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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

August 18, 1997

STATE ORDERS HALT TO INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENT SCHEME Investors Warned To Avoid Secret "Debenture Trading Programs"

Boise, Idaho . . . The Idaho Department of Finance issued a Cease and Desist Order against several entities and one individual Ordering a halt to the offer and sale of a purported international, bank-related "debenture trading program" in Idaho. Jay Dee Harris, Acquire Venture Capital Group, Acquire Venture Fund Group and Acquire Investment Group were named in the Order. Harris operates from Orem, Utah, while the Acquire organizations claim operations in both Utah and Nassau, Bahamas.

Gavin M. Gee, Director of the Idaho Department of Finance, issued the Order on August 18, 1997. The Cease and Desist Order requires Harris and the Acquire organizations to cease offering and selling securities to Idaho residents, and to cease engaging in fraudulent activities in connection with investment offerings in Idaho. The Order also requires that Idaho investors be repaid and imposes a \$10,000 fine on those named in the Order.

The Order alleges that investors were provided incomplete information about the investment offering and that Harris and the Acquire organizations engaged in a fraudulent scheme by making investors agree to not contact any bank, bank officer or other organization purportedly associated with the investment, thus limiting an investor's opportunity to investigate the viability of the investment and its claimed returns.

According to Gee, "Confidential, international trading schemes continue to be employed as fraudulent investment opportunities and as advance fee loan scams."

Department officials indicated that international trading schemes take several forms. However, most promise investors a guaranteed return of their investment principal and access to international traders that conduct riskless arbitrage or international paper transactions that will generate huge profits. Additionally, investors are often told that they will be gaining access to a secret trading market that only very wealthy individuals, large corporations or overseas banks know about. This market is purportedly so secret that investors are told not to independently investigate the offering or risk being permanently expelled from participating in these markets. Profits promised in these schemes range from five percent return per month to hundreds of percent return per year.

The Department urges any Idaho residents who have been approached to participate in these types of offerings to contact the Department at (208) 332-8004.

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