Extent

11 folders, approximately 723 pages

Summary

This collection consists of records related to an Export-Import Bank guarantee on a project for Russian-owned Tyumen Oil. This collection consists of memoranda, briefing materials, emails, and cables. Most of these regard a commercial dispute with rival BP-Amoco that resulted in a temporary denial of the loan under the Chafee Amendment.

Scope and Content Note

The materials in FOIA 2010-0999-F are a selective body of documents responsive to the topic of the FOIA. Researchers should consult the archivist about related materials. In December 1999, the Export-Import (Ex-Im) Bank was nearing a final decision on a $500 million loan guarantee on a project for Tyumen Oil (TNK), a Russian energy company controlled by the Alfa Group holding company. American oil field services company Halliburton was to provide $279 million in exports for the planned refurbishment of the operations at Samotlor oil field in central Russia. However, the State Department and the Clinton Administration had concerns about Tyumen’s involvement in an ongoing dispute with rival BP-Amoco concerning the November 1999 acquisition of Chernogorneft, a subsidiary of the bankrupt oil conglomerate Sidanko. BP-Amoco alleged that Tyumen had used improper tactics, including the dilution of shareholder rights, to buy Chernogorneft at auction for a fraction of its value. American businessman George Soros, who had invested in BP-Amoco, echoed their concerns, as did several members of Congress. Although there was increasing pressure on Ex-Im Bank Chairman James Harmon to deny the loan guarantee, the accusations fell outside of the banks mandate to make decisions solely on financial grounds. Consequently, on December 21, 1999, Secretary of State Madeleine Albright invoked the Chafee Amendment to the Export-Import Bank Act.

The Amendment states that the President can inform the Ex-Im Bank that a particular action is not in the national interest of the United States, effectively asking the bank to deny or delay that action. President Carter had delegated this authority to the Secretary of State in Executive Order 12166. Following a deal between BP-Amoco and TNK which resolved the dispute, Secretary Albright lifted the Chafee Amendment determination and allowed the Ex-Im bank to proceed with the loan approval. Materials responsive to this FOIA request include memos, briefing materials, correspondence, press materials, emails, and cables. Most of the memos and briefing materials, found in the files of National Economic Council staffer Robert Westcott, discuss the dispute with BP-Amoco, the potential use of the Chafee Amendment to block the Tyumen loan, and Congressional support for a Chafee invocation. The correspondence, located in Westcott's files, the NSC Emails, and the NSC Records Management files largely consists of letters from BP-Amoco, George Soros, Senator McCain, and Congressman Lantos, as well as the administration's response. In addition, the NSC Emails contain general discussion between National Security Council staff regarding the Ex-Im loan and the Chafee Amendment, as well as press guidance on the issue. Lastly, the NSC Cables address Ex-Im Bank staff meetings with Russian officials and observations from the corporate community on the dispute between BP-Amoco and TNK. The Automated Records Management System (ARMS) Emails consist of one of these forwarded cables.

Record Type

Textual

System of Arrangement

Records that are responsive to this FOIA request were found in these collection areas—Clinton Presidential Records: White House Staff and Office Files, Clinton Presidential Records: ARMS Emails, and Clinton Presidential Records: NSC Cable, Email, and Records Management Systems. Staff and Offices files were maintained at the folder level by staff members within their individual offices and document all levels of administration activity. Staff and Office files are processed at the folder level, that is, individual documents are not selected and removed from a folder for processing. While this method maintains folder integrity, it frequently results in the

incidental processing of documents that are not wholly responsive to the subject area. The Automated Records Management System (ARMS) is a database that contains email records of the Executive Office of the President. This system maintained unclassified Presidential email. The ARMS dataset is comprised of 7 sub-series of email records called “Buckets.” The buckets include NPR, OPD, POTUS, WHO, CEA, Default, and NSC. ARMS emails are arranged chronologically by creation date.

Access

Collection is open to all researchers. Access to Clinton Presidential Records is governed by the Presidential Records Act (PRA) (44 USC 2201) and the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) (5 USC 552, as amended) and therefore records may be restricted in whole or in part in accordance with legal exemptions.

Copyright

Documents in this collection that were prepared by officials of the United States government as part of their official duties are in the public domain. Researchers are advised to consult the copyright law of the United States (17 USC, 101) which governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material.

Provenance

Official records of William Jefferson Clinton’s presidency are housed at the Clinton Presidential Library and administered by the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) under the provisions of the Presidential Records Act (PRA).

Subject Headings

Export-Import Bank of the United States
T̆iu͡menskai͡a ͡neft̆ian͡ai͡a ͡kompaniĭa ͡
Russia

Processed by

Staff Archivist, 2013. Previously restricted materials are added as they are released

Last Modified Date

2015-03-02

Container List

View all digitized files in the National Archives Catalog (NAC)

The following is a list of documents and folders processed in response to FOIA 2010-0999-F:
Box 1
Clinton Preisdential Records; White House Staff and Office Files
National Economic Council
Westcott, Robert
Russia Tyumen Oil Ex-Im Deal - Sidanko [OA/ID CF 1816B]
Clinton Presidential Records: Automated Records Management System [Email]
NSC [OA/ID 1200000]
[Alfa Bank...]
[10/27/1999]
Clinton Presidential Records: NSC Cable, Email, and Records Management System
NSC Cables
Jan 1997 – Dec 1998
[Alfa Bank...]
[11/14/1997 – 11/24/1998] [OA/ID 520000]
Jan 1999 – Dec 2000

[Alfa Bank…]
[03/18/1999 – 10/27/1999] [OA/ID 530000]
[11/09/1999 – 04/21/2000] [OA/ID 530000]
NSC Emails
Exchange – Record (Sept 97 – Jan 01)
[Alfa Bank…]
[03/23/1998 – 12/16/1999] [OA/ID 620000]
[12/17/1999 – 12/23/1999] [OA/ID 620000]
[01/04/2000 – 03/30/2000] [OA/ID 620000]
Exchange – Non-Record (Mar 97 – Jan 01)
[Alfa Bank…]
[07/10/1999 – 12/23/1999] [OA/ID 630000]
[01/10/2000 – 08/02/2000] [OA/ID 630000]
NSC Records Management System
[Alfa Bank…]
9909185 [OA/ID 2766]

Content Available Online