REPORT & ACCOUNTS 1997

A16 *AQGBABFL* 460 COMPANIES HOUSE 03/08/98

Directors and Management

Directors

J M Massey - Chairman A M Duffy H Sopher K F Watkins

Managing Director

K F Watkins

Secretary

R E Townsend FCIS FCII

Auditors

Ernst & Young

Managing Agents

Cavell Management Services Norwich Winterthur House Rose Lane Norwich NR1 1JY England Telephone: (01603) 615 122 Facsimile: (01603) 697 432

Registered Office

Norwich Winterthur House Rose Lane Norwich NR1 1JY England

Report of the Directors

The Directors present their report and the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31 December 1997.

Principal activity and business review

The Company ceased to write new business in 1987: accordingly the DTI withdrew its authority for the Company to accept contracts of insurance and reinsurance.

The principal activity of the Company continues to be the management of the claims and liabilities which will extend for an indefinite period.

Results and dividends

After allowing for taxation, there was a profit for the year of US\$1,043,000 (1996 - loss US\$1,583,000). The Directors do not recommend the payment of a dividend for the year (1996 - Nil).

Directors

The names of the Directors at the date of this Report appear on page 2. Ms A M Duffy, Mr H Sopher and Mr K F Watkins were appointed on 14 April 1997, and Mr J M Massey on 21 May 1997. Mr W E Schürpf, Mr M N Biggs, Mr S J Blease, Mr T Sugisawa, Mr U E Thalmann and Mr R E Townsend resigned on 14 April 1997.

The Directors at 31 December 1997 had the following interests in the share capital of the holding company, Stronghold Holdings Limited:

	At 31 December 1997 Ordinary shares	At date of appointment Ordinary shares
A M Duffy	40	40
H Sopher	40	40
K F Watkins	20	20

By Order of the Board

R E TOWNSEND

Secretary

12 June 1998

Statement of Directors' Responsibilities in respect of the Accounts

Company law requires the Directors to prepare accounts for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Company and of the profit or loss of the Company for that period. In preparing those accounts the Directors are required to:

- . select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the accounts; and
- prepare the accounts on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Company will continue in business.

The Directors are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Company, and to enable them to ensure that the accounts comply with the Companies Act 1985. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Report of the Auditors to the Members of Stronghold Insurance Company Limited

We have audited the accounts on pages 6 to 19 which have been prepared on the basis of the accounting policies set out on pages 6 and 7.

Respective responsibilities of the Directors and Auditors

As described on page 4 the Company's Directors are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. It is our responsibility to form an independent opinion, based on our audit, on those accounts and to report our opinion to you.

Basis of opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards issued by the Auditing Practices Board. An audit includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures in the accounts. It also includes an assessment of the significant estimates and judgements made by the Directors in the preparation of the accounts, and of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the Company's circumstances, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

We planned and performed our audit so as to obtain all the information and explanations which we considered necessary in order to provide us with sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance that the accounts are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or other irregularity or error. In forming our opinion we also evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of information in the accounts.

Fundamental uncertainties

In forming our opinion, we have considered the adequacy of the disclosures made in the financial statements concerning the level of uncertainty in respect of :

- a. the ultimate liability in respect of the technical provisions relating to gross claims outstanding, related reinsurance recoveries and claims handling expenses. The ultimate liability will vary as a result of subsequent information and events and these may result in significant adjustments to the amounts provided. Details of the circumstances relating to this fundamental uncertainty are described in Note 15.
- b. the adequacy of the current resources of the Company to meet its likely future requirements. As stated in the Statement of Accounting Policies, Basis of preparation, on page 6, the accounts have been prepared on a going concern basis. This basis could be invalidated if the resources of the Company were exhausted by adverse adjustments arising from the resolution of the above uncertainties. The accounts do not include any adjustments which would result from the going concern basis becoming inappropriate.

In view of the significance of these uncertainties we consider that they should be drawn to your attention but our opinion is not qualified in this respect.

Opinion

In our opinion the accounts give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Company as at 31 December 1997 and of its profit for the year then ended and have been properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 1985.

ERNST & YOUNG Chartered Accountants

Registered Auditor

Norwich

12 June 1998

Statement of Accounting Policies

(a) Basis of preparation

These accounts are prepared in compliance with Section 255 of, and Schedule 9A to, the Companies Act 1985 and in accordance with applicable accounting standards. They also comply with the Guidance on Accounting for Insurance Business issued by the Association of British Insurers.

In preparing the accounts for the year ended 31 December 1997, the Directors, having regard to the uncertainties expressed in Note 15 as to the amounts at which the Company's technical provisions will ultimately be settled, consider that the Company has adequate financial resources to meet its day to day obligations as they fall due. Accordingly the accounts have been prepared on a going concern basis, without including any adjustments that would be required should the financial resources of the Company prove inadequate.

(b) Technical account

- (i) Premiums are accounted for and recorded in the technical account in the year of notification.
- (ii) Provision for claims outstanding comprises provisions for the estimated ultimate cost of claims notified but not settled at the date of the balance sheet and for claims incurred but not notified at that date; the provision reflects anticipated reinsurance and other recoveries, and takes into account future claims handling costs.

The provision for claims outstanding for the Casualty classes written in the United Kingdom are included after taking into account the future attributable investment earnings.

(c) Investment return

Investment return comprises interest and dividends on an accruals basis, together with realised and unrealised investment gains and losses. Realised gains and losses are calculated as the difference between net sale proceeds and cost or, if previously revalued, the valuations as at the last balance sheet date. Unrealised gains and losses are calculated as the difference between the valuation of investments at the balance sheet date and cost or, if previously revalued, the valuation as at the last balance sheet date. An allocation of the investment return from the non-technical account to the general business technical account is made on the basis of the relationship between average technical provisions and average shareholders' funds.

(d) Investments

Financial investments are stated at market value. Listed securities are taken at middle market value after adjustments for accrued interest, and other investments are stated at Directors' valuation. Unrealised gains and losses are taken to the profit and loss account.

(e) Foreign currencies

Foreign currency transactions are converted to sterling at the rate applicable when recorded in the books, with the exception of transactions in United States and Canadian dollars, which are converted at year end rates.

Assets and liabilities are shown in the balance sheet at rates ruling on 31 December 1997.

Foreign currency translation gains and losses are taken directly to reserves.

Statement of Accounting Policies

(f) Deferred taxation

Deferred taxation, to the extent that it is likely to crystallise in the foreseeable future, is provided for using the liability method.

Profit and Loss Account for the year ended 31 December 1997

		19	97	19	96
Technical account - General business Discontinued operations	Notes	US\$'000	US\$'000	US\$'000	US\$'000
Gross premiums written Outwards reinsurance premiums Earned premiums, net of reinsurance Allocated investment return transferred from the non-technical account	1		252 180 72		299 65,045 (64,746)
Total technical income			7,069 7,141		4,642 (60,104)
Gross claims paid Reinsurers' share Net claims paid		21,192 11,598 9,594		40,977 82,109 (41,132)	
Gross change in the provision for claims Reinsurers' share Net change in the provision for claims		(31,267) (27,993) (3,274)		113,971 131,196 (17,225)	
Claims incurred net of reinsurance Net operating expenses Total technical charges	2,3 4	6,320	6,320	(58,357) 10	(58,347)
Balance on the general business technical account			821		(1,757)
Non-technical account					
Balance on the general business technical account			821		(1,757)
Investment income Unrealised gains on investments	6	7,604 499		7,121	
Investment expenses and charges Unrealised losses on investments Allocated investment return transferred to	7	(812)		(1,184) (1,121)	
the general business technical account		(7,069)	222	(4,642)	174
Profit/(loss) on ordinary activities before taxation			1,043		(1,583)
Tax on ordinary activities	8		-		-
Profit/(loss) on ordinary activities after taxation			1,043		(1,583)

Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses for the year ended 31 December 1997		
	1997 US\$'000	1996 US\$'000
Profit/(loss) on ordinary activities after taxation	1,043	(1,583)
Currency translation differences on foreign currency net investment	491	(1,186)
Total recognised gains/(losses) related to the year	1,534	(2,769)
Reconciliation of Movements in Shareholders' Funds for the year ended 31 December 1997	1997 US\$ ° 000	1996 US\$'000
Opening shareholders' funds	3,422	2,769
Increase in share capital	-	3,422
Total recognised gains/(losses) related to the year	1,534	(2,769)
Closing shareholders' funds	4,956	3,422

Balance Sheet as at 31 December 1997			
Assets	Notes	1997 US\$'000	1996 US\$'000
Investments Other financial investments Deposits with ceding undertakings	10	124,317 1,145 125,462	105,500 1,318 106,818
Reinsurers' share of technical provisions Claims outstanding	15	256,536	285,020
Debtors Debtors arising out of reinsurance operations Other debtors Called up share capital not paid	11,15 12	28,119 953 ——————————————————————————————————	110,208 870 3,422 114,500
Other assets Cash at bank and in hand		5,039	3,229
Prepayments and accrued income Accrued interest and rent Other prepayments and accrued income		2,090 92 2,182	1,738 84 1,822
Total assets		418,291	511,389

Balance	Sheet
as at 31	December 1997

Liabilities	Notes	1997 US\$'000	1996 US\$'000
Capital and Reserves Called up share capital Profit and loss account Shareholders' funds attributable to equity interests	13 14	48,079 (43,123) 4,956	48,079 (44,657) 3,422
Technical provisions Claims outstanding Deposits received from reinsurers	15	391,112 17,103	423,669 15,478
Creditors Arising out of reinsurance operations Other creditors including taxation and social security		4,638 22 4,660	67,284 1,433 68,717
Accruals and deferred income Total liabilities		460	103 511,389

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J M MASSEY Chairman

12 June 1998

Matkins

K F WATKINS Managing Director

Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended 31 December 1997			
	Notes	1997 US\$'000	1996 US\$'000
Net cash inflow/(outflow) from operating activities	16	16,555	(17,509)
Interest paid		(3)	-
Financing Injection of share capital		3,422	•
	17	19,974	(17,509)
Cash flows were invested as follows:			
Increase/(decrease) in cash holdings		16,586	(8,834)
Net portfolio investment Fixed interest securities		3,388	(8,675)
Net investment of cash flows		19,974	(17,509)
Movement in opening and closing portfolio investments		1997	1996
		US\$'000	US\$'000
Net cash inflow/(outflow) for the period		16,586	(8,834)
Cash inflow/(outflow): portfolio investments		3,388	(8,675)
Movement arising from cash flows		19,974	(17,509)
Changes in market values and exchange rates		653	(1,546)
Total movement in portfolio investments		20,627	(19,055)
Portfolio investments net of financing at 1 January		108,729	127,784
Portfolio investments net of financing at 31 December		129,356	108,729

1 Premiums

Premium income substantially relates to reinstatement premiums and is attributable to discontinued operations.

2	Claims incurred net of reinsurance			•
		Gross	Reins.	Net
		US\$'000	US\$'000	US\$'000
	1997			
	Claims paid	20,898	11,598	9,300
	Claims handling expenses paid	294	<u>-</u> _	294
		21,192	11,598	9,594
	Outstanding claims carried forward	391,112	256,536	134,576
	Outstanding claims brought forward	422,379	284,529	137,850
		(31,267)	(27,993)	(3,274)
	Claims incurred	(10,075)	(16,395)	6,320
	1996			
	Claims paid	36,468	82,109	(45,641)
	Claims handling expenses paid	4,509		4,509
		40,977	82,109	(41,132)
	Outstanding claims carried forward	423,669	285,020	138,649
	Outstanding claims brought forward	309,698	153,824	155,874
		113,971	131,196	(17,225)
	Claims incurred	154,948	213,305	(58,357)
3	Claims handling expenses paid			
	Claims handling expenses include:			
	•	1997	1996	
		US\$'000	US\$'000	
	Auditors' remuneration - audit services	41	36	
4	Net operating expenses			
•	riot operating expenses	1997	1996	
		US\$'000	US\$'000	
	Acquisition costs - gross	3	7	
	- reinsurance	3	(3)	
	- net		10	
	- 1100	-		

Notes to the Accounts

5 Directors' emoluments

The total remuneration received by the Directors for the year is as follows:

		1997	1996
		US\$	US\$
	Fees	127,891	30,798
	Other emoluments	152,985	36,944
		280,876	67,742
6	Investment income		
U	myestment income	1997	1996
		US\$'000	US\$,000
	Income from other investments	7,439	7,121
	Gains on the realisation of investments	165	-,121
		7,604	7,121
7	Ytt		
7	Investment expenses and charges	1007	1000
		1997	1996
		US\$'000	US\$,000
	Investment management expenses	136	145
	Interest payable - Short-term loans and overdrafts	3	-
	 Reinsurance balances 	673	497
	Losses on the realisation of investments		542
		<u>812</u>	1,184

8 Taxation

No provision has been made in the accounts for corporation tax on the results for the year as they have been set off against losses of previous years.

9 Deferred taxation

No provision has been made in the accounts for deferred taxation.

Details of the full potential recovery for deferred taxation not provided are given below:

	•	•	1997	1996	
			US\$'000	US\$'000	
	Realisation of investments at values stated in the balance sl	heet	620	706	
	Short-term timing differences		(5,999)	(1,401)	
			(5,379)	(695)	
10	Investments				
		Cur	rent value	Histo	orical cost
		Curi 1997	rent value 1996	Histo 1997	orical cost 1996
	Other financial investments	1997	1996	1997	1996
	Other financial investments Debt securities and other fixed income securities (listed)	1997	1996	1997	1996
		1997 US\$'000	1996 US\$'000	1997 US\$'000	1996 US\$'000
	Debt securities and other fixed income securities (listed)	1997 US\$'000 107,550	1996 US\$'000 103,498	1997 US\$'000 105,234	1996 US\$'000

The facility provided to the Company in respect of its letter of credit liabilities is secured by a charge over certain of the Company's investments in debt securities and other fixed income investments.

11	Debtors arising out of reinsurance operations		
	- · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	1997	1996
		US\$'000	US\$'000
	Amounts due from group undertakings	_	2,906
	Amounts due from joint venture investors	•	79,233
	Other debtors	28,119	28,069
		28,119	110,208
12	Other debtors		
		1997	1996
		US\$'000	US\$'000
	Amounts due from group undertakings	-	870
	Other debtors	<u>953</u>	
		953	870

Notes to the Accounts 13 Share capital 1996 1997 US\$'000 US\$'000 Authorised 30,000,000 ordinary shares of £1 each 53,445 53,445 Issued and fully paid 27,000,000 ordinary shares of £1 each 48,079 48,079 14 Shareholders' funds Share Profit & Total capital loss a/c US\$'000 US\$'000 US\$'000 1997 Balance at 1 January 48,079 (44,657)3,422 Currency translation differences on foreign currency net investment 491 491 Retained profit for the financial year 1,043 1,043 Balance at 31 December 48,079 (43,123)4,956 1996 44,657 Balance at 1 January (41,888)2,769 Increase in share capital 3,422 3,422 Currency translation differences on foreign currency net investment (1,186)(1,186)Retained loss for the financial year (1,583)(1,583)48,079 Balance at 31 December (44,657)3,422

15 Claims outstanding

Califus detstarding			
	Gross	Reins.	Net
	U\$\$'000	US\$'000	US\$'000
1997			•
Provision before discounting	531,417	406,245	125,172
Discounting adjustment	(159,059)	(149,709)	(9,350)
	372,358	256,536	115,822
Claims handling expenses	22,735		22,735
Discounting adjustment	(3,981)		(3,981)
	18,754		18,754
	391,112	256,536	134,576
1996			
Provision before discounting	591,859	455,499	136,360
Discounting adjustment	(181,936)	(170,479)	(11,457)
	409,923	285,020	124,903
Claims handling expenses	16,663		16,663
Discounting adjustment	(2,917)		(2,917)
	13,746		13,746
	423,669	285,020	138,649

The level of the gross technical provisions has been set on the basis of information which is currently available, including potential outstanding loss advices, experience of development of similar claims and case law. The methods used, and estimates made, are reviewed regularly. The level of the related reinsurance recoveries is dependent upon both the accuracy of the estimated gross technical provisions and the ultimate ability to pay of the underlying security. The reinsurance recoveries are stated net of the provision for estimated future irrecoverable amounts. The level of the provision for claims handling expenses is dependent upon the settlement of gross technical provisions, collection of related reinsurance recoveries and changes in the factors influencing these.

Whilst the Directors consider that the gross provision for claims and the related reinsurance recoveries, together with the provision for claims handling expenses, are fairly stated on the basis of the information currently available to them, the ultimate liability will vary as a result of subsequent information and events and may result in significant adjustments to the amounts provided. Adjustments to the technical provisions are reflected in the financial statements for the period in which the adjustments are made.

Technical provisions for the Casualty classes are included after taking into account the future attributable investment earnings at an assumed compound discount rate of 4% (1996 - 4%) per annum. The assumed settlement pattern for gross claim payments results in an average term for the liabilities of 9.10 years (1996 - 9.30 years). This settlement pattern has been derived from the historic development of claims payments appropriate for the types of claims within these classes, in particular those relating to environmental losses.

Under an excess of loss reinsurance arrangement with the then joint venture investors, a claim of US\$58,360,000 was made and included within the technical account for 1996. The arrangement was cancelled on 30 September 1996 and the resulting cumulative net balance was included within debtors in the balance sheet as at 31 December 1996 and settled during 1997. A new arrangement was entered into with European International Reinsurance Company on 1 October 1996 and a provision for reinsurance recoveries under this arrangement has been included within the provision for claims outstanding as shown above.

17

18

Net technical result

16 Reconciliation of result before tax to net cash flow from operating activities

			1997 US\$'000	1996 US\$'000
Profit/(loss) on ordinary activities befo	ore tax		1,043	(1,583)
Realised investment (gains)/losses			(165)	541
Unrealised investment (gains)/losses			(499)	1,121
Decrease in provision for claims outst	anding		(3,274)	(17,225)
Decrease/(increase) in debtors			81,355	(62,200)
(Decrease)/increase in creditors			(63,700)	61,146
Decrease in deposits with ceding undertakings			132	50
Increase in deposits received from reinsurers			1,669	620
Interest paid			3	_
Realised exchange (losses)/gains			(9)	21
Net cash inflow/(outflow) from operating activities			16,555	(17,509)
Movement in cash and portfolio invo	estments At	Cash	Changes	At
	l Jan	flow	to market	31 Dec.
	1997	11011	value and	1997
	2,,,		currencies	100,
	US\$'000	US\$'000	US\$'000	US\$'000
Cash at hand and in bank	5,231	16,586	(11)	21,806
Fixed income securities	103,498	3,388	664	107,550
	108,729	19,974	653	129,356
Segmental information				
			1997	1996
Technical account			US\$'000	US\$'000
Gross premiums earned			252	299
Gross claims incurred			10,075	(154,948)
Gross operating expenses			(3)	(7)
Gross technical result			10,324	(154,656)
Reinsurance balance			(16,572)	148,257

All premiums relate to general reinsurance business concluded in the United Kingdom.

(6,248)

(6,399)

19 Related parties

Companies treated as related parties of the Company for disclosure purposes under Financial Reporting Standard 8, together with the nature of the relationship, are listed below:

Ex-group undertakings

Norwich Winterthur Holdings Limited

- ultimate parent undertaking

NW Reinsurance Corporation Limited

- parent undertaking

Cavell Management Services Limited

- fellow subsidiary undertaking

Ex-joint venture investors

Norwich Union Holdings p.l.c.

Winterthur Swiss Insurance Company Limited

The Chiyoda Fire & Marine Insurance Company (Europe) Limited

Ex-joint venture investors represent the shareholders of Norwich Winterthur Holdings Limited, and also include companies related to the ex-joint venture investors listed above who enter into transactions with the Company as a consequence of that relationship.

All of the above group undertakings and joint venture investors ceased to be related parties of the Company upon its change of ownership on 14 April 1997, but are required to be treated as such for the entire year under FRS8.

Companies related to the Directors

Isis Consulting, Inc.

20 Related party transactions

The following transactions with related parties were undertaken during the year:

	US\$'000
Purchase of services from ex-group undertakings	1,592
Purchase of services from ex-joint venture investors	115
Amounts due from ex-group undertakings	678
Emoluments paid to Directors	see note 5

Ms A M Duffy and Mr H Sopher, directors of Stronghold Insurance Company Limited, are also directors of Isis Consulting Inc. During 1997 Isis provided Stronghold with consultancy services for fees totalling US\$215,750, of which US\$117,300 was outstanding at 31 December 1997.

21 Holding company

The Company is a subsidiary undertaking of Stronghold Holdings Limited, the ultimate parent undertaking, which is registered in England. Copies of the accounts of the parent undertaking can be obtained from Clifford Chance, 200 Aldersgate Street, London EC1A 4JJ, England.