LODGED

United States District Court JAN 14 2004

FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON AT SEATTLE

BERTRAM SACKS,

SUMMONS IN A CIVIL CASE

Plaintiff,

CASECUNDER: 04 108 C

OFFICE OF FOREIGN ASSETS CONTROL, UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY,

Defendant,

TO: (Name and address of defendant)

Office of Foreign Assets Control U.S. Department of the Treasury c/o David Aufhauser, General Counsel Treasury Annex 1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20220 Attn: Licensing Division

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to serve upon PLAINTIFF'S ATTORNEY (name and address)

Donald B. Scaramastra GARVEY SCHUBERT BARER 1191 Second Avenue, 18th Floor Seattle, WA 98101-2939

an answer to the complaint which is herewith served upon you, within sixty days after service of this summons upon you, exclusive of the day of service. If you fail to do so, judgment by default will be taken against you or the relief demanded in the complaint. You must also file your answer with the Clerk of this Court within a reasonable period of time after service.

BRUCE RIFKIN	JAN 1.4 7004	
CLERKE	DATE	
(BY) DEPUTY CLERK		

AO 44	AO 440 (Rev. 10/93) Summons in a Civil Action				
	RETUR	RN OF SERV	ICE		
Serv	ice of the Summons and Complaint was made	by me ¹	DATE		
NAME OF SERVER (PRINT)		-	TITLE		
(Check one box below to indicate appropriate me	ethod of serv	rice		
	Served personally upon the defendant. Place where served:				
	Left copies thereof at the defendant's dwelling house or usual place of abode with a person of suitable age and discretion then residing therein. Name of person with whom the summons and complaint were left:				
	Returned unexecuted:				
	Other (specify):				
 	STATEMEN	NT OF SERVI	CE FEES		
TRAV	EL SERVICES			TOTAL	
	DECLAR	ATION OF SE	RVER		
I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the foregoing information contained in the Return of Service and Statement of Service Fees is true and correct. Executed on					
Date Signature of Server		er			
	Address of Server				

 $^{^{\}rm 1}\,\text{As}$ to who may serve a summons see Rule 4 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

1 2 3 4 5 6	DONALD B. SCARAMASTRA, WSBA #21416 GARY D. SWEARINGEN, WSBA # 24483 GARVEY SCHUBERT BARER Eighteenth Floor 1191 Second Avenue Seattle, Washington 98101-2939 (206) 464-3939 Attorneys for Plaintiff Bertram Sacks	JAN 1 4 2004 A GLENK US BEATTLE BY WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON DEPUTY	
8	Court Use only above this line.		
9	UNITED STATES D FOR THE WESTERN DISTE AT SEAT	RICT OF WASHINGTON	
10	BERTRAM SACKS,		
11	Plaintiff,	NO. CV04 108	
12	vs.	COMPLAINT FOR DECLARATORY	
13	OFFICE OF FOREIGN ASSETS CONTROL, UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE	AND INJUNCTIVE RELIEF	
14	TREASURY,		
15	Defendant.		
16			
17	Plaintiff Bertram Sacks alleges:		
18	I. PARTI	ES	
19			
20	1. Plaintiff Bertram Sacks is a citizen of the State of Washington. He resides in Seattle, Washington, in the Western District of Washington. This case arises from Mr. Sacks's		
21	journeys to Iraq. On each trip, Mr. Sacks has brou		
22	civilian hospitals there. He has done so to publ		
23	sanctions imposed by the government of the U	•	
24	widespread suffering and death of Iraqi civilians, e		
25 26	2. Defendant Office of Foreign Asse	ets Control ("OFAC") is an agency of the	

GARVEY SCHUBERT BARER

A PARTNERSHIP OF PROFESSIONAL CORPORATIONS
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1191 second avenue
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government of the United States government. In furtherance of, and as part of, economic sanctions, OFAC has promulgated regulations that prohibit certain transactions in Iraq. Purporting to act under those regulations. OFAC has announced its intention to impose a \$10,000 civil penalty on Mr. Sacks for traveling to Iraq with medical supplies.

3. OFAC's fine, and the regulations under which OFAC imposed that fine, violate statutory law, executive orders, international law, and the United States Constitution. Mr. Sacks seeks injunctive relief, and declaratory relief under 28 U.S.C. § 2201, that will stop OFAC's unlawful enforcement of an alleged \$10,000 civil penalty against Mr. Sacks.

II. <u>JURISDICTION AND VENUE</u>

- 4. This Court has jurisdiction of the subject matter under 28 U.S.C. §1331, as this case arises under the laws of the United States. This Court also has subject matter jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. § 1337, as this case arises under an Act of Congress regulating commerce. This Court further has subject matter jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. § 1346(a)(2), as this is an action against the United States for an amount not exceeding \$10,000 and founded upon the Constitution, Acts of Congress, and regulations promulgated by the defendant. This Court further has subject matter of this action, as it has jurisdiction of the underlying claims by OFAC against Mr. Sacks under 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331, 1337, and 2461(a).
- 5. Venue in the Western District of Washington is proper under 28 U.S.C. § 1391(e), as Mr. Sacks resides therein and no real property is involved in this action.

III. OPERATIVE FACTS

A. Background.

6. On August 2, 1990, Iraq invaded Kuwait. In response, then-President George H.W. Bush declared a "national emergency" pursuant to Executive Order 12722. That "national emergency" remains in effect to the present day. Executive Order 19890 (July 31, 2003). In Executive Order 12722 and in Executive Order 12724 dated a week later, President

Bush authorized the imposition of economic sanctions on Iraq.

- 7. Iraq's invasion led to the First Gulf War. A coalition led by the United States defeated Iraq after an extensive bombing campaign.
- 8. Immediately after the conclusion of the First Gulf War, in March 1991, the United Nations reported on the extensive damage to Iraqi infrastructure caused by the U.S.-led bombing campaign. Then-Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar dispatched a mission headed by Under-Secretary-General Martti Ahtisaari to assess the situation in Iraq. The Under-Secretary-General reported:

I and the members of my mission were fully conversant with media reports regarding the situation in Iraq and, of course, with the recent WHO/UNICEF report on water, sanitary, and health conditions in the Greater Baghdad area. It should, however, be said at once that nothing we had seen or read had quite prepared us for the particular form of devastation which has now befallen the country. The recent conflict has wrought near-apocalyptic results upon the economic infrastructure of what had been, until January 1991, a rather highly urbanized and mechanized society. Now, most means of modern life support have been destroyed or rendered tenuous. Iraq has, for some time to come, been relegated to a pre-industrial age, but with all the disabilities of post-industrial dependency on an intensive use of energy and technology.

The report recommended an immediate end to the embargo on imports of food and other essential supplies to prevent "imminent catastrophe."

B. OFAC's Regulations in Response to the "National Emergency."

- 9. In January 1991, OFAC first promulgated regulations to enforce economic sanctions against the people of Iraq. Those regulations appear at 31 CFR Part 575.
- 10. OFAC purported to act under 50 U.S.C. §§ 1701(a) & 1702. These statutes grant the President certain powers to deal with an "unusual and extraordinary threat" posed by a "national emergency" declared by the President. Among those powers is the power to regulate certain financial transactions. These powers "may only be exercised to deal with an unusual and extraordinary threat with respect to which a national emergency has been declared

...." 50 U.S.C. § 1701(b).

OFAC's regulations prohibit the importation of goods into Iraq. The regulations include "donated foodstuffs in humanitarian circumstances, and donated supplies intended strictly for medical purposes" unless those imports are "specifically licensed" by OFAC. 31 CFR § 575.205. OFAC's regulations do not state the criteria by which OFAC grants such licenses. Nor do the regulations impose any deadline on OFAC to grant such licenses. Hence, OFAC has reserved to itself the unrestricted and unfettered power to keep food and medical supplies from reaching people in Iraq who need them.

12. OFAC has also prohibited travel to Iraq, including travel for the purpose of bringing food and medical supplies to the Iraqi people. 31 CFR § 575.207 provides in relevant part, and subject to very limited exceptions, that "no U.S. person may engage in any transaction relating to travel by any U.S. citizen or permanent resident alien to Iraq, or to activities by any U.S. citizen or permanent resident alien within Iraq." OFAC also prohibited "[a]ny transaction by a U.S. person relating to transportation to or from Iraq." 31 CFR § 575.208.

C. <u>Enter Bert Sacks.</u>

- 13. Bert Sacks has traveled to Iraq nine times. On each trip, Mr. Sacks has brought medicine and medical supplies and distributed them to civilians, many of them children, in civilian hospitals in Iraq. In 1997, he helped bring roughly \$40,000 worth of medicine into Iraq for the purpose of relieving human suffering. Mr. Sacks also brought medicine and medical supplies to Iraq to publicize the effect of economic sanctions on the people of Iraq, especially children.
- 14. While in Iraq, Mr. Sacks has visited medical clinics and pediatric hospitals. He has seen the children who are dying there. Mr. Sacks has met with other U.S. citizens in Iraq to highlight the effects of U.S. policy there. Probably the best known among them is United States Representative Jim McDermott, who traveled to Iraq in 2002.
 - 15. Mr. Sacks' November 1997 trip to Iraq was covered in the national news media.

In response to this particular trip, OFAC sought to punish Mr. Sacks. On December 3, 1998, OFAC sent a written "Prepenalty Notice" to Mr. Sacks and others. A true and correct copy of the Prepenalty Notice is attached hereto as Exhibit 1. In the Prepenalty Notice, OFAC claimed Mr. Sacks had violated its regulations enforcing economic sanctions during his 1997 trip to Iraq. The Prepenalty Notice contained ten "counts," only one of which, Count 6, was directed at Mr. Sacks. Count 6 made the following charge:

Between on or about [sic] November 21-30, 1997, Messrs. Handelman, Mullins, Sacks, and Zito, engaged in currency travel-related transactions to/from/within Iraq absent prior license or other authorization from OFAC. These currency transactions included, but are not limited to, the purchase of food, lodging, ground transportation, and incidentals.

OFAC proposed a penalty of \$10,000 for Mr. Sacks "for Count 6" and invited written comments within thirty days.

16. On December 28, 1998, Mr. Sacks wrote back to OFAC:

I appreciate that you must see yourselves as doing your job to uphold US sanctions laws against Iraq, which I have violated. However I want to explain here, as I would to any personal friends of mine, why I have done this

You are correct to say in your prepenalty letter (12/3/98) that I brought "medical supplies and toys to Iraq" absent prior OFAC approval. We all recognize, I hope, that the \$40,000 of medicines we brought to Iraq --- despite the lives it saved --- was essentially a symbolic act: it lasted the 22 million people of Iraq about 15 minutes, given their pre-sanctions needs of \$1,000,000 of imported medicines per day. Further, we brought nothing towards the \$10,000,000 of food imports Iraqis need per day. And we brought nothing towards the \$22,000,000,000 of essential repairs for the life-supporting infrastructure needed to stop the water-borne epidemics in Iraq. These numbers long ago convinced me that the human crisis in Iraq cannot be solved by humanitarian aid --- but only by an end of economic sanctions.

The decision to turn to civil disobedience to end sanctions, in public defiance of the laws you are entrusted with enforcing, was not a natural one for me. I first spent two years of research, writing, and contacting people about the situation, but this failed to cast any significant public attention on the thousands of Iraqi children who were dying every month because of the bombed civilian infrastructure (unsafe drinking water) and sanctions (lack

of food and medicines). In deciding to publicly violate sanctions, two events and two people played an important role for me.

The first is knowing that 150 years ago it was the highest law of the United States of America that runaway slaves from the South were legally "stolen property" of their owners. Anywhere in this country, an American was breaking the law to help such a slave escape via the "underground railroad." The people I greatly admire from this terrible era in our history were not law-abiding citizens, but those who broke the law to help slaves. . . .

The second event influencing me is the deaths of millions of innocent civilians during WWII. I visited Auschwitz one year ago, just before my trip to Iraq. At both places over a million innocent civilians have died. I greatly admire the people who took personal risks to help Jews, against prevailing indifference and prejudice. . . .

These two events are certainly not identical with events in Iraq, but the example of people motivated by high moral considerations to "break the law" has given me encouragement to do the same. . . .

17. After writing this letter, Mr. Sacks continued his work to call attention to the effect of economic sanctions, and the regulations through which OFAC seeks to enforce them, on the people of Iraq. Those sanctions have deprived many Iraqi civilians, especially children, of the food, clean water, and medicine they need to survive.

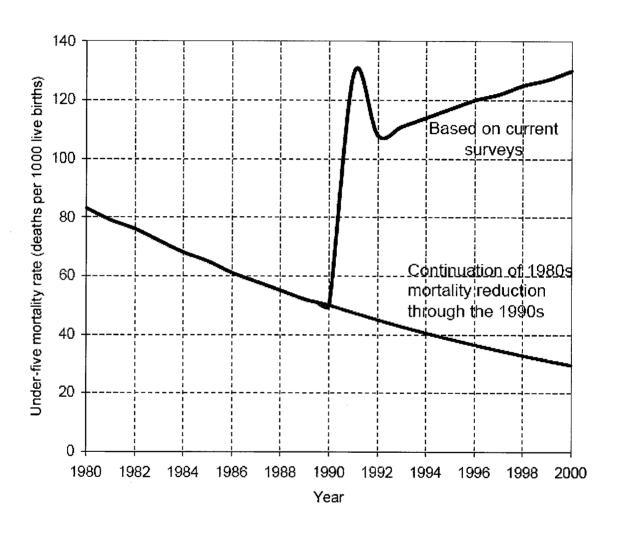
D. <u>Economic Sanctions Contribute To the Deaths of Thousands of Young Children in Iraq Every Month.</u>

18. Economic sanctions have prevented Iraq from rebuilding water treatment plants destroyed in the First Gulf War. Water treatment facilities were fairly widespread in Iraq until many were bombed during the First Gulf War, along with virtually all of the country's electrical-generating plants that powered Iraq's water and sewage treatment facilities. The resulting lack of potable water has led to the outbreak of severe diarrhea among young children, which is often fatal in the absence of medical treatment. OFAC regulations, however, have prevent people like Mr. Sacks from bringing medicine and medical supplies to Iraq. OFAC regulations also effectively prohibit the importation of the amount of food needed to feed the children of Iraq.

19. Each month, economic sanctions have helped cause the deaths of three to six
thousand children in Iraq under five years of age. In 1992, the New England Journal of
Medicine put the figure at 5,862 deaths per month for the first eight months of 1991 alone.
(This does not include adults who have died in Iraq as a consequence of economic sanctions.)

- 20. In 2000, UNICEF issued a report entitled "UNICEF in Iraq." The report warned: "Mounting evidence shows that the sanctions are having a devastating humanitarian impact on Iraq." It quoted a 1997 report by the UN Human Rights Committee, which stated: "the effect of sanctions and blockades has been to cause suffering and death in Iraq, especially to children."
- 21. According to former UNICEF Director Carol Bellamy, sanctions imposed by the United States through the UN Security Council have reversed a decades-long decline in infant mortality in Iraq. Ms. Bellamy cites UNICEF reports that between 1991 and 1998, this reversal contributed to the deaths of half a million children under the age of five. One such UNICEF report appears at http://www.unicef.org/reseval/pdfs/irqu5est.pdf. It contains graphs such as the following, which depict the upsurge in child mortality in Iraq after 1990, the year economic sanctions were first imposed:

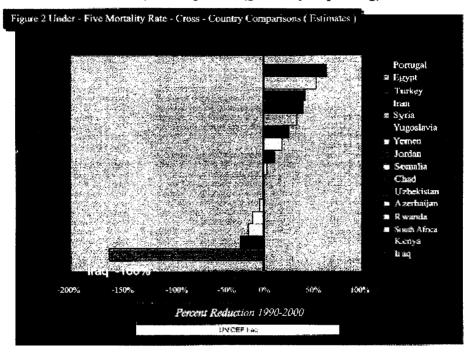
Chart 2: Iraq - under-five mortality rate disparities



The chart shows the large disparity between the mortality rates based on recent surveys and what would have been the situation if the mortality trend in the 1980s had been continued through the 1990s.

22. In 2003 UNICEF published another report, entitled "The Situation of Children in Iraq." See http://www.unicef.org/publications/pub children of iraq en.pdf. That report

states that a country like Iraq, which had an infant mortality rate of 40-60 deaths per 1,000 live births in 1990, should have had a rate of 20-30 by now. *Id.* at 13. Instead, the infant mortality rate in southern and central Iraq climbed to 107 deaths per 1,000 live births by 1999. *Id.* The under-five mortality rate, meanwhile, rose from 56 deaths per 1,000 live births in 1985-89 to 131 in 1995-99. *Id.* The report contains the following chart, which compares the 160% increase in childhood mortality in Iraq to the (generally improving) trend in other countries:



Id. at 14. UNICEF attributes the increase in childhood mortality in Iraq to economic sanctions. *Id.* at 13.

- 23. In 1999, the Seattle Post-Intelligencer sent a team to Iraq to report on conditions there. The resulting articles, which are available on-line, document the deaths of Iraqi children due to the absence of medical supplies. *See* http://seattlepi.nwsource.com/iraq/life1.shtml.
- 24. The situation has not improved since the end of the Second Gulf War. UNICEF's website (http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/iraq.html) currently reports:

Even before the most recent conflict began, many children were highly vulnerable to disease and malnutrition. One in four children aged under five is chronically malnourished. One in eight children die before their fifth birthday.

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Members of the United States government have publicly deemed these widespread deaths of infants and children in Iraq to be "worth it." In 1996 former Secretary of State (and then U.S Ambassador to the UN) Madeleine Albright was asked: "We have heard that a half million children have died. I mean, that's more children than died in Hiroshima. And, you know, is the price worth it?" Ms. Albright responded, "I think this is a very hard choice, but the price--we think the price is worth it." Ms. Albright has later expressed regret for this statement, but has insisted that sanctions are justified notwithstanding the "starvation" and "horrors" experienced by the Iraqi people. She claimed sanctions did not preclude food from reaching civilians in Iraq.

Humanitarian Exemptions to Economic Sanctions Have Not Stopped Children E. From Dying As a Result of Those Sanctions.

- 26. In theory, OFAC regulations allow food and medicine to be imported into Iraq. Food has also been brought into Iraq under the so-called "oil-for-food program," which began in 1996. But widespread sanctions-related infant and child mortality remain.
- 27. As a result, the first two directors of the oil-for-food program both resigned from the UN in protest. The first director, Denis Halliday, served as United Nations Assistant Secretary General and Humanitarian Coordinator in Iraq from September 1, 1997 until the end of September 1998. He later explained:

Malnutrition is running at about 30 percent for children under 5 years old. In terms of mortality, probably 5 or 6 thousand children are dying per month. This is directly attributable to the impact of sanctions, which have caused the breakdown of the clean water system, health facilities and all the things that young children require. . . . I do not want to administer a program that results in these kind of figures.

A month after resigning, Mr. Halliday warned: "We are in the process of destroying an entire society. It is as simple and terrifying as that."

28. Mr. Halliday was succeeded by Hans von Sponeck, who served as UN Assistant Secretary General and Humanitarian Coordinator for Iraq. Mr. Von Sponeck served until

February 2000, when he, too, resigned. Mr. von Sponeck stated, "I increasingly became aware that I was associated with a policy of implementing an oil-for-food program that could not possibly meet the needs of the Iraqi people." He, too, cautioned, "If we continue this policy when we fully recognize its consequences, we move toward genocide."

29. UNICEF reports confirm that the oil-for-food program "stopped the humanitarian situation from deteriorating, but did not greatly improve conditions for most Iraqis. This is partly because revenue has not been sufficient to comprehensively rehabilitate the country's infrastructure." This assessment is confirmed by recent events. In 1996, the oil-for-food program was set up to allow \$2 billion of oil to be exported every 180 days. Yet L. Paul Bremer, currently the U.S. civilian administrator for Iraq, has publicly estimated that rebuilding Iraq will cost \$100 billion. The oil-for-food program never made capital of this kind available to the people of Iraq.

UNICEF's 2003 report, cited above, concludes:

[S]ince the introduction of the Oil for Food Programme, the nutritional status of children has not improved. One in five children in the south and centre of Iraq remain so malnourished that they need special feeding, and child sickness rates continue to be alarmingly high.

See UNICEF, THE SITUATION OF CHILDREN IN IRAQ (2003) at 11.

F. <u>International Law Does Not Allow States To Deprive Civilians, Especially</u> <u>Mothers, Infants, and Young Children, of Food, Medicine, and Other Necessities.</u>

- 30. International law is the supreme law of the land under the United States Constitution. Accordingly, to the extent OFAC regulations are inconsistent with international law, they are unconstitutional.
- 31. International custom and general principles of law recognized by civilized nations do not allow states to deprive civilians, especially mothers, infants, and children under the age of fifteen, of food, medicine, and other necessities of life.
 - 32. Several treaties signed by the United States reflect or embody these principles of

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international law. Perhaps the best known of these is the Geneva Convention Relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War. Article 23 of the Geneva Convention states that even in war, parties to the treaty:

> shall allow the free passage of all consignments of medical and hospital stores and objects necessary for religious worship intended only for civilians of another High Contracting Party, even if the latter is its adversary. It shall likewise permit the free passage of all consignments of essential foodstuffs, clothing and tonics intended for children under fifteen, expectant mothers and maternity cases.

The Geneva Convention codifies international custom and general principles of law recognized by civilized nations and applies those principles of law to the exigencies of wartime. Civilized nations recognize that depriving civilians, especially mothers and children, of the necessities of life is illegal and immoral, even (but not especially) during war.

- 33. Other treaties to which the United States is a party also codify or reflect these general principles of international law. One is the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. Article II of the Convention defines genocide to include killing or causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of a group as well as deliberately inflicting conditions of life calculated to bring about the partial or total physical destruction of the group. Legal scholars have suggested that economic sanctions against Iraq may have risen to the level of genocide within the meaning of the Convention.
- 34. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1948, likewise springs from principles of international law that condemn state deprivation of food, medicine, and other necessities. Article 25(1) of the Universal Declaration states that

Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services

Article 25(2) provides that "[m]otherhood and childhood are entitled to special care and

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25 26 assistance." Civilized nations thus recognize that depriving people – particularly mothers, infants, and young children – of "food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services" constitutes a deprivation of their human rights.

- 35. Another treaty, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, also springs from these principles and affirms that states may not deprive children of their means of subsistence. Article 24 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, for example, "recognize[s] the right of the child to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health and to facilities for the treatment of illness and rehabilitation of health." The Convention states that nations "shall strive to ensure that no child is deprived of his or her right of access to such health care services." Accordingly, the Convention requires countries to "take appropriate measures: (a) To diminish infant and child mortality; (b) To ensure the provision of necessary medical assistance and health care to all children with emphasis on the development of primary health care; (c) To combat disease and malnutrition, including within the framework of primary health care, through, inter alia, the application of readily available technology and through the provision of adequate nutritious foods and clean drinking-water, taking into consideration the dangers and risks of environmental pollution; [and] (d) To ensure appropriate pre-natal and post-natal health care for mothers."
- 36. OFAC regulations, and the economic sanctions they enforce, violate international law and the Constitution because they deny civilians, particular mothers and young children, of food, medicine, and other necessities of life. OFAC, therefore, may not constitutionally prevent individuals like Mr. Sacks from bringing food or medical supplies to civilians in Iraq.
- 37. Congress has implicitly recognized that international law does not allow states to deprive civilians, especially mothers and children, of food, medicine, and other necessities. Accordingly, Congress imposed several limits on OFAC's power to impose economic sanctions.

38. 50 U.S.C. § 1702(b)(2), for example, provides that the "authority granted to the President by this section does not include the authority to regulate or prohibit, directly or indirectly . . . donations, by persons subject to the jurisdiction of the United States, of articles, such as food, clothing, and medicine, intended to be used to relieve human suffering." The only exceptions are for donations that: (1) would "seriously impair" the President's "ability to deal with any national emergency"; (2) are in response to "coercion against the proposed recipient or donor"; or (3) would endanger U.S. armed forces that "are engaged in hostilities or are in a situation where imminent involvement in hostilities is clearly indicated by the circumstances.

- 39. 50 U.S.C. § 1702(b)(4) provides: "The authority granted to the President by this section does not include the authority to regulate or prohibit, directly or indirectly . . . any transactions ordinarily incident to travel to or from any country, including importation of accompanied baggage for personal use, maintenance within any country including payment of living expenses and acquisition of goods or services for personal use, and arrangement or facilitation of such travel including nonscheduled air, sea, or land voyages."
 - 40. OFAC's regulations exceed the authority Congress granted it.

G. OFAC Enforces Its Sanctions Regulations to Quash Conscientious Objectors.

41. Notwithstanding restrictions on OFAC's power imposed by international law, by the Constitution, and by Congress, OFAC has persisted in its efforts to punish Mr. Sacks and others who bring food and medicine to civilians in Iraq. Nearly four years after Mr. Sacks responded to OFAC's "Prepenalty Notice" in 1998, OFAC sent a written "Penalty Notice" to Mr. Sacks. A true and correct copy of the Penalty Notice, which is dated May 17, 2002, is attached hereto as Exhibit 2. In it, OFAC informed Mr. Sacks:

You admitted the [initial Prepenalty] Notice's allegation in Count 6 that you exported goods to Iraq absent prior OFAC approval and also stated that you decided to violate the U.S.-Government's economic sanctions against Iraq as an act of civil disobedience. OFAC notes that you have admitted to Count 6 alleged in the

Notice. The allegations included your currency travel-related transaction to/from/within Iraq absent prior license or other authorization from OFAC. . . . Accordingly, OFAC finds that you have violated the Regulations as alleged in Count 6 of the Notice.

The Penalty Notice concluded that a \$10,000 penalty was appropriate.

42. Mr. Sacks responded to the notice and noted (correctly) that he had not admitted the charges set forth in Count 6; he had only admitted to bringing medicine to Iraq. As Mr. Sacks explained:

Count 6 [in your letter to us of December 3, 1998] deals only with "travel-related transactions ... the purchase of food, lodging, ground transportation and incidentals." I have never admitted to, nor supplied information about, any such transactions.

- 43. OFAC regulations theoretically allow a license to be granted to bring medicine to Iraq. But the regulations do not say how, when, or under what circumstances, OFAC will grant such a license. OFAC has accepted no restrictions on its power to deny such licenses.
- 44. In late 2002, Mr. Sacks sent a written request to OFAC under the Freedom of Information Act to assess OFAC's willingness to grant licenses to U.S. citizens to travel to Iraq with medical supplies. In his request, Mr. Sacks asked OFAC to provide, among other things:
 - 1. All internal or external summaries of requests to the Office of Foreign Assets Control since January 1991 by any individual, organization or business for license to travel to Iraq for the purpose of supplying medicine, health supplies, foodstuffs, and materials and supplies for essential civilian needs of the Iraqi population, including but not limited to summaries that show the final determination or status of those requests.
 - 2. All requests to the Office of Foreign Assets Control since January 1991 by any individual, organization or business for license to travel to Iraq for the purpose of supplying medicine, health supplies, foodstuffs, and materials and supplies for essential civilian needs of the Iraqi population.
 - 3. All requests to the Office of Foreign Assets Control since January 1991 by any individual, organization or business for license to export to Iraq medicine, health supplies, foodstuffs, and materials and supplies for essential civilian needs of the Iraqi population.

4. All responses by the Office of Foreign Assets Control to those requests numbered 2 and 3 above, including but not limited to a denial or granting of a license, or a request for further information.

Mr. Sacks has sent two follow-up letters seeking a response to his request. To date, OFAC has not responded to this request, which has been pending for nearly a year.

- 45. OFAC has targeted other alleged violators of its ban on travel and importation of medical supplies to Iraq. Several people who traveled to Iraq with medical supplies have also received civil penalty notices (including the other individuals named in the Prepenalty Notice to Mr. Sacks). So did Voices in the Wilderness, an organization that, like Mr. Sacks, seeks to publicize the effects of U.S. economic sanctions and bring an end to their use.
- 46. In June 2003, OFAC sued Voices in the Wilderness to recover a civil penalty. Voices in the Wilderness consists of many individuals who oppose economic sanctions in Iraq. Several of these individuals have, like Mr. Sacks, brought medicine and medical supplies to Iraq.
- 47. Then, in early August, 2003, an organization called Ocwen Federal Bank called Mr. Sacks to advise that it was attempting to collect the civil penalty on behalf of the federal government. Mr. Sacks subsequently received an August 11, 2003 letter from Ocwen Federal Bank, a true and correct copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit 3. That letter advised that Ocwen was attempting to collect Mr. Sacks' alleged "debt" to OFAC for the civil penalty.
- 48. OFAC clearly intends to sue to collect the civil penalty it claims Mr. Sacks owes. Consequently, a case of actual controversy now exists concerning Mr. Sacks' alleged obligation to pay such a penalty. Moreover, because Mr. Sacks has traveled to Iraq since the 1997 trip for which he was fined, a case of actual controversy exists as to OFAC's authority to impose further penalties for these other trips.
- 49. Notwithstanding the fact that Mr. Sacks is the plaintiff in this cause, Mr. Sacks does not waive his right to have OFAC carry its burden of proving its entitlement to collect a

civil penalty or any other matter on which OFAC has the burden of proof.

IV. CAUSES OF ACTION

- 50. OFAC's attempts to collect a civil penalty are unlawful and unauthorized.
- 51. OFAC's Prepenalty and Penalty Notices state that OFAC is seeking to collect an civil penalty from Mr. Sacks for "currency transactions," namely "the purchase of food, lodging, ground transportation, and incidentals." Yet OFAC lacks the statutory authority to do so. 50 U.S.C. § 1702(b)(4) expressly denies OFAC "the authority to regulate or prohibit, directly or indirectly . . . any transactions ordinarily incident to travel to or from any country, including importation of accompanied baggage for personal use, maintenance within any country including payment of living expenses and acquisition of goods or services for personal use, and arrangement or facilitation of such travel including nonscheduled air, sea, or land voyages."
- 52. To the extent OFAC seeks to impose a penalty for the importation of medicine or medical supplies to Iraq, OFAC lacks the statutory authority to do so. 50 U.S.C. § 1702(b)(2) expressly denies OFAC the authority to *regulate* or prohibit, directly *or indirectly* . . . (2) donations, by persons subject to the jurisdiction of the United States, of articles, such as food, clothing, and medicine, intended to be used to relieve human suffering." OFAC's demand that Mr. Sacks obtain a license to donate medicine constitutes a prohibited attempt to directly or indirectly regulate (if not outright prohibit) those donations.
- 53. To the extent OFAC seeks to impose a penalty for the importation of medicine or medical supplies to Iraq, OFAC lacks the constitutional authority to do so. Government efforts to withhold food and needed medical supplies from innocent civilians, particularly mothers, infants, and young children, violate international law. This international law, to which the United States has acceded, is the supreme law of the land under the Supremacy Clause set forth in Article VI of the United States Constitution ("all Treaties made, or which shall be

made, under the Authority of the United States, shall be the supreme Law of the Land"). OFAC may not punish Mr. Sacks in violation of international law and the Constitution of the United States.

54. According to OFAC's Prepenalty Notice, its claim for a civil penalty arises from conduct by Mr. Sacks that took place "on or about November 21-30, 1997." To the extent OFAC seeks a civil penalty for such conduct, it is untimely and is barred by the five-year statute of limitations that applies to the collection civil fines and penalties. 28 U.S.C. § 2461 provides:

Except as otherwise provided by Act of Congress, an action, suit or proceeding for the enforcement of any civil fine, penalty, or forfeiture, pecuniary or otherwise, shall not be entertained unless commenced within five years from the date when the claim first accrued.

By its own admission, OFAC's claim for a civil penalty first accrued over five years ago.

V. <u>RELIEF REQUESTED</u>

WHEREFORE Bert Sacks requests the following relief:

- 1. A declaration that OFAC is not entitled to collect a civil penalty from him for all of the following reasons:
- a. OFAC lacks the statutory authority to regulate Mr. Sacks or others who seek to donate food and medicine to civilians in Iraq, and OFAC lacks the authority to prohibit Mr. Sacks or others from doing so;
- b. OFAC lacks the statutory authority to regulate Mr. Sacks or others who seek to travel to Iraq for the purpose of donating food and medicine to civilians in Iraq, and OFAC lacks the authority to prohibit Mr. Sacks or others from doing so;
- c. OFAC lacks the constitutional authority to prohibit Mr. Sacks or others from bringing food and medical supplies to Iraqi civilians, as international law to which the United States has acceded forbids the United States government from killing civilians,

especially mothers, infants, and young children; and

- d. OFAC's claims, to the extent they arise from conduct that took place five or more years ago, are untimely and barred by the statute of limitations.
- 2. An order enjoining OFAC from further efforts to collect civil penalties from individuals who seek to travel to Iraq or donate food or medicine to civilians there; and
 - 3. Such other and further relief as this Court deems just and proper.

 DATED this 14th day of January, 2004.

GARVEY SCHUBERT BARER

Donald B. Scaramastra, WSBA #21416 Gary D. Swearingen, WSBA #24483 Attorneys for Plaintiff Bertram Sacks

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY WASHINGTON, D.C. 20220

DEC 0 3 1998

Nos. IO-162016 and IQ-162433

PREPENALTY NOTICE

Dear Ms. Kelly and Messrs. Handelman, Mullins, Sacks, and Zito:

The Office of Foreign Assets Control ("OFAC") has reasonable cause to believe that you and Voices in the Wilderness ("VW") have engaged in certain prohibited transactions, detailed below, relating to the embargo against Iraq in 1997. Inasmuch as no license or approval had been issued by OFAC prior to such transactions, they violated the Iraqi Sanctions Regulations, 31 CFR Part 575 (the "Regulations"), and underlying statutes and Executive Orders. See, specifically, §§ 575.204-.207 and 575.211 of the Regulations.

Violations

The violations of the Regulations and underlying statutes and Executive Orders for which this Notice is issued concern your and VW's exportation of donated goods, including medical supplies and toys, to Iraq absent specific prior authorization by OFAC and transactions relating to travel to Iraq and activities in Iraq. Additionally, the violations involve transactions for the purpose of, or which have the effect of, evading or avoiding, or which facilitate the evasion or avoidance of any of the prohibitions of the Regulations, as well as a conspiracy formed for the purpose of engaging in transactions prohibited by the Regulations. In this regard, VW has organized members to deliver goods to Iraq in violation of the embargo and made express statements of the organization's knowledge of its violative actions. As to Messrs. Handelman and Mullins, the violations also concern the importation of goods and services of Iraqi origin. Specifically, the violations are as follows:

- 1. In March 1996, VW exported goods, including medical supplies, valued at approximately \$18,000, to Iraq absent prior specific license or other authorization issued by OPAC;
- 2. In August 1996, VW exported goods, including medical supplies, valued at approximately \$8,000, to Iraq absent prior specific license or other authorization issued by OFAC;
- 3. In November 1996, VW exported goods, including medical supplies, valued at approximately \$10,000, to Iraq absent prior specific license or other authorization issued by OFAC;
- 4. In November 1997, VW exported goods, including medical supplies and toys, valued at approximately \$30,000-40,000, to Iraq absent prior specific license or other authorization issued by OPAC;

EXHIBIT 1

- 5. On or about November 21, 1997, Mr. Handelman exported film and videotape to Iraq, through Jordan;
- 6. Between on or about November 21-30, 1997, Messrs. Handelman, Mullins, Sacks and Zito, engaged in currency travel-related transactions to/from/within Iraq absent prior license or other authorization from OFAC. These currency transactions included, but are not limited to, the purchase of food, lodging, ground transportation, and incidentals;
- 7. On December 3, 1997, Mr. Handelman imported goods and/or services of Iraqi origin, including photographic and video graphic services, into the United States at Detroit, Michigan. Upon entry of the goods, the United States Customs Service ("USCS") seized them (District Case Nos. 98-3801-000235). The goods included an Iraqi water bottle label, an Iraqi stamp, photographic film, video and audio tapes and/or cassettes, postcards, and assorted papers;
- 8. On December 3, 1997, Mr. Mullins imported goods and/or services of Iraqi origin, including photographic and/or video graphic services, into the United States at Detroit, Michigan. Upon entry of the goods, USCS seized them (District Case No. 98-3801-00238). The goods included a necklace, a wooden drum, audio tapes, a computer disc, notebooks, pictures, and miscellaneous papers and cards;
- 9. In July 1998, VW exported goods to Iraq absent prior specific license or other authorization issued by OFAC; and
- 10. In September 1998, VW exported goods, including medical supplies, to Iraq absent prior specific license or other authorization issued by OFAC.

Proposed Penalty

Section 206 of IEEPA, 50 U.S.C. § 1705, provides, in part, for a civil penalty not to exceed \$10,000 per violation. Section 586E of the Iraq Sanctions Act of 1990, PL.101-513, 104 Stat. 2049, provides, in part, for a civil penalty not to exceed \$250,000 for each violation occurring after November 5, 1990. See, Regulations § 575.701. Pursuant to § 575.702 of the Regulations, you are hereby notified that OFAC intends to issue a claim against each of you and VW for a monetary penalty in the amounts set forth below:

As to VW: \$120,000, computed at \$20,000 for each of Counts 1-4, 9 and 10

As to Mr. Handelman: \$12,000, computed at \$1,000 for each of Counts 5 and 7, plus \$10,000 for Count 6

Section 4 of the Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act of 1990 (Pub.L. 101-410. 104 Stat. 890. 28 U.S.C. 2461 note), as amended by the Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996 (Pub.L. 104-134. sec. 31001(s)1), Apr. 26, 1996, 110 Stat. 1321-373 -- jointly, the "FCPIA"), requires each Federal agency with statutory authority to assess civil monetary penalties ("CMPs") to adjust CMPs for inflation according to a formula described in § 5 of the FCPIA. Accordingly, on October 23, 1996, OFAC published in the Federal Register the required amendment, effective October 21, 1996, to the Regulations adjusting its CMP to \$275,000. See 61 FR 54936 at 54939.

As to Mr. Mullins: \$11,000, computed at \$1,000 for Count 8, plus \$10,000 for Count 6

As to Mr. Sacks: \$10,000, for Count 6

As to Mr. Zito: \$10,000 for Count 6

With respect to the disposition goods seized in the above-cited USCS District Cases from Messrs. Handelman and Mullins, we recommend that, inasmuch as such goods have been involved in the violation of U.S. law by U.S. persons, such goods be forfeited to the United States in accordance with USCS procedures.

Election of Proceedings

- 1. You have the right to make a written presentation to FAC within thirty (30) days of the mailing of this Notice. Such written presentation in response to this Notice need not be in any particular form, but it should contain a response to the allegations herein, and set forth the reasons why the penalty should not be issued, or if issued, why the amount should be less than that proposed in this Notice. Such response should be addressed to the Office of Foreign Assets Control (Attention: Civil Penalties), U.S. Department of the Treasury, 1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20220.
- 2. In the event that you elect not to respond, OFAC will conclude that you have decided not to submit any new facts or explanations for our consideration. In such instance, OFAC will issue a Penalty Notice in accordance with § 575.704(b) of the Regulations, finding a violation and assessing a penalty generally in the amount proposed herein.
- 3. Should you elect to resolve this matter informally absent any final agency finding of violation, you may initiate settlement negotiations by telephoning the OFAC staff member named below under "Contact Person" at any time before you are issued a Penalty notice. If the negotiations result in settlement, you are not required to make a written response to this Notice, which will be withdrawn without a formal determination of violation, provided settlement occurs within the time period set in this Notice.

Collection

Section 575.705 of the Regulations provides that this matter shall be referred to the United States Department of Justice for collection if the penalty is not paid within thirty (30) days of the mailing of a Penalty Notice, should one be issued imposing a penalty pursuant to § 575.704 of the Regulations. Prior to such referral, OFAC may undertake administrative collection through the Office of Financial Management of the U.S. Treasury Department.

Contact

In view of the short response time, if you have any questions concerning this matter, please feel free to contact the appropriate member of my staff, Mrs. B.S. Scott, Chief, Civil Penalties Program, at telephone number (202) 622-6140.

Sincerely,

R. Richard Newcomb

Director

Office of Foreign Assets Control

This electronic version will be amended with a copy of the original letter.

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY WASHINGTON, D.C. 20220

FAC No. IQ-162016 and IQ-162433 MAY 17 2002

PENALTY NOTICE

Dear Mr. Sacks:

A Prepenalty Notice ("Notice") dated December 3, 1998, was issued to you, by the Office of Foreign Assets Control ("OFAC") for having engaged in certain prohibited transactions relating to Iraq, as detailed in the Notice. No license or approval was issued by OFAC for these transactions. Accordingly, such transactions violated the Iraqi Sanctions Regulations, 31 CF.R Part 575 (the "Regulations"), promulgated pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq. ("IEEPA") and underlying statutes and Executive Orders. See §§ 575.207 and 515.211 of the Regulations.

Section 206 of IEEPA, 50 U.S.C. § 1705, provides, in part, for a civil penalty not to exceed \$10,000 for each such violation. Section 586E of the Iraq Sanctions Act of 1990, PL.IO1-S13, 104 Stat. 2049, provides, in part, for a civil penalty not to exceed \$250,000 for each violation occurring after November 5, 1990.' Pursuant to §§ 575.702 of the Regulations. the Notice proposed a penalty against you in the amount of \$10,000. You were advised of your right to make a written presentation to OFAC setting forth reasons why the penalty should not be issued or, if issued why the amount should be less than that proposed. Such written response was required to be made within thirty (30) days of the mailing of the Notice.

OFAC mailed the Notice to you on December 3,1998. Delivery is evidenced by a signed United States Postal Service Form 3811, Domestic Return Receipt.

By a response received at OFAC January 8. 1999, you made a written presentation setting forth reasons why you engaged in certain prohibited transactions relating to the embargo against Iraq. You admitted the Notice's allegation in Count 6 that you exported goods to Iraq absent prior OFAC approval and also stated that you decided to violate the U.S-Government's economic sanctions against Iraq as an act of civil disobedience.

OFAC notes that you have admitted to Count 6 alleged in the Notice. The allegations included your currency travel-related transactions to/from/within Iraq absent prior license or other authorization from OF AC. The Regulations prohibit persons subject to United States jurisdiction from engaging in any transaction relating to travel to Iraq. See § 575.207 of the Regulations. Accordingly, OFAC finds that you have violated the Regulations as alleged in Count 6 of the Notice.



After a careful review of the entire file, it is determined that you did violate IEEPA and the Regulations. It is further determined that, while some relief is warranted to take into account the fact that the instant violation was your first offense on record at OFAC, such relief must be balanced against aggravating factors present, specifically your willful violation of the Regulations.

Accordingly, the proposed civil penalty in the amount of \$10,000 is hereby imposed upon you pursuant to § 575.704 of the Regulations.

A check payable to the "U.S. Treasury" in the amount of \$10,000 should be sent within 30 days of the mailing of this Penalty Notice to the Office of Foreign Assets Control, (Attention: Civil Penalties), U.S. Treasury Department, 1500 Pennsylvania Avenue. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20220. Please note that interest, administrative charges and late fees will commence to accrue after 30 days of the mailing of the Penalty Notice. Under Public Law 97-365, 31 U.S.C. § 3717, interest at an annual rate inter of 5% and an administrative charge of\$12.00 will be added monthly if the amount is not paid by the due date. Should the amount not be paid within ninety (90) days, an additional late charge of 6% will be added.

Please note that § 575.705 of the Regulations provides that this matter shall be referred for administrative collection measures or to the United States Department of Justice for collection if the penalty is not paid within 30 days of the mailing of the Penalty Notice.

Please further note that 31 U.S.C. § 7701 requires that a person assessed a penalty by a Federal agency furnish a taxpayer identification number/Social Security Number and also requires the agency to disclose that we intend to use such number for the purposes of collecting and reporting on any delinquent penalty amount in the event of a failure to pay the penalty imposed.

Sincerely,

(signed)
Richard Newcomb
Director
Office of Foreign Assets Control

Mr. Bertram Sacks 127 NW Bowdoin Place, #103 Seattle, Washington 98107

cc: U.S. Customs Service Fines, Penalties & Forfeitures Office (Attn: Mr. Don Zainea) Patrick V. McNamara Bldg. 477 Michigan Avenue. Rm 200 Detroit, Michigan 48226



Office Hours (EST)

Monday through Thursday: 8:00 AM to 9:00 PM Friday: 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Saturday: 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Sunday 12:00 Noon to 9:00 PM

August 11, 2003

Ocwen Federal Bank FSB Account #: 506780

Federal Agency: DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY - DEPARTMENTAL OFFICES

U.S. Department of the Treasury-FMS Account #: CB0916868

Name: Bertram Sacks

Balance due as of August 9 2003 is \$13767.08

Please be advised that Ocwen Federal Bank FSB ("Ocwen") has been engaged by the U.S. Department of the Treasury-Financial Management Service on behalf of the above named Federal agency to resolve your delinquent debt. Please make your bank check or money order payable to U.S. Department of Treasury – FMS and mail to:

U.S. Department of the Treasury - FMS
Ocwen Federal Bank
PO Box 530289
Atlanta, GA 30353-0289

Our Toll Free Telephone Number is 888-778-2696

NOTICE UNDER FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT

- 1. The amount of the debt as of August 9 2003 is \$13767.08.
- 2. The name of the creditor to whom the debt is owed is the above named Federal agency.
- 3. Unless you, within thirty (30) days after receipt of this notice, dispute the validity of the debt, or any portion thereof, the debt will be assumed to be valid by Ocwen Federal Bank FSB.
- 4. If you notify Ocwen in writing within thirty (30) days after receipt of this notice, that the debt or any portion thereof, is disputed, Ocwen will obtain verification of the debt or a copy of a judgment against you, whichever the case may be and a copy of such verification or judgment will be mailed to you by Ocwen.
- 5. Upon written request within thirty (30) days after receipt of this notice, Ocwen will provide you with the name and address of the original creditor, if different from the current creditor.

Mail correspondence to: Ocwen Federal Bank FSB, Central Florida Research Parkway
PO Box 780549
Orlando, FL 32878-0549

This is an attempt to collect a debt by a debt collector. Any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

Sincerely, Ocwen Federal Bank, FSB

Ocwen, Ocwen Federal Bank, FSB, and the Ocwen lingu are registered service marks of Ocwen Financial Corporation, and are used here under license @ 1996-2002 Ocwen Federal Bank, FSB. All rights reserved.

Detach Lower Portion and Return with Payment

IONOCWN014001

PO Box 780549 Orlando, FL 32878-0549

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Date	Amount Due	Due Date
8/11/2003	\$13767.08	August 9 2003

Account Number

Exp Date

Card Holder Name

Card Holder Name

Pmt Amt

/ /
Date

Debtor Identification Number: CB0916868-000908243

Amount Enclosed: \$

U.S. Department of the Treasury – FMS
Oewen Financial
PO Box 530289
Atlanta GA 30353-0289

EXHIBIT 3