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NEWS RELEASE

Comptroller of the Currency Administrator of National Banks

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Contact: Dean DeBuck (202) 874-5770

Comptroller Hawke Addresses Japan Society

WASHINGTON -- Comptroller of the Currency John D. Hawke, Jr. addressed the Japan Society in New York today. The <u>speech</u> is attached.

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The OCC charters, regulates and examines approximately 2,000 national banks and 51 federal branches of foreign banks in the U.S., accounting for more than 56 percent of the nation's banking assets. Its mission is to ensure a safe and sound and competitive national banking system that supports the citizens, communities and economy of the United States.