

October 3, 1946

Dear Matt:

I was very pleased to get your nice letter of September 18 and to find that despite the difficulties your feeling for the undertaking has not diminished. It is a splendid opportunity for constructive service and one in which we will all be watching your efforts with interest.

Things here in the Bank have not changed substantially since you left, other than that the requests from Denmark, Netherlands, Greece, Italy, et al are gradually being shifted to the International Bank where they rightfully belong. I feel the Export-Import Bank has a great opportunity for constructive work in the foreign trade field as soon as it can return to exporter-importer credits which supplement private capital, and get away from government-to-government business. A small, well placed loan, in my judgment, does a great deal more good than these large spectacular government-to-government credits, and it is obvious the Export-Import Bank was intended to act as a World Bank only during the emergency period. Generally speaking, our policy now is to insist that the programs be presented to the International Bank, and we will not give any consideration to them here unless the World Bank cannot do anything to help them or if there is a vital and urgent policy angle which must be furthered and here I stress the fact that it must be vital and not just desirable.

The meetings of the World Bank and Fund here in Washington have been most amicable and very well run. In fact, the whole atmosphere is encouraging. It is now hoped that the International Bank will make some loans before the end of the year. I will write you further when the general picture becomes clearer and, in the meantime, you will be hearing from Burke Knapp and your own people as to their slant.

I am thinking of taking a hurried trip to Brazil in connection with the steel mill and will try to write you when I get back.

Mr. M. S. Szymczak, Civilian Sincerely yours,
Chief, Trade and Commerce Branch
OMCUS (U. S.)
APO 742

Wm. McC. Martin, Jr.
Chairman

P. S. I have had several long discussions with Minister Liefertink, but generally speaking, they were unsatisfactory. I do not think we can do any more business with them.