 BERN 05050

ALL FBI INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 08-03-2006 BY 60309 UC TAM/DCG/EHL

6- White House Counsel Criminal

USIA

SECSTATE FOR EUR/CE, L/LEI

DEPTJUSTICE FOR OIA

DEA FOR OF, OI, OH, CP

62-[illegible]

E.O. 123$6: N/A

SUBJECT: EDMOND SAFRA AND AMERICAN EXPRESS

1. THE JOURNAL DE GENEVE ON JULY 28, 1989, PUBLISHED AN ARTICLE WHICH REPORTS THAT AMERICAN EXPRESS WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ALLEGATIONS WHICH HAVE APPEARED IN THE SWISS PRESS CONCERNING EDMOND SAFRA AND THE REPUBLIC NATIONAL BANK OF NEW YORK. SINCE SAFRA AND RNB HAVE FIGURED IN STORIES CONCERNING A LEAKED DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION REPORT, POST IS TRANSMITTING A ROUGH TRANSLATION OF THE JOURNAL ARTICLE.

2. BEGIN ROUGH TRANSLATION: b2

"SLANDERS AGAINST EDMOND SAFRA: AMERICAN EXPRESS STARTED IT ALL: THE AMERICAN GROUP ACKNOWLEDGES THE FACTS AND PUBLICLY APOLOGIZES" AN INCREDIBLE EPISODE OF TROUBLED RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN AMERICAN EXPRESS AND BANKER EDMOND SAFRA WAS BEEN MADE PUBLIC ON THURSDAY AFTERNOON. THE AMERICAN GROUP PUBLICLY ACKNOWLEDGED

ALLEGATIONS PUBLISHED [redacted] THE MEDIA AROUND THE WORLD, WHICH ACCUSED MR. SAFRA'S BANK OF HAVING BEEN INVOLVED IN MONEY LAUNDERING. BY LETTER SIGNED BY ITS [redacted] AMERICAN EXPRESS PRESENTED ITS APOLOGIES TO MR. SAFRA AND AGREED TO MAKE CONTRIBUTIONS TO VARIOUS CHARITABLE AND PUBLIC SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS, SUCH AS THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS AND THE GENEVA CANTONAL HOSPITAL, AS A SYMBOLIC WAY OF MAKING AMENDS.

MR. SAFRA AND HIS ADVISERS REMARKED THAT IDENTICAL ARTICLES APPEARED IN DIFFERENT MEDIA AROUND THE WORLD, IMPLICATING THE BANKER AND THE REPUBLIC NATIONAL BANK, THE INSTITUTION HE CONTROLS, AN INVESTIGATION OF SEVERAL MONTHS LED TO THE COMMON SOURCE OF ALL ARTICLES, AMERICAN EXPRESS. THE AMERICAN GROUP HAS BEEN FORCED TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE FACTS, TO STOP THE CAMPAIGN AND TO ACCEPT AN AMIABLE SOLUTION IN THE FORM OF A PUBLIC APOLOGY. BELOW, WE REPRODUCE THE CONTENTS OF THE LETTER ADDRESSED BY [redacted] TO MR. SAFRA IN ITS FRENCH

b2
b6
b7C

AMICABLE SOLUTION WITH AMERICAN EXPRESS DOES NOT END LEGAL PROCEEDINGS THAT EDMOND SAFRA HAS INITIATED AGAINST SEVERAL MEDIA ACCUSING THEM OF LIBEL. IN SWITZERLAND, THE BANKER HAS BROUGHT AN ACTION FOR LIBEL AGAINST OUR COLLEAGUES AT "L'HEBDO." A FIRST HEARING IS SCHEDULED FOR AUGUST 23 IN GENEVA.

-

IN 1983 EDMOND SAFRA SOLD THE TRADE DEVELOPMENT BANK IN GENEVA TO AMERICAN EXPRESS. RELATIONS BETWEEN THE BANKER OF LEBANESE ORIGIN AND THE AMERICAN GROUP DETERIORATED THEREAFTER. ON MARCH 1, 1988, DATE OF EXPIRATION OF THE NON-COMPETITION CLAUSE AGREED ON IN 1983, MR. SAFRA OPENED IN GENEVA A BRANCH OF THE REPUBLIC NATIONAL BANK OF NEW YORK, A DIRECT COMPETITOR OF TDB. b2

THE AMERICAN EXPRESS LETTER

JULY 24, 1989

DEAR EDMOND:

BT

VZCZCFBA275

OO RUEHFB

DE RUEHSW #5050/02 2091611

ZNR UUUUU

O 281607Z JUL 89

FM USIS BERN

TO RUEHIA/USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE

RUEABND/DEAHQS WASHDC IMMEDIATE

RUEBWJA/DEPTJUSTICE WASHDC

RUEATRS/DEPTTREAS WASHDC

RUEHFB/DIRFBI WASHDC

INFO RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA

ZEN/AMCONSUL ZURICH POUCH

b2

BT

UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 BERN 05050

USIA

SECSTATE FOR EUR/CE, L/LEI

DEPTJUSTICE FOR OIA

DEA FOR OF, OI, OH, CP

E.O. 123$6: N/A

SUBJECT: EDMOND SAFRA AND AMERICAN EXPRESS

MY ATTENTION HAS BEEN DRAWN TO THE FACT THAT SOME PEOPLE ACTING ON BEHALF OF AMERICAN EXPRESS STARTED AN UNATHORIZED AND SCANDOLOUS ACTION IN THE MEDIA TO SLANDER YOU AND THE REPUBLIC NATIONAL BANK OF NEW YORK. I RECENTLY TOOK NOTICE OF THE ARTICLES WHICH APPEARED IN DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE WORLD FOLLOWING THIS CAMPAIGN, AND I CONSIDER THEM FALSE AND DEFAMATORY.

THIS ENTIRE AFFAIR SADDENS ME PERSONALLY. THIS WHOLE THING IS TOTALLY AGAINST AMERICAN EXPRESS PRINCIPLES, AND AT THE SAME TIME AGAINST ALL USUAL NORMS OF MORALITY AND DECENCY. IF I BELIEVE IN VIGOROUS COMPETITION, THERE IS NO PLACE WHATSOEVER FOR ACTIONS THAT WOULD CAUSE UNJUSTIFIED DAMAGE TO A COMPETITOR. I WISH TO PRESENT MY APOLOGIES TO YOU AND TO YOUR ORGANIZATION. b2

I HAVE TAKEN THE NECESSARY MEASURES TO GUARANTEE

FUTURE, NOBODY AFILIATED WITH AMERICAN EXPRESS WILL PARTICIPATE IN SUCH ACTIONS AGAINST YOU OR YOUR BANKS. I HAVE NOTIFIED THE STAFF LEADERS THAT SUCH BEHAVIOR WILL NOT BE EXCUSED OR ACCEPTED AND IT WILL NOT BE REPEATED UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCE.

YOU HAVE A WELL DESERVED EXCELLENT PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL REPUTATION. YOU AND THE REPUBLIC NATIONAL BANK OF NEW YORK ENJOY HIGHEST CONSIDERATION AROUND THE WORLD. I RESPECT YOU FOR YOUR PROFESSIONAL CAPABILITIES AND FOR THE REMARKABLE SUCCESS OF THE REPUBLIC NATIANAL BANK AND ITS LEADERSHIP. THIS FEELING HAS BEEN REINFORCED BY OUR EXPERIENCE WITH TRADE DEVELOPMENT BANK. YOUR REPUTATION AS EMINENT BANKER HAS BEEN ACQUIRED AT THE HIGH PRICE OF ENORMOUS EFFORTS ALL ALONG YOUR PROFESSIONAL CAREER. I UNDERSTAND HOW PAINFUL IT MUST HAVE BEEN FOR YOU TO GO THROUGH THESE UNFOUNDED ACCUSATIONS.

b2

AS A TOKEN OF RESPECT FOR YOU AND AS WAY OF APOLOGY MARKING THE START OF A NEW CHAPTER IN

AMERICAN EXPRESS WILL AT YOUR REQUEST, MAKE

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE FOLLOWING CHARITABLE

INSTITUTIONS YOU SELECTED:

-UNITED WAY OF AMERICA

-ANTI-DEFAMATION LEAGUE OF B'NAI B'RITH

-CANTONAL AND UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL OF GENEVA

-INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

FEEL FREE TO SEND COPIES OF THIS LETTER TO THIRD

PARTIES IF YOU SO WISH AND ASK THEM TO CONTACT

ME FOR CONFIRMATION.

PLEASE ACCEPT THE REITERATION OF MY RESPECT AND

CONSIDERATION BOTH PERSONALLY AND PROFESSIONALLY.

SIGNED: [redacted]

b2
b6
b7C

KORFF

BT

#5050

U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation

Washington, D. C. 20535

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 08-03-2006 BY 60309 UC TAM/DCG/EHL

AUG 16 1991

[redacted]

b2
b6
b7C

RE: Republic National Bank of New York
FOIPA No. 321,064

[redacted]

Reference is made to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request dated September 12, 1989, regarding Republic National Bank of New York.

A search of the indices to our central records system files at FBI Headquarters did not reveal an FBI investigation regarding subject bank; however, one document was located in which the subject bank is mentioned as an institution involving a third party individual. This document originated with another government agency and no determination regarding its release and/or the information therein will be made by the FBI.

If you are still interested in this document, please advise us and the document will be referred to the appropriate agency for their review regarding disclosure under the FOIA and direct response to you.

Sincerely yours,

J. Kevin O'Brien, Chief
Freedom of Information-
Privacy Acts Section
Information Management Division

MAILED 16
AUG 19 1991
FBI

CN:mlb(3)

MAIL ROOM

[redacted] 980 190-65812

NOTE: There is no record of a main file; however, a main file equivalent was located in which subject bank is indexed. The information pertains to a 3rd party's monetary dealings in subject bank and the document originated with the State Department. The requester is being advised of this and if he still wishes document to be processed, it will be referred to State Department for their direct response.

b2

~~SECRET~~

V - 4260 (Our File No. 163A-PA-8591) 11 March 1997

RE: EDMOND SAFRA, DOING BUSINESS AS
REPUBLIC NATIONAL BANK OF NEW YORK, NEW YORK CITY

Reference your note no. 124 dated 12 June 1996.

A detailed search of the records of the FBI - both at Headquarters, Washington, D.C., and in New York - has failed to disclose any major investigation of captioned bank for money laundering by the FBI.

This search and review has taken an extremely long time to complete, because, as with any large bank, there are numerous references to it throughout our files. b1

It should be noted that the AMERICAN EXPRESS COMPANY has acknowledged that they are the source of all the negative articles about SAFRA and his bank and that they have made a public apology.

In 1983, SAFRA sold the TRADE DEVELOPMENT BANK (TDB)(in Geneva) to AMERICAN EXPRESS. Relations between the banker and the AMERICAN EXPRESS COMPANY thus began to deteriorate. On 1 March 1988, the date of expiration of the non-competition clause agreed to in 1983, SAFRA opened in Geneva a branch of the REPUBLIC NATIONAL BANK of New York, in direct competition to TDB.

After it was disclosed that all of the accusations of money laundering had been caused by AMERICAN EXPRESS, that company's president published a letter, worldwide, making apologies to SAFRA.

DATE: 08-03-2006
CLASSIFIED BY 60309 UC TAM/DCG/EHL
REASON: 1.4 (b, d)
DECLASSIFY ON: 08-03-2031

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT
WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE

(S)

2 [redacted]
1 - Paris
TJB:byb
(3)

Close

163A-PA-8591-10

~~SECRET~~

Prep/op
0716YB07.065

FD-36 (Rev. 8-29-85)

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:	PRECEDENCE:	CLASSIFICATION:
[X] Teletype	[ ] Immediate	[ ] TOP SECRET
[ ] Facsimile	[ ] Priority	[ ] SECRET
[ ] AIRTEL	[X] Routine	[ ] CONFIDENTIAL
		[ ] UNCLAS E F T O
		[X] UNCLAS

Date 3/18/97

b6
b7C

FM LEGAT PARIS (163A-PA-8591) (C) 1047692

TO DIRECTOR FBI/ROUTINE/

FBI NEW YORK/ROUTINE/

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 08-03-2006 BY 60309 UC TAM/DCG/EHL

BT

UNCLAS

CITE: //5250:PAR660.077//

PASS: FBIHQ, ATTN: CID, IRS, IRU-1, SSA [redacted] NEW YORK, SSA [redacted] C-24.

SUBJECT: EDMOND SAFRA, DBA REPUBLIC NATIONAL BANK OF NEW YORK; FPC - RUSSIAN ORGANIZED CRIME; OO: PARIS.

RE PARIS TTY, 7/1/96, AND PARIS FAX (TO SSA [redacted] C-24, NEW YORK), 1/13/97.

REFERENCED PARIS COMMUNICATIONS SET FORTH A LEAD FOR NEW YORK AT NEW YORK TO CONDUCT APPROPRIATE FILE REVIEWS AND RECORD CHECKS.

Close 3/24/97

163A-PA-8591-11

Approved: TB Original filename: PAR660W.077

Time Received: Telprep filename: PAR660S0.077

MRI/JULIAN DATE: ISN:

FOX DATE & TIME OF ACCEPTANCE:

THE INFORMATION REQUESTED ORIGINALLY FROM NEW YORK HAS NOW BEEN PROVIDED BY FBIHQ.

NEW YORK MAY DISCONTINUE THEIR LEAD IN THIS MATTER AND PARIS IS CONSIDERING THIS CASE CLOSED.

BT