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NEWS RELEASE

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STATE ORDERS HALT TO INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENT SCHEME

Boise, Idaho . . . The Idaho Department of Finance has issued a Cease and Desist Order against an Idaho man ordering that he cease offering and selling a purported international investment program. Dean C. Earl, Boise, has represented that he is connected with an international investment bank with traders around the world. Earl is alleged to have offered so-called "arbitrage contracts", "bank debenture contracts", and currency trading contracts. Earl has claimed that investors could yield up to five times their money in two months with such returns guaranteed.

The order alleges that investors were provided incomplete or untrue information about the investment offering including:

- that the program is dealing with a Saudi Arabian oil sheik who wants to invest seven billion dollars;
- that the Onassis family wants to invest 250 million dollars;
- failing to disclose the names and backgrounds of promoters, brokers, traders and principals involved with the investment; and
- failing to disclose that neither Earl nor the securities being offered are registered for sale in Idaho.

The Cease and Desist Order requires Earl to cease offering and selling securities to Idaho residents, to cease engaging in activities which violate the securities anti-fraud provisions in connection with investment offerings in Idaho, and to return Idaho investors' money.

According to Department of Finance Director Gavin Gee, "International trading schemes are on the rise and may pose a significant threat to unwary investors."

Department officials indicated that, in general, 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 are known only to very wealthy individuals, large corporations or overseas banks. These schemes are variously known as bank debenture trading programs, high yield investment programs, prime bank/SLC (standby letter of credit) investment programs, and medium-term note programs. Profits promised in these schemes range from five percent return per month to hundreds of percent return per year.

Gee also noted that federal agencies such as the Federal Reserve Board, the Treasury Department and the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency have issued warnings and advisories regarding these investment programs.

The Department urges Idaho residents to investigate securities investment offerings and investment professionals before investing by calling the Department toll-free within Idaho at 888-346-3378 or (208) 332-8004.