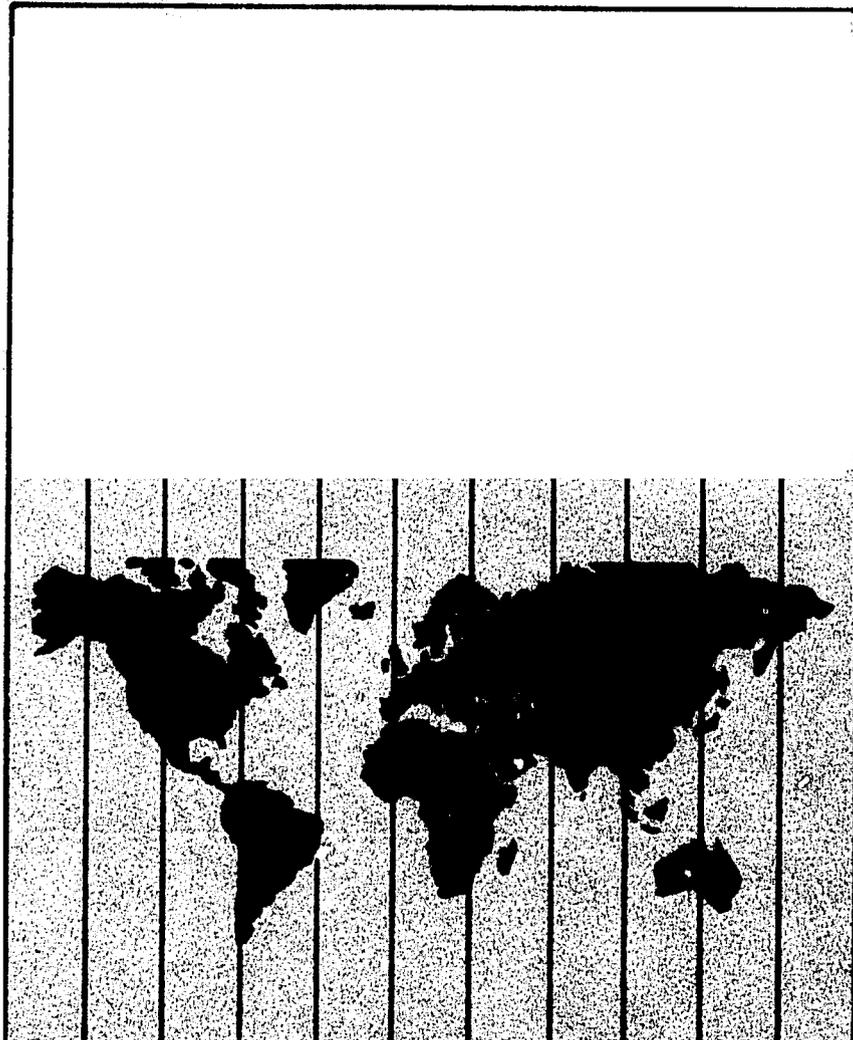


**UNITED STATES
AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

**THE
INSPECTOR
GENERAL**



**Regional Inspector General for Audit
TEGUCIGALPA**

PD-ABC-021

ISA 68804

LIMITED PRE-AWARD
SURVEY OF THE CREDIT COMPONENT OF
THE EARTHQUAKE RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT
WITH BANCO DE CREDITO POPULAR, S.A.
USAID/EL SALVADOR PROJECT NO. 519-0333

Audit Report No. 1-519-89-18-N
January 9, 1989

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AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL INSPECTOR GENERAL
AMERICAN EMBASSY
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January 9, 1989

MEMORANDUM

TO : D/USAID/El Salvador, Henry H. Bassford
FROM : RIG/A/T, *George N. Gothard*
Coinage N. Gothard, Jr.
SUBJECT: Audit Report No. 1-519-89-18-N, "Limited Pre-award Survey of the Credit Component of the Earthquake Reconstruction Project with Banco de Credito Popular, S.A. in El Salvador"

This report presents the results of a non-Federal limited pre-award survey requested by your Mission of the Credit Component of the Earthquake Reconstruction Project, USAID/El Salvador Project No. 519-0333, with Banco de Credito Popular, S.A. in El Salvador. The certified public accounting firm of Price Waterhouse in El Salvador prepared the report, which is dated December 12, 1988.

The purpose of this limited pre-award survey was to determine whether: (1) Banco de Credito Popular, S.A.'s accounting system contains sufficient capacity to accurately capture accounting data under the project and the internal accounting and administrative controls are adequate for USAID/El Salvador purposes, and (2) Banco de Credito Popular, S.A. has the financial capability and administrative capacity for performing the proposed work.

In the opinion of Price Waterhouse, Banco de Credito Popular, S.A.'s accounting system and its internal controls, its financial capability and its management capability are adequate for undertaking the project within the general project design.

The Price Waterhouse report contains 2 recommendations concerning Banco de Credito Popular, S.A.'s management capability and its accounting system and internal controls. We believe the findings have merit and the recommendations should be implemented. Therefore we are including the following recommendation:

Recommendation No. 1

We recommend that USAID/El Salvador require Banco de Credito Popular, S.A. to implement, as soon as possible, the 2 recommendations concerning

b'

its management capability and its accounting system and internal controls contained in the Price Waterhouse report dated December 12, 1988.

This report is advisory only, since it is our policy not to include pre-award survey recommendations in the Office of the Inspector General's audit recommendation follow-up system unless the recommendations involve potential savings or cost avoidance.

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LIMITED PRE-AWARD SURVEY OF THE CREDIT COMPONENT
OF THE EARTHQUAKE RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT
WITH BANCO DE CREDITO POPULAR, SOCIEDAD ANONIMA
USAID/EL SALVADOR PROJECT NO. 519-0333

* * *

DECEMBER 12, 1988

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LIMITED PRE-AWARD SURVEY OF THE CREDIT COMPONENT
OF THE EARTHQUAKE RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT
WITH BANCO DE CREDITO POPULAR, SOCIEDAD ANONIMA
USAID/EL SALVADOR PROJECT NO. 519-0333

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Price Waterhouse

December 12, 1988

Mr. Coinage N. Gothard
Regional Inspector General for Audit
U.S. Agency for International Development
Tegucigalpa, Honduras, C. A.

Dear Mr. Gothard:

This report presents the results of our limited pre-award survey of the credit component of the Earthquake Reconstruction Project assigned to Banco de Crédito Popular, S. A., USAID/El Salvador Project No. 519-0333.

BACKGROUND

Banco de Crédito Popular, S. A. was organized on April 30, 1957 for the purpose of providing loans to small and medium manufacturers, merchants and farmers, as well as to low income peasants (campesinos). It is controlled by a stockholders' assembly, which delegates bank management to the Board of Directors.

The Earthquake Reconstruction Project, USAID/El Salvador Project No. 519-0333, will provide \$75 million over a 36 month period through September 30, 1990 to assist El Salvador to restore the standard of living for Salvadorans affected by the October 10, 1986 earthquake. The project will immediately follow the \$50 million Earthquake Recovery Program, USAID/El Salvador Project No. 519-0331 and will strive to provide a long-term solution to the destruction caused by the earthquake. The initial project provided immediate and intermediate solutions over an approximate one year period.

The project purpose is to assist the Government of El Salvador and the private sector to repair and reconstruct homes, businesses, basic services, and infrastructure in metropolitan zones most seriously affected by the earthquake. The project includes two major components: credit and non-credit activities.

The credit component's aim is to provide housing loans for repair and reconstruction of individual houses; reconstruction and rehabilitation of hostelryes for rental housing; and construction of new, low cost, condominium type apartments to replace hostelryes. The credit component's aim is to also provide business credit for private health services, private schools, and small business establishments.

The non-credit component will provide direct financing for construction of public schools, repair of municipal markets, highways reconstruction, repair of the ANDA water system, repair and reconstruction of health facilities, and development of relocation sites for families. Also, Private Voluntary Organizations (PVO) activities will be directly funded by USAID/El Salvador to provide housing assistance to low income families affected by the earthquake who have not been able to marshall the resources necessary to repair or replace their shelters.

The credit activities component includes housing credit and business credit. The housing credit will be administered by way of discount credit lines with the Central Bank of Reserve (Banco Central de Reserva - BCR), which will provide local currency to the National Housing Financier (Financiera Nacional de la Vivienda - FNV), which will in-turn provide funding to seven savings and loan associations in El Salvador, as needed, to provide loans for housing repair and reconstruction activities. The seven savings and loan associations involved are:

- (1) Crece, S. A.
- (2) APRISA, S. A. (Ahorro, Préstamos, Inversiones, S. A.)
- (3) Atlacatl, S. A.
- (4) AHORROMET (Ahorros Metropolitanos, S. A.)
- (5) CASA (Construcción y Ahorro, S. A.)
- (6) CREDISIA (Crédito Inmobiliario, S. A.)
- (7) La Central de Ahorros, S. A.

The business credit will be administered as a rediscount credit line by the Central Bank of Reserve (BCR) to nine commercial banks, Banco Hipotecario - a private mortgage bank, Fondo de Financiamiento y Garantía para la Pequeña Empresa (FIGAPE) - a GOES financial institution, and Banco Nacional de Fomento Industrial (BANAFI) - a GOES bank. The nine commercial banks involved are:

- (1) Banco Agrícola Comercial
- (2) Banco Capitalizador
- (3) Banco de Comercio
- (4) Banco de Crédito Popular
- (5) Banco Cuscatlán
- (6) Banco de Desarrollo e Inversión
- (7) Banco Financiero

- (8) Banco Mercantil
- (9) Banco Salvadoreño

AUDIT OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE

The specific objectives of our limited pre-award survey were to determine whether:

1. Banco de Crédito Popular, S. A.'s accounting system contains sufficient capacity to accurately capture accounting data under the project and the internal accounting and administrative controls are adequate for USAID/El Salvador purposes, and
2. Banco de Crédito Popular, S. A. has financial and administrative capability for performing the proposed work.

The survey was performed in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and with the U.S. Comptroller General's "Standards for Audit of Governmental Organizations, Programs, Activities, and Functions" (1981 Revision) and accordingly included such tests as considered necessary in the circumstances.

The scope of our work consisted of:

1. Reviewing Banco de Crédito Popular, S. A.'s accounting system.

This review included the evaluation of:

- a. Internal accounting controls.
 - b. Policies for the management of funds and loans.
 - c. Procedures to request project funding, promote and receive credit applications, approve and disburse credits, and prepare periodic reports on credit lines.
2. Evaluating Banco de Crédito Popular, S. A.'s financial and administrative capability for performing the proposed work.

This task included:

- a. Evaluation of past performance in administering similar credit lines.
- b. Ascertaining that current assets on hand are sufficient for Banco de Crédito Popular, S. A. to function until USAID/El Salvador funding is received.

During our work, we were alert to situations or transactions that could be indicative of fraud, abuse and illegal expenditures and acts.

RESULTS OF AUDIT

Financial Capability

Banco de Crédito Popular, S. A. appears to have sufficient financial capability for undertaking the business credit component of the Earthquake Reconstruction Project No. 519-0333, under the system of fund requests submitted to BCR, which administers the credit line by way of subsequent rediscounts to recover the loans granted.

Management Capability

Banco de Crédito Popular, S. A. appears to have the management capability for undertaking the business credit component of the Earthquake Reconstruction Project No. 519-0333, except that no budgets and cash flows have been considered in the entity's general plan.

Accounting System and Internal Accounting Controls

Banco de Crédito Popular, S. A.'s accounting system appears to be adequate and its internal controls are deemed to be sufficient for recording identifying and controlling data and operations related to the Earthquake Reconstruction Project No. 519-0333, except that its chart of accounts did not include accounts to record project operations.

MANAGEMENT COMMENTS:

On November 3, 1988, Price Waterhouse delivered the pre-award survey draft report to bank management. The transmittal letter requested management comments not later than November 11, 1988, pointing out that if no comments or response was delivered to Price Waterhouse, it would be understood that such draft report was accepted. At the date of this report the bank had not responded to Price Waterhouse.

Price Waterhouse

* * *

Price Waterhouse

BANCO DE CREDITO POPULAR, SOCIEDAD ANONIMA
CREDIT COMPONENT OF THE EARTHQUAKE RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT
USAID/EL SALVADOR PROJECT No. 519-0333

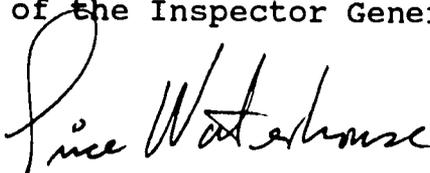
REPORT ON FINANCIAL CAPABILITY

AUDITOR'S OPINION

We have performed a limited pre-award survey of Banco de Crédito Popular, S. A.'s financial capability to manage the credit component of the Earthquake Reconstruction Project, USAID/El Salvador Project No. 519-0333. The survey was performed pursuant to the statement of work for the limited pre-award survey and in accordance with the United States Comptroller General's "Standards for Audit of Governmental Organizations, Programs, Activities, and Functions" (1981 Revision). Our work included, to the extent we considered necessary, a review of audited financial statements as of December 31, 1987, unaudited financial statements as of June 30, 1988 and the operating budget for 1988.

Based on our review, as described in the first paragraph above, we believe that at present Banco de Crédito Popular, S. A. has the financial capability for undertaking the business credit component of the Earthquake Reconstruction Project No. 519-0333 under the system of fund requests submitted to Banco Central de Reserva (BCR) to cover the loans granted. BCR administers the credit line by way of subsequent rediscounts to recover the loans granted.

This report is intended solely for the use of Banco de Crédito Popular, S. A. and the United States Agency for International Development. This restriction is not intended to limit distribution of this report which, upon acceptance by the Office of the Inspector General, is a matter of public record.



August 18, 1988
El Salvador, C. A.

Price Waterhouse

BANCO DE CREDITO POPULAR, SOCIEDAD ANONIMA
CREDIT COMPONENT OF THE EARTHQUAKE RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT
USAID/EL SALVADOR PROJECT No. 519-0333

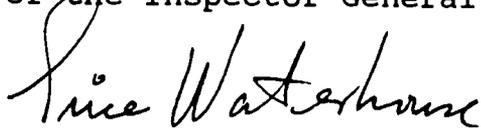
REPORT ON MANAGEMENT CAPABILITY

AUDITOR'S OPINION

We have performed a limited pre-award survey of Banco de Crédito Popular, S. A.'s capability for managing the credit component of the Earthquake Reconstruction Project, USAID/El Salvador Project No. 519-0333. The survey covered those areas we considered relevant to the criteria established by the statement of work for the limited pre-award survey. Our work was performed in accordance with the United States Comptroller General's "Standards for Audit of Governmental Organizations, Programs, Activities, and Functions" (1981 Revision).

Based on our study and our understanding of the criteria included in the statement of work mentioned in the preceding paragraph, we believe that at present, Banco de Crédito Popular, S. A. has the management capability for undertaking the business credit component of the Earthquake Reconstruction Project No. 519-0333, except for finding No. 1 described in the following page.

This report is intended solely for the use of Banco de Crédito Popular, S. A. and the United States Agency for International Development. This restriction is not intended to limit distribution of this report which, upon acceptance by the Office of the Inspector General, is a matter of public record.



August 18, 1988
El Salvador, C. A.

BANCO DE CREDITO POPULAR, SOCIEDAD ANONIMA
CREDIT COMPONENT OF THE EARTHQUAKE RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT
USAID/EL SALVADOR PROJECT No. 519-0333

REPORT OF MANAGEMENT CAPABILITY

FINDING

1. Project Related Budgets and Cash Flows Have not Been Prepared

Condition:

Banco de Crédito Popular, S. A. had not prepared specific budgets and cash flows to execute project related operations and had not considered them in its general operation plans.

Criterion:

Banco de Crédito Popular, S. A. should include project related budgets and cash flows in its general operation plans.

Cause:

Preparation of project budgets and cash flows or their inclusion in Banco de Crédito Popular, S. A.'s own plans had not been done because project related credit applications had not yet been received.

Effect:

Exclusion of project credit lines from plans and budgets could limit promotion of the project and result in lost opportunities for potential users.

Recommendation:

USAID/El Salvador should require Banco de Crédito Popular, S. A. to prepare, approve and include project operations in its plans, budgets, and cash flows, in order to adequately promote project related benefits.

Price Waterhouse

BANCO DE CREDITO POPULAR, SOCIEDAD ANONIMA
CREDIT COMPONENT OF THE EARTHQUAKE RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT
USAID/EL SALVADOR PROJECT No. 519-0333

REPORT ON THE ACCOUNTING SYSTEM AND INTERNAL ACCOUNTING CONTROLS

AUDITOR'S OPINION

We have performed a study and evaluation of the internal accounting and administrative control systems of Banco de Crédito Popular, S. A. in connection with the limited pre-award survey of the credit component of the Earthquake Reconstruction Project, USAID/ES Project No. 519-0333. The purpose of our study and evaluation was to determine the adequacy of the control systems to record transactions under the agreement. Our study and evaluation was performed in accordance with the United States Comptroller General's "Standards for Audit of Governmental Organizations, Programs, Activities, and Functions" (1981 Revision) and pursuant to the criteria set forth in the statement of work for the limited pre-award survey. Our work was limited to an evaluation of the key controls over the procedures used to request project funding, promote and receive credit applications, approve and disburse credits, prepare periodic reports on credit lines and the record-keeping of such transactions.

The management of Banco de Crédito Popular, S. A. is responsible for establishing and maintaining adequate internal control systems in areas of significance to the program covered by the above mentioned agreement. In fulfilling that responsibility, estimates and judgments by management are required to assess the expected benefits and related costs of control procedures. The objectives of internal control systems are to provide management with reasonable, but not absolute, assurance that assets are safeguarded against waste, loss, and misuse; that resources are properly used and in compliance with established policies and procedures and applicable laws and regulations; and that reliable data are obtained, maintained, and fairly disclosed in management reports.

Because of inherent limitations in any system of internal accounting and administrative controls, errors or irregularities may occur and not be detected. Also, projection of any evaluation of the systems to future periods is subject to the risk that procedures may become inadequate because of changes in conditions, or that the degree of compliance with the procedures may deteriorate.

Price Waterhouse

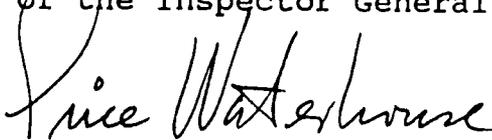
BANCO DE CREDITO POPULAR, SOCIEDAD ANONIMA
CREDIT COMPONENT OF THE EARTHQUAKE RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT
USAID/EL SALVADOR PROJECT No. 519-0333

REPORT ON THE ACCOUNTING SYSTEM AND INTERNAL ACCOUNTING CONTROLS

AUDITOR'S OPINION

Based on our study and the criteria referred to in the first paragraph of this report, we believe that at present the accounting system of Banco de Crédito Popular, S. A. appears to be adequate and its internal controls are deemed to be sufficient for recording, identifying and controlling data and transactions related to the business credit component of the Earthquake Reconstruction Project No. 519-0333, except for finding No. 1 described in the following page.

This report is intended solely for the use of Banco de Crédito Popular, S. A. and the United States Agency for International Development. This restriction is not intended to limit distribution of this report which, upon acceptance by the Office of the Inspector General, is a matter of public record.



August 18, 1988
El Salvador, C. A.

BANCO DE CREDITO POPULAR, SOCIEDAD ANONIMA
CREDIT COMPONENT OF THE EARTHQUAKE RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT
USAID/EL SALVADOR PROJECT No. 519-0333

REPORT ON THE ACCOUNTING SYSTEM AND INTERNAL ACCOUNTING CONTROLS

FINDING

1. The Chart of Accounts of Banco de Crédito Popular, S. A. Did not Include Project Credit Line General Ledger Accounts and Subsidiary Accounts to Record and Control Project Operations

Condition:

Banco de Crédito Popular, S. A. had not defined, approved and included in its chart of accounts specific general ledger accounts and subsidiary accounts to record, identify and control the subcomponents and beneficiaries of the business credit component of Project No. 519-0333.

Criterion:

According to Section B.5 (b) of Annex II to the agreement, the fund administrators should establish adequate accounting records to control separately specific project operations.

Cause:

The above mentioned specific general ledger accounts and subsidiary accounts had not been defined because project operations had not yet begun.

Effect:

Lack of specific accounts to identify project related operations could result in inadequate recording of project operations and unreliable financial data.

Recommendation:

USAID/El Salvador should require Banco de Crédito Popular, S. A. to define and approve specific general ledger accounts and subsidiary accounts to identify, record and control project operations by subcomponent and credit beneficiaries.

BANCO DE CREDITO POPULAR, SOCIEDAD ANONIMA
CREDIT COMPONENT OF THE EARTHQUAKE RECONSTRUCTIONS PROJECT
USAID/EL SALVADOR PROJECT No. 519-0333

LIST OF REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

Management Capability

Recommendation 1:

USAID/El Salvador should require Banco de Crédito Popular, S. A. to prepare, approve and include project operations in its plans, budgets, and cash flows, in order to adequately promote project related benefits.

Accounting System and Internal Accounting Controls

Recommendation 1:

USAID/El Salvador should require Banco de Crédito Popular, S. A. to define and approve specific general ledger accounts and subsidiary accounts to identify, record and control project operations by subcomponent and credit beneficiaries.

APPENDIX 1

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