TO: Chief Executive Officers of all National Banks; All State Banking Authorities; Chairman, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System; Chairman, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation; Conference of State Bank Supervisors; Deputy Comptrollers Districts); District Administrators; District Counsel and Examining Personnel.

The Office of the Comptroller of the Currency is receiving numerous inquiries regarding apparent phony financial transactions originated by persons who cite either access to or ownership of certificates issued by the Government of Japan. The volume of such purported financial transactions indicating fraud caused the ministry of Finance, The Japanese Government to issue a "Press Release"; copy attached. Please be guided accordingly.

Any information which you may have concerning this matter should be brought to the attention of:

Office of the Comptroller of the Currency
250 E Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20219
Fax (202) 874-5301

Ralph E. Sharpe
Director
Enforcement & Compliance Division

Attachment
Warning against "Kanpukin Zandaka Kakuninsho"

Considering the frequent occurrences both at home and abroad of the fraudulent use of a fictitious certificate called a "Kanpukin Zandaka Kakuninsho", the Japanese Ministry of Finance has issued the following warning regarding this fictitious certificate through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to the relevant Japanese Embassies and Consulates General.

1. A "Kanpukin Zandaka Kakuninsho" is a fictitious certificate which has allegedly been issued by the Japanese Minister of Finance to certify the existence of a remaining balance on a Japanese government bond refund. It claims to confirm that the Japanese Minister of Finance will exchange the amount specified for an equivalent amount of Japanese government bonds. We have already found several kinds of such fictitious certificates whose face values varied from 10 billion yen to 500 billion yen.

2. Although some of the perpetrators who attempted to receive money by using a "Kanpukin Zandaka Kakuninsho" have already been arrested by the police, the fraudulent use of such a fictitious certificate seems to have been occurring repeatedly both at home and abroad and the Japanese Ministry of Finance has received frequent inquiries as to whether the certificates are genuine or not. In particular, the number of such inquiries from abroad is increasing.

3. Regarding the above-mentioned inquiries, please note that the Ministry of Finance has never issued such "Kanpukin Zandaka Kakuninsho", and that such a certificate could never exist legally.