Registered No. 1074897

DIRECTORS

J J Rodriguez (Chairman) L Chao (Vice Chairman) J Vaz

J Lebredo

R Rangel

A Victoria

SECRETARY

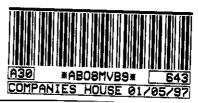
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AUDITORS

Ernst & Young Rolls House 7 Rolls Buildings Fetter Lane London EC4A 1NH

REGISTERED OFFICE

20 Ironmonger Lane London EC2V 8EY



DIRECTORS' REPORT

The directors present their report and the group accounts for the year ended 31 December 1996.

RESULTS AND DIVIDENDS

The group trading profit for the year, after taxation and provisions, amounted to £528,855 (nine months ended 31 December 1995 - £329,247). The profit dealt with in the accounts of the parent company was £529,021 (nine months ended 31 December 1995 - £329,429).

The directors do not recommend the payment of a final dividend. An interim dividend of £420,000 was paid during the year.

PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES AND REVIEW OF THE BUSINESS

The group is a recognised UK bank under the Banking Act 1987 and carries on wholesale international business with activities that include:

- 1 Trade finance (especially Cuban related)
- 2 Inter-bank deposits and foreign exchange dealing
- 3 Documentary credits
- 4 Current and deposit accounts

The volume of Cuban trade continues to be buoyant which has had a knock on effect on the documentary and foreign exchange areas, resulting in much higher levels of profitability throughout the year.

FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

It is believed that the continual expansion of the Cuban economy, especially in the tourist sector, will lead to even more diverse investment opportunities for the bank. Participation in Cuba's development needs continues to give us a firm base to work from, raising banking activity generally and therefore the ability to sustain higher levels of profitability.

FIXED ASSETS

Details of the group's fixed assets are shown in note 15 to the accounts.

DIRECTORS AND THEIR INTERESTS

The directors at 31 December 1996 and their interests in the share capital of the group were as follows:

	At	At
	31 December	31 December
	1996	1995
	Ordinary shares	Ordinary shares
J J Rodriguez (Chairman)	1	1
L Chao (Vice Chairman)	1	Î
J Vaz	1	î
J Lebredo	1	1
R Rangel	_	
A Victoria	1	1

CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS

During the year, the group made various charitable contributions totalling £342 (nine months ended 31 December 1995 - £158).

DIRECTORS' REPORT

AUDITORS

A resolution to reappoint Ernst & Young as auditors will be put to the members at the Annual General Meeting.

By order of the board

D Teacher Secretary

4 April 1997

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 group and of the profit or loss of the group 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; and
- prepare the accounts on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the group 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 group 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 group and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

■ ERNST & YOUNG

REPORT OF THE AUDITORS to the members of Havana International Bank Limited

We have audited the accounts on pages 6 to 21, which have been prepared under the historical cost convention, on the basis of the accounting policies set out on pages 10 and 11.

Respective responsibilities of 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 group'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.

Opinion

In our opinion the accounts give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company and of the group as at 31 December 1996 and of the profit of the group for the year then ended and have been properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 1985.

Ernst & Young

Chartered Accountants

Registered Auditor

London

4 April 1997

GROUP PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT

for the year ended 31 December 1996

		Year ended	Nine months to
		31 December	
		1996	1995
	Notes	£	£
Interest receivable and similar income arising			
from listed debt securities		508,601	421,851
Other interest receivable and similar income		2,298,258	2,178,036
		2,806,859	2,599,887
Interest payable		(1,199,729)	(1,419,413)
NET INTEREST INCOME		1,607,130	1,180,474
Fees and commissions receivable		((7.040	262.265
Fees and commissions payable		667,848	362,367
Dealing profits	4(b)	(3,031)	(4,495)
Other operating income	3	228,742 177,325	126,151
Other operating meeting	3	177,323	120,055
		1,070,884	604,078
TOTAL OPERATING INCOME		2,678,014	1,784,552
Administrative expenses		1,624,168	1,156,141
Depreciation and amortisation		190,750	118,923
Other operating charges		10,104	5,910
o more operating entages			
		1,825,022	1,280,974
OPERATING PROFIT	4	852,992	503,578
Loss on sale of tangible fixed assets		(629)	-
PROFIT ON ORDINARY ACTIVITIES BEFORE TAX		852,363	503,578
Tax on profit on ordinary activities	8	(323,508)	(174,331)
PROFIT FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR		528,855	329,247
Dividends	10	(420,000)	(440,000)
PROFIT RETAINED FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR		108,855	(110,753)
Reserves brought forward		1,881,687	1,992,440
Reserves carried forward		1,990,542	1,881,687

STATEMENT OF TOTAL RECOGNISED GAINS AND LOSSES

There are no recognised gains or losses other than those stated in the profit and loss account.

GROUP BALANCE SHEET

at 31 December 1996

		1996	1995
	Notes	£	£
ASSETS			
Cash and balances at central banks		14,271	12,778
Treasury bills and other eligible bills	11	102,151	70,109
Loans and advances to banks		38,306,721	29,473,252
Loans and advances to customers	13	6,787,008	6,647,143
Debt securities	14(a)		6,422,439
Investments		2,460	-
Tangible fixed assets	15	767,155	738,758
Prepayments and accrued income		1,408,561	1,971,174
TOTAL ASSETS		51,853,916	45,335,653
LIABILITIES			
Deposits by banks	18	26,477,051	19,224,077
Customer accounts	19	9,608,199	10,353,595
Holding company		47,396	79,064
Other liabilities - taxation		88,832	178
Accruals and deferred income		311,338	394,298
Provisions for liabilities and charges	21	330,558	402,754
		36,863,374	30,453,966
Called up share capital	22	13,000,000	13,000,000
Profit and loss account	22	1,990,542	1,881,687
Tront and 1055 account			1,001,007
		14,990,542	14,881,687
TOTAL LIABILITIES		51,853,916	45,335,653

Director

Director

4 April 1997

BALANCE SHEET at 31 December 1996

		1996	1995
	Notes	£	£
ASSETS			•
Cash and balances at central banks		14,271	12,778
Treasury bills and other eligible bills	11	102,151	70,109
Loans and advances to banks		38,275,331	29,282,334
Loans and advances to customers	13	6,787,008	6,647,143
Amounts owed by subsidiary undertaking:		0,.0.,000	0,077,143
due within one year		40,000	160,000
due after more than one year		-	40,000
Debt securities	14(b)	4,456,014	6,412,500
Investments	16	2,462	2
Tangible fixed assets	15	767,155	738,758
Prepayments and accrued income		1,407,976	1,970,186
TOTAL ASSETS		51,852,368	45,333,810
			
LIABILITIES			
Deposits by banks	18	26,477,051	19,224,077
Customer accounts	19	9,608,199	10,353,595
Holding company		47,396	79,064
Other liabilities - taxation		88,715	-
Accruals and deferred income		311,338	394,228
Provisions for liabilities and charges	21	330,558	402,754
		36,863,257	30,453,718
Called up share capital	22	12 000 000	12 000 000
Profit and loss account	22	13,000,000 1,989,111	13,000,000 1,880,092
		14,989,111	14,880,092
TOTAL LIABILITIES		51,852,368	45,333,810
,			

4 April 1997

Director

Director

GROUP STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS for the year ended 31 December 1996

	3 Notes	Year ended I December 1996 £	Nine months to 31 December 1995 £
NET CASH INFLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES	4(a)	6,230,607	2,377,216
RETURNS ON INVESTMENTS AND SERVICING OF FINANCE Dividend paid		(420,000)	(440,000)
NET CASH OUTFLOW FROM RETURNS ON INVESTMENTS AND SERVICING OF FINANCE		(420,000)	(440,000)
TAXATION Corporation tax paid		(178)	(177,674)
TAX PAID		(178)	(177,674)
INVESTING ACTIVITIES Payments to acquire tangible fixed assets			
Receipts from sale of tangible fixed assets		(88,139)	(26,995)
Payments to acquire investments		213	-
Receipts from sale/maturity of investments		(2,460) 1,825,000	(2,039,046)
NET CASH INFLOW/(OUTFLOW) FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES		1,734,614	(2,066,041)
NET CASH INFLOW/(OUTFLOW) BEFORE FINANCING		7,545,043	(306,499)
INCREASE/(DECREASE) IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	17	7,545,043	(306,499)
	:	<u> </u>	

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

at 31 December 1996

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Accounting convention

The accounts are prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with applicable accounting standards. The accounts comply with the Companies Act 1985 Schedule 9 (special provisions for banking companies and groups).

Basis of consolidation

The group accounts consolidate the accounts of Havana International Bank Limited and its subsidiary undertaking as at 31 December 1996. No profit and loss account is presented for Havana International Bank Limited as permitted by Section 230 of the Companies Act 1985.

Depreciation and amortisation

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets, at rates calculated to write-off the cost, less estimated residual value, of each asset evenly over its expected useful life, as follows:

Leasehold land and buildings

over the lease term

Furniture and office equipment

over 5 years

Computer equipment

over 3 years

Motor vehicles

over 4 years

Debt securities and investments

Debt securities and investments are stated in the balance sheet at nominal value, adjusted for unamortised premiums or discounts, since it is the directors' intention to hold the securities to maturity. Premiums or discounts on purchase are amortised over the period to maturity.

Foreign currencies

Foreign currency balances are translated to sterling at the approximate rates ruling at the balance sheet date.

Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are retranslated at the rate of exchange ruling at the balance sheet date or if appropriate at the forward contract rate.

Deferred taxation

Provision is made for deferred taxation at the rates applicable on reversal, using the liability method on:

- the excess of taxation allowances claimed in respect of fixed assets qualifying for such allowances over the depreciation charged; and
- (ii) taxation on income not accountable for tax purposes until later years, to the extent that these differences will reverse in the future.

Leasing

Income on finance leases is calculated using the actuarial method before taxation.

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged in the profit and loss account on a straight line basis over the lease term.

Fees and commissions

Front end fees and commissions receivable for the continuing service of advances are recognised on the basis of work done. Other fees are recognised when receivable.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

at 31 December 1996

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Forward contracts

Forward contracts which are outstanding at the balance sheet date are marked to market, except those transactions held for hedging purposes which are valued on an equivalent basis to the assets, liabilities or positions hedged. All differences arising are taken to the profit and loss account.

Provisions for bad and doubtful debts and contingencies

Specific provisions against bad and doubtful debts are made on the basis of regular reviews of exposures and deducted from the relevant asset. General provisions are made in relation to losses which, although not specifically identified, may exist in the banking portfolio, or which may arise through litigation or other operating contingencies.

Pensions

Havana International Bank Limited operates a defined benefit pension scheme covering the majority of employees. Contributions to the fund are charged in the profit and loss account so as to spread the cost of pensions over the employees' working lives within the group. The scheme is funded by contributions from the company at rates determined by the actuary. These contributions are invested separately from the group's assets.

Differences between the amounts funded and the amounts charged in the profit and loss account are treated as either provisions or prepayments in the balance sheet,

2. SEGMENTAL ANALYSIS

In the opinion of the directors, the group has only one class of business being commercial banking and all transactions are recorded in the United Kingdom.

3. OTHER OPERATING INCOME

		Nine
	Year ended	months to
	31 December	31 December
	1996	1995
	£	£
Profit on investment	160,000	120,000
Income from finance leases	4,440	55
Interest compensation	2,749	-
Other	10,136	-
	177,325	120,055
		=

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

at 31 December 1996

4. OPERATING PROFIT

(a) Reconciliation of operating profit to net cash inflow from continuing operating activities:

		Nine
	Year ended	months to
	31 December	31 December
	1996	1995
	£	£
Operating profit	852,363	503,578
Depreciation	58,900	31,147
Amortisation of premium on investments	131,850	87,776
Loss on disposal of fixed assets	629	-
Decrease/(increase) in interest receivable and prepaid expenses	255,409	(209,502)
Decrease in interest payable and accrued expenses	(82,628)	(84,710)
Net cash inflow from trading activities	1,216,523	328,289
Net increase in deposits	6,475,910	3,766,123
Net increase in loans to customers and banks	(1,429,785)	(2,002,233)
(Increase)/decrease in short term bills discounted	(32,041)	285,037
	5,014,084	2,048,927
Net cash inflow from continuing operating activities	6,230,607	2,377,216
(b) This is stated after charging/(crediting):		
		Nine
	Year ended	months to
		31 December
	1996	1995
	£	£
Lease costs	9,400	2,992
Auditors' remuneration - audit services	35,800	35,000
- non-audit services	26,740	15,200
Depreciation of owned fixed assets	58,900	31,147
Dealing profits	(228,742)	(126,151)

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

at 31 December 1996

5. DIRECTORS' EMOLUMENTS

		Nine
	Year ended	months to
	31 December	31 December
	1996	1995
	£	£
Other emoluments (including pension contributions)	115,463	89,709
T 1		

Emoluments amounting to £1,875 were waived by one director during the year.

Directors' emoluments, (excluding pension contributions), fell within the following ranges:

Nine			
months to	Year ended		
31 December	31 December		
1995	1996		
No	No		
4	4	- £5,000	£Nil -
i	· -	- £15,000	
1	<u>-</u>	- £35,000	£30,001 -
i	1	- £45,000	£40,001 -
-	1	- £75,000	£70,001 -

The emoluments of the chairman (excluding pension contributions) were £45,000 (nine months ended 31 December 1995 - £33,750).

The emoluments of the highest paid director (excluding pension contributions) were £70,463 (nine months ended 31 December 1995- £42,612).

6. STAFF COSTS

7.

1996 £	1995 £
590,473 42,970	424,352 35,682
633,443	460,034
No.	No.
23	25
	
1996 £	1995 £
508,601	421,851
	£ 590,473 42,970 633,443 No. 23 1996 £

11.

Havana International Bank Limited

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

at 31 December 1996

8. TAX ON PROFIT ON ORDINARY ACTIVITIES

The taxation charge is made up as follows:

	1996 £	1995 £
Based on the profit for the period:		
Corporation tax at 33%	367,506	129,591
Prior period adjustment	28,198	2,701
Deferred taxation - current period	(73,705)	44,814
- prior period adjustment	1,509	(2,775)
	323,508	174,331
		

9. PROFIT ATTRIBUTABLE TO MEMBERS OF THE PARENT COMPANY

The profit dealt with in the accounts of the parent company was £529,021 (nine months ended 31 December 1995 - £329,429).

10. DIVIDENDS

	1996	1995
	£	£
Equity dividends on ordinary shares:		
Interim dividend paid	420,000	440,000
TREASURY BILLS AND OTHER ELIGIBLE BILLS		
Group and Company	1996	1995
	£	£
Other eligible bills	102,151	70,109
· ·		

Market value was not significantly different from cost.

All bills are held for investment purposes. None was issued by the bank.

13.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

at 31 December 1996

12.	LOANS AND ADVANCES TO BANKS

() (
(a) Group		
	1996	1995
	£	£
Repayable:		
- on demand	1,927,505	1,461,367
- within three months	35,483,169	28,011,885
- between three months and one year	896,047	20,011,005
	——————————————————————————————————————	<u> </u>
	38,306,721	29,473,252
(b) Company		
(b) company	£	£
		*
Repayable:		
- on demand	1,927,505	1,270,520
- within three months	35,451,779	28,011,814
- between three months and one year	896,047	-
	38,275,331	29,282,334
	36,273,331	25,262,334
		
LOANS AND ADVANCES TO CUSTOMERS		
Group and Company		
•	1996	1995
	£	£
Repayable:		
- on demand	106,345	-
- within three months	4,811,670	1,018,171
- between three months and one year	1,438,672	4,769,069
- between one and five years	430,321	859,903
	6,787,008	6,647,143

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS at 31 December 1996

14. DEBT SECURITIES

(a) Group

		Held for i	investment	
		Book value		Market value
	1996	1995	1996	1995
T 11 12 1 W	£	£	£	£
Issued by public bodies: Government securities Analysed by maturity:	4,465,589	6,422,439	4,500,765	6,550,406
Due within one year	1,011,327	1,827,758	1,012,991	1,835,836
Due after one year	3,454,262	4,594,681	3,487,265	4,714,570
	4,465,589	6,422,439	4,500,256	6,550,406
Analysed by listing status:				
Listed on the London Stock Exchange	4,465,589	6,422,439	4,500,256	6,550,406
Unamortised premiums	231,089	362,939		
(b) Company				
Issued by public bodies:				
Government securities	4,456,014	6,412,500	4,490,703	6,540,461
Analysed by maturity:				
Due within one year	1,001,752	1,827,758	1,003,438	1,835,836
Due after one year	3,454,262	4,584,742	3,487,265	4,704,625
	4,456,014	6,412,500	4,490,703	6,540,461
Analysed by listing status:				
Listed on the London Stock Exchange	4,456,014	6,412,500	4,490,703	6,540,461
Unamortised premiums	231,014	362,500		

The movement on debt securities held for investment purposes was as follows:

	Issued by Group £	public bodies Company £
At 31 December 1995 Maturities Amortisation of premiums	6,422,439 (1,825,000) (131,850)	6,412,500 (1,825,000) (131,486)
At 31 December 1996	4,465,589	4,456,014

15.	FIXED ASSETS					
	Group and Company		Short	Long		
	•		leasehold	leasehold	Furniture	
		Computer	property and	property and	equipment	
		-	improvements	improvements	and vehicles	Total
		£	£	£	£	£
	Cost:					
	At 31 December 1995	204,586	642,381	491,761	614,905	1,953,633
	Additions	22,583	23,652	-	41,904	88,139
	Disposals	(56,188)	-	-	(65,878)	(122,066)
	At 31 December 1996	170,981	666,033	491,761	590,931	1,919,706
	Depreciation:					
	At 31 December 1995	194,436	420,840	28,002	571,597	1,214,875
	Charge for the year	13,041	13,527	6,126	26,206	58,900
	Disposals	(55,950)	-	-	(65,274)	(121,224)
	At 31 December 1996	151,527	434,367	34,128	532,529	1,152,551
	Net book value:					
	At 31 December 1996	19,454	231,666	457,633	58,402	767,155
	At 31 December 1995	10,150	221,541	463,759	43,308	738,758
16.	INVESTMENTS				Group £	Company £
	Cost at 1 January 1996				- 2,460	2 2,460
	Additions			_	2,400	2,400
	Cost at 31 December 1996			<u>=</u>	2,460	2,462
	Group & Company					
	Subsidiary undertaking					
	•		Country of		Proportion	
			egistration (or		of voting	N7 / C
			incorporation)	77 - I din .	rights and	Nature of
	Name of company		and operation	Holding	shares held	business
	Amblerest Limited	Engl	and and Wales	Ordinary shares	100%	Holds investments

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

at 31 December 1996

17. CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

Analysis of balances as shown in the group balance sheet and changes during the current and previous periods.

		31 December 1996 £	Change in . year £	31 December 1995 £	Change in period £	31 March 1995 £
	Coins, bank notes and					
	balances with banks	1,973,165	499,019	1,474,146	272,095	1,202,051
	Money at call and short notice	30,933,652	7,046,024	23,887,628	(578,594)	24,466,222
		32,906,817	7,545,043	25,361,774	(306,499)	25,668,273
10	DENOGRAD DEL DI LEGG	-				====
18.	DEPOSITS BY BANKS Group and Company				1996	1995
	Repayable:				£	£
	- on demand - within three months				,604,261 ,872,790	2,902,421 16,321,656
				26	,477,051	19,224,077
19.	CUSTOMER ACCOUNTS					
	Group and Company				1996 £	1995 £
	Repayable:					
	- on demand			2	,223,275	836,182
	- within three months				,168,768	5,653,963
	- between three months and one year	r			,216,156	3,863,450
				9	,608,199	10,353,595
				-		

20. OBLIGATIONS UNDER LEASES

Group and Company

Annual commitments under non-cancellable operating leases are as follows:

		Land and buildings		Other
	1996	1995	1996	1995
	£	£	£	£
Operating leases which expire:				
Within one year	-	_	1,540	1,720
In two to five years	-	_	6,140	11,727
In over five years	400,000	400,000	-	-
				
	400,000	400,000	7,680	13,447
			=	

22.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

at 31 December 1996

21. PROVISIONS FOR LIABILITIES AND CHARGES

				Deferred taxation £
At 31 December 1995 Charge to taxation				402,754 (72,196)
At 31 December 1996				330,558
Group and Company Deferred taxation provided in the accounts is as	follows:			
			1996 £	Provided 1995 £
Capital allowances in advance of depreciation Provision for liability arising on pension fund su Interest accrued	urplus		(70,759) 401,317	(91,535) 424,658 69,631
			330,558	402,754
SHARE CAPITAL				
	1996 £	Authorised 1995 £	1996 £	Allotted and fully paid 1995 £
Ordinary shares of £100 each	14,000,000	14,000,000	13,000,000	13,000,000

23. RECONCILIATION OF MOVEMENTS IN SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS

			Total
	Share	Profit and	shareholders'
	capital	loss account	funds
	£	£	£
At 1 April 1995	13,000,000	1,992,440	14,992,440
Profit for the nine months		329,247	329,247
Dividends paid	-	(440,000)	•
At 31 December 1995	13,000,000	1,881,687	14,881,687
Profit for the year	-	528,855	528,855
Dividends paid	-	(420,000)	(420,000)
At 31 December 1996	13,000,000	1,990,542	14,990,542

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

at 31 December 1996

24. CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

25.

	1996 £	1995 £
Acceptances and endorsements Guarantees and assets pledged as collateral security	190,186 3,435,743	1,328,614 2,987,635
	3,625,929	4,316,249
FORWARD AND FUTURES CONTRACTS The following were outstanding:		
Exchange rate contracts:	1996 £	1995 £
Contract or underlying principal amount - for dealing purposes Credit risk weighted amount	5,901,977 46,598	1,357,339 5,095

The contract or underlying principal amounts provide an indication of the volume of business outstanding at the balance sheet date but are not a realistic measure of amounts at risk. The credit risk weighted amounts have been calculated in accordance with Bank of England guidelines.

None of the amounts are intended to give an indication of possible future gains or losses.

26. ASSETS AND LIABILITIES IN FOREIGN CURRENCIES

The aggregate amounts of assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies were as follows:

	1996 £	1995 £
Assets	19,753,449	15,836,983
Liabilities	19,414,755	16,134,696

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

at 31 December 1996

27. PENSION COMMITMENTS

The group operates a defined benefit pension scheme. The pension costs are assessed with the advice of an independent qualified actuary on the basis of triennial valuations using the aggregate method.

The results of the most recent valuation which was conducted at 1 April 1995, were as follows:

Main assumptions:

Rate of interest - 9% pa Rate of salary growth - 7% pa Rate of pension increases - 5% pa

As at 1 April 1995 the market value of the assets of the scheme was £2.9 million and the actuarial value of these assets was sufficient to cover 143% of the benefits that had accrued to members, after allowing for expected future increases in earnings.

The excess funding of £1,057,020 (nine months ended 31 December 1995 - £1,127,750) has been included as a prepayment.

The funding policy allows for the surplus to be amortised over the average future working lifetime of existing active members.

Havana International Bank Limited's regular cost in respect of the fund complies with SSAP 24 at the rate of 27.9% of pensionable pay. Interest at the rate of 9% on the surplus is set off against the regular costs. The resulting debit to the profit and loss for the year is £54,255 (nine months ended 31 December 1995 - £20,250 charge).

As a result of the difference between the balance sheet excess funding value and the value contained in the actuarial report of 1 April 1995, £164,750 is to be written off over 10 years. The corresponding charge for the current year is £16,475, making the total pension charge £70,730.

28. RELATED PARTIES

The group's ultimate holding company is the Banco Nacional de Cuba which is the central monetary institution of the Republic of Cuba. The company has taken advantage of an exemption under FRS 8, relating to 90% subsidiaries, which exempts it from disclosing related party transactions with group members.