



THE COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS

WASHINGTON, D.C.

February 8, 1996

The Honorable Charles R. Wilson
United States Attorney
Middle District of Florida
500 Zack Street
Tampa, Florida 33602

Dear Mr. Wilson:

I am writing to commend the efforts of Assistant United States Attorney Mark Jay Krum in connection with United States v. Bravender Ah Loo, Case No. 92-49-CR-T-17(C).

Special Agent in Charge Steven J. Trent in Tampa has advised me of the outstanding work by Mr. Krum in the prosecution of this major case which involved the smuggling and attempted sale of billions of dollars in counterfeit Japanese government bonds. The joint investigation by the U.S. Customs Service and the U.S. Secret Service began over 3 years ago and led to the arrest and prosecution of six of the main members of the conspiracy. The indictment charged them with a variety of violations, including bank fraud, wire fraud, money laundering, counterfeit foreign obligations, smuggling, and securities fraud.

Mr. Krum was assigned to the investigation a few months before the trial began. He had a relatively short time to learn the facts, interview numerous witnesses and organize and compile hundreds of trial exhibits. He toiled many hours to familiarize himself with the case and the evidence. During the 3-month trial, together with a number of agents from both services, he worked thousands of hours including every night and ever weekend to ensure the success of the prosecution.

The international nature of the case required that Mr. Krum deal with witnesses who were representatives of a foreign government and other foreign nationals. Additionally, he cross-examined a number of difficult witnesses who testified on behalf of the defendants, including a United States Senator and a number of experienced trial attorneys. In this, as in other aspects of the prosecution, he performed with remarkable skill.

Largely as result of Mr. Krum's efforts and dedication, two of the defendants pled guilty to the indictment while the trial was in progress, then testified for the prosecution.

The jury found two of the remaining defendants guilty of a variety of charges. On August 5, 1995, all defendants were sentenced to lengthy prison terms. A sixth defendant remains a fugitive.

Special Agent in Charge Trent has advised me that the money laundering count in this case involved the largest dollar amount of any such conviction in the history of the Middle District of Florida. Also, the bank fraud in this case is one of the largest dollar amounts prosecuted in that district.

Mr. Krum brought to this case exceptional skills acquired and honed during his many years as a prosecutor. His work in this matter should be recognized as an outstanding contribution to the law enforcement mission of the United States Department of Justice. Special Agent in Charge Trent and I join in commending Mr. Krum for an outstanding job in this most important case.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "George J. Weise". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

George J. Weise
Commissioner