



THOMAS MURRAY

PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT

For Immediate Release

February 5, 2001

Andrew Hook (Ex – World Bank) joins Thomas Murray Ltd

Thomas Murray Ltd is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr Andrew Hook as its Director for the America's region.

Dr. Hook was most recently a member of The Financial Sector Development Department at the World Bank, with key responsibilities in a Western Hemisphere project on securities and payments in the region. He also represented the World Bank on the Task Force for Systemically Important Payment Systems, under the aegis of the Bank for International Settlements.

Dr. Hook joins Thomas Murray after 23 years of experience in the financial sector. He started his career at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York (FRBNY) in 1977, after completing a Ph.D. at Cornell University and an MBA at Columbia University. In 1991, Dr. Hook joined the IMF as a financial sector consultant. He has both led and supported numerous workshops and presentations on securities and payment systems and the conduct of central bank policy in Washington, Argentina, St. Petersburg, Minsk, London and Mexico. Over the last 10 years, he has worked in over 25 countries, in Asia, Europe, Africa, South America and the Central Asian Republics. He commences his new role on 5th February and will be based in Washington.

Thomas Murray is expanding its role as a primary capital market infrastructure research and information services group for the investment and global securities services industry by extending its US activities out of Washington from February 2001. David Kelly, formerly the President & CEO of the NSCC joined Thomas Murray last summer as a Non Executive Director based in New York.

The establishment of the Washington office with the appointment of Andrew Hook will give impetus to the development of primary research into the region's capital market infrastructure and securities markets. This should provide valuable assistance to the Thomas Murray/S&P Depository Review and Risk Evaluation Service, which is currently underway.

(Thomas Murray is an information, ratings and research company specializing in supporting the investment and global securities services industries. The company provides a range of products and services:

- *Investor services - assisting institutions evaluate and select global custodians*
- *Rating services – working with S&P in rating global and domestic custodians*

- *Network services – assisting banks operating overseas networks evaluate local markets, associated custodial and settlement risks and analyse and select suitable domestic custodians to act as securities correspondent banks*
- *Information services – local capital market infrastructure information (>100 markets) and Depository Review and Risk Evaluation Service which includes a risk assessment provided by S&P*

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