Tekst 5

Cash, please

adapted from an article by **DAVID BARBOZA**

1   IN Lu remembers the day last December when a Chinese businessman showed up at the car dealership he works for in north China and paid for a new BMW 5 Series Gran Turismo ─ entirely in cash. "He drove here with two friends," Lin recalls. "One of his friends carried about $60,000 in a big white bag, and the buyer had the rest in a heavy black backpack."

2   Lugging nearly $130,000 in cash into a dealership might sound bizarre, but it's not exactly uncommon in China, where hotel bills are routinely settled with thick wads of renminbi, China's currency. This is a country, after all, where home buyers make down payments with trunks filled with cash. And big-city law firms have been known to hire armoured cars to deliver the cash needed to pay monthly salaries. For all China's modern trappings ─ the new superhighways, high-speed rail networks and soaring skyscrapers ─ analysts say this country still prefers to pay for things the old-fashioned way.

3   Doing business in China takes a lot of cash because Chinese authorities refuse to print any bill larger than the 100-renminbi note, about $16. Since 1988, the 100-renminbi note has been the largest in circulation, even though the economy has grown fiftyfold. Chinese economists and some government officials suggest that printing larger denomination notes might fuel inflation. But there is another reason. "I'm convinced the government doesn't want a larger bill because of __12__," said Nicholas Lardy, a leading authority on the Chinese economy at the Peterson Institute for International Economics. "Instead of trunks filled with cash bribes you'd have people using envelopes."

4   All the buying, bribing and hoarding forces China to print a lot of paper money. China, which a millennium ago was the first government to print paper money, accounts for about 40 percent of all global currency output. Adjusting for the size of its economy, China has about five times as much cash in circulation as the US. As the 100-renminbi note has been made the largest bill, the nation's citizens need more of it to buy a television or Swiss watch, __13__ a car or a home.

5   Perhaps paper bills should come with a warning about __14__. Last month, a migrant worker in Shanghai discovered that mice had chewed

into tiny pieces the $1,200 his wife kept in a closet. A local bank agreed to exchange the money if the man could reassemble at least three-quarters of a bill. "But the bills are now in small pieces and it's almost impossible to fix them," said Zhao Zhiyong, the 37-year-old worker. "Who could know that the money would be chewed by mice?"

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"**Cash,** please" (title)

1p **10** How is the subject of paying in cash introduced in paragraph 1?
- **A** by describing how the rich make use of it to show off their wealth
- **B** by explaining how intimidating it is for smaller entrepreneurs
- **C** by making clear why some people do not trust electronic financial transactions
- **D** by showing the practicalities involved when making expensive purchases

1p **11** What becomes clear about China in paragraph 2?
- **A** Although the country is otherwise quite advanced, a preference for cash stays deeply ingrained.
- **B** A new financial policy is necessary to accommodate the country's explosive economic growth.
- **C** Despite recent attempts to stimulate progress, some think of it as a rather backward country.
- **D** The country invests in high-tech security solutions to safeguard financial transactions.

1p **12** Which of the following fits the gap in paragraph 3?
- **A** corruption
- **B** economic progress
- **C** industrial preferences
- **D** traditions

1p **13** Which of the following fits the gap in paragraph 4?
- **A** and even
- **B** except for
- **C** never mind

1p **14** Which of the following fits the gap in paragraph 5?
- **A** interest policies
- **B** legal consequences
- **C** spending habits
- **D** storage practices

1p **15** Wordt het gebruik van contant geld volgens de tekst aangeraden door de Chinese regering?
Indien nee antwoord "Nee", indien ja, geef het nummer van de alinea waarin dat gebeurt.