

Report of Independent Public Accountants

**To The Board of Directors
The Sumitomo Bank, Limited**

We have audited the accompanying consolidated balance sheets of The Sumitomo Bank, Limited, and subsidiaries as of March 31, 1999 and 1998, and the related consolidated statements of income, shareholders' equity, and cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended March 31, 1999, expressed in Japanese yen. Our audits were made in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards in Japan and, accordingly included such tests of the accounting records and such other auditing procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances.

In our opinion, the consolidated financial statements referred to above present fairly the consolidated financial position of The Sumitomo Bank, Limited, and subsidiaries as of March 31, 1999 and 1998, and the consolidated results of their operations and their cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended March 31, 1999, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in Japan consistently applied during the periods, except for the changes made as of April 1, 1998, in the method of accounting for depreciation referred to in Note 2 (f) and as of April 1, 1997, in the method of accounting for securities referred to in Note 2 (d), with which we concur.

Also, in our opinion, the U.S. dollar amounts in the accompanying consolidated financial statements have been translated from Japanese yen on the basis set forth in Note 1.

Tokyo, Japan
June 29, 1999

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Asahi & Co.".

Statement on Accounting Principles and Auditing Standards

This statement is to remind users that accounting principles and auditing standards and their application in practice may vary among nations and therefore could affect, possibly materially, the reported consolidated financial position and consolidated results of operations and cash flows. The accompanying financial statements are prepared based on accounting principles generally accepted in Japan, and the auditing standards and their application in practice are those generally accepted in Japan. Accordingly, the accompanying financial statements and the auditors' report presented above are for users familiar with Japanese accounting principles, auditing standards and their application in practice.