

David Marchant

From: leppan@world-check
Sent: Monday, February 25, 2002 5:44 PM
To: OBNR
Subject: Re: Questions for OffshoreAlert article

Dear David

Nice to hear from you & to chat! My congratulations on a fine reputation! As mentioned...

I am currently in the Caymans on a few days holiday, returning to Europe on Thursday. As much as I would be delighted to be of assistance I am afraid your deadline leaves me with little time.

Here are a few quick responses which I hope will be of assistance. please let me have a copy of your article. I value your publication and your site. here are a few short comments:

I read an article in the South Florida Sun Sentinel newspaper on February 22, 2002 that was written by Catherine Wilson, of the Associated Press, and quoted you and mentioned World-Check. You can read the entire article by going to <http://www.sunsentinel.com/business/local/sfl-zhijackers22feb22.story>.

I HAVE NOT HAD A CHANCE TO READ THIS ARTICLE NOR DID I PROOF IT. I WILL READ IT ON MY RETURN TO THE OFFICE ON FRIDAY. THANKS FOR DRAWING MY ATTENTION TO IT.

The article began: "The 19 terrorist hijackers of Sept. 11 were a virtual blank spot to U.S. intelligence agencies, but a British banking compliance company had profiles on 15 of them in its files of high-risk people.

"Banking clients had access to the information, but the profiles evidently were never seen by U.S. agencies that might have spotted something in them to act on."

WITHOUT READING THE ARTICLE, I KNOW THAT THESE WERE HER WORDS HOWEVER I CAN SAY THAT WE DO WORK WITH A NUMBER OF AGENCIES IN EUROPE BUT NONE IN THE USA. I CAN ALSO CONFIRM THAT WE DID HAVE 15 OF THE 19 WTC IN THE DATABASE PRIOR TO THE SEPT 11 ATTACKS. NATURALLY, AS INDICATED TO ALL, THESE ENTITIES WERE NOT IDENTIFIED AS POTENTIAL HIJACKERS. I CANT SAY WHAT THE AGENCIES HAD OR DIDN'T HAVE, WHAT I DO KNOW IS THAT THESE WERE NOT 'NO NAME' CHARACTERS. THEY WERE KNOWN PUBLICLY TO BE INVOLVED IN THESE TYPE OF ACTIVITIES.

Can you please identify these 15 hijackers that you claim to have identified as high risk, provide me with evidence that your system was warning bankers about them before the hijackings, including sending me your entries for these people, and advise where you obtained their names from?

I WOULD BE DELIGHTED TO ASSIST YOU BUT THIS WOULD TAKE TIME AND I WOULD NEED TO BE IN THE OFFICE FOR THIS. WHAT I CAN SAY IS THAT WE IDENTIFIES THESE INDIVIDUALS IN PUBLIC SOURCES (ALMOST ALL IN THE MEDIA) AND THAT THEY WERE EITHER ASSOCIATED TO O BIN LADEN, OR HIS ORGANISATIONS OR THOSE ASSOCIATED WITH TERRORISM AND RADICALISM. OUR SYSTEM WAS NOT WARNING ANY ONE. IT SIMPLY CONTAINED THESE PROFILES WITH INFORMATION ON THESE AND MANY OTHER INDIVIDUALS ASSOCIATED WITH O BIN LADEN.

My understanding of World-Check is that your records are culled from the public domain and contain