

**Receiver for the Wellington Companies  
c/o Kroger, Gardis & Regas, L.L.P.  
Bank One Building/Circle Side  
111 Monument Circle, Suite 900  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-5125  
317-692-9000 - phone  
317-264-6832 - fax**

July 25, 2001

**ALL INVESTORS IN THE WELLINGTON COMPANIES**

Re: *Investments with the Wellington Companies, Guardian First Limited, Castlerock Consulting, LLC; John E. Brinker, Jr., Gary J. Bentz, et al.; Case Number: IP01-0259-C-H/G*

Dear Investor:

This letter is being sent to you because, according to records in my possession, you made an investment with one of the companies on the list enclosed with this letter which I will refer to as the "Wellington Companies."

On February 27, 2001, the United States Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC") filed an action against the Wellington Companies, John Brinker and Gary Bentz. Among other things, the Complaint alleged that Messrs. Brinker and Bentz were engaged in selling "prime bank instruments" (see discussion below) that were fraudulent investments. Subsequently Messrs. Brinker and Bentz, without admitting or denying liability, signed an agreement stating that they agreed "...not to take any action or to make ... any public statement denying... any allegation in the Complaint or creating the impression that the Complaint is without factual basis." Also on that date an order was entered by the court 'freezing' the assets of both Brinker and Bentz as well as all of the Wellington Companies.

On February 27, 2001, I was appointed as the Examiner for most of the Wellington Companies. Subsequently, I was also appointed as Receiver for all the Wellington Companies except Steadfast Ministries. As an Examiner, it was my function to investigate the financial affairs of the Wellington Companies and file a report with the United States District Court in Indianapolis. How much money was raised, who was it obtained from and

July 25, 2001

Page 2

where did it go? These are simple questions to set out, but my efforts have thus far led me to conclude they are far more difficult to answer. As a Receiver, it is my function to accumulate the assets of the Wellington Companies, reduce them to cash, determine the claims entitled to participate in the asset distribution and then pay out the recovered funds.

I have not yet filed the Examiner's report with the court because the poor condition of the records which I received from the principals of the Wellington Companies has made this task extremely hard. Many records are missing. For example, although there were over 20 bank accounts connected with the Wellington Companies, there were few checking account registers, and even fewer checks, so the cash which went into the accounts and the cash which went out had to be reconstructed from scratch using each check and each deposit.

To date, my investigation indicates more than 700 investors transferred more than \$19,000,000.00 to the Wellington Companies. This is almost 3 times the amount of money originally thought to be involved. Over \$9,000,000.00 of this money appears to have been sent offshore to the First International Bank of Grenada (the "FIBG").

FIBG was an investment scheme commonly known as a "Prime Bank Scheme." This type of investment fraud is so common that the SEC has devoted a section of its website to explaining it. See <http://www.sec.gov/divisions/enforce/primebank.shtml>. Millions more of the money of the Wellington Companies' investors was transferred to other reckless investment schemes here in the United States.

FIBG is, itself, in Receivership in the country of Grenada. According to the initial report of the FIBG Receiver, there may be no funds available to repay the claims of investors. As the Receiver of the Wellington Companies it is my job to pursue the claim for the money transferred to FIBG by the Wellington Companies on your behalf. The first report of the FIBG Receiver can be viewed at <http://www.pwcglobal.com/ca/eng/about/svcs/brs/fibg.html>

Our investigation to date has not turned up many assets that would provide a significant return to investors. We have received considerable assistance from the SEC. We continue to make inquiries through the use of subpoenas and, using the powers of the Federal Courts, we are in the process of taking statements (depositions) from many persons who are connected with the activities of the Wellington Companies. To date, we have issued over 50 subpoenas to banks, brokerage firms, former employees, individuals and companies who did business with the Wellington Companies. We have subpoenaed telephone and credit card records, payment histories, and purchase records. We have conducted many real estate title and other records searches, telephone interviews and received many leads from investors, each of which we have also evaluated and investigated.

July 25, 2001  
Page 3

I and other members of my office have fielded several hundred calls from investors. Given the large number of investors, we have established a website that will allow investors to review every pleading filed with the Court, every deposition taken and every subpoena issued. We will also be placing noteworthy documents and other miscellaneous information on the website as well. The website can be viewed at <http://wellingtonbankinfo.com/>. I would urge you to establish a link to this site to view information as it is posted. There will be significant content in the coming weeks.

I want to assure you that I will do everything in my power to recover any investor funds that remain. Unfortunately, as I noted earlier in this letter, much of this money went to the FIBG scheme in Grenada and we will be dependent on the FIBG Receiver as to the results of that claim.

Sincerely,  
**COPY**

James A. Knauer

JAK:hns