

# TRANSLATION

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República de Panamá  
**Superintendencia de Bancos**  
Velamos por la Transparencia del Centro Bancario Internacional

## **PRESS RELEASE**

Today, the United States Department of the Treasury issued a circular addressed to financial institutions in that country warning them about supposed deficiencies in the money-laundering prevention regime currently in force in Panama.

The above circular does not contain penalties of any type and advises that it is not intended to affect legitimate financial transactions with Panama. The U.S. Department of the Treasury also recognizes the efforts of Panama during the last decade in the fight against drug trafficking and money-laundering.

However, the National Government cannot but consider this circular an undeserved affront by a friendly country to the Republic, its vital financial sector and especially the numerous national and foreign banks and companies that everyday provide their services in a perfectly legitimate manner.

The warning addressed to American financial institutions is especially surprising in view of the public commitment voluntarily taken by the National Government in May 2000, during the meeting of the Egmont Group in Panama. At that event, President Mireya Moscoso announced the decision to take measures on this matter — measures that, once approved would correct the deficiencies attributed to the regime against money laundering. This decision was communicated to the United States Government in a timely manner.

Despite the frustration that this warning circular produces in the country, the National Government and the private sector reiterate their willingness to continue combating drug trafficking and money-laundering.

Panama, 7 July 2000.