



# NEWS RELEASE

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Comptroller of the Currency  
Administrator of National Banks

**NR 2003-89**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
November 13, 2003

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## **OCC Allows National Bank Offices in Florida to Close if Necessary**

WASHINGTON -- The Office of the Comptroller of the Currency has issued a [proclamation](#) allowing national bank offices to close during the week of November 17, 2003, if events related to the Ministerial Meeting of the Free Trade Area of the Americas in Miami, Florida, should necessitate such action.

In issuing the proclamation, Comptroller of the Currency John D. Hawke, Jr. said he expects that only those bank offices directly affected by these conditions will close. Those offices should make every effort to reopen as quickly as possible to address the banking needs of their customers, he added.

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The OCC charters, regulates and examines approximately 2,100 national banks and 52 federal branches and agencies of foreign banks in the United States, accounting for 55 percent of the nation's banking assets. Its mission is to ensure a safe, sound and competitive national banking system that supports the citizens, communities and economy of the United States.