



# FIMBANK

**First International  
Merchant Bank p.l.c.**

7th Floor  
The Plaza Commercial Centre  
Bisazza Street  
Sliema SLM 15  
Malta

Tel : (+356) 322100  
Fax : (+356) 322122/3  
Telex : MW 1775 FIMBNK  
S.W.I.F.T. : FIMB MT M3  
Website : [www.fimbank.com](http://www.fimbank.com)  
E-mail : [info@fimbank.com](mailto:info@fimbank.com)

Company Registration No : C 17003

Friday, 28<sup>th</sup> September 2001

## COMPANY ANNOUNCEMENT

A section of the Media yesterday featured misleading information which may have led one to believe that First International Merchant Bank plc has contacts with Al Shamal Islamic Bank Sudan, a bank which has been associated with Usama Bin Laden by the U.S. Senate.

The Bank categorically denies these allegations and strongly deplores the manner in which a sector of the media has reported on the subject. FIMBank plc is a Maltese institution mostly foreign owned with minority Maltese shareholding and listed on the Malta Stock Exchange.

It has financed only one palm oil transaction in March 1999 against a standby Letter of Credit by the Bank concerned. FIMBank has no relationship with the said Bank except for a test key arrangement which is used between banks to authenticate messages between them. FIMBank has these test key arrangements with over 300 Banks in 65 countries.

FIMBank plc is a trade financing institution and not involved in interbank money transfers except as payments related to its trade financing operations. The Bank reassures the business community, the general public and its shareholders that it always acts correctly and within the limits of the Maltese and international regulatory system. It is professional and correct in all its dealings.

Directors: Najeh H.M. Al-Saleh (Chairman), Mehdi Ouazzani (Vice Chairman), Fouad M.T. Alghanim, Saad A.A. Al-Motawa,  
Fawzi Al-Jouder, Emmanuel Eblsi, Jnr. D.R. Hooft Graafland, John C. Grech, Mohamed I.H. Marafie, Marwan Ahmad Salamah, Sayer B.M. Al-Sayer

Registered Office: 7th Floor, The Plaza Commercial Centre, Bisazza Street, Sliema SLM15, Malta.  
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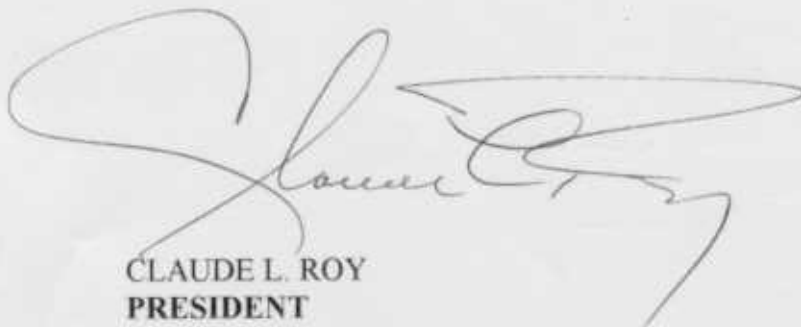
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The bank requests the media to act more responsibly in reporting matters related to the issue concerned and check the facts prior to reporting. Misinformation and misrepresentation of facts can damage irreparably individuals, institutions, as well as the image of credibility of this country.



CLAUDE L. ROY  
PRESIDENT



RAYMOND BUSUTTIL  
GENERAL MANAGER