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(the "Company")

## ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING A PUBLIC RELEASE OF UNAUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS OF BANK OF CHINA

## SUMMARY

On 17 July 2003, Bank of China ("**BOC**") made a public release which includes, among other things, the **unaudited** financial performance and results of BOC and its subsidiaries, including the Company (the "**BOC Group**") for the period ended 30 June 2003. BOC, being a state-owned commercial bank in the People's Republic of China (the "**PRC**"), is interested in approximately 76.53% of the issued shares of the Company. Certain extracts from the public release are set out below.

## THIS IS NOT THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE AUDITED OR UNAUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS OF THE COMPANY OR ANY OF ITS SUBSIDIARIES FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 JUNE 2003. THIS ANNOUNCEMENT IS MADE BY THE COMPANY PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPH 2 OF THE LISTING AGREEMENT.

On 17 July 2003, BOC made a public release which includes, among other things, the **unaudited** financial performance and results of the BOC Group for the period ended 30 June 2003. BOC, being a state-owned commercial bank in the PRC, is interested in approximately 76.53% of the issued shares of the Company. The public release contained information including the **unaudited** pre-tax profit of the BOC Group as a whole and provided an overview of the operations of the BOC Group for the period ended 30 June 2003. The public release can be downloaded from BOC's website at www.bank-of-china.com. Certain extracts from the public release (after minor editing changes) are set out below for the information of the shareholders of the Company.

"Bank of China announced today that the Bank of China Group ("the Group") registered an operating profit of RMB27.05 billion in the first half of this year, an increase of RMB5.75 billion or 27% on an annual basis. The Group's pre-tax profit shot up 84.53% or RMB5.94 billion to RMB12.96 billion by the end of June."

"The spokesman attributed the sharp profit growth mainly to the enhanced profitability generated by domestic branches. In the first half of this year, domestic operations witnessed a rapid growth in RMB deposit, RMB loans and fee-based business, and saw an improved asset quality and higher interest payment ratio, the spokesman added."

"By the end of June, the Group's non-performing loan ratio stood at 19.16%, according to the five-tier loan classification method. This represents a drop of 3.33 percentage points from the end of 2002. Domestic branches collected RMB15.37 billion in cash through bad loan recovery."

## **GENERAL**

As stated in the Company's announcement dated 17 June 2003, the Board of Directors of the Company has decided to cause an audit of the Group's accounts for the six months ended 30 June 2003 to be conducted by the Company's auditors, Messrs. PricewaterhouseCoopers and a full set of audited financial statements will be published covering the six months ended 30 June 2003. The audited interim results of the Group for the six months ended 30 June 2003 are expected to be announced in about early September 2003.

The Company's shareholders and potential investors should note that all the figures contained in the public release are **unaudited** figures. Further, the public release relates to the BOC Group as a whole, which has operations and investments in the PRC as well as other parts of the world (in addition to those in respect of the Company and its subsidiaries (the "Group")). Accordingly, figures and discussions contained in the public release should in no way be regarded as to provide any indication or assurance on the audited financial results of the Group for the period ended 30 June 2003.

The Company's shareholders and potential investors should note that the unaudited results of the Group are subject to audit by the Company's auditors and are urged to exercise caution in dealing in the securities of the Company and are recommended to consult their own professional advisers if they are in doubt of their investment position.

By Order of the Board BOC Hong Kong (Holdings) Limited Jason C. W. Yeung Company Secretary

Hong Kong, 17 July 2003