JS 44C/SDNY REV. 7/2012

CIVIL COVER SIEB CV 1450

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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT (NEW YORK SOUTHERN)

Paul E. Summit Andrew T. Solomon SULLIVAN & WORCESTER LLP 1633 Broadway New York, NY 10019 (212) 660-3000 13 CV 1450

Attorneys for Plaintiff/Judgment Creditor

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

THE EXPORT-IMPORT BANK OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA,

Plaintiff/Judgment Creditor, :

-against-

GRENADA,

Defendant/Judgment Debtor.:

Civil Action No:

COMPLAINT

Plaintiff The Export-Import Bank of the Republic of China ("Ex-Im Bank"), by itsattorneys, Sullivan & Worcester LLP, complains of the defendant Grenada as follows:

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- This court has jurisdiction over the subject matter of this action pursuant to 28
 U.S.C. § 1330.
- 2. Venue properly exists in this district pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(f), based upon the residence and status of the parties, the events and omissions giving rise to the claims, and the agreement which provides the basis for this action.

3. In addition, Grenada irrevocably consented to the non-exclusive jurisdiction of any State or Federal Court in New York, New York, to waive any objection to that venue on any ground, and to accept service of process by registered or certified mail to the notice address provided in the agreements at issue.

THE PARTIES

- 4. Ex-Im Bank is a banking institution organized and existing under the laws of the Republic of China, with its principal place of business in Taipei, the Republic of China. The business of Ex-Im Bank includes the lending of money internationally.
 - 5. Grenada is a foreign state as defined in 28 U.S.C. § 1603(a).

BACKGROUND

- Between 1990 and 2000, Ex-Im Bank and Grenada executed four loan agreements
 by which Grenada borrowed a total of \$28,000,000 from Ex-Im Bank (the "Loan Agreements").
- 7. On March 16, 2007, in an earlier action between the parties, Civil Action No. 06-CV-2469(HB)(AJP), this Court entered an amended judgment in favor of Ex-Im Bank and against Grenada in the amount of \$21,586,057.38, plus pre-judgment interest, attorney's fees and statutory interest in connection with Grenada's default on four multi-million dollar promissory notes executed by Grenada in favor of Ex-Im Bank pursuant to the Loan Agreements.
- 8. With post-judgment interest, Ex-Im Bank's judgment against Grenada now stands in excess of \$32,000,000.
- Almost six years later, Grenada has still not paid anything to Ex-Im Bank in satisfaction of the judgment.

- 10. Section 4.04 of the Loan Agreement of April 24, 1997 states, "Borrower's obligations under this Agreement and the Note will at all times rank at least <u>pari passu</u> with Borrower's any other External Indebtedness (direct or contingent) outstanding from time to time."
 - 11. Section 4.04 of the Loan Agreement of October 1, 1997 has identical language.
- 12. Section 5.04 of the Loan Agreement of July 27, 1990 has a materially identical pari passu clause.
- 13. Section 5.01(d) of the Loan Agreement of January 21, 2000 also has a materially identical *pari passu* clause.
- Loan Agreement (and similar provisions in the other Loan Agreements)) a negative covenant that precludes Grenada, until Ex-Im Bank is paid in full, from permitting any obligation "to have any priority or be subject to any preferential arrangement, whether or not constituting a security agreement, in favor of any creditor or class of creditors, as to security, the repayment of principal and interest or the right to receive income or revenue." (Emphasis added).
- 15. The Loan Agreements each define "External Indebtedness" as debt denominated in a currency other than Grenada's and payable to a nonresident of Grenada.
- 16. According to their plain language, the *pari passu* clauses preclude Grenada from making a payment to a holder of External Indebtedness without making a ratable payment at the same time to Ex-Im Bank.

- In 2005, Grenada made an offer to restructure its commercial debt, which most of Grenada's eligible external debtholders accepted.
- 18. According to its Offering Memorandum, Grenada's debt restructuring involved an exchange of defaulted bonds—processed through J.P. Morgan Chase Bank, N.A. ("JPM") in New York, acting as Exchange Agent—for a series of new bonds denominated in United States dollars, governed by New York law, and issued pursuant to an indenture with JPM, as indenture trustee.
- 19. In Grenada's Offering Memorandum for that exchange, it stated plainly that Grenada did *not intend to pay* any debt that elected not to restructure unless resources became available to do so. In addition, Grenada stated that it did *not intend to pay* any amount in respect of any debt that elected not to restructure if, at the time such payment is due, a payment default then existed under any new bond issued in the exchange.
 - Ex-Im Bank did not participate in the restructuring.
- 21. Upon information and belief, Grenada also received debt relief from the Paris Club in 2006, resulting in the rescheduling of its obligations to bilateral creditors including Belgium, the United Kingdom, the United States, and France.
- 22. Upon information and belief, in connection with the 2005 and the Paris Club restructurings, Grenada has been making substantial interest payments on its external debt for years, to the tune of over \$43,000,000 (approximately \$8,242,000 in 2008, \$11,429,000 in 2009, \$11,478,000 in 2010, and \$12,443,000 in 2011).

- 23. As recently as October 15, 2012, Grenada paid a full interest payment to the holders of a \$193,000,000 bond arising from the 2005 debt restructuring.
- 24. At least a portion of these payments are being made through Grenada's paying agent, the Bank of New York Mellon (global headquarters at One Wall Street, New York, NY).
- 25. In a prospectus for the refinancing of Grenada treasury bills in November 2012, Grenada (1) claimed that it "has witnessed a remarkable recovery" since Hurricanes Ivan and Emily in 2004 and 2005; (2) highlighted its 2005 commercial debt restructuring, the debt relief it received from the Paris Club, its years-long participation in IMF economic reform programs, and its establishment of a Debt Management Unit within its Ministry of Finance; and (3) stated that it "has an exemplary record" of repaying all issues of treasury bills since Grenada's entry into that market.
- 26. In the earlier action between the parties, Grenada has made many efforts to evade responsibility for its debts to Ex-Im Bank.
- 27. Ex-Im Bank has been damaged as a result of Grenada's violations of the *pari* passu clauses and will continue to be damaged by the ongoing violations.

CLAIM FOR SPECIFIC ENFORCEMENT OF THE PARI PASSU CLAUSES AND THE NEGATIVE COVENANT FOR INJUNCTIVE RELIEF

- 28. Ex-Im Bank repeats and re-alleges the allegations set forth in paragraphs 1 through 25 herein.
- 29. Pursuant to the *pari passu* clauses of the Loan Agreements, Grenada guaranteed that, "Borrower's obligations under this Agreement and the Note will at all times rank at least

<u>pari passu</u> with Borrower's any other External Indebtedness (direct or contingent) outstanding from time to time."

- 30. Grenada, therefore, may not make any payment of its External Indebtedness without also making a ratable payment at the same time to Ex-Im Bank.
- 31. Pursuant to the negative covenant, described in paragraph 14 above, Grenada promised not to enter into any "preferential arrangement" with any "class of creditors" as to "the repayment of principal and interest."
- 32. Grenada, therefore, may not enter into any agreement other creditors under which it prefers those creditors as to the payment of principal and interest above its obligation to pay Ex-Im Bank.
- 33. Grenada's past payments to holders of its other External Indebtedness, while paying nothing to Ex-Im Bank, violated the *pari passu* clauses and its negative covenant not to prefer other creditors over Ex-Im Bank with respect to the repayment of principal and interest.
- 34. Grenada's continuing payments to holders of its other External Indebtedness, without making any payments to Ex-Im Bank, will be ongoing violations of the *pari passu* clauses and its negative covenant against granting preferences in payment to other creditors.
- 35. Ex-Im Bank has suffered irreparable injury from Grenada's violation of the *pari* passu clauses and will continue to suffer such injury unless the Court specifically enforces the clauses with a mandatory injunction requiring Grenada to pay Ex-Im Bank ratably whenever it makes payments on its other External Indebtedness.

36. Remedies available at law are inadequate to compensate for such injury.

37. Ex-Im Bank has performed its part of the Loan Agreements with Grenada.

38. The balance of equities tips overwhelmingly toward the issuance of an injunction.

39. The public interest would not be harmed by the issuance of a permanent injunction.

WHEREFORE, Ex-Im Bank demands judgment against Grenada (1) specifically enforcing the *pari passu* clauses and the negative covenant against granting preferential payment arrangements to other creditors, and (2) awarding Ex-Im Bank its costs, prejudgment interest, attorneys' fees and such other and further relief as the Court shall deem just and proper.

Dated: New York, New York March 4, 2013 SULLIVAN & WORCESTER LLP

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