

April 15, 2002

Securities and Exchange Commission
Office of International Corporate Finance
Division of Corporate Finance
450 Fifth Street, N. W.
Washington, D.C. 20549

United States of America



02028549

02 APR 22 11:10

82-4190

SUPPL
SUPPL

Dear Mr. Frank Zarb, Esq.:

Re: Shanghai Lujiazui Finance & Trade Zone Development Co., Ltd.
12g3-2(b) number: ~~82-5046~~

Enclosed are the documents submitted for the purpose to maintain
our exemption pursuant to Rule 12g3-2(b) under the Securities
Exchange Act of 1934 :

1. Announcement : Shanghai Lujiazui Financial Trade Zone
development co.Ltd.
2. Announcement : Shanghai Lujiazui Financial Trade Zone
development co.Ltd warning announcement regarding decling
performance in 2001.

Sincerely yours,

Kang Huijun
Chairman

Shanghai Lujiazui Finance & Trade Zone Development Co., Ltd.

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THOMSON
FINANCIAL

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从一家券商的经营模式看金融合作的方式和途径

而经过长达5年治理整顿后,期货市场也露出了复苏的迹象。去年期货市场交易额达到3万亿元,较上年增长近89%。一些业内人士表示,目前期货市场风险确实很大,但如果把门槛抬高,盈利也十分可观。目前,股市正处熊市,投资者抛出外汇存款,在证券市

部门采取的一系列举措表明金融业在分业制框架下已出现融合或松动。同时在立法上,管理层面也融合还有空间。但目前这种松动还可再大一点。众所周知可以制定《商业银行法》的实施细则,允许商业银行从事部分投资业务和部分的保险业务,使商业银行在现有的基础上业务多样化,克服负债结构、资产

结构单位

——与华东政法学院经济法系副教授吴弘对话

去，去了解，去掌握周的又一通道。据了解，来中国通证证券业务带来周的交易金额已超过百亿元。其中，金投控股集团正成为更多券商是在考虑长成为存券乃至更多金融结构在目前市场条件下实现多种经营的另一变通之请。在一些券商的发展规划中，已经表示将在二至三年内建立金投控股集团。

美国金融业的分合合

早期美国银行经营、证券、保险等各种金融产品都可以经营。20世纪20年代,美国股市迎来了令人难以置信的繁荣,银行介入日渐加深。然而,随之而来的一场大萧条结束了这一切。1930年12月11日,实力雄厚的美国银行破产了,紧接着在短短一个月之内,就有350多家银行破产。痛定思痛,美国于1933年签署了《格拉斯

采访了华东政法学院经济法系副教授。
副主任是吴弘教授。

——与华东政法学院经济法系副教授吴弘对话
本报记者 秦宏

国内金融体系改革，是建立现代金融体系，是建立现代金融体系，是建立现代金融体系...
吴弘：目前国内金融体系改革，是建立现代金融体系，是建立现代金融体系...

我国现代金融体系，是建立现代金融体系，是建立现代金融体系...
吴弘：我国现代金融体系，是建立现代金融体系，是建立现代金融体系...

使商业银行在现有的基础上，是建立现代金融体系，是建立现代金融体系...
吴弘：使商业银行在现有的基础上，是建立现代金融体系，是建立现代金融体系...

大崩溃结束了一切，1930年12月11日，是建立现代金融体系，是建立现代金融体系...
吴弘：大崩溃结束了一切，1930年12月11日，是建立现代金融体系，是建立现代金融体系...

江西鑫新实业股份有限公司4500万股A股网上发行申购情况及中签率公告

Table with 2 columns: Item (申购户数, 申购金额, etc.) and Value (254, 315000, etc.)

第二届第八次董事会决议公告

葛洲坝股份有限公司第二届第八次董事会决议公告...
一、会议时间：2002年2月7日...
二、会议地点：葛洲坝股份有限公司会议室...

葛洲坝股份有限公司关联交易公告

葛洲坝股份有限公司关联交易公告...
一、关联交易概述：本公司与关联方发生的关联交易...
二、关联交易的必要性：关联交易是本公司生产经营所必需的...

焦点 (Focus)
SHANGHAI SECURITIES NEWS
JIAO DIAN

分业经营的相关法规
1995年出台的《商业银行法》第43条规定，商业银行不得从事信托投资和股票业务，不得向非银行金融机构和企业投资...

葛洲坝股份有限公司关联交易公告 (续)
一、关联交易概述：本公司与关联方发生的关联交易...
二、关联交易的必要性：关联交易是本公司生产经营所必需的...

表	一	易
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姓名		性别	出生年月	民族	籍贯	学历	学位	职称	工作单位	1990年		1991年		1992年		1993年		1994年		1995年		1996年		1997年		1998年		1999年		2000年		2001年		2002年		2003年		2004年		2005年		2006年		2007年		2008年		2009年		2010年		2011年		2012年		2013年		2014年		2015年		2016年		2017年		2018年		2019年		2020年		2021年		2022年		2023年		2024年		2025年		2026年		2027年		2028年		2029年		2030年		2031年		2032年		2033年		2034年		2035年		2036年		2037年		2038年		2039年		2040年		2041年		2042年		2043年		2044年		2045年		2046年		2047年		2048年		2049年		2050年		2051年		2052年		2053年		2054年		2055年		2056年		2057年		2058年		2059年		2060年		2061年		2062年		2063年		2064年		2065年		2066年		2067年		2068年		2069年		2070年		2071年		2072年		2073年		2074年		2075年		2076年		2077年		2078年		2079年		2080年		2081年		2082年		2083年		2084年		2085年		2086年		2087年		2088年		2089年		2090年		2091年		2092年		2093年		2094年		2095年		2096年		2097年		2098年		2099年		2100年		2101年		2102年		2103年		2104年		2105年		2106年		2107年		2108年		2109年		2110年		2111年		2112年		2113年		2114年		2115年		2116年		2117年		2118年		2119年		2120年		2121年		2122年		2123年		2124年		2125年		2126年		2127年		2128年		2129年		2130年		2131年		2132年		2133年		2134年		2135年		2136年		2137年		2138年		2139年		2140年		2141年		2142年		2143年		2144年		2145年		2146年		2147年		2148年		2149年		2150年		2151年		2152年		2153年		2154年		2155年		2156年		2157年		2158年		2159年		2160年		2161年		2162年		2163年		2164年		2165年		2166年		2167年		2168年		2169年		2170年		2171年		2172年		2173年		2174年		2175年		2176年		2177年		2178年		2179年		2180年		2181年		2182年		2183年		2184年		2185年		2186年		2187年		2188年		2189年		2190年		2191年		2192年		2193年		2194年		2195年		2196年		2197年		2198年		2199年		2200年		2201年		2202年		2203年		2204年		2205年		2206年		2207年		2208年		2209年		2210年		2211年		2212年		2213年		2214年		2215年		2216年		2217年		2218年		2219年		2220年		2221年		2222年		2223年		2224年		2225年		2226年		2227年		2228年		2229年		2230年		2231年		2232年		2233年		2234年		2235年		2236年		2237年		2238年		2239年		2240年		2241年		2242年		2243年		2244年		2245年		2246年		2247年		2248年		2249年		2250年		2251年		2252年		2253年		2254年		2255年		2256年		2257年		2258年		2259年		2260年		2261年		2262年		2263年		2264年		2265年		2266年		2267年		2268年		2269年		2270年		2271年		2272年		2273年		2274年		2275年		2276年		2277年		2278年		2279年		2280年		2281年		2282年		2283年		2284年		2285年		2286年		2287年		2288年		2289年		2290年		2291年		2292年		2293年		2294年		2295年		2296年		2297年		2298年		2299年		2300年		2301年		2302年		2303年		2304年		2305年		2306年		2307年		2308年		2309年		2310年		2311年		2312年		2313年		2314年		2315年		2316年		2317年		2318年		2319年		2320年		2321年		2322年		2323年		2324年		2325年		2326年		2327年		2328年		2329年		2330年		2331年		2332年		2333年		2334年		2335年		2336年		2337年		2338年		2339年		2340年		2341年		2342年		2343年		2344年		2345年		2346年		2347年		2348年		2349年		2350年		2351年		2352年		2353年		2354年		2355年		2356年		2357年		2358年		2359年		2360年		2361年		2362年		2363年		2364年		2365年		2366年		2367年		2368年		2369年		2370年		2371年		2372年		2373年		2374年		2375年		2376年		2377年		2378年		2379年		2380年		2381年		2382年		2383年		2384年		2385年		2386年		2387年		2388年		2389年		2390年		2391年		2392年		2393年		2394年		2395年		2396年		2397年		2398年		2399年		2400年		2401年		2402年		2403年		2404年		2405年		2406年		2407年		2408年		2409年		2410年		2411年		2412年		2413年		2414年		2415年		2416年		2417年		2418年		2419年		2420年		2421年		2422年		2423年		2424年		2425年		2426年		2427年		2428年		2429年		2430年		2431年		2432年		2433年		2434年		2435年		2436年		2437年		2438年		2439年		2440年		2441年		2442年		2443年		2444年		2445年		2446年		2447年		2448年		2449年		2450年		2451年		2452年		2453年		2454年		2455年		2456年		2457年		2458年		2459年		2460年		2461年		2462年		2463年		2464年		2465年		2466年		2467年		2468年		2469年		2470年		2471年		2472年		2473年		2474年		2475年		2476年		2477年		2478年		2479年		2480年		2481年		2482年		2483年		2484年		2485年		2486年		2487年		2488年		2489年		2490年		2491年		2492年		2493年		2494年		2495年		2496年		2497年		2498年		2499年		2500年		2501年		2502年		2503年		2504年		2505年		2506年		2507年		2508年		2509年		2510年		2511年		2512年		2513年		2514年		2515年		2516年		2517年		2518年		2519年		2520年		2521年		2522年		2523年		2524年		2525年		2526年		2527年		2528年		2529年		2530年		2531年		2532年		2533年		2534年		2535年		2536年		2537年		2538年		2539年		2540年		2541年		2542年		2543年		2544年		2545年		2546年		2547年		2548年		2549年		2550年		2551年		2552年		2553年		2554年		2555年		2556年		2557年		2558年		2559年		2560年		2561年		2562年		2563年		2564年		2565年		2566年		2567年		2568年		2569年		2570年		2571年		2572年		2573年		2574年		2575年		2576年		2577年		2578年		2579年		2580年		2581年		2582年		2583年		2584年		2585年		2586年		2587年		2588年		2589年		2590年		2591年		2592年		2593年		2594年		2595年		2596年		2597年		2598年		2599年		2600年		2601年		2602年		2603年		2604年		2605年		2606年		2607年		2608年		2609年		2610年		2611年		2612年		2613年		2614年		2615年		2616年		2617年		2618年		2619年		2620年		2621年		2622年		2623年		2624年		2625年		2626年		2627年		2628年		2629年		2630年		2631年		2632年		2633年		2634年		2635年		2636年		2637年		2638年		2639年		2640年		2641年		2642年		2643年		2644年		2645年		2646年		2647年		2648年		2649年		2650年		2651年		2652年		2653年		2654年		2655年		2656年		2657年		2658年		2659年		2660年		2661年		2662年		2663年		2664年		2665年		2666年		2667年		2668年		2669年		2670年		2671年		2672年		2673年		2674年		2675年		2676年		2677年		2678年		2679年		2680年		2681年		2682年		2683年		2684年		2685年		2686年		2687年		2688年		2689年		2690年		2691年		2692年		2693年		2694年		2695年		2696年		2697年		2698年		2699年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从71份公告看大股东占用资金

串万证券研究所 童刚

- 上市公司大股东及关联方平均占用上市公司资金高达4.09亿元
- 大股东占用资金不仅在绝对额上较大,而且与净资产的相对比例也较高
- 71家上市公司中,至少有36家公司明确表示偿债形式包含土地使用权等各种形式的非现金资产
- 部分公司的还款期限较长,计划分几年还清的现象比较常见

占用资金仍普遍,欠款数额比较大

[illegible]

还款方式多样化,非现金形式是主流

从7月份公告的还款计划来看,欠款方以非现金资产的方式偿还债务,包括转让股权、转让土地使用权、转让房屋所有权、转让专利权、转让商标权、转让特许经营权等。其中,转让股权、转让土地使用权、转让房屋所有权、转让专利权、转让商标权、转让特许经营权等,是欠款方偿还债务的主要方式。从7月份公告的还款计划来看,欠款方以非现金资产的方式偿还债务,包括转让股权、转让土地使用权、转让房屋所有权、转让专利权、转让商标权、转让特许经营权等。其中,转让股权、转让土地使用权、转让房屋所有权、转让专利权、转让商标权、转让特许经营权等,是欠款方偿还债务的主要方式。

还款期限普遍长，二至三年很常见

[illegible]

大股东及其关联方占用上市公司资金及清欠情况表

股票简称	占用金额 (万元)	预计还款期限	非现金支付款
北大高科	1143	已还清	无
森石石化	126000		有
德盛泰丰	11691		有
ST中侨	37200		有
深方10A	7487		有
深方10A	36481	未知	有
深普格	32750		有
深圳华强	32750	已还清	无
深圳三星	72600	2002年底	有
赛格电气	10000	已还清	有

股票简称	占用金额 (万元)	预计还款期限	非现金支付款
民丰农化	4516		有
宝钢股份	169000	未知	有
神州股份	7790	已还清	有
三九医药	250000		有
赛基地B	3000	2002年6月底前	有
深建B	8564	2004年年底前	有
首创股份	1472	2003年	有
龙翔纸业	75744	已还清	有
江西科技	48125	2003年6月底以前	有

★ 上海陆家嘴投资管理有限公司是由多家大型企业集团、著名上市公司、民营科技型企业、专业投资机构联合发起设立的大型专业投资管理机构,公司设立于上海陆家嘴金融贸易区的中银大厦,专业从事投资管理、资产并购、股权投资、企业重组、财务管理、管理咨询等业务。	★ 现因公司业务拓展的需要,现拟招聘下列人员:	★ 3. 产业投资助理
★ 1. 投资银行部	★ 2. 研究发展部	★ 证券分析师2名
★ 高级经理2名	★ 总经理1名	★ 投资研究员3名
★ 高级经理3名		
★ 高级项目助理1名	★ 4. 资本运作部	
★ 总经理主管3名	★ 高级经理1名	
★ 以上人员要求35岁以下,本科以上学历,具有较好的职业素养,博士学历,有海外留学背景,有两年以上相关实务经验,有广泛业务资源和业务拓展能力者可适当放宽条件,优先录用。	★ 5. 综合管理部	
★ 高级经理1名	★ 前台助理(女)1名	
★ 前台接待秘书(女)1名	★ 6. 财务主管部	
★ 财务主管1名	★ 会计(女)1名	
★ 出纳(女)1名		
★ 以上人员要求35岁以下,本科以上学历(前台接待秘书和出纳要求专科学历),28岁以下,相貌端正,具有较好的业务水平和人际沟通能力。	★ 7. 出纳(女)1名	
★ 有投资领域的人员请于一周内将个人简历、近期免冠2寸照片、最终学历证明、各种资质证书、身份证的复印件以及代表工作业绩的相关证明材料各一份(送交人力资源部密封材料自留档案,恕不退还),并请注明应聘岗位和户口所在地。	★ 通信地址:上海市浦东新区银城中路200号中银大厦29层 上海陆家嘴投资管理有限公司(人力资源部收) 邮编:200120 电 话:29100200 信箱:zg@ubim.abn.com	
★ 合则约见,谢绝来证。		

上海久联集团有限公司是由原上海三家期货交易场所合并分流成立的一家实力雄厚的国有企业，隶属上海市发展计划委员会管理。属下的上海久联证券经纪有限公司是集团公司的控股公司，为进一步发展证券业务，诚聘以下人才加盟：

一、**证券经纪公司总经理、副总经理(各1名)**

条件:1.硕士研究生以上学历;
2.年龄40岁以下;
3.具有中国证监会颁发的证券公司高级管理人员任职资格证书;
4.具有证券从业经历7年以上;
5.在中大证券分公司中曾担任过任职2年以上。
其中:总经理要求熟悉商业银行和内部风险控制业务;副总经理要求熟悉投资银行和内部风险控制业务;内部风险管理有一定的经验和能力。

二、**证券经纪公司业务部经理(5名)**

条件:1.大学本科以上学历;
2.年龄35岁以下;
3.具有证券从业经历7年以上;
4.担任过证券营业部副经理以上职务2年以上;
5.具有中国证监会颁发的证券公司从业人员任职资格证书。

三、**证券经纪公司总部部门经理(3名)**

(一)办公室主任:
条件:(1)大学本科以上学历;
2.年龄35岁以下;
3.具有较综合的管理和协调能力,有较丰富的文字能力;
4.熟悉相关法律法规者优先。

(二)IT部经理/经理:
条件:1.计算机或专业硕士研究生以上学历;
2.年龄35岁以下;
3.具有证券从业经历5年以上;
4.有较强的电脑、电力、通信、网络系统及软件开发能力;专业技能和和管理能力。

(三)财务部经理:
条件:1.财务专业硕士研究生以上学历;
2.年龄35岁以下;
3.具有高级会计师资格;
4.具有从事证券公司财务工作经历7年以上。

四、**营业部主任/副经理**
营业部主任/副经理是在柜台6个月内将本人资料(个人身份证复印件、学历、职称、证券从业任职资格、无不良记录复印件、代表其从事证券业务特定承诺证明)6个完整工作日(1张),上海、上海市浦东新区源深路618号(邮编:200120)上海久谦投资管理公司人力资源部收,并请在信封左上角注明应聘职位。拒绝,如不要用恕不退还还入资料。

徐德旺	130000	已还清	有	2002年6月底以前	有
河北华玉	6000	2005年前	有	2004年年底前	
美菱电器	65975		有		
ST白云山	1313		有		
粤华电A	5480		有	2002年7月前	有
万利钱潮	9100		有	2002年年底前	有
苏常柴A	12199	2005年前	有		
鲁夏亚A	57919		有		
蜀都A	993		有	已还清	有
ST东北电	21734	2002年	有	2002年4月30日前	有
内蒙宏峰	43000		有	已还清	
西北轴承	31826		有	2002年1月	有
东北药	56400		有		
国邦大厦	5736	已还清	有		
民生化工	2226		有		
南华西	72129	2004年年底前	有		
朝华科技	15900	已还清	有		
正星机械	3200	2002年年底前	有		
大冶特钢	61764	2004年年底前	有		
北京二	22780	未知	有		
环欧股份	16700	年报公布前	有		
三七美神	8167	2004年6月30日前	有		
ST合成	23200	2002年内	有		
中国七砂	10100	2002年10月前	有		
扬石化	31047		有		
广冷风机	9091	2005年年底前	有		
天龙电器	10104		有		
航天特	125000		有		

注:本表数据由部分公开信息整理而得,更精确的数据请至
 上市公司公告网页查询。

期货业：春天真的来了

本报记者 薛利

三月中旬，严冬仍然没有从京城退去。然而从中国证监会第一次期货业工作会议上，却传出值得人们关注的信息：去年成功实现恢复性增长的期货业，将在今年实现新一轮的发展。正如中国证监会期货监管部副司长王连群所言，期货业正迎来一个春天，真的来了。

中国证监会期货监管部副司长王连群表示，去年期货业在监管部门的努力下，实现了恢复性增长。今年，监管部门将进一步加强对期货业的管理，促使其健康发展。

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以规范发展为前提

曾经有过的不规范，直接导致了期货业发展的停滞。成熟资本市场最受重视的期货业，在规范发展前提下，将迎来新一轮的春天。

期市ABC

期货业的现状和未来

中国期货业的发展，经历了从无到有、从小到大、从弱到强的过程。目前，中国期货业已经形成了较为完整的体系，并在国际市场上崭露头角。未来，随着中国加入WTO，期货业将迎来更加广阔的发展空间。

市场焦点

为资本市场引入活跃交易机制

郑商所启动指定交易商制度

李静涛

要完成指定交易商制度的启动，首先要明确指定交易商制度的意义。指定交易商制度的实施，将有助于提高期货市场的流动性，降低交易成本，增强市场的竞争力。

NASDAQ 是典范

实际上，指定交易商制度，是国际成熟市场中较为流行和普遍的一种市场交易制度。它已有30多年的历史，在降低交易成本、提高交易效率方面发挥了重要作用。

推出新制度

为了改变这种冷清的局面，近日，郑商所推出指定交易商制度。这一制度的实施，将有助于提高期货市场的活跃度，吸引更多投资者参与交易。

我国已有尝试

近年来我国在这方面也在进行不断的探索。在我国，指定交易商制度的实施，将有助于提高期货市场的竞争力，增强市场的吸引力。

小麦看市

静待盘局打破

近日麦市盘面沉闷，在上周五冲高474美分之后，本周麦市盘面沉闷，静待盘局打破。小麦市场的走势，将受到多种因素的影响，包括天气、政策、国际市场价格等。

以强化自律为手段

行业自律为手段

行业自律是期货业健康发展的重要手段。通过强化自律，可以有效规范市场秩序，保护投资者权益，促进行业的可持续发展。

静待盘局打破

静待盘局打破

静待盘局打破，是期货市场发展的必经之路。只有打破僵局，才能激活市场，实现期货业的繁荣发展。

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前两个月经济运行相对稳定主要是由国内因素支持的,而全球经济回暖迹象的出现,更有利于今后的经济发展

轻重工业同步增长 出口形势持续向好

——2002年2月份宏观经济形势分析

湘财证券有限责任公司 北京天创经济研究所 执笔:张曙光 汪新波

1. 工业增长较快,轻重工业同步增长
今年头两个月,我国工业增长较快,轻重工业同步增长。1-2月,全国规模以上工业完成增加值1592.2亿元,同比增长12.7%,其中,轻工业完成增加值874.4亿元,同比增长13.1%,重工业完成增加值717.8亿元,同比增长12.3%。从行业看,1-2月,纺织业、化学原料及化学制品业、非金属矿物制品业、黑色金属冶炼及压延加工业、有色金属冶炼及压延加工业、机械制造业、电气机械及器材制造业、交通运输设备制造业、仪器仪表及文化、办公机械制造业、橡胶、塑料及文教体育用品制造业、皮革、毛皮及羽毛(绒)及其制品业、农副食品加工业、饮料制造业、烟草制品业、医药制造业、其他制造业、其他行业等19个行业均实现同步增长。其中,纺织业、化学原料及化学制品业、非金属矿物制品业、黑色金属冶炼及压延加工业、有色金属冶炼及压延加工业、机械制造业、电气机械及器材制造业、交通运输设备制造业、仪器仪表及文化、办公机械制造业、橡胶、塑料及文教体育用品制造业、皮革、毛皮及羽毛(绒)及其制品业、农副食品加工业、饮料制造业、烟草制品业、医药制造业、其他制造业、其他行业等19个行业均实现同步增长。其中,纺织业、化学原料及化学制品业、非金属矿物制品业、黑色金属冶炼及压延加工业、有色金属冶炼及压延加工业、机械制造业、电气机械及器材制造业、交通运输设备制造业、仪器仪表及文化、办公机械制造业、橡胶、塑料及文教体育用品制造业、皮革、毛皮及羽毛(绒)及其制品业、农副食品加工业、饮料制造业、烟草制品业、医药制造业、其他制造业、其他行业等19个行业均实现同步增长。

2. 消费品零售额稳步增长
1-2月,全国消费品零售总额1592.2亿元,同比增长12.7%,其中,批发零售贸易业完成增加值874.4亿元,同比增长13.1%,餐饮业完成增加值717.8亿元,同比增长12.3%。从行业看,1-2月,批发零售贸易业、餐饮业、住宿业、旅游业、娱乐业、其他行业等6个行业均实现同步增长。其中,批发零售贸易业、餐饮业、住宿业、旅游业、娱乐业、其他行业等6个行业均实现同步增长。其中,批发零售贸易业、餐饮业、住宿业、旅游业、娱乐业、其他行业等6个行业均实现同步增长。

2月份经济特征

去岁春节因素,今年前两个月工业增长、外贸出口和固定资产投资均实现较快增长。1-2月,全国规模以上工业完成增加值1592.2亿元,同比增长12.7%,其中,轻工业完成增加值874.4亿元,同比增长13.1%,重工业完成增加值717.8亿元,同比增长12.3%。从行业看,1-2月,纺织业、化学原料及化学制品业、非金属矿物制品业、黑色金属冶炼及压延加工业、有色金属冶炼及压延加工业、机械制造业、电气机械及器材制造业、交通运输设备制造业、仪器仪表及文化、办公机械制造业、橡胶、塑料及文教体育用品制造业、皮革、毛皮及羽毛(绒)及其制品业、农副食品加工业、饮料制造业、烟草制品业、医药制造业、其他制造业、其他行业等19个行业均实现同步增长。其中,纺织业、化学原料及化学制品业、非金属矿物制品业、黑色金属冶炼及压延加工业、有色金属冶炼及压延加工业、机械制造业、电气机械及器材制造业、交通运输设备制造业、仪器仪表及文化、办公机械制造业、橡胶、塑料及文教体育用品制造业、皮革、毛皮及羽毛(绒)及其制品业、农副食品加工业、饮料制造业、烟草制品业、医药制造业、其他制造业、其他行业等19个行业均实现同步增长。

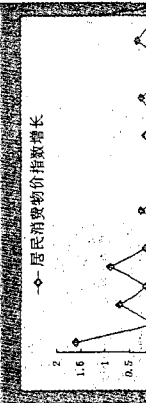
★金融与资本市场运行★

1. 存贷款余额扩大,居民储蓄快速增长
据初步统计,2月末,广义货币(M2)余额为16.09万亿元,同比增长13%,狭义货币(M1)余额为5.87万亿元,同比增长10.9%,市场货币流通量同比增长10.9%。2月末,人民币存款余额为14.4万亿元,同比增长10.6%,比上月末上升0.3个百分点。其中,活期存款余额为4.4万亿元,同比增长10.6%,比上月末上升0.3个百分点。定期存款余额为10.0万亿元,同比增长10.6%,比上月末上升0.3个百分点。2月末,人民币贷款余额为11.4万亿元,同比增长10.6%,比上月末上升0.3个百分点。其中,短期贷款余额为4.4万亿元,同比增长10.6%,比上月末上升0.3个百分点。中长期贷款余额为7.0万亿元,同比增长10.6%,比上月末上升0.3个百分点。

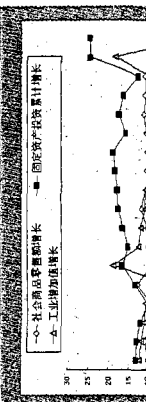
工业增加值增长及结构状况

年份	工业增加值(亿元)	同比增长	轻重工业	同比增长	轻重工业	同比增长
2001年1-2月	1592.2	12.7%	轻工业	13.1%	重工业	12.3%
2002年1-2月	1592.2	12.7%	轻工业	13.1%	重工业	12.3%

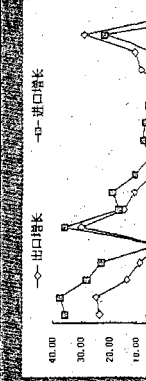
居民消费价格指数增长

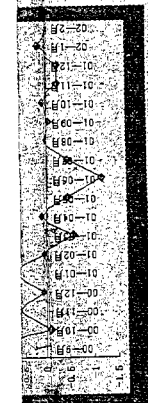
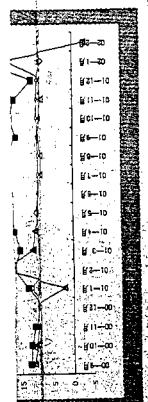
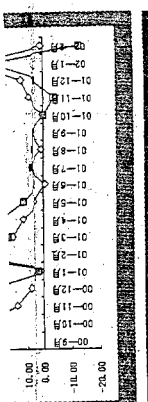


社会消费品零售额与固定资产投资比较



进出口增长比较





2. 折价回购... 3. 股市... 4. 股市...

先切给社保基金... 后考虑定价问题... 这样一来, 不仅可以解决...

★ 未来趋势与建议 ★
做好社保体制这篇大文章

今年2月有一个春高潮... 由于春节假期... 全国主要城市...

2. 折价回购... 3. 股市... 4. 股市...

2. 折价回购... 3. 股市... 4. 股市...

这养老金保险欠账问题... 养老金保险欠账问题... 养老金保险欠账问题...

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郑州宇通客车股份有限公司更正公告

股票代码: 600089 股票简称: 宇通客车 公告日期: 2002-03-21

本公司于2002年3月21日披露的《2001年度财务报告》中, 存在部分数据错误, 现予以更正如下:

项目	原披露数据	更正后数据
主营业务收入	34,241,375.41	37,541,375.41
主营业务利润	13,598,105.52	15,531,105.52
净利润	10,521,105.52	11,531,105.52
扣除非经常性损益后的净利润	10,461,105.52	11,471,105.52

以上数据更正后, 不影响公司2001年度经营成果和财务状况, 敬请投资者谅解。

中技贸易股份有限公司公告

股票代码: 600205 股票简称: 中技股份 公告日期: 2002-03-21

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COLUMN ONE

Bank Sale in Jakarta Leaves Many People Surprised, Confused

BCA Was Supposed to Mark A New Beginning for Reform Did the Government Take the Easy Way Out?

By Timothy Mahony

JAKARTA—Right up to decision day, Ray Ferguson, Singapore-based Chartered Bank's chief executive in Indonesia, was confident of victory.

The bank had put in the highest bid for PT Bank Central Asia, the backbone of Indonesia's banking system, with 60 million customer accounts and 800 branches stretched across the world's fourth-largest country. After months of seeking a deal, the veteran emerging-market banker had only one last competitor: a virtually unknown U.S. investment fund, with about 40 employees, no banking experience and a local tobacco company for a partner.

Then, Indonesia, where policy uncertainty has long been the bane of the business community, again surprised nearly everyone. Brushing aside Standard Chartered, Jakarta last week sold a 51% stake in BCA to Parallon, Capital Management, a San Francisco-based hedge fund, and the main shareholders of PT Djarum, Indonesia's third-largest cigarette maker. The decision capped weeks of behind-the-scenes negotiations, intense lobbying, nationalistic appeals and fears of job cuts that, unbeknownst to most observers, had combined to transform the British bank from clear front-runner into virtual political pariah.

For months, Indonesian officials had stressed that they wanted BCA to be the deal that would finally change Indonesia's dismal record on economic reform. By selling control of the country's most important bank to a private investor, economic officials hoped to end the political bickering and indecisiveness that have hamstrung economic recovery from the 1997 financial crisis.

But choosing the obscure fund over a global bank failed to put such concerns to rest. "I'm disappointed," says Mirza Adityawara, a banking analyst with the Business Reform and Reconstruction Corp., a Jakarta business consultant. "Here was an investor who could help to bring in a healthier banking system in the future, offered

to buy the bank, and then we saw this decision. It was a surprise."

But the surprise was not the end of the story. The deal, which was announced last week, was a landmark in the history of Indonesian banking. It was the first time a foreign bank had acquired a majority stake in a major Indonesian bank.

The deal was also a surprise because it was not the one that was expected. The expected deal was for BCA to be sold to a local bank, which would then be sold to a foreign bank.

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What's News—

World Wide

VIOLENCE THREATENED

U.S. led Middle East truce talks. A round of cease-fire negotiations was canceled after a suicide bomber in downtown Jerusalem killed two bystanders and wounded at least 60. Israeli troops had launched arrest raids in three West Bank villages hours after an agreement round of talks ended without success. But Palestinian officials said a truce extension was agreed. The extension was for a meeting between Arafat and U.S. Vice President Cheney in Cairo. (Page 42)

President Bush demanded the Palestinian leader do more to halt attacks on Israel. (Page 42)

Bush will visit Peru this week and despite a car bombing that wounded outside the U.S. Embassy in Lima, no one has claimed responsibility, but officials suspect the Shining Path rebel group. (Page 44)

Demonstrators in China defied an official warning and converged on government offices in the industrial city of Liaoyang to demand the release of detained labor leaders. (Page 49)

Dozens of world leaders arrived in Monterrey, Mexico, for a global U.N. summit on alleviating global poverty. It is the first meeting in decades to address direct foreign aid. (Page 43)

Taiwan's export orders fell and

Business and Finance

ANDERSEN WORLDWIDE hit a setback in its plans to merge its non-U.S. businesses with rival accounting firm KPMG.

Anderson's China and Hong Kong affiliates said they plan to merge with PricewaterhouseCoopers. Two days earlier, Andersen's 13 Asian affiliates had endorsed a KPMG merger. (Page 41)

Hutchison Whampoa's net fell 65% in 2001 as a world economic slowdown limited sales growth, and provisions for telecommunications investments cut earnings. (Page 41)

France Telecom posted its worst net loss in 2001, amid write-downs of assets acquired in the telecom boom. It was no closer to resolving a dispute with Mobilcom. (Page 42)

U.S. consumer prices rose slightly, helping ease inflation worries. Leading economic indicators were unchanged and fewer people sought first-time unemployment benefits. (Page 42)

U.S. stocks weakened Thursday after February's trading indicators suggested economic activity might sputter out after an initial burst. (Page 46)

Australia began a parliamentary battle to ease media-ownership rules, which could lead to a wave of mergers and acquisitions. (Page 43)

Taiwan's export orders fell and

INSIDE TODAY'S PAPER:

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TAIWAN
AUSTRALIA

Andersen Affiliates Break From Firm's Merger Plans

China, Hong Kong Practices Choose PricewaterhouseCoopers Over KPMG Plan to Combine Non-U.S. Businesses With Rival Hits a Setback

By GABRIEL KAHN
And SARAH MCBURNEY

HONG KONG—Plans to merge Andersen's China and Hong Kong affiliates with PricewaterhouseCoopers, announced by the two firms last week, have been broken. Andersen's 13 Asian affiliates, which has yet to be finalized, comes just two days after Andersen's 13 Asian affiliates, which has yet to be finalized, comes just two days after Andersen's 13 Asian affiliates, which has yet to be finalized.

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Hutchison's Net Profit Dropped 65% Last Year

Global Slump, Telecom Investments Hit Results

By JASON BOOTH

Staff Reporter of The Wall Street Journal

Philippine affiliate, SCV & Co. "It is unfortunate," he said, but he added, "I believe that this will not derail the KPMG discussions."

Still, losing Andersen's affiliate in China, one of the fastest growing markets in the region, would represent a blow to KPMG. Big foreign firms have been positioning themselves in China ahead of the country's entry into the World Trade Organization, in anticipation of more business.

The auditing business, in particular, is poised to open, because China has promised to issue licenses to foreigners who pass national accounting examinations after it joined the WTO late last year.

A combined Andersen-PricewaterhouseCoopers would become, by far, the biggest auditor of Hong Kong blue chips. If both firms were able to retain all their clients, they would audit a total of 14 of the 33 companies on the Hang Seng Index.

KPMG, by contrast, currently audits 11. If the merger is successful, it would create a behemoth of 6,000 workers in Hong Kong and China for the combined entity, dwarfing the other players. Spokeswomen at the firms, however, didn't rule out the possibility of future layoffs.

In Hong Kong, Pricewaterhouse already is the biggest player, with about 2,500 staff, followed by Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu, KPMG and Ernst & Young, each tied for third place, with about 1,500 staff each.

Hong Kong and China partners from both Pricewaterhouse and Andersen plan

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

France Telecom Posts Net Loss

Strong Operating Profit Inspires Investors to Push Shares Higher

Company Pledges to Cut Debt With Additional Asset Sales

PARIS—France Telecom SA slumped to its worst-ever net loss last year, reporting write-downs of 10.2 billion euros (\$8 billion) for depreciation of assets acquired during the telecommunications boom of 2000.

In a move aimed at reassuring investors that it is serious about cutting its

By Nadine Vozik, Nadine Monzer and Chris Ratter of Dow Jones

Measurements
France Telecom's net loss of 10.2 billion euros in 2001, down from 11.2 billion euros in 2000, was the result of a combination of factors, including a sharp decline in operating profit, a large increase in depreciation charges, and a significant increase in interest expense.

The write 2001 net loss of 10.2 billion euros hid a strong operating performance. France Telecom's earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortization, or Ebitda, rose 1% to 12.3 billion euros in line with expectations. Analysts see Ebitda as a key growth measure for the company, and France Telecom shares rose early Thursday on this strong performance, as well as the company's forecasts for coming years.

France Telecom expects double-digit annual growth in both Ebitda and revenue from 2002 through 2005. These numbers highlight the financial strength of France Telecom, and in particular France Telecom's wireless subsidiary, said ABN Amro analysts in a note, referring to France Telecom's wireless subsidiary, France Telecom's statement that it expects double-digit Ebitda growth in 2002 may lead to an upgrade in our current forecasts of 5.5%.

Still, the gains were limited by continuing questions about the French operator's troubled relationship with German partner Mobilcom AG. Mobilcom Chief Executive Gerhard Schmidt warned in Hamburg Thursday that France Telecom should put up promised funds for the development of third-generation wireless

services, or buy him out—a move that would force France Telecom to consolidate the debts of its making Mobilcom on its own books.

Mobilcom was one of six companies that helped pay 5.5 billion euros on a license to offer 3G services in Germany, a gamble that will see it go head-to-head with established operators like Deutsche Telekom AG and Vodafone Group PLC. It is reliant on France Telecom to finance the venture.

Shares in Mobilcom were down nearly 10% at 35.71 euros each late Thursday. The battle with France Telecom has sent shares in Mobilcom down 40% during the past two months.

France Telecom shares were up 2% at 33.54 euros Thursday. Orange SA was up 3% at 7.94 euros. Orange reported an 8% rise in Ebitda to 3.3 billion euros while raising its Ebitda-margin targets.

In addition to Orange's strong performance, France Telecom's Ebitda was boosted by directory and internet services provider Wanadoo SA and data services unit Eupat NV, which both turned Ebitda positive last year.

However, France Telecom's operating results were still overshadowed by the write-downs. Although widely expected, they cast doubts over the strategic options chosen by France Telecom's management in 2000.

France Telecom's net loss is "enormous," said Williams de Broe analyst Nigel Hawkins. "Provisions" represent roughly 27% of France Telecom's market capitalization. The magnitude of the provisions is a telling story of the company's track record in investment policy.

France Telecom's write-downs included 3.19 billion euros for the depreciation of debt and shares in Mobilcom, in which the French group has a 28.5% stake, as well as provisions of 4.53 billion euros for asset depreciation at U.K. cable

TV operator NTL Inc. Provisions for risks and charges linked to Equant, in which France Telecom owns 54.3%, amounted to 2.03 billion euros, while the company also wrote off 200 million euros for provisions and accrued goodwill amortization for its stake in Telecom Argentina.

However, France Telecom Chairman Michel Bon defended his position, telling reporters, "The provisions that we've taken are maybe heavier than those taken by others, but it means we won't have to do this again." He added that the company isn't preparing for another net loss in 2002.

In fact, France Telecom's 2002 bottom line will likely be inflated by extraordinary gains from assets such as the company moves ahead with its debt reduction program, which should cut debt by between 10 billion and 20 billion euros by the end of 2003.

France Telecom's net debt stood at 60.7 billion euros at the end of 2001, higher than the 44.9 billion euros at the end of 2000 but in line with the 60 billion euros in debt reported in late 2000.

As a result, France Telecom has decided to dispose of more assets than it initially planned, including its 26.6% stake in Italian company Wind, a move that observers said could cause trouble for Wind's majority owner, Italian utility company Enel SpA.

France Telecom also will sell its holdings in satellite companies and broadcast unit Telediffusion de France. These disposals are expected to raise a total of 8 billion euros, to be added to the 12 billion euros to be obtained by sticking to the original disposal program, which includes the sale of stakes in semiconductor maker STMicroelectronics and U.S. mobile operator Sprint Corp., and disposal of treasury stock and the sale of real-estate assets.

Pakistani Prosecutor to Charge Four With Pearl's Murder

Indictment to Also Allege Kidnapping, Terrorism

KARACHI—The chief prosecutor in the case of slain Wall Street Journal reporter Daniel Pearl said the would file charges Friday against the alleged mastermind and three others accused in the terrorist's kidnapping and murder.

Attendant Press
KARACHI—The chief prosecutor in the case of slain Wall Street Journal reporter Daniel Pearl said the would file charges Friday against the alleged mastermind and three others accused in the terrorist's kidnapping and murder.

Israel Cancels Truce Talks After Attack

Palestinian Suicide Bomber Kills Two Others, Injures 60

Associated Press
A Palestinian suicide bomber blew himself up in a main shopping area in downtown Jerusalem on Thursday, killing himself and two bystanders and wounding at least 60, police said.

In response to the attack, Israel called off a round of U.S.-sponsored truce talks originally planned for later Thursday, a Palestinian security official said. Israel said no final decision had been made, but a U.S. Embassy spokesman confirmed there would be no cease-fire talks Thursday.

The U.S. is pushing to obtain a cease-fire ahead of next week's Arab summit, where Saudi Arabia is to present a plan that offers Israel comprehensive peace with the Arab world in exchange for a withdrawal from occupied territories.

U.S. Consumer Prices Edged Up in February

Mild Rise Eases Concerns About Inflation Risks

Dow Jones Newswires
WASHINGTON—U.S. consumer price inflation remained tame last month, helping ease concerns about inflation risks as the economy recovers.

Meanwhile, the composite index of leading economic indicators was unchanged in February, following a revised 0.8% advance the prior month, according to preliminary estimates by the Conference Board.

Separately, the number of U.S. workers filing first-time applications for unemployment benefits declined, providing another indication of an improving economy.

Consumer prices rose for a second month in a row in February, climbing 0.2%, the Labor Department said. The increase was slightly volatile, with food items such as food and energy excluded. Still, inflation didn't accelerate in annual terms: prices rose 1.1% in the year through February, the same rate as in January.

The numbers broadly matched Wall Street's expectations. Most forecasters expect inflation to recede this year, even as the economic recovery gains speed. Leading forecasters expect consumer prices to rise just 1.1% this year; half the rate seen last year, said Blue Chip Economic Forecasts.

The Federal Reserve, however, has started to worry that U.S. interest rates may be too low given the speed of the economic recovery. The economy grew at a 1.4% pace in last year's fourth quarter and is expected to have grown at a more than 4% clip in the first quarter of this year.

The Fed opted on Tuesday to leave its key federal-funds rate at a 40-year low of 1.25%. But the central bank hinted it may raise rates this year, saying the risk that inflation will intensify now equals the risk that the recovery will fizzle.

The Labor Department attributed the rise in consumer prices in February mainly to an acceleration in housing and apparel prices. Housing prices, which account for 40% of the overall result, rose 0.3% after a 0.2% increase in January.

Apparel prices rose 0.5%, the biggest increase in 11 months. Airline fares rose 1%, the biggest increase in eight months. Tobacco prices rose at their fastest pace in three months, climbing 3.8%. Food prices, however, rose more slowly, inching 0.1%.

Jibril Rajoub, the Palestinian security chief in the West Bank, said he was en route to truce talks with Israel and U.S. officials on Thursday evening when he was informed by U.S. officials that Israel had called off the session.

Israeli government officials said two U.S. journalists also had indicated Mr. Saeed.

Carnival Posts Steady Earnings Despite 10% Drop in Revenue

Dow Jones Newswires
WASHINGTON—Carnival Corp. reported steady earnings last quarter, despite a 10% drop in revenue.

The cruise line company's fourth-quarter earnings were \$0.11 per share, or \$0.11 per share, compared with \$0.12 per share in the third quarter. Revenue fell 10% to \$1.1 billion.

The decline in revenue was due to a combination of factors, including a drop in the number of passengers and a decrease in the average length of cruises. Carnival's operating expenses, however, remained relatively stable.

Despite the drop in revenue, Carnival's earnings were steady, thanks to cost-cutting measures and a focus on higher-margin cruises. The company's operating margin was 11%, compared with 10% in the third quarter.

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STYLING: JILL L. HARRIS/STYLING; HAIR: JILL L. HARRIS/STYLING; MAKEUP: JILL L. HARRIS/STYLING

focused on the task of limiting the excess official power that was the legacy of a doctrinaire past. The drafters of the 1997 constitution were not very sensitive to the issues that arose from the power of money. That resulted in a constitution with very weak provisions on limiting conflict of interest. So on becoming prime minister, Mr. Thaksin simply transferred ownership to his son and wife. His business empire is overwhelmingly dependent on concessions from a government that he now leads, although the Thai government says he takes no part in any decisions involving his family business.

backing the U.S. on Iraq, called the tariffs "unequitable, unjustified and wrong." And Australian Prime Minister John Howard, who said after Sept. 11 that this is no time to be "an 80% ally," is surely grateful for the 30% tariff he's received in return. This is all the consequence of Mr. Bush caving to his political strategist Karl Rove, who argued that the electoral payoff from grateful steelworkers would be worth the risk. That's dubious. As the world's economic giant, the U.S. has a special obligation to lead. Mr. Bush's steel blunder is going to hurt him, and America, for a long time.

The reality is that U.S. President George W. Bush's recent decision to impose 30% steel tariffs has unleashed the world's protectionist hounds. Russia has banned imports of American poultry using steel as an excuse. The European Union is being made to consider new duties on some \$2 billion of U.S. goods including citrus. Brazil is snoring about the future of its prized Free Trade Area of the Americas. Meanwhile, America's best friends are trying to explain this slap in their face. British Prime Minister Tony Blair, already facing a party mudsling for

BUSINESS WORLD

Accountants Take the Blame

If we're going to bark up this poor denuded tree anyway, the mystery behind the larceny is easy to solve.

BY HOLMAN W. JENKINS JR.

Accounting firms are always saying reputation is their stock in trade, so it shouldn't be surprising that many Andersen clients are no longer interested in buying what the firm is selling. Its reputation has been besmirched by Enron and now by a criminal indictment. Yet it's equally true that, as clients duck out of the shop never to return, they go singing Andersen's praises. Merck fired the accounting firm while lauding its "excellent auditing services." Of course in doing so Merck was singing the praises of its own books, which have been audited by Andersen for more than 30 years.

If truth be known, the quality of Merck's accounting depends almost entirely on the integrity of Merck's officers. If they are also rebels, there isn't much the accounting industry can do about it. Indeed, the happiest upshot of the Enron fiasco is that the surviving accounting firms are likely to enjoy a distinct improvement in the quality of their customers now that American business is getting rid of about clean numbers.

With any luck, Andersen's torture and widely expected death may also save Washington's urge to be seen "doing something" about accounting, in which case the firm's sacrifice will have served a truly heroic purpose. Very likely reform has been in the air—at least in the severing accounting from the consulting and tax services that auditing firms frequently

crates perceived as the key new technologies. As night-mare scenarios go, this would rank very high indeed. Now further, imagine what officials' response would have been had the economic crisis in the industry been denied and rescue packages would doubtless have been forthcoming. A raft of "corrective" government actions would have been introduced. Officials would have loudly complained of the perversity of the market.

Yet all this meddling would have merely bought some time and possibly that refusal to adjust to market realities would have amplified the losses. It also is very likely that the negative cash-flow spillover into other sectors of the economy would have been vastly more severe.

Apparently this is the policy approach now being undertaken by the Chinese in Hong Kong. It must be a hard lesson for Hong Kong's government to learn that government intervention in an economy grows, competes, and wastes. The future is not difficult to predict.

STEVEN CARRAN

Poverty Doesn't Breed Terrorism

I write with regard to "Zimbabwe's Tyrant" by George B.N. Ayittey (editorial page, March 7). Zimbabwe's brutal demagogue Robert Mugabe has been "elected" in a less-than-fair election by "black" Africans. Mr. Ayittey's wisdom is painfully relevant to tropical Africa, as Argentina's president Menem discovered once said, "is the third world of the Third World." Africa's desperate plight today is not the result of European colonialism, but rather of the failure of indigenous African leaders to "take care of their own." Instead of governing justly and encouraging economic enterprise, as Mr. Ayittey points out, they "batter the international community" for more economic aid.

The other day, World Bank President James Wolfensohn once again urged the wealthy nations to give more aid to alleviate poverty, which he said is a "breeding ground" for terrorism ("Crying Wolfensohn," Review & Outlook, March 8). Mr. Wolfensohn is wrong on two counts. Poverty does not cause terrorism. And economic aid to tropical Africa may have, as Mr. Ayittey suggests, done more harm than good. One need only look at the chaos and poverty of Mobutu's Congo, which received hundreds of millions in aid. Today Zimbabwe and other African countries have a lower per-capita income than they did on the day they received their independence from European powers.

ERNEST W. LEFFER

ETHICS AND PUBLIC POLICY CENTER

WASHINGTON

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Gloria Is Great

Say what you will about the record of President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo ("Arroyo's First Year," Review & Outlook, March 13), the Philippines is a far better place for the private sector under her stewardship than at any time during the past three years. Business needs a degree of certainty in order to carry out its activities and the past 12 months have brought both political and macro-economic stability, including a level of fiscal control that to many was inconceivable a year ago.

The past year has also brought a stronger, more stable peso and low rates of inflation. These achievements were cited by Moody's Investors Services, which said in upgrading the country's sovereign ratings out of the one-year administration of President Arroyo has put the Philippines "back on the recovery track toward fiscal soundness and sustained growth."

Yes, the Philippines shares the challenges of emerging-market countries around the world in dealing with endemic poverty and corruption and export markets that have long been in recession. But this is also a country with a wide range of attractions for foreign investors, including a young, educated and productive workforce, a very strategic location, abundant natural resources and a government that has shown that it is committed to taking steps to make a good investment environment even better. Private-sector initiatives, particularly the employment opportunities they generate and the modern business practices they bring, will also play a role in helping the country deal with its economic challenges.

President Arroyo's record should be judged against the country she inherited when she took office just over a year ago, not the questionable computer model that the California Public Employees Retirement System used to withdraw from Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and the Philippines. The good news is just starting to come out of the Philippines—so that is your measure of success. I would say the positive assessments of the credit rating agencies are very close to the mark.

TERY EMERICK
PRESIDENT
THE AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
OF THE PHILIPPINES
MARIKINA CITY, Philippines

Predicting Hong Kong's Future

I agree with your recent editorials criticizing Hong Kong's switch away from laissez-faire economic policies to a government interventionist agenda that Hong Kong Financial Secretary Antony Leung characterizes as a "proactive market enabler."

Imagine if, in the 1990s, the U.S. government had pursued an interventionist policy toward the then-emerging Internet industry. The intent would have been to "guide" this promising new sector of economic activity, helping it to focus development capital and efforts on whatever government officials and bureau-

cracy critical of the government. In the first three months since its launch last October, Sharp-Clear-Dee newspaper captured 10% of the newspaper market. The AMLO investigation, whose main target is the Naftol Group, began just after this market share was revealed.

Mr. Thaksin is being encouraged and abetted in his clampdown by his coalition partners. In February 2001, he took the New Aspiration Party as his main partner and is now absorbing it into his own Thai Rak Thai Party. One of the NAP's two main leaders is Deputy Prime Minis-

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keeping since the 1930s. It was never before, and is not now, the accountant's job to blow the whistle publicly. Even when they find a client impossible to work with, the Big Five walk away quietly without making accusations.

Why? Flip through a lawsuit brought in the U.S. in January by Frederick's of Hollywood against none other than Arthur Andersen. The lingerie maker complains that Andersen's decision to resign the accountant so spoke its lenders and suppliers that they yanked their credit lines, forcing Frederick's into Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection.

Important as honest bookkeeping is, let's not overdo it. The hunt for evidence of fraud in every firm that hits hard times is likely only to hobble the recovery and panic investors. Indeed, who knows whether investors are fleeing WorldCom today because they distrust its accounting or fear Washington's response to its accounting?

Past growing, speculative businesses will always be a challenge for anyone to evaluate property. Most annoying about the furor over accountants' and consultants' inhabiting, though, is the assumption that conflicts of interest are somehow evidence of a world out of order. All professionals face intrinsic conflicts of interest in their work, dealing with them responsibly is what makes them professionals.

Andersen's death would be no more a tragedy than Enron's or Global Crossing's. Companies will still get their reports out. And to the extent that the business concentrates in the hands of the remaining Big Four, the Big Four will have that much more leverage to press their advice on their client CEOs.

Mr. Jenkins is a member of The Wall Street Journal's editorial board.

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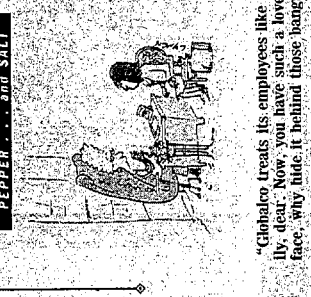
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"Ghaleo treats its employees like family, dear. Now, you have such a lovely face, why hide it behind those bangs."

WASHINGTON

REVIEW & OUTLOOK

Hope and Despair

When corruption robs China's neediest, anger rises.

In China's northeastern rust-belt provinces, unemployment remains high as state-owned companies continue to shed workers. The newly unemployed typically have trouble finding jobs and are dependent on a minimal safety net provided by the government and their former employers. Many workers accept the fact that industries which were unprofitable must be restructured, but when they don't get the benefits they were promised and suspect that corrupt officials are plundering these funds, they often take to the streets in protest. Two weeks ago as many as 20,000 people protested in the oil-drilling center of Daqing, and this week the iron-working city of Liaoning saw crowds of up to 10,000 on the march.

The Communist Party usually mobilizes to quickly defuse such outbreaks of anger, since its biggest fear is that it dissatisfied workers were to organize, they might be able to start a wider movement that would pose a threat to the regime. But in Liaoyang this week the authorities seem to have made some missteps. Three of the protesting workers tried to negotiate with city officials on Wednesday but found themselves detained for their trouble. That stirred up more anger, and yesterday a crowd was reportedly pounding on the gates of City Hall demanding their release. They were apparently not appeased by an offer of severance pay and an investigation into alleged corruption at a bankrupt metal factory.

Chairman Mao liked to borrow Lenin's bon mot that a single spark can start a prairie fire; we can see that China's prairie is getting drier, but it's impossible to say when or how the spark will come. In the period before the Tiananmen Square massacre of 1989, pervasive corruption was one of the key issues that energized the student protesters and caused workers to support them. Now it is once again an explosive issue in cities across the country. And a new controversy threatens to stir up bad feeling and undermine support for the Communist Party.

In late 1989, the beleaguered party tried to shore up its legitimacy by starting a new charity with a noble purpose: Project Hope (unrelated to the international organization of the same name). It began disbursing small sums of money to families living in the countryside who would otherwise be unable to afford the fees needed to send their children to school. At the time China had an estimated 36 million kids between the ages of six and 14 who had dropped out of school because of poverty, but within a few years the charity had garnered that number by 200,000.

It did so by raising support from all corners of society, from dissident rock star Cui Jian to the

People's Armed Police. The wives of Southeast Asian ambassadors posted in Beijing chipped in a few thousand yuan, and big companies like Motorola chipped in millions. Appeals went out to the people of Taiwan and to Chinese living around the world. The result was that the China Youth Development Foundation, the Communist Youth League organization which runs Project Hope, raised more than \$200 million over the last decade.

However, former staff of the charity recently alleged that more than \$12 million of its assets were channeled into speculative investments, and provided documents showing that when the investments didn't pan out, the loss was concealed. Yu Yonggang, denies any wrongdoing. But while Project Hope was relatively transparent about its income and disbursement in order to reassure donors, it wasn't as forthcoming with information about the money waiting to be distributed. Unlike the China Charity Federation, which is audited pro bono by international accounting giant KPMG, Project Hope's books were overseen only by China's central bank.

In 1990, the bank prohibited charities from directly investing in profit-making activities. But a June 1993 article in the state-run China Daily makes it clear that this stricture wasn't being honored, and the problem of how to invest funds was even then a topic of debate. Among the fund administration rules now under consideration is the provision that anyone engaged in businesses with Hope funds will face penalties if investments cause a decrease in the total amount of Hope funds.

The controversy over Project Hope has turned nasty in recent days, reflecting the damage that could be done to the Communist Youth League, the central bank and the Communist Party itself. The charity has accused the whistleblowers of slander, and one of them now says she is being threatened by her former colleagues.

All this is particularly disappointing because semi-autonomous organizations such as Project Hope were heralded as the beginnings of a true civil society in China. Instead, it appears the charity was afflicted with the same problems as so many other Party-related organizations. In past years, cadres have even pilfered relief supplies intended for disaster victims and sold them for personal gain, according to official investigations. Such scandals only add to the heavy burden of anger and disillusionment that the regime must carry. And as the protests in Liaoyang show, if not defused with credible commitments to better governance these feelings could spark a massive prairie fire.

Secretary of State Rove

Mr. Bush's steel tariff isn't based on principle.

The nasty truth is that U.S. President George

backing the U.S. on Iraq, called the tariffs "unac-

RELEGATED REFORMERS

Thaksin's Slide Toward Authoritarianism

The Thai prime minister has become the hostage of political allies who have little sympathy for democracy.

By PASUK PRONGSAWICHIT
AND CHRIS BAKER

In recent weeks, Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra's tussles with the local and international media have received wide attention. But these conflicts should be understood as a symptom of a more fundamental political struggle. On a range of issues, Mr. Thaksin's government has been sidetracked away from its original reformist promise to think new, act new, for every Thai. This will only stop if those party members who believed in that original promise rebel against the current trend.

In recent months, serious political comment and debate have almost disappeared from Thailand's radio and television broadcasting. The two major suppliers of such programming, the Nation and Wachirapong, were thrown off the air by the stations that formerly broadcast them. Meanwhile, newspapers which take a critical stance have been denied advertising by companies owned by Mr. Thaksin's family and his allies, with at least one owner being asked to drop a critical columnist.

An opinion pollster also came under pressure after publishing survey results showing Mr. Thaksin's popularity was slipping. And a major controversy has erupted over an investigation into the bank accounts of critical journalists and activists by the Anti-Money Laundering Office. Although he is chairman of the agency, Mr. Thaksin insists he knew nothing about the investigation. The recent threat to expel two reporters from the Reuters Economic News and the Associated Press on the floor of an edition of the Bangkok stock market because they caused the market to crash, and to focus attention on a fund that they largely ignored until it enriched them too.

The tendency now is for commentators to blame this lapse into authoritarianism on Mr. Thaksin alone, his police background and his up-down CEO style. He is portrayed as a knight on a white horse now revealed as a troll mounted on a toad. In this conventional wisdom, he is copying the methods of Singapore and Malaysia in controlling the media. The truth is both simpler and more complex. Mr. Thaksin's moves against the media first got their impetus from the simple matter of conflict of interest. They were then welcomed and strengthened by some of the most conservative elements in Thai society and politics.

A decade ago, Mr. Thaksin became Thailand's richest entrepreneur from the profits of oligopoly telecom concessions granted by government. And although he undoubtedly has political ideas, many see his chief desire to protect and extend his business empire.

Focused on the task of limiting the excess official revenue that was the legacy of a dictatorial

ter Gen. Chavalit Yongchaiyudh. One of the last active survivors of Thailand's age of military politics, he has dedicated himself to expanding the role of the military as a conservative force in society. Since Mr. Thaksin took power, he has won for the military a greater role in anti-poverty campaigns, and many surplus generals have been employed as government advisers.

Mr. Chavalit believes the military has a special role in bringing about a "harmonious" society. This means suppressing dissent. On becoming prime minister in 1996, he revived the internal security apparatus and centralized it under his own command. One of his aides recently visited the pollster who published details of Mr. Thaksin's falling popularity, and AMLO felt under his ministerial supervision. Indeed he has consistently claimed the agency did nothing wrong in investigating the bank accounts of activists and journalists, and resigned from supervising AMLO when an inquiry found it was at fault.

The NAP's second leader is Sook Thongthong, the most prominent activist of the provincial political movements of the 1980s. He and his godfathers initially rose to prominence during the rule of military dictatorships but they have little enthusiasm for democracy. Mr. Sook mobilized the Village Scouts—rural vigilantes from the Cold War era—to oppose the new constitution of 1997, describing it as a communist plot.

The godfather-dominated governments of the 1980s were as keen as Mr. Thaksin to suppress the media. That was because the press revealed in exposing the godfathers' scandals over land deals, illegal logging, highway contracts and other provincial graft, the way they saw the worst threat to Thailand as "too much freedom."

Mr. Thaksin's TRT party, on the other hand, began as a party of reform and still has a significant reform wing, including old student activists from the 1970s and various young idealists. Over half the parliamentary party are first-time members of parliament, many in their 30s. These reformers helped put together the popular policies and smart election strategies which led to the party's landslide victory.

But as the party has consolidated its hold on power, the influence of these reformers has diminished. A combination of big business, old military hands and provincial godfathers has become dominant because this old guard has the money, seniority and experience which count in the day-to-day political bargaining process. In recent weeks, some of the TRT reformers have been privately voicing their uneasiness over their party's slide to the right.

To protect their commercial privileges, Mr. Thaksin and his business colleagues in the cabinet have become hostage to the dictatorial vestiges which still survive in Thai politics and society. Mr. Thaksin may still have the opportunity to call on the reform wing to escape this



Kuanwanthi Huanwanthi

sionaires. They wondered why the prime minister twice visited India just at the time the Indian government's rental of Shinawatra satellite services came due for renewal. They also questioned whether industrial zoning laws were changed to favor Toyota because the industry minister has business interests that are a major subcontractor of the car manufacturer. In every case the government strenuously denied the accusations of conflict of interest.

However, each revelation also provoked the government to tighten its grip on the media. Fortunately this grip is not complete. A controlled press is a boring press, and The Nation Group recognized that the government's intimidation of the media created a market opportunity for a new Thai-language daily that is strictly critical of the government. In the first

...to seeking partnership in this long-term process," he said, "but we committed to quickly as possible."

...auditors routinely send trunks of documents over to be shredded, and often

...ation or if the firm received a subpoena. The lawyer, Nancy Temple, has main-

...the government inquiry said the links are under investigation.

...which he says will be privatized as quickly as possible.

...to seeking partnership in this long-term process," he said, "but we committed to quickly as possible."

**THIS ISSUE
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STOKING UP GROWTH

Southeast Asia looks at China with hope that it will be an engine of regional growth, and with fear that it will suck investment dollars away from its neighbours. But China's policy now is to "go outside" its borders to invest. This serves China's economic interests, but has the extra benefit of reassuring Asia that China gives out investment as well as receives it. Find out more in this week's REVIEW.

**Take a new look at business
Through Asia's Eyes.**



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Afghan Adviser Faces A Daunting Challenge

Ashraf Ghani Seeks Economic Cures Amid Chaos

Government Must First Win Confidence of Donors

By AMRAN RASIM
Special to The Wall Street Journal

KABUL—Ashraf Ghani may be the only man in Afghanistan more harried than interim leader Hamid Karzai.

Mr. Ghani, the 55-year-old former anthropology professor and World Bank official, is Mr. Karzai's senior economic adviser and head of the newly formed Afghan Assistance Coordination Authority, which is to oversee the \$4.5 billion pledged to the country in January by wealthy nations meeting in Tokyo.

Mr. Ghani, like his boss, has his work cut out for him. So far, none of the terrorist attacks on the U.S. so he could help the U.N. Special Representative to Afghanistan, Lakhdar Brahimi, prepare for the December conference in Germany that established the interim government. He has since left the World Bank and U.N. to join Mr. Karzai's government.

The Afghan Assistance Coordination Authority "will be the focal point until we can empower the different ministries to take over the task and make them self-sufficient," Mr. Ghani says. "The purpose of this authority is to work itself out of a job."

The authority's first challenge will be establishing the financial transparency needed to win the confidence of donors: no easy task in a country where everything from jobs to investment is secured with kickbacks and tribal patronage. "Procurement of raw materials lies at the heart of transparency," Mr. Ghani says.

Mr. Ghani throws out ideas by the minute. He wants to use solar energy and minihydroelectric projects as the driving force for village development in order to save fuel and distribution costs. He is trying to set up a \$100 million fund for the reconstruction of Kabul University with the help of the Carnegie Endowment and several U.S. universities. He is creating an Afghan Peace Corps to allow young, educated Afghans in the West to teach for six months in Afghan villages.

That isn't all he wants from expatriate Afghans. Given their money, expertise and technology, he wants them to take over ruined state industries and corporations, which he says will be privatized as quickly as possible.



Ashraf Ghani

Like much else in Afghanistan, the monetary system is in shambles. Three local currencies issued by various warlord factions are creating havoc and fueling inflation. On city streets, thousands of unemployed crowd ministries and United Nations offices looking for jobs. Beggars have staked out houses where foreigners live and Afghans holding university degrees work as drivers for foreign agencies. Most cities are utterly destroyed, with no running water, sewerage or central heating, and only intermittent electricity.

For all that, Mr. Ghani is hopeful. Even a little audacious. At a critical meeting with donors and U.N. agencies Feb. 28, he issued tough talk: Kabul, not the donors, would set priorities and development agendas. "We are fully committed to seeking partnership in this long-term process," he said, "but we

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

U.S. Agents Raid 14 Sites Tied to Mirza

Investigators Seek Links To Funding of Terrorism

By JERRY GREENE
Staff Reporter of The Wall Street Journal

WASHINGTON—U.S. federal anti-terrorism agents raided 14 homes and businesses affiliated with a wealthy investor and political donor who serves as chairman of an Islamic mutual fund.

Acting on sealed warrants, agents from the U.S. Treasury Department and the Federal Bureau of Investigation seized records from locations used by M. Mirza Mirza, including a Georgia poultry plant and several offices in the Washington, D.C., suburbs. No arrests were made and no assets were frozen. Treasury Department officials declined to discuss the raids, saying only that they perceived the documents as being related to terrorism.

Mr. Mirza is chairman of the board of Anas Mutual Funds Trust, a no-load mutual fund company with about \$43 million in assets and publicly traded funds that says it invests according to Islamic principles. At least one of the addresses used by the fund and other entities associated with Mr. Mirza, 555 Grove St., in Herndon, Virginia, was raided.

"They're on a wild-goose chase," said Philip J. McWhane, an executive at Anas investment adviser Summa Capital, which has a nearly 20-year relationship with Mr. Mirza. Messages left for Mr. Mirza weren't returned. Summa, of Bowlington, N. Washington, handles all funds to Anas. Mr. McWhane said he is confident the Anas funds aren't tied to terrorism.

U.S. investigators appear to be most interested in Mr. Mirza's role as an officer of the Saar Foundation, a nonprofit organization started in the 1970s by members of Saudi Arabia's al-Rajhi family, which has interests in banking, construction and real estate.

Steven Emerson, founder of the Investigative Project, an anti-terrorism watchdog in Washington, said officials are trying to determine if Saar was used to build a terrorist-funding network in the U.S. "There's a suspicion that this group was involved in money laundering for al Qaeda and other Islamic terrorist groups," he said. A person familiar with the government inquiry said the links are under investigation.

When Enron's Auditors Were on a Tear

Employee Recalls Massive Document Shredding Operation

By KEN BROWN
Staff Reporter of The Wall Street Journal

Enron Corp. was starting to implode last autumn when the woman who ran the document-shredding operation at Arthur Andersen LLP's Houston office received an oral request.

Andersen's Enron auditors asked her to send over eight trunks to be filled with documents needing to be shredded. Soon after, they asked for six or seven more trunks—each holding about 45 kilograms of paper. Over the next day, the Enron team sent dozens of boxes and trunks filled with nearly 1.8 metric tons of paper, destined for the shredder, according to Sharon L. Thibault, who ran Andersen's Houston document-shredding room as its supervisor of records.

Ms. Thibault said she had never seen so much shredding. Soon, the 1.5-by-2-meter shredding room was overflowing with documents—and the office's support staff was grumbling.

"I was out in the hall dragging some of those trunks in," Ms. Thibault said in a deposition in a civil lawsuit filed Monday in Houston U.S. federal court against Enron.

There were probably 12 trunks out in the hall at that point in time, and there were probably five or six in the trunk room. And I was emptying them, going through them and mulling them. I was not happy.

Much has been written about Andersen's destruction of Enron auditing documents, which are at the heart of an indictment handed up by a federal grand jury in Houston. Andersen is contesting the criminal obstruction of justice charge in the case. But the Thibault deposition lays out the mundane daily mechanics of Andersen's shredding operation, which took place in its main Houston office, several blocks from Enron, where the Andersen auditors had their offices. Ms. Thibault, who says she reluctantly took over responsibility for shredding, says volume ordinarily ebbed and flowed throughout the year, depending on when audits were finished.

Occasionally, she said, some documents that should have been saved made their way to the shredder. Those were dubbed "oops events."

The deposition also shows the frenzy of activity that occurred as Enron collapsed. A lawyer in Andersen's Chicago office sent an Oct. 12 e-mail to the Enron auditing team, reminding them they should be following Andersen's document retention-and-destruction policy. That policy requires partners save only those documents that can be used to support or defend the firm's final audit opinion, except in cases of threatened or actual litigation or if the firm received a subpoena.

The lawyer, Nancy Temple, has mailed

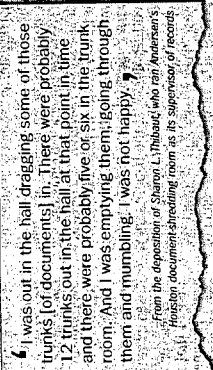
taped in testimony before the U.S. Congress that her Oct. 12 e-mail was in response to finding the audit team to follow the firm's policies when working on draft memos in progress and wasn't intended as an instruction to destroy documents. But some partners in the Houston office have cited the Oct. 12 e-mail as the basis for the shredding that took place, according to lower-level Andersen employees. In recent depositions, they have given in the civil litigation.

In a recent report on the document destruction, Andersen's lawyers at Davis Polk & Wardwell said the Enron auditors in Houston met several times on Oct. 23, and added that the pace of the document destruction picked up drastically after that. Those meetings occurred a day after Enron auditors met with Enron executives and learned that they expected to receive a letter from the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, asking for accounting-related material from Enron, specifically those related to the Enron partnerships run by the former chief financial officer, Andrew Fastow.

The report says there "is no evidence" that David Duncan, the lead auditor on the Enron team, consulted with any senior Andersen officials outside of Houston about the shredding activity. The week of Oct. 22, it also states that Andersen's document policy, with its lack of clarity and ambiguities, played a key role in the destruction of Enron-related documents that occurred in the fall of 2001. Among other things, the policy didn't define "threatened litigation."

In the last week of October, the auditors failed at least 26 trunks, which hold about 45 kilograms of paper each, and another 24 boxes, which hold about 22.5 kilograms each. The report also says there was an almost threefold increase in the volume of e-mail deletions that week.

Ms. Thibault testified that the Enron auditors routinely sent trunks of documents over to be shredded, and often



From the deposition of Sharon L. Thibault, who ran Andersen's Houston document-shredding room as its supervisor of records.

were demanding customers. "It was not uncommon to have pressure from the firm," she said referring to the Enron auditors. She added, however, that the amount of paper that came over on Oct. 25 was unusual.

"The assumption was always that they were—had it was a much—it was a very high pressure place to work," she said, adding that "they were so septated from the office that they were just operating in a culture that was different than we understood."

Andersen apparently took care to avoid mistakes on the heavy volume of Enron shredding. To avoid an "oops event," Ms. Thibault was required to go through every trunk and box of documents destined for the shredder to make sure there were no mistakes; that is, "anything that looked like it was a finalized document." Over the years, she added, "we had several oops events." That's why we began to look through the trunks as a general practice, she said.

Trunks that had been inspected were marked with a red form that said "shred in black folders. If it was a box, she would write 'shred' on it."

The issue of document shredding is crucial to any Andersen liability in civil suits and to the U.S. government's obstruction-of-justice charge. Last week's indictment alleges that the document shredding at Andersen was a complete effort to destroy evidence that it failed to properly audit Enron, which filed for bankruptcy-court protection early this year.

Andersen, saying the shredding was isolated in its Houston office, is fighting the charges, which threaten to bring down the venerable accounting firm. Already, about 50 clients have left Andersen, and it is negotiating deals to sell its overseas operations. Andersen also notes that the shredding occurred in broad daylight and that the indictment doesn't say Andersen destroyed any documents related to the Pastow partnerships.

—Jonathan Weil contributed to this article.

CO. (ASIA) INC., CENTRAL PLAZA, HONG KONG.

REVIEW & OUTLOOK

Unmighty Europe

Why America's NATO allies matter less and less.

From New York to Munich this week, Europeans gripped about American "multilateralism" in the war on terror. We heard it constantly ourselves at the World Economic Forum. In reply, we'd ask U.S. allies to ponder this fact: The \$48 billion increase in annual military spending that President Bush proposed Monday is twice the entire German defense budget.

The cries of "unilateralism" were especially paired at last weekend's Wehrkunde conference, the annual confab of global defense ministers in Munich. Many European participants took exception to Deputy U.S. Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz's comments that in the wars of the future "there will not be a single coalition but rather different coalitions for different missions." So, many wondered, does NATO still matter?

The answer, alas, is that NATO matters less and less, as the war in Afghanistan has shown. With the exception of the Brits and the Turks, Europeans have been less relevant to waging that war than the Uzbeks and the Kazaks and the Pakistanis. But a main reason is that Europeans themselves don't want to spend what it takes to be relevant. Instead they delegate their security to U.S. aircraft and resources as they did in Bosnia, all the while griping that the Yanks aren't consulting them enough. Sorry, you can't have it both ways.

We don't mean to single out the Germans. They're actually big spenders compared with other Europeans. With the exception of Britain and France, every European country spends less than 2% of GDP on defense. Compare that with the U.S., where Mr. Bush's proposal for fiscal Year 2003 would devote 3.5% of its GDP to defense. In simple dollar terms, the U.S. spent

twice as much on defense last year as every other NATO member combined.

With the exception of the British, Europe's military forces are antique, often unable to communicate with their American counterparts much less fight with them. They lack such essentials of modern warfare as smart bombs and stealth aircraft. And don't even think about the Predator and Global Hawk unmanned aircraft that were so successful in seeing targets from the skies of Afghanistan.

Europe has been pledging to modernize its military for more than a decade, but it never seems to happen. The 1999 NATO Defense Capabilities Initiative went nowhere. The European "rapid reaction" force, which was supposed to be operational next year, remains a pipe dream. A military cargo plane planned by eight European nations is having a hard time getting off the drawing board. In short, the capabilities gulf is growing wider.

No less an authority than NATO Secretary General George Robertson has been making the rounds of capitals warning about Europe's dangerously low spending on defense. "Mighty Europe," he warned in a speech in London last month, "remains a military pygmy." Unless the Europeans do better militarily in NATO and the EU, their influence in the Euro-Atlantic area and more widely will remain limited.

Mr. Bush's arms-spending increase is easier politically because he has a domestic consensus to fight the war on terrorism. But his budget proposes a tradeoff between domestic and defense spending that European elites don't even bring up with their electorates. Until they do, they lack standing to fret about "unilateralism" America.

Rethinking War

The U.S. can get more bang for its buck.

The U.S. may be allocating enough resources to maintaining its military capabilities; but there's still the very important question of how to spend the war budget most efficiently. American politicians in both parties are applauding President Bush's proposed \$48 billion increase in military spending to fight the war on terror. But the real test of their support will be whether they go along with the president's specific ideas for transforming the way the Pentagon fights in the future.

Military planners have been bandying the word "transformation" around for years, especially since the defense drawdown of the 1990s. Mr. Bush ran for president on a vaguely defined promise of such military reform, but by last summer his effort had met mostly resistance on Capitol Hill and inside the armed services. But

Military change isn't just about new weapons and advanced technology. It's also about a new way of thinking. As Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld told the Senate Armed Services Committee, if you gave one of King Arthur's knights an M-16 and he used it to bash his opponent on the head, that's not transformation. He has to hide behind a tree and start shooting.

The same applies politically to the U.S. Congress. During the feel-good 1990s, the members used the post-Cold War peace both to divert defense spending for domestic priorities and to fight over more fiercely for their own domestic base closings for another two years, costing taxpayers \$6 billion a year. The U.S. didn't top-ple the Taliban, and won't depose Saddam Hussein, with those domestic bases. Mr. Bush's

RAY OF HOPE

Iranians Long for Liberty

George W. Bush's 'axis of evil' speech horrified Western liberals, but it inspired millions of ordinary Iranians.

BY S. ROSE SORHANT

"President Bush has spoken to our hearts, which yearn for freedom. He will be remembered as another Abraham Lincoln by the freedom-loving people of Iran," in reaction to last week's State of the Union address, uttered by an Iranian calling the Voice of America's Persian service. As a guest at the station that night, I witnessed hundreds of calls, faxes and e-mails from inside Iran, praising George W. Bush for the first time since the establishment of the theocracy, a U.S. president had chosen to speak to, and for, Iran's downtrodden.

An outpouring of support from within Iran for Mr. Bush would surprise those who have heard loud criticism of aspects of this address, particularly his attack on the "axis of evil," in which he included the Iranian regime. Iranian officials, having begun to cozy up to the Tehran mullahs, are loath to do a turnaround. Besides, the more sophisticated dislike all this talk of "evil."

But not those who suffer under the mullahs rule, and know evil when they see it up close. An overwhelming majority of the people of Iran, weponed President Bush's comments. There was an American president who had separated the nation of Iran from its oppressive government.

Not surprisingly, the regime's reaction has been harsh and crude. The supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, declared "the American government's statements are coming from a person thirsty for human blood." He's not alone, and Iran's "moderate" leaders, much lionized by the likes of Madeleine Albright, are just as rabid in their opposition to the U.S. president. Mohammad Khatami ripped into Mr. Bush by claiming that "the State of the Union" statements were belittling and insulting toward the great people of Iran.

In fact, Mr. Khatami's message was worse in some ways, as it amounted to an attempt to deceive the people of his country, given that Mr. Bush praised the "Iranian people's hope for freedom." But people inside Iran were not swayed by the Khatami lie: "Please President Bush, don't be fooled by such distinctions as 'reformists' and 'hardliners' in the government of Iran; since they are one and the same

and part and parcel of the same evil group, opposing peace and spreading hate and terror throughout the world," said one of the messages VOA received.

These reactions point to four fundamental flaws in U.S. and European policy assumptions toward Iran that need to be addressed. The first is that the theocratic regime wants to have diplomatic relations with Washington, and that if the U.S. only tries hard enough it can convince the mullahs to play nice.

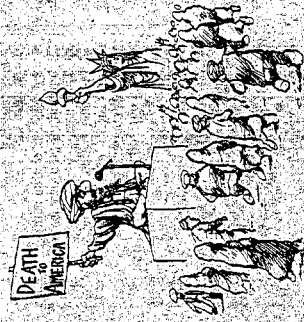


ILLUSTRATION BY BRUNNELL

The very raison d'être of the regime is to be anti-American and anti-Israeli. The moment they established diplomatic relations with the U.S., the mullahs would lose any legitimacy they have with their constituents. Moreover, were the American flag to be hoisted at an embassy in Tehran tomorrow, young Iranians would line up for miles to obtain U.S. visas. Such an event would be a humiliation to the mullahs. Their goal regarding the U.S. is merely to weaken sanctions against Iran so that American oil companies can pour money back into the country.

The second assumption is that the tussle inside Iran is between the "reformist Khatami" and the "radical conservatives." This is false. Reactions to Mr. Bush's comments confirm that the vast majority of Iranians are looking beyond the whole Islamic regime, of which Mr.

Khatami is an obliging server. The honeymoon he enjoyed with Iranians is over. He has not addressed pressing socioeconomic problems and, therefore, has lost almost all of the good will he once enjoyed.

The third assumption is that the Poles, Iranian cause resonates with the Iranian people. Again, not true. Iranians are not Arabs and their whole frame of reference, historical and cultural, is Persian. Moreover, they object to resources being diverted away from Iran to terrorist organizations. Under paid teachers in Tehran recently took to the streets, chanting: "Forget about Palestine, pay attention to us."

The final assumption is that the Iranians are "anti-American." Most Iranians would welcome any constructive dialogue that Washington pursues with members of the Iranian opposition both inside and outside Iran. Within Iran, students, journalists of reformist news papers, clerics who question the legitimacy of an "Islamic Republic," and women who are at the forefront of defying the ruling theocrats are America's natural allies. Like all oppressed people longing for freedom, Iranians look to America for hope. President Bush's comments reminded them of Ronald Reagan in Berlin, demanding that Mikhail Gorbachev "tear down this wall."

The Bush Doctrine on Iran seems simple. The U.S. will be a partner in Iran's quest for freedom. To the rulers of Iran, the most alarming part of President Bush's speech were the words, "while they export terror we will export freedom and liberty." This message, more than any other, irks the clerical establishment, because it signals that the U.S. will not wait for the mullahs to change their behavior. Rather, change will be thrust upon them.

The people of Iran heard the president the first time when he said after Sept. 11, "You are either with us or against us." Cautelight vigils sprung up across Iran in open defiance of the regime. Now that Mr. Bush has signaled his readiness of the division between the regime and the Iranian people, for a second time since Sept. 11 the people of Iran have responded positively, increasingly the voices of change inside Iran are drowning out the mullahs' weekly chants of "Death to America."

Mr. Sorhant, an adjunct professor of politics at Georgetown University, is president of Caspian Energy Consulting.

While Clinton Fiddled

Former U.S. President Bill Clinton's record is a story of fecklessness in the face of terror.

BY DICK MARCUS

and terrorist watch lists with state motor vehicle records—as racial profiling—and warned

worldwide production (which proved conservative). In addition, the Saudis repeatedly and publicly indicated their commitment to "price stability," signaling their willingness to increase production to help fill the shortfall and avoid a price run.

games says Mr. Lee that his Internet game X tank could easily be altered to capture the drama in Afghanistan. He quickly enlisted the services of Visual Land, the Korean company that designed X tank, which in turn helped him line up an Arabic translator to handle the "Long Live, Osama" graffiti for the battleground billboard. The new product was ready in just weeks. "Korea is No. 1" at producing online games, says Mr. Lee. "No one can touch them" not even Japan.

It wasn't Mr. Lee's first cooperation with the Koreans. His company, Instant Reaction Ent. Co., or IRea, has been selling Korean products in Taiwan since he founded it in 1985 - everything from movies and music to karaoke machines and scooters for children. The lucky entrepreneur, who wears checked suits and a tradesman's sleeve covers, boasts he has helped give birth to the Korean pop-culture fad that has swept Taiwan recently.

He started the online-game division of IRea in July to capitalize on the impressive growth of Internet gaming in Taiwan, which has been helped by the rapid rollout of high-speed Internet access. Since most of the games are designed by South Korean companies, Taiwan distributors such as IRea make their margins. Good marketing can help, though, as Internet games become more attractive to users when more people are playing. There is better competition and a greater spirit de corps. Mr. Lee and his Korean partners have worked out a formula. "Korea does the research and development," he says. "We do the marketing for Taiwan, Hong Kong and mainland China."

In Mr. Lee's Taipei offices sit the product of his marketing savvy: a full platoon of near-life-sized sales displays featuring Mr. bin Laden, his head in a cross hairs, with the slogan "Who Wants to Play Mr.?" splashed diagonally in bright blood red across his face.

Players pay \$1.10 for the new CD-ROM, sold in thousands of 7-Eleven convenience stores around the island. They get 15 hours of online play for free, after which they have to pay about \$4.25 for every five hours.

Some might find the whole idea crass, but not the gamers themselves. Mr. Lee himself argues that it is less violent and gory than much of the fare in the video-game world. "Final Battle Afghanistan" was an instant hit in Taiwan, boosting the number of X tank players to about 55,000 from about 40,000 in early January. Mr. Lee expects to bring in at least \$10 million this year from X tank and its Afghan cousin.

Ying his game's fortunes to Mr. bin Laden's has its risks. As Afghanistan stabilizes and the spotlight moves to other aspects of the war on terror, demand is cooling. Mr. Lee has teamed up with a major Internet portal company in China, and has accelerated plans for a launch this week of the Afghan game in Shanghai, Beijing and Guangzhou. But it is a race against time. "I'm hoping bin Laden can keep hiding for a while," he says.

Even if he doesn't, the entrepreneur, who has twice won awards for best Internet game from Taiwan's Education Ministry, is ready to push ahead with other ventures. One idea: to make a version of X tank for McDonald's. The fast-food chain, in which characters would do battle around giant Big Macs and french fries.

Many in Asia Expect Slow Recovery

Survey Shows Consumers Are Cautious

By CRIS PRASTAV
STAFF WRITER

Will an economic recovery take hold in Asia this year? Most Asians aren't betting on it. According to a survey of consumer confidence conducted by AC Nielsen in December and released to The Asian Wall Street Journal this week, more than 50% of people polled across the region aren't expecting a recovery until the first quarter of 2003. The doubt sentiment means that more of them plan to keep their checkbooks locked up for another six months.

That fear is at odds with many regional economists, who believe Asia's economies already have bottomed out and are set for a recovery in the second half of this year. Positive news about reduced inventories and a widely forecast jump in production have forced many economists to revise their growth forecasts upward.

However, that news has yet to filter down to the public. "I think people are being cautious because this is the second time in five years that Asia has taken a downturn and unemployment rates went up," said Arup Raha, chief economist for Asia at UBS Warburg. "But given other indicators out there, there are reasons to be optimistic about the consumer."

Tell that to Singapore. The city-state's export-driven economy slunk by 12% last year from a buoyant 5% growth in 2000, fueling gloom among consumers. According to AC Nielsen, 62% of Singaporeans surveyed plan to put off major purchases over the next six months up from 45% in the preceding six-month period.

That contrasts sharply with South Korea, where more consumers are beginning to think about spending on big-ticket items again. While 68% of consumers in South Korea said they deferred major purchases in the last six months of 2001, only 55% plan to do so in the next six months. Indeed, Consensus Economics forecasts 4% growth for the South Korean economy this year, making it the second fastest growing economy in the region after China.

Figuring out just when consumer confidence is going to turn is the big bet for many of the region's retailers and manufacturers. Some South Korean companies already have been putting that optimism into their forecasts. "I think consumer spending will start to climb at the third quarter," said Dr. G-Seung Kim of the LG Economic Research Institute. The institute, a subsidiary of Korean manufacturer LG Electronics, is predicting 3% growth in consumer demand for the first half of this year, and 4% in the second half.

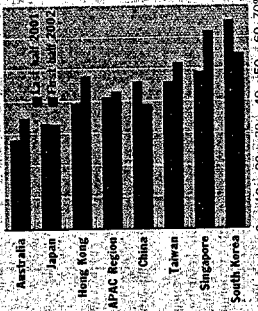
Indeed, South Korea and China are the only markets where more consumers plan to splurge on big-ticket items in the first half of this year, compared with the last half of 2001.

The relatively buoyant mood in North Asia isn't lost on Singapore Airlines. In China, though, it is increasing its flights to Shanghai over last year's levels and sending larger aircraft on existing flights to Guangzhou. The airline cites "improving travel market conditions for the forthcoming northern spring/summer season."

But move south and the picture changes. The doldrums facing Southeast Asia's leisure travel industry may be here for the long haul. Almost half of Asia's leisure travel industry may be here for the long haul. Almost half of Asia's leisure travel industry may be here for the long haul. Almost half of Asia's leisure travel industry may be here for the long haul.

Who's Buying?

Percentage of respondents who put off major purchases in last six months of 2001, and those who plan to defer major purchases in the first half of 2002



Source: AC Nielsen survey

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BY JASON DEAN

TAIPEI — For many people, Osama bin Laden is the face of evil. For James Lee, he's a good way to sell video games.

When much of the world was consumed with finding the alleged terrorist mastermind in the caves of Afghanistan last year, Mr. Lee saw an opportunity to gain a leg up in Taiwan's fast-growing Internet game market. Marrying South Korean gaming know-how and his own penchant for marketing, he unveiled "Final Battle Afghanistan," Today, thousands of teens across Taiwan do battle with each other in colorful 3-D tanks and a craggy central Asian landscape studied with big-screen portraits, bullet-ridden Arabic bulletproof vests and the occasional ruins of a demolished Buddhist stupa.

Mr. Lee's game is part of a wave of big, louden imagery that has swept the globe in recent months, although in other places his infamous visage has been used more for political statements than com-

In the weeks following Sept. 11, street peddlers in Pakistan sold T-shirts heralding the al Qaeda leader as a hero. Programmers in the U.S. made up joke sites with Internet games such as "Bin Laden: Liquors," that let angry patriots take free potshots at the alleged terrorist. Ray Stevens, the

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COVER STORY
Several
 months ago, as the U.S. and its allies pursued al Qaeda and Taliban prote-
 ctors, Mr. Lee had a brainstorm. He figured that b

Company Plans New Products, but Beating EMC, IBM and Compaq Will Be Tough

BY LEE GOMES

Is it possible to do something too well for your own good? That seems to have been the case at Sun Microsystems Inc., which became so good at big computers that it forgot about other things.

Wednesday, the Santa Clara, California, company was set to make amends by introducing a slew of new products involving computer storage. While perhaps the dullest part of the high-tech world, computer storage has been among the fastest-growing hardware businesses for several years.

The unveiling might be considered Phase Two of Sun's attempt to boost its storage sales business. It tried to take on EMC Corp. two years ago, but its products weren't competitive, so much so that, in August, Sun announced that it would begin carrying the products of Hitachi Ltd. of Japan.

The Hitachi deal was a bit of crow-feeding on the part of Sun, which mocks computer-industry middlemen such as Compaq Computer Corp. for reselling products from Intel Corp. and Microsoft Corp. Sun has taken other steps: for example, last year it gave the storage operation a high-profile Sun executive, Mark Canepa, who analysts say has helped give the unit more visibility in the market.

The lingering perception that storage was secondary for Sun didn't do the company any good as suppliers such as EMC, the middle Wall Street superstars during the late and late 1990s, because of their storage business. It also wasn't much help to Sun as corporate computer buyers have, in the past year or so, drastically scaled back their server purchases (Sun's bread and butter), but, owing to their ever-growing mountains of data, continued buying storage products at a robust pace.

Storage currently accounts for 15% of Sun's annual sales, according to Joel Wagonfeld, analyst with Banc of America Securities, compared with 50% for its servers. Anything Sun can do to increase its storage business, and thus diversify its

product line, would be welcomed by Wall Street. That is because analysts are increasingly concerned that Sun's core server business is in danger, particularly from inexpensive computers using Intel chips and either the free Linux operating system or Microsoft's Windows software.

One example of what Sun is facing: Larry Ellison, chief executive of Oracle Corp., said recently that his own company would soon be using Linux on-Intel for key corporate computer tasks. Oracle has long been allied with Sun, and Oracle's complex high-end databases were once deemed too important to trust to any computers but Sun's.

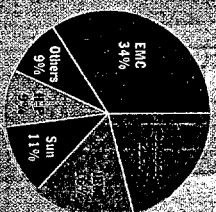
Sam's shares have also, come under pressure and were trading at 4 p.m. Tuesday at \$10.15, down 25 cents and well below the 52 week high of \$29.50 on the Nasdaq Stock Market.

"Sam's commitment to storage just wasn't there, and customers knew it," said Tony Trigiani, analyst with Enterprise Storage Group, a Milford, Massachusetts, consulting group. "Basically, this new announcement changes that."

San wasn't commenting in advance of the meeting Wednesday in San Francisco. But it

Sun Microsystems is trying again to boost its storage business at a time when its mainsta-
computer business remains weak.

2001 World-Wide Storage Market



Total 2001 sales: \$7.05 billion.

announcements are expected to involve a modest amount of storage hardware, as well as a heavy dose of software and service products, both of which are playing an increasingly large role in the

For the past several years, Sun has been buying storage-related start-ups: John Webster, an analyst at Illuminata Inc., a Nashua, New Hampshire, consulting outfit, said that the unveiling is likely to involve a number of existing products that are being repackaged under a single Sun brand.

umbrella. In making its new run at the storage market, Sun must face not only market leader EMC, but also its old nemesis: International Business Machines Corp., as well as Compaq, all three of which had a bigger share of the \$7 billion-a-year world-wide server storage market in 2001 than

While the new products may give Sun a more complete storage story, the company has its work cut out for it.

For one, EMC, like Sun, is considered an adept marketer with an aggressive sales force. IBM has been discounting storage products as a way of self-

ing more mainframes, say analysts. And while Compaq is trying to merge with Hewlett-Packard Co., Compaq is considered to have a strong product line aimed at the low end of the corporate storage

Another risk for the server that we implement, is goals in storage, only for its victory to end up a Pyrrhic one due to declining prices and profits for storage products. There is the chance, said Yankee Group analyst, Jamie Granger, "that they are scrambling up the mountain just as the mountain is crumbling beneath them."

But while disk-drive storage in the personal-computer world is notoriously a cutthroat commodity business, Mr. Gruener said the sophisticated and expensive software products used in the corporate storage world will likely keep that part of the market from suffering the same fate—at least for the near-term future.

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DOW JONES

GREATER CHINA

Taiwan Awards Five 3G Licenses

But Will All the Winners Be Able to Cope With High Operating Costs?

Consolidation of Island's Wireless Industry Is Expected

By CONNIE LING

After 19 days and 180 rounds of bidding, Taiwan wrapped up an auction for five wireless communication licenses that is likely to leave the winners so saddled with high operating costs that not all of them may survive.

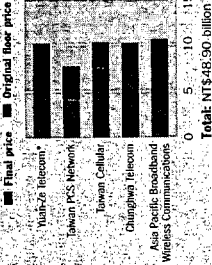
The auction, the longest ever for so-called third-generation wireless licenses, garnered the government NT\$48.9 billion (US\$1.39 billion) — or half as much again as the government was originally seeking for the five licenses.

The island's three largest mobile operators, state-owned Chunghwa Telecom Co., Taiwan Cellular Corp. and Far East Telecommunications Co., all secured a license for an average NT\$10.2 billion each. Two new entrants, Pacific Broadband Work Line and Asia Pacific Broadband Wireless Communications Inc., won the other two. The highest premium for a single license went to Taiwan PCS — was 65% above the bid price.

Though a far cry from the prices fetched in the U.K. and Germany in 2000, the Taiwan auction was the first competitive auction in Asia, with six bidders fighting for five licenses since mid-January. Similar auctions in Singapore and Hong Kong last year were aborted after fewer than expected companies applied to bid for the licenses.

Top Dollar

What the winners of Taiwan's 3G auction paid for their licenses, in billions of NT\$



Total NT\$48.9 billion
 (Unit of Far East Telecom Telecommunications: Source: Taiwan's Directorate General of Telecommunications)

The challenge for the winners is just beginning, however. The future of 3G technology, which promises fast data access on mobile phones, test and uncertain financial returns. With five 3G operators for a market of 23 million people, the wireless industry in Taiwan is expected to consolidate owing to competitive pressure and financial issues.

Soft Demand Slowed China's GDP Growth To 6% in 4th Quarter

By Y.H. SUN

BEIJING — China's economic growth slowed to 6% in the fourth quarter of 2001 as the country started to feel the effects of the slump in global demand, a government think tank said. It continues, it will affect the growth of the economic growth targets for 2002, the economic research institute of the State Development Planning Commission said in a report published in the China Securities Journal. China's 1999 five-year plan, which calls for 7% growth in gross domestic product each year, is the first time called for policy makers to take several measures to boost domestic demand, including boosting the supply of cash in circulation, cutting interest rates on loans and expanding lending to companies and small companies.

China's statistical bureau is expected to report its final account of fourth-quarter and full-year 2001 growth later in February.

Yageo's Fourth-Quarter Net Fell 94% on Poor Pricing

By Y.H. SUN

TAIPEI — Yageo Corp. said its fourth-quarter net profit sank 94% to NT\$74.8 million (US\$2.1 million) from NT\$126 billion a year earlier because of poorer-than-expected product pricing.

The chip-resistor maker reported net earnings a share of three New Taiwan cents in the fourth quarter, down from 68 cents a year earlier and 44 cents in the third quarter. The earnings a share figures were calculated on a fully diluted basis. Earnings hit bottom in the fourth quarter, said Albert Hsu, investor relations manager at Yageo. He added that orders in the January-March quarter are already better than in the fourth quarter.

Consolidated revenue from Taiwan, China and Europe totaled NT\$17.7 billion, up slightly from NT\$17.1 billion in 2000, Yageo said.

Yageo last week reported net earnings for full-year 2001 fell 25% year-to-year to NT\$3.42 billion. Yageo had net earnings a share of NT\$1.52 last year, compared with NT\$2.46 in 2000.

In the fourth quarter, consolidated revenue totaled NT\$3.61 billion, down 46% year-to-year, and down 3.8% quarter-to-quarter.

Yageo said lower demand as clients continued to digest their surplus inventory and falling product prices were the primary reasons for the slide in fourth-quarter revenue.

Consolidated operating income hit NT\$214 million in the fourth quarter, an operating margin fell sharply to 5.9% from 31.5% in the July-September period and from 25.4% in the year earlier quarter.

Yageo said it expects sales volume for this year to grow 20% or more, compared with last year, and revenue and profit will rise each quarter this year.

SOUTHEAST ASIA

BOC to Build New Factory In Thailand

Company Plans to Invest More Than \$20 Million

By RICHARD BORSUK

SINGAPORE — London-based BOC Group PLC, making its first investment in Thailand since the Asian financial crisis, will spend more than US\$20 million to build a plant to produce carbon monoxide and hydrogen, the company's managing director for Southeast Asia said.

Colin Isaac, who is based in Singapore, said Wednesday that the industrial gases company plans to break ground Feb. 15 for the plant to be built in Thailand's Map Ta Phut industrial zone, about 175 kilometers southeast of Bangkok.

The investment will be made by BOC's local unit, Thai Industrial Gases Ltd., which has built other gas facilities at Map Ta Phut and elsewhere in Thailand. BOC first entered a joint venture in Thailand 32 years ago and it has "invested quite aggressively" in the country, Mr. Isaac said. The company is known, last year, obtained approval to be delisted from the Stock Exchange of Thailand after BOC units bought stakes owned by Siam Cement PLC and other Thai concerns.

All of the new plant's carbon monoxide will be supplied to Thai Polycarbonate Corp., a subsidiary of Mitsubishi Corp. Polycarbonates are a type of plastic used in making digital video discs or DVDs, and other products. TIG and Thai Polycarbonate have entered a 15-year sales agreement. The supply of carbon monoxide is expected to begin in the second quarter of 2003.

John Bevan, BOC's chief executive for Asia, said the new Thai plant shows that the company formerly known as British Oxygen Co. remains keen on the region. "We're going to continue to invest in Asia during the downturn," the Singapore-based executive said, adding he expects Asia to be BOC's "biggest source of growth" in future.

At present, Asia accounts for about 20% of BOC's global sales. Operating profit from Asia in British pounds, declined in both 1997 and 1998, during the regional financial crisis, but increased in 1999 and 2000, according to the company. In addition to increasing its shareholding in TIG, BOC in recent years has raised its stakes in ventures in Indonesia and the Philippines.

"Since 1998, we've recovered quite well. We continue to grow because we continue to invest," Mr. Bevan said. The regional chief also said that he expects customers for BOC's industrial gases to "increasingly invest in Asia" in the next five years.

Senator Accuses Camacho of Misusing Influence

By ALASTAIR MCINDOE

MANILA — Sen. to return to Manila today from a trip abroad, Jose Isidro Camacho, the Philippines' finance secretary, is flying into a political storm over his future amid allegations that he used his influence to get a government bond issued for a group headed by his sister.

Potentially damaging testimony against Mr. Camacho was made at a Senate hearing Tuesday by a lawmaker reportedly claiming he possesses evidence implicating the finance secretary in irregularities over a 35-billion peso (\$682.9 million) treasury bond issued to finance poverty-alleviation projects.

In a television interview Wednesday, the lawmaker, Sen. John Osmeña, said Mr. Camacho is "threatening to resign."

But President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo said Mr. Camacho will stay in her cabinet. Mr. Camacho, an international banker who ran Deutsche Bank AG's Manila office and was appointed finance secretary last June, couldn't be immediately reached for comment.

Bank of America said the political drama over rumors that Mr. Camacho may resign threatens to unravel at least part of the recent positive sentiment on the Philippine economy.

Indeed, Mr. Camacho's resignation wouldn't be popular with investors. Some view the controversy as a sadly routine fact of political life in the Philippines.

"This is part of a political circus, which isn't uncommon here," said a trader with a local bank, noting that the peso market largely ignored the allegations, which aren't new.

But worries that Mr. Camacho may resign damped the stock market, which fell slightly, or 5.26 points, to 1357.48. "The issue is starting to get hot," said Astro del Castillo, director for Association of Securities Analysts of the Philippines.

Mr. Camacho is well-respected in the financial community and credited with establishing a regime of fiscal rectitude after the lax budget management of the previous administration.

"Camacho has played a key role in the country's good economic performance," said Jose Visan, AB Capital analyst. "Any changing of the guard would affect investor sentiment."

Mr. Camacho is awaiting confirmation by a commission of House and Senate members of his post as finance secretary. Under the law, all 21 Cabinet members must be confirmed in their posts. One year into the administration of Ms. Arroyo, Mr.

Philippine Official Faces Political Storm

Senator Accuses Camacho of Misusing Influence

Camacho is among the few remaining Cabinet members whose appointment hasn't been ratified.

Mr. Osmeña, an administration senator, is one of at least two lawmakers believed to oppose Mr. Camacho's confirmation.

The other is Sen. Teresita Aquino-Oreta, a supporter of ousted leader Joseph Estrada. She initiated the Senate probe into the alleged irregularities.

Mr. Osmeña's testimony to the Senate Finance Committee is embarrassing for Ms. Arroyo, who has made good government a cornerstone of her administration.

Mr. Camacho is alleged to have set up a meeting around last August between a senior Treasury official and his sister's nongovernment organization, Caudes Development for NGO Networks, or CODE NGO, to issue a government bond.

Mr. Camacho has denied allegations of impropriety and said he deliberately recused himself from any dealings in the sale to avoid a possible conflict of interest.

The Bureau of Treasury, which falls under the Finance Department, reiterated that full transparency was exercised in the sale of the zero-coupon 10-year bonds, and slanted the allegations as "jaundiced."

"Personally, I find it is in order," said Ms. Arroyo. "The bond sale was done through a competitive bidding."

Delta Electronics Unit Seeks to Reopen Plant

By JONAS NEWBERRY

BANGKOK — Delta Electronics (Taiwan) PCL said early Wednesday that production at its plant in the Bangkok suburb might resume that afternoon if the company is granted approval from a special committee set up by the Ministry of Industry of Delta's factories Friday resulting in one deaths of seven workers and left 34 injured. Delta Thailand is a unit of Delta Electronics Inc. of Taiwan.

Following the accident on Friday, the ministry ordered all of Delta's factories with designs similar to the partially collapsed building to be closed for inspection and reinforcement.

The committee agreed in principle with Delta and certified design engineers on a proposed solution to repair and reinforce the structure of its factories, the company said.

...of that company's Pump-Livingston...
...President of Financial Executives Interna-
...tional, a five-year ban on the so-called
...three-to-a-provision ban on the so-called
...revolving door that, for example, placed
...several Arthur Andersen partners in key
...financial positions at Enron and vice
...versa.

"It seems hard for the audit team to
...maintain their independence if their for-
...mer bosses are over on the other side," he
...says. "The worst thing is when you have
...too many people going from the audit team
...to the client — folks think about their
...career path." Mr. Livingston adds that
...PFI's board has yet to endorse a prohibi-
...tion.

New Cops on the Beat

As revelations emerge about the
...breakdown of the auditing process, U.S.
...lawmakers have begun calling for new
...independent oversight of auditors. Mem-
...bers on both sides of the aisle have lan-
...guaged self-regulation by the accounting
...industry.

Currently, rule-making and oversight
...functions are administered by a hedge
...podge of mostly industry-sponsored pan-
...els. Oversight and discipline nominally
...have been handled by the Public Over-
...sight Board, with funding from account-
...ing firms. The POB has few weapons in
...its enforcement arsenal, including a lack
...of subpoena power and little ability to
...impose penalties. The American Institute
...of Certified Public Accountants, the pro-
...fession's chief lobbying and trade group
...in the U.S., sets audit standards and
...runs a self-critiqued program that
...reviews the quality of firms' audit proce-
...dures.

Fixing the system almost certainly
...must be done through both congressional
...and SEC action. As a starting point, poli-
...cy makers are debating the merits of a
...new oversight organization proposed by
...SBC Chairman Harvey Pitt, formerly a
...private attorney who has represented
...each of the Big Five accounting firms and
...the AICPA.

Conceding that the accounting industry
...is facing a crisis of confidence, Mr. Pitt
...negotiated with the industry a rough
...agreement to form a new "private-sector"
...oversight panel. As envisioned, the panel
...— whose board would be "dominated" by
...non-CPA members — would have full
...power to investigate wrongdoing by
...accountants and regulate auditors.

Chief among critics of Mr. Pitt's
...plan is that it's a repackaged industry
...self-regulatory group, funded by fees from
...public companies and accountants. Critics
...also believe Mr. Pitt shouldn't leave the
...job of setting audit standards with the
...AICPA.

More dramatic changes also are being
...debated. Rep. Dennis Kucinich, Democrat
...of Ohio, is drafting legislation that would
...create a new independent organization
...that would audit publicly traded compa-
...nies. The body, operating under SEC
...authority, would fund itself by charging
...fees for the audits.

Many lawmakers and accounting
...experts believe the final answer is a hybrid
...of Mr. Pitt's plan and others being floated.
...Former SEC Chairman Arthur Levitt, who
...led a campaign to clean up accounting
...fraud and stiffen auditor independence

industry, itself, sets standards for the
...financial statements that investors must
...rely upon.

If, some legislators have their way,
...the board would be Senate. This week,
...two members of the Senate Banking
...Committee, Democrat Christopher Dodd
...of Connecticut and Republican Richard
...Shelby of Alabama, signaled they believe
...that the task of setting accounting stan-
...dards should be left to the federal gov-
...ernment.

What's wrong with the current stan-
...dard-setting process? For starters, the
...public meetings at which rules are dis-
...cussed usually are sparsely attended.
...The board and advisory committees that
...oversee it are dominated by members of
...the accounting industry. Whichever expe-
...rits at corporations that stand to bene-
...fit from favorable decisions are account-
...ing professors whose favored positions
...are financed by Big Five accounting
...firms.

The board has long been criticized for
...producing rules too complex for most
...investors to reasonably understand. The
...board's newest standard on derivatives, for
...instance, is 804 pages. "To critics, the
...board's members have been too slow to
...address festering problems and too quick
...to cave in on critical issues when pres-
...sured by big corporate clients and members
...of Congress acting on their behalf.

Two cases in point: For two decades,
...the board has been deliberating the issue
...of when companies should be required to
...consolidate onto their balance sheets the
...debt of certain subsidiaries. But amid
...objections by companies that would have
...to disclose they carried more debt than
...they report to their shareholders, the
...board's members have become endlessly
...bogged down over crafting a definition
...for when one company "controls" another.

On the issue of how to account for
...stock options used to compensate employ-
...ees, FASB board members long have
...unsuccessfully pushed for options to be
...counted as "expenses" on companies'
...income statements. That explains why
...many companies opposed the rule, which
...FASB scrapped until congressional pres-
...sure in 1995.

If there's one systemic flaw that color-
...taints every aspect of accounting litera-
...ture nowadays, it's this: Over the past
...three decades, the standard setters have
...moved away from establishing broad
...accounting principles aimed at ensuring
...that companies' financial statements are
...fairly presented. Instead, they've moved
...toward drafting voluminous rules that
...shield auditors and companies from legal
...liability if technically followed in check-
...book fashion. But taken together, those
...rules can produce financial statements
...that present a distorted picture of econo-
...mic reality.

The FASB's chairman, Edmund Jen-
...kins, says he believes that accounting stan-
...dards should be left to the private sector
...and that the board is trying to streamline
...its procedures. "I have been successful
...in stock-option issues, we've been successful
...in raising pressures," Mr. Jenkins says.
...Shedding more light on companies'

investors aren't demanding more trans-
...parency only from companies. There is also
...growing demand for greater transparency
...from auditors — and even the SEC. The
...come between companies and SEC account-
...ants that shed light on the aggressiveness
...and integrity of corporate accounting prac-
...tices. But the SEC's Freedom of Information
...Act division is so backlogged and riddled
...with bureaucracy that requests for informa-
...tion routinely take months to complete,
...leaving market-moving information stored
...away in filing cabinets collecting dust.

best of units sold rose 36.4% over the year
...in 2001. While car sales rose 36.4%, the year-
...over-year increase in commercial vehicle sales was up 1.8%.

Top Korean Official Reveals Merger Goal For Seoulsbank

By SHIN JUNG-WON
New Korea News

SEOUL — The government may seek to
...merge Seoulsbank with two "financially
...sound" domestic banks, said Financial
...Supervisory Commission Chairman Lee
...Kein-Young, marking the first time a
...high-ranking government official has
...voiced what the market has been expecting
...for some time.

The government hopes to offset Seouls-
...bank's financial weakness by merging it
...with healthy banks, Mr. Lee said, but he
...added that the merger plan hasn't made
...much progress because of a delay in dis-
...cussions among strong domestic banks. He
...didn't name the banks involved.

If the right buyers can't be found, how-
...ever, the government would try to sell a
...controlling stake in wholly state-owned
...Seoulsbank to a consortium of local non-
...bank companies, Mr. Lee said. Two
...domestic bidders — a consortium led by
...Dongbu Group and another by Indus-
...trial Group — have submitted preliminary
...proposals to the government. But the sale to a consortium
...would have to wait until the government
...passes a bill to raise the limit on individual
...bank ownership, Mr. Lee said.

Merging Seoulsbank with another tradi-
...tional Korean bank that has been restructur-
...ed with an infusion of public funds would
...be the last option, he said. Chongchong Bank,
...which is 80% owned by the government,
...after receiving public funds, said last year
...it wants to merge with Seoulsbank. But the
...government has been cool to the idea
...because regulators fear merging two such
...banks wouldn't create much efficiency.

Japanese Regulator Orders Barclays Capital To Boost Its Controls

By JUNG JUNG-WON
New Korea News

TOKYO — Barclays Capital Japan Ltd.
...has been ordered to strengthen its internal
...controls and secure strict legal compli-
...ance, Japan's Financial Services Agency
...said, after the brokerage house violated
...the law on short-selling of stocks.

According to the FSA, the Securities
...and Exchange Surveillance Commission
...found the legal violation at Barclays Cap-
...ital's Tokyo branch and notified the compa-
...ny on Jan. 30.

The commission found that Barclays
...Capital's Tokyo branch breached regula-
...tions by not telling the stock exchange of a
...number of clients' orders for short selling
...transactions during January and Novem-
...ber last year, the FSA said. The error was
...due to a misunderstanding among Bar-
...clays employees, the FSA said.

China Will Erect Flight Between Three Key Cities

SHANGHAI — China plans to restrict
...the number of airlines flying between Bei-
...jing, Shanghai and Guangzhou, a move
...that would exclude many carriers from
...the three most lucrative routes in the
...country.

Unless headquartered in those cities,
...regional carriers, already smarting from
...an industry overhaul that will create three
...massive airlines, will be barred from fly-
...ing between the three hubs from this sum-
...mer, according to state media.

The Civil Aviation Administration of
...China also plans to ban stopovers at Beijing,
...Shanghai and Guangzhou from next winter,
...the official China Daily quoted CAAC chief
...has requested. (Dina Jones)

continued from page 10C

Indonesian Debt-Repayment Plan Turns Up Heat on Megawati

to pay up has exacerbated some Indone-
...sian investigators who questioned him as a
...suspect in a case of alleged graft. Mr.
...Syamsul hasn't been charged with any
...wrongdoing. His Jakarta lawyer didn't
...return a call seeking comment on his debts
...to IBRA.

The debt issue has also focused Indone-
...sian media attention on the close relation-
...ship between Ms. Megawati's business-
...man husband, Taufik Kiemas, and some of
...the big debtors. In response, IBRA chief
...Mr. Putu publicly denied earlier this
...month that the agency's new debt-repay-
...ment proposal had been suggested by Mr.
...Taufik himself.

Mr. Taufik has acknowledged that he is
...a friend of some indebted tycoons, includ-
...ing Mr. Syamsul and Marimutu Sinvassan,
...the president-director of Texmaco Group,
...IBRA's single-biggest corporate debtor.

But Mr. Taufik has insisted in remarks
...to Indonesian reporters that he had noth-
...ing to do with the new IBRA plan. He has
...said he has urged his friends to repay the
...money they owe as soon as possible. (Mr.
...Taufik didn't respond to an interview
...request for this article.)

Jan Hendryati contributed to this article.

Shanghai Lujiazui Finance & Trade Zone Development Company Warning Announcement Regarding Declining Performance in 2001

In accordance with the relevant requirements contained in the "Notice on Proper Procedures for Company 2001 Annual Earnings Reports" issued by the Shanghai Stock Exchange, we hereby make the following announcement with regards to our anticipated declining performance in 2001.

In 2001, the company made every effort to take advantage of current opportunities in real estate market development, and actively worked to develop the market, achieving an increase in the company's core business revenue over the previous year. But due to the relative delay of returns on the company's land rental operations and comparatively large losses in its investment operations, we project that the company's total profits in 2001 will decrease by more than 50% in comparison to year 2000 figures, adjusted for asset revaluation. The exact figures will be disclosed in detail in the 2001 annual earnings report upon conclusion of the year-end fiscal settlement and audit.

Shanghai Lujiazui Finance & Trade Zone Development Company Board Chairman
February 2002

Stock Code: A Share 600661 Stock Abbreviation: Lujiazui File No. Temporary 2002-061

◆ NORTH ASIA

Hynix, Samsung Raise Prices

Memory Chip Makers Charge \$4 on Average as Recovery Gains Steam

Analysts Warn of a Pullback

By SUH HAE-SUNG
Low-Jung News Services

SEOUL — Two of the world's largest memory chip makers have again raised the prices they charge their biggest customers, a sign that the recovery in the bankrupt sector is gathering pace.

Hynix Semiconductor Inc., the world's third-largest maker of dynamic random

access memory chips, has raised 12% to 25% of its prices for large clients by 20% to 25% on average.

Industry officials said the world's largest DRAM producer, Samsung Electronics Co., boosted contract prices on 128-Mbit chips to an average of \$4 earlier this month. The company said it doesn't comment on contract prices.

Getting Closer

Industry technologies confirmed that it has sent a team of negotiators to South Korea to discuss a possible partnership with Hynix.

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cover production costs at many makers.

Michael Min, a technology analyst at Korea Investment Trust Management & Securities, said in a report it costs Samsung Electronics slightly more than \$3 and Hynix close to \$4 to produce a 128-Mbit chip.

Memory chip makers world-wide had huge losses last year because chip prices stayed 30% below production costs for most of the second half.

Spot DRAM prices have surged since November on the back of tightened supply after production cuts and an increase in the average memory capacity installed in personal computers. Spot prices for 128-Mbit DRAM chips ranged between \$3.40 and \$4 Wednesday, according to online clearing houses.

DRAMExchange.com, that company, said prices rose 30 cents in November.

Still, some analysts warned that prices may come down again in coming months.

"Currently, we are running a scenario in which the price is likely to fall in the second quarter of this year," said Chris Hsieh, semiconductor analyst at ING Barings Securities in Taiwan. Prices may drop as memory chip makers are raising output again, while PC demand is usually seasonal.

Samsung and Hynix have been raising contract prices since late December in line with the rise in spot prices. Both have said

they have few chips left to sell on the spot market and supply entirely to contract clients. "Our clients are 100% contract based," said a Samsung Electronics official.

Industry officials said Samsung Electronics has been making a profit from its chips since mid-January. Before the hike, Samsung sold its chips at \$3.60 to \$3.80 to contract buyers.

The price hikes are also benefiting smaller makers, such as Taiwan's Nanya Technology Corp. The company swung to an operating profit for the month of January, said Charles Kuo, executive vice president at Nanya, said. Mr. Kuo said Nanya now sells more of its output directly to major PC makers, as contract pricing is higher than on the spot market.

Mr. Min expects Hynix to return to a profit in February and record an operating profit of 90 billion won (\$68 million) in the first quarter. He predicts Samsung Electronics will post an operating profit of 290 billion won in the memory sector after incurring losses for the past two quarters.

Analysts said the chip business recovery will likely affect the industry's consolidation. Currently, Hynix is in alliance talks with Micron Technology Inc. and Infineon Technologies AG.

Staff reporters. *Yonhap*, *Umunyon* contributed to this article.

Accounting Faces Calls for Change

Future problems, say advocates of greater corporate disclosure.

Regulators already have warned companies they need to more completely disclose key details in financial statements filed with the SEC. For instance, they're pushing for more detail on transactions between companies and their affiliates or executives.

They also want to force more disclosure in media releases. A growing number present their earnings on a "pro forma" basis, "as if" certain expenses didn't exist. Pro forma earnings can be misleading because the exclusions typically are considered normal business expenses under generally accepted accounting principles.

Long reluctant to tackle the problem for fear of running afoul of First Amendment protections for free speech, the SEC finally spoke up in December. It warned companies that they could face civil-triad lawsuits for touting misleading financial data, regulators said.

Companies must fully explain how their pro forma results are

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Australia Holds Rates Steady And Might Not Change Soon

Central Bank May Wait for Clearer Global Gains

By CLYDE RUSSELL
Low-Jung News Services

SYDNEY — Australia's Reserve Bank kept interest rates steady and is likely to remain on hold for the foreseeable future as the global economy recovers.

The central bank met last week and signs from the U.S. indicate that its economy is near a bottom. He added that a tighter monetary policy is unlikely before the third quarter.

"We believe there is still a significant amount of uncertainty about the strength of the economy over the next 12 months," Mr. Pearson said.

We suspect that the Reserve Bank won't move to tighten policy until it is a bit more assured of the global outlook because they are going to want to see a boost to growth from not only the U.S. but also from other major economies.

Anthony Thompson, chief economist at HSBC Australia, said he expects the central bank to be cautious because it doesn't want to dampen sentiment by pointing to monetary tightening.

Monetary policy, he said, is a tool for the Reserve Bank to manage the economy, not to manage the global economy.

Nonetheless, economists expect the central bank to retain a modest stance in November. However, the domestic outlook given the risks to the global recovery and the domestic economy. They also expect the central bank to signal a shift to a more neutral monetary policy later this year.

Tony Pearson, National Australia Bank's global head of market economics, said the Australian economy remains fairly robust.

Mr. Pearson said Australia's growth is proceeding at an adequate pace, while signs from the U.S. indicate that its economy is near a bottom. He added that a tighter monetary policy is unlikely before the third quarter.

"We believe there is still a significant amount of uncertainty about the strength of the economy over the next 12 months," Mr. Pearson said.

We suspect that the Reserve Bank won't move to tighten policy until it is a bit more assured of the global outlook because they are going to want to see a boost to growth from not only the U.S. but also from other major economies.

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Strike at Qantas Has Cost Airline More Than \$500,000

Carrier Unveils Plans to End Service to India

AN KANA WALL STREET JOURNAL REPORT

SYDNEY — Qantas Airways said that last week's strikes by its maintenance workers following a dispute about overtime had cost the carrier more than \$500,000 (US\$310,000).

Also Wednesday, Australia's biggest airline said it will withdraw all services to India beginning March 31 following a review of its international operations.

"The decision to withdraw services to India follows the reduction of flights to Rome, Johannesburg, Bangkok, Manila and Buenos Aires," said Qantas Chief Financial Officer Peter Gregg.

With the authorization of Australia's industrial relations court, maintenance employees in November banned union members from working extra hours to place.

protest the airline's attempt to temper it by fringe wages. The dispute escalated last week when Qantas refused to pay hundreds of employees who said they wouldn't work overtime.

"We've lost a number of production days off aircraft and engines. It's probably \$51 million or so involved at this time," said David Forsyth, executive general manager of aircraft operations.

Qantas and workers unions headed back to the Australian Industrial Relations Commission Wednesday to negotiate over the proposed wage freeze.

Mr. Forsyth said the airline wants to win back the trust of its workers but could not negotiate while bans remained in place.

Briefs

WU D. A. A. I. E. U. A. A.