

methods. Material changes in items of revenue or expense should be analyzed and explained in textual discussion and statistical tables. It may be appropriate to use amounts or to present yields on a tax equivalent basis. If appropriate, the discussion should include a comment on material changes in investment securities positions that affect tax exempt interest income. For example, there might be a comment on a change from investments in tax exempt securities because of the availability of net operating losses to offset taxable income of current and future periods, or a comment on a change in the quality level of the tax exempt investments resulting in increased interest income and risk and a corresponding increase in the tax equivalent adjustment.

Tax equivalent adjusted amounts should be clearly identified and related to the corresponding unadjusted amounts in the financial statements. A descriptive note similar to that suggested to accompany adjusted amounts included in selected financial data should be provided.

#### *H. Disclosures by Bank Holding Companies Regarding Certain Foreign Loans*

##### **1. Deposit/Relending Arrangements**

*Facts:* Certain foreign countries experiencing liquidity problems, by agreement with U.S. banks, have instituted arrangements whereby borrowers in the foreign country may remit local currency to the foreign country's central bank, in return for the central bank's assumption of the borrowers' non-local currency obligations to the U.S. banks. The local currency is held on deposit at the central bank, for the account of the U.S. banks, and may be subject to relending to other borrowers in the country. Ultimate repayment of the obligations to the U.S. banks, in the requisite non-local currency, may not be due until a number of years hence.

*Question:* What disclosures are appropriate regarding deposit/relending arrangements of this general type?

*Interpretive Response:* The staff emphasizes that it is the responsibility of each registrant to determine the appropriate financial statement treatment and classification of foreign outstandings. The facts and circumstances surrounding deposit/relending arrangements should be carefully analyzed to determine whether the local currency payments to the foreign central bank represent collections of outstandings for financial reporting purposes, and whether such outstandings should be classified as

nonaccrual, past due or restructured loans pursuant to Item III.C.1. of Industry Guide 3, Statistical Disclosure by Bank Holding Companies ("Guide 3").

The staff believes, however, that the impact of deposit/relending arrangements covering significant amounts of outstandings to a foreign country should be disclosed pursuant to Guide 3, Item III.C.3., Instruction (6)(a).<sup>1</sup> The disclosures should include a general description of the arrangements and, if significant, the amounts of interest income recognized for financial reporting purposes which has not been remitted in the requisite non-local currency to the U.S. bank.

##### **2. Accounting and Disclosures by Bank Holding Companies for a "Mexican Debt Exchange" Transaction**

*Facts:* Inquiries have been made of the staff regarding certain accounting and disclosure issues raised by a proposed "Mexican Debt Exchange" transaction which could involve numerous bank holding companies with existing obligations of the United Mexican States ("Mexico") or other Mexican public sector entities (collectively, "Existing Obligations"). The key elements of the Mexican Debt Exchange are as follows:

Mexico will offer for sale bonds ("Bonds"), denominated in U.S. dollars, which will pay interest at a LIBOR-based floating rate and mature in twenty years. Mexico will undertake to list the Bonds on the Luxembourg Stock Exchange. The Bonds will be secured, as to their ultimate principal value only, by non-interest bearing securities of the U.S. Treasury ("Zero Coupon Treasury Securities") which will be purchased by Mexico. The Zero Coupon Treasury Securities will be pledged to holders of the Bonds and held in custody at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York and will have a maturity date and ultimate principal value which match the maturity date and principal value of the Bonds. While the Bonds will have default and acceleration provisions, the holder of a Bond will not be permitted to have access to the collateral prior to the final scheduled maturity date, at which time the proceeds of the collateral will be available to pay the full principal amount of the Bonds. As such, the holder of a Bond ultimately

will be secured as to principal at maturity; however, the interest payments will not be secured. The Bonds will not be subject to future restructurings of Mexico's Existing Obligations, and Mexico has indicated that neither the Bonds nor the Existing Obligations exchanged therefor will be considered part of a base amount with respect to any future requests by Mexico for new money.

The Mexican Debt Exchange will be structured in such a way that potential purchasers of the Bonds will submit bids on a voluntary basis to the auction agent. These bids will specify the face dollar amount of existing restructured commercial bank obligations of Mexico or of other Mexican public sector entities that the potential purchaser is willing to tender and the face dollar amount of Bonds that the purchaser is willing to accept in exchange for the Existing Obligations. Following the auction date, Mexico will determine the face dollar amount of Bonds to be issued and will exchange the Bonds for Existing Obligations taking first the offer of the largest face dollar amount of Existing Obligations per face dollar amount of Bonds, and so on, until all Bonds which Mexico is willing to issue have been subscribed. It is therefore possible that a greater amount of Existing Obligations could be tendered than Mexico is willing to accept.

The lender has appropriately accounted for the transaction as a troubled debt restructuring in accordance with the provisions of Statement 15 as amended by Statement 114.

*Question 1:* What financial statement and other disclosure issues regarding the Mexican Debt Exchange and the Bonds received should be considered by registrants?

*Interpretive Response:* The staff believes that disclosure of the nature of the transaction would be necessary, including:

- Carrying value and terms of Existing Obligations exchanged;
- Face value, carrying value, market value and terms of Bonds received;
- The effect of the transaction on the allowance for loan losses and the provision for losses in the current period; and
- Annual interest income on Existing Obligations exchanged and annual interest income on Bonds received.

On an ongoing basis, the staff believes that the terms, carrying value and market value of the Bonds should be

<sup>1</sup> Instruction (6)(a) calls for description of the nature and impact of developments in countries experiencing liquidity problems which are expected to have a material impact on timely repayment of principal or interest. Additionally, Instruction (6)(d)(ii) to Item III.C.3. calls for disclosure of commitments to relend, or to maintain on deposit, arising in connection with certain restructurings of foreign outstanding.