

OMB APPROVAL
EXPIRES: October 31, 1994
ESTIMATED AVERAGE BURDEN
HOURS PER RESPONSE 14.90

UNITED STATES

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, DC 20549

SCHEDULE 13G

Under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

(Amendment No.)*

Banco Frances del Rio de la Plata S.A.

(Name of Issuer)

Ordinary Shares**

(Title of Class of Securities)

05959110

(CUSIP NUMBER)

Check the following box if a fee is being paid with this statement. [] (A fee is not required only if the filing person: (1) has a previous statement on file reporting beneficial ownership of more than five percent of the class of securities described in Item 1; and (2) has filed no amendment subsequent thereto reporting beneficial ownership of five percent or less of such class.) (See Rule 13d-7).

*The remainder of this cover page shall be filled out for a reporting person's initial filing on this form with respect to the subject class of securities, and for any subsequent amendment containing information which would alter the disclosures provided in a prior cover page.

The information required in the remainder of this cover page shall not be deemed to be "filed" for the purpose of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act") or otherwise subject to the liabilities of that section of the Act but shall be subject to all other provisions of the Act (however, see the Notes).

**Each of the ordinary shares set forth on Item 9 of the cover sheets are beneficially held through ADRs (CUSIP 05959110). In the aggregate as of December 31, 1996, Merrill Lynch & Co., Inc. may be deemed to beneficially own 2,793,271 ADRs.

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CUSIP NO. 05959110 13G

1. NAME OF REPORTING PERSON
S.S. or I.R.S. IDENTIFICATION NO. OF ABOVE PERSON

Merrill Lynch & Co., Inc.

2. CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP* Joint Filing

(a) []
(b) []

3. SEC USE ONLY

4. CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION

Delaware

NUMBER OF SHARES BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON WITH

5. SOLE VOTING POWER

NONE

6. SHARED VOTING POWER

8,379,813

7. SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER

NONE

8. SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER

8,379,813

9. AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON

8,379,813

10. CHECK BOX IF THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW (9) EXCLUDES CERTAIN SHARES*

11. PERCENT OF CLASS REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW 9

7.5%

12. TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON*

HC, CO

*SEE INSTRUCTION BEFORE FILING OUT!

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CUSIP NO. 05959110 13G

1. NAME OF REPORTING PERSON

S.S. or I.R.S. IDENTIFICATION NO. OF ABOVE PERSON

Merrill Lynch Group, Inc.

2. CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP* Joint Filing

(a) []

(b) []

3. SEC USE ONLY

4. CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION

Delaware

NUMBER OF SHARES BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON WITH

5. SOLE VOTING POWER

NONE

6. SHARED VOTING POWER

8,328,063

7. SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER

NONE

8. SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER

8,328,063

9. AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON

8,328,063

10. CHECK BOX IF THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW (9) EXCLUDES CERTAIN SHARES*

11. PERCENT OF CLASS REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW 9

7.4%

12. TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON*

HC, CO

*SEE INSTRUCTION BEFORE FILING OUT!

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CUSIP NO. 05959110 13G

1. NAME OF REPORTING PERSON
S.S. or I.R.S. IDENTIFICATION NO. OF ABOVE PERSON

Princeton Services, Inc.

2. CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP* Joint Filing

(a) []
(b) []

3. SEC USE ONLY

4. CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION

Delaware

NUMBER OF SHARES BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON WITH

5. SOLE VOTING POWER

NONE

6. SHARED VOTING POWER

8,108,520

7. SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER

NONE

8. SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER

8,108,520

9. AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON

8,108,520

10. CHECK BOX IF THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW (9) EXCLUDES CERTAIN SHARES*

11. PERCENT OF CLASS REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW 9

7.3%

12. TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON*

HC, CO

*SEE INSTRUCTION BEFORE FILING OUT!

Page 5 of 11 Pages

CUSIP NO. 82930F10 13G

1. NAME OF REPORTING PERSON
S.S. or I.R.S. IDENTIFICATION NO. OF ABOVE PERSON

Merrill Lynch Asset Management, L.P.

2. CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP* Joint Filing

(a) []
(b) []

3. SEC USE ONLY

4. CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION

Maryland

NUMBER OF SHARES BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON WITH

5. SOLE VOTING POWER

NONE

6. SHARED VOTING POWER

8,108,520

7. SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER

NONE

8. SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER

8,108,520

9. AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON

8,108,520

10. CHECK BOX IF THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW (9) EXCLUDES CERTAIN SHARES*

11. PERCENT OF CLASS REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW 9

7.3%

12. TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON*

IA, PN

*SEE INSTRUCTION BEFORE FILING OUT!

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SCHEDULE 13G

ITEM 1 (a) Name of Issuer:

Banco Frances del Rio de la Plata S.A.

ITEM 1 (b) Address of Issuer's Principal Executive Offices:

Reconquista 199
1003 Buenos Aires
Argentina

ITEM 2 (a) Name of Persons Filing:

Merrill Lynch & Co., Inc.
Merrill Lynch Group, Inc.
Princeton Services, Inc.
Merrill Lynch Asset Management, L.P.

ITEM 2 (b) Address of Principal Business Office or, if none, Residence:

Merrill Lynch & Co., Inc.
World Financial Center, North Tower
250 Vesey Street
New York, New York 10281

Merrill Lynch Group, Inc.
World Financial Center, North Tower
250 Vesey Street
New York, New York 10281

Princeton Services, Inc.
800 Scudders Mill Road
Plainsboro, New Jersey 08536

Merrill Lynch Asset Management, L.P.
800 Scudders Mill Road
Plainsboro, New Jersey 08536

ITEM 2 (c) Citizenship:

See Item 4 of Cover Pages

ITEM 2 (d) Title of Class of Securities:

Common Stock

ITEM 2 (e) CUSIP NUMBER:

05959110

ITEM 3

Merrill Lynch & Co., Inc. ("ML&Co."), Merrill Lynch Group, Inc. ("ML Group") and Princeton Services, Inc. ("PSI") are parent holding companies, in accordance with (S) 240.13d-1(b)(ii)(G) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the "1934 Act"). Merrill Lynch Asset Management, L.P. (d/b/a Merrill Lynch Asset Management "MLAM"), is an investment adviser registered under (S) 203 of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 (the "Advisers Act").

ITEM 4 Ownership

(a) Amount Beneficially Owned:

See Item 9 of Cover Pages. Pursuant to (S) 240.13d-4 of the 1934 Act, ML&Co., ML Group and PSI disclaim beneficial ownership of the securities of Banco Frances del Rio de la Plata (the "Company") referred to herein, and the filing of this Schedule 13G shall not be construed as an admission that such persons are, for the purposes of Section 13(d) or 13(g) of the 1934 Act, the beneficial owner of any securities of the Issuer covered by this statement.

(b) Percent of Class:

See Item 11 of Cover Pages

(c) Number of shares as to which such person has:

(i) sole power to vote or to direct the vote:

See Item 5 of Cover Pages

(ii) shared power to vote or to direct the vote:

See Item 6 of the Cover Pages

(iii) sole power to dispose of or to direct the disposition of:

See Item 7 of Cover Pages

(iv) share power to dispose of or direct the disposition of:

See Item 8 of Cover Pages

ITEM 5 Ownership of Five Percent or Less of a Class.

Not Applicable

ITEM 6 Ownership of More than Five Percent on Behalf of Another Person.

MLAM is an investment adviser registered under Section 203 of the Investment Advisers Act and acts as an investment adviser to investment companies registered under Section 8 of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (the "Investment Company Act") and certain private accounts. With respect to securities held by those investment companies and private accounts, several persons have the right to receive, or the power to direct the receipt of dividends from or the proceeds from the sale of, such securities.

ITEM 7 Identification and Classification of the Subsidiary Which

Acquired the Security Being Reported on by the Parent Holding Company.

See Exhibit A

ITEM 8 Identification and Classification of Members of the Group.

Not Applicable

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ITEM 9 Notice of Dissolution of Group.

Not Applicable

ITEM 10 Certification

By signing below each of the undersigned certifies that, to the best of their knowledge and belief, the securities referred to above were acquired in the ordinary course of business and were not acquired for the purpose of and do not have the effect of changing or influencing the control of the issuer of such securities and were not acquired in connection with or as a participant in any transaction having such purpose or effect.

Signature.
- -----

After reasonable inquiry and to the best of my knowledge and belief, each of the undersigned certifies that the information set forth in this statement is true, complete and correct.

Date: February 14, 1997

Merrill Lynch & Co., Inc.

/s/ Richard B. Alsop

- -----
Name: Richard B. Alsop
Title: Attorney-In-Fact*

Merrill Lynch Group, Inc.

/s/ Richard B. Alsop

- -----
Name: Richard B. Alsop
Title: Attorney-In-Fact**

Princeton Services, Inc.

/s/ Richard B. Alsop

- -----
Name: Richard B. Alsop
Title: Attorney-In-Fact***

Merrill Lynch Asset Management, L.P.
By: Princeton Services, Inc. (General Partner)

/s/ Richard B. Alsop

- -----
Name: Richard B. Alsop
Title: Attorney-In-Fact****

- -----
* Signed pursuant to a power of attorney, dated November 17, 1995, included as Exhibit B to this Schedule 13G.

** Signed pursuant to a power of attorney, dated November 17, 1995, included as Exhibit C to this Schedule 13G.

*** Signed pursuant to a power of attorney, dated November 30, 1995, included as Exhibit D to this Schedule 13G.

**** Signed pursuant to a power of attorney, dated November 30, 1995, included as Exhibit E to this Schedule 13G.

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EXHIBIT A TO SCHEDULE 13G

ITEM 7 DISCLOSURE RESPECTING SUBSIDIARIES

Three of the persons filing this report, Merrill Lynch & Co., Inc., a Delaware corporation with its principal place of business at World Financial Center, North Tower, 250 Vesey Street, New York, New York ("ML&Co."), Merrill Lynch Group, Inc., a Delaware corporation with its principal place of business at World Financial Center, North Tower, 250 Vesey Street, New York, New York ("ML Group"), and Princeton Services, Inc. a Delaware corporation with its principal place of business at 800 Scudders Mill Road, Plainsboro, New Jersey, ("PSI"), are parent holding companies pursuant to (S)240 13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(G) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the "1934 Act"). The relevant subsidiaries of ML&Co. are ML Group, Merrill Lynch Global Asset Management ("MLGAM"), Merrill Lynch Bank (Suisse) SA ("ML Bank Suisse") and PSI. PSI is the general partner of Merrill Lynch Asset Management, L.P. (d/b/a Merrill Lynch Asset Management "MLAM"). The relevant subsidiaries of ML Group are PSI, ML Bank Suisse and certain Merrill Lynch trust companies.

ML&Co. may be deemed to be the beneficial owner of certain of the reported securities of Banco Frances del Rio de la Plata (the "Company") by virtue of its control or its subsidiaries, ML Group and MLGAM.

MLGAM is a London based company established under the laws of the United Kingdom and a member of the Investment Managers Regulatory Organization Limited. MLGAM is wholly owned by ML&Co. through intermediate holding companies. The Staff of the Securities and Exchange Commission has granted no-action relief by letter dated November 24, 1993 recognizing that foreign subsidiaries, including MLGAM (and the intermediate holding companies), which would qualify as an institutional investor within the meaning of Rule 13d-1(b)(ii)(A)-(G) if in the United States, and which satisfy the criteria of subsection (i) of the Rule and the representations of ML&Co. in its request dated October 25, 1993, would qualify to use Schedule 13G. MLGAM holds certain of the reported securities in certain private accounts over which MLGAM has discretionary authority.

ML Group, a wholly-owned direct subsidiary of ML&Co., may be deemed to be the beneficial owner of certain of the reported securities of the Company by virtue of its control of (i) certain Merrill Lynch trust companies, each of which is a wholly-owned subsidiary of ML Group and a bank as defined in Section 3(a)(6) of the 1934 Act, (ii) ML Bank Suisse and (iii) PSI.

One or more Merrill Lynch trust companies or institutions, each of which is a bank as defined in Section 3(a)(6) of the 1934 Act, may be deemed the beneficial owner of certain of the reported securities of the Company held by customers in accounts over which such trust companies or institutions have discretionary authority.

ML Bank Suisse is a bank organized and existing under the laws of Switzerland and an indirect wholly owned subsidiary of ML Group which qualifies, pursuant to a "no action" letter issued to ML&Co. dated November 24, 1993 from the Staff of the Division of Corporate Finance of the Securities and Exchange Commission, as an institutional investor within the meaning of Section 13d-d(b)(1)(ii)(A)(G) for Schedule 13G reporting purposes. ML Bank Suisse may be deemed the beneficial owner of certain of the reported securities of the Company as set forth herein that are held by its customers in accounts over which ML Bank Suisse has discretionary authority.

PSI, a wholly-owned direct subsidiary of ML Group, may be deemed to be the beneficial owner of certain of the reported securities of the Company by virtue of its being the general partner of MLAM.

MLAM is an investment adviser registered under Section 203 of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940. MLAM may be deemed to be the beneficial owner of certain of the reported securities of the Company by virtue of its acting as

investment adviser to one or more investment companies registered under Section 8 of the Investment Company Act of 1940, and/or to one or more private accounts.

Pursuant to (S)240.13d-4 of the 1934 Act, ML & Co., ML Group, and PSI disclaim beneficial ownership of the securities of the Company as referred to herein, and the filing of this Schedule 13G shall not be construed as an admission that any such entity is, for the purposes of Section 13(d) or 13(g) of the 1934 Act, the beneficial owner of any securities of the Company.

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EXHIBIT B

POWER OF ATTORNEY

The undersigned, Merrill Lynch & Co., Inc. (the "Corporation"), a corporation duly organized under the laws of the State of Delaware, with its principal place of business at World Financial Center, North Tower, New York, New York, 10281, does hereby make, constitute and appoint Richard B. Alsop, Richard D. Kreuder, Andrea Lowenthal, Gregory T. Russo, or any other individual from time to time elected or appointed as Secretary or an Assistant Secretary of the Corporation, acting severally, each of whose address is Merrill Lynch & Co., Inc., World Financial Center, North Tower, New York, New York 10281, as its true and lawful attorneys-in-fact, for it and in its name, place and stead (i) to execute on behalf of the Corporation and cause to be filed and/or delivered, as required under Section 13(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the "Act") and the regulations thereunder, any number, as appropriate, of original, copies, or electronic filings of the Securities and Exchange Commission Schedule 13D or Schedule 13G Beneficial Ownership Reports (together with any amendments and joint filing agreements under Rule 13d-1(f)(1) of the Act, as may be required thereto) to be filed and/or delivered with respect to any equity security (as defined in Rule 13d-1(d) under the Act) beneficially owned by the undersigned and which must be reported by the undersigned pursuant to Section 13(d) of the Act and the regulations thereunder, (ii) to execute on behalf of the Corporation and cause to be filed and/or delivered, any number, as appropriate, of original copies or electronic filings of any forms (including, without limitation, Securities and Exchange Commission Form 3, 4 and 5) required to be filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Act and the regulations thereunder, and (iii) generally to take such other actions and perform such other things necessary to effectuate the foregoing as fully in all respects as if the undersigned could do if personally present. This Power of Attorney shall remain in effect until revoked, in writing, by the undersigned.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned has executed this Power of Attorney this 17th day of November, 1995.

MERRILL LYNCH & CO., INC.

By: /s/ David H. Komansky

Name: David H. Komansky

Title: President and Chief Operating Officer

EXHIBIT C

POWER OF ATTORNEY

The undersigned, Merrill Lynch Group, Inc. (the "Corporation"), a corporation duly organized under the laws of the State of Delaware, with its principal place of business at World Financial Center, North Tower, New York, New York, 10281, does hereby make, constitute and appoint Richard B. Alsop, Richard D. Kreuder, Andrea Lowenthal, Gregory T. Russo, or any other individual from time to time elected or appointed as Secretary or an Assistant Secretary of the Corporation, acting severally, each of whose address is Merrill Lynch & Co., Inc., World Financial Center, North Tower, New York, New York 10281, as its true and lawful attorneys-in-fact, for it and in its name, place and stead (i) to execute on behalf of the Corporation and cause to be filed and/or delivered, as required under Section 13(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the "Act") and the regulations thereunder, any number, as appropriate, of original, copies, or electronic filings of the Securities and Exchange Commission Schedule 13D or Schedule 13G Beneficial Ownership Reports (together with any amendments and joint filing agreements under Rule 13d-1(f)(1) of the Act, as may be required thereto) to be filed and/or delivered with respect to any equity security (as defined in Rule 13d-1(d) under the Act) beneficially

owned by the undersigned and which must be reported by the undersigned pursuant to Section 13(d) of the Act and the regulations thereunder, (ii) to execute on behalf of the Corporation and cause to be filed and/or delivered, any number, as appropriate, of original copies or electronic filings of any forms (including, without limitation, Securities and Exchange Commission Form 3, 4 and 5) required to be filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Act and the regulations thereunder, and (iii) generally to take such other actions and perform such other things necessary to effectuate the foregoing as fully in all respects as if the undersigned could do if personally present. This Power of Attorney shall remain in effect until revoked, in writing, by the undersigned.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned has executed this Power of Attorney this 17th day of November, 1995.

MERRILL LYNCH GROUP, INC.

By: /s/ Rosemary T. Berkery

Name: Rosemary T. Berkery
Title: Vice President and Director

EXHIBIT D

POWER OF ATTORNEY

The undersigned, Princeton Services Inc., a corporation duly organized under the laws of the State of Delaware, with its principal place of business at 800 Scudders Mill Road, Plainsboro, New Jersey 08536 does hereby make, constitute and appoint Richard B. Alsop, Andrea Lowenthal, Richard D. Kreuder, Gregory T. Russo, or Dauna R. Williams, acting severally, each of whose address is Merrill Lynch & Co., Inc., World Financial Center, North Tower, New York, New York 10281, as its true and lawful attorneys-in-fact, for it and in its name, place and stead to execute and cause to be filed and/or delivered, as required under Section 13(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the "Act") and the regulations thereunder, any number, as appropriate, of original, copies, or electronic filings of the Securities and Exchange Commission Schedule 13D or Schedule 13G Beneficial Ownership Reports (together with any amendments and joint filing agreements under Rule 13d-1(f) (1) of the Act, as may be required thereto) to be filed and/or delivered with respect to any equity security (as defined in Rule 13d-1(d) under the Act) beneficially owned by the undersigned and which must be reported by the undersigned pursuant to Section 13(d) of the Act and the regulations thereunder, and generally to take such other actions and perform such other things necessary to effectuate the foregoing as fully in all respects as if the undersigned could do if personally present. This Power of Attorney shall remain in effect until revoked, in writing, by the undersigned.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned has executed this Power of Attorney this 30th day of November, 1995.

PRINCETON SERVICES INC.

By: /s/ Philip L. Kirstein

Name: Philip L. Kirstein
Title: Director, Senior Vice President
Secretary and General Counsel

EXHIBIT E

POWER OF ATTORNEY

The undersigned, Merrill Lynch Asset Management, L.P. d/b/a Merrill Lynch Asset Management, a Limited Partnership duly organized under the laws of the State of Delaware, with its principal place of business at 800 Scudders Mill Road, Plainsboro, New Jersey 08536 does hereby make, constitute and appoint Richard B. Alsop, Andrea Lowenthal, Richard D. Kreuder, Gregory T. Russo, or Dauna R. Williams, acting severally, each of whose address is Merrill Lynch & Co., Inc., World Financial Center, North Tower, New York, New York 10281, as its true and lawful attorneys-in-fact, for it and in its name, place and stead to execute and cause to be filed and/or delivered, as required under Section 13(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the "Act") and the regulations thereunder, any number, as appropriate, of original, copies, or electronic filings of the Securities and Exchange Commission Schedule 13D or Schedule

13G Beneficial Ownership Reports (together with any amendments and joint filing agreements under Rule 13d-1(f) (1) of the Act, as may be required thereto) to be filed and/or delivered with respect to any equity security (as defined in Rule 13d-1(d) under the Act) beneficially owned by the undersigned and which must be reported by the undersigned pursuant to Section 13(d) of the Act and the regulations thereunder, and generally to take such other actions and perform such other things necessary to effectuate the foregoing as fully in all respects as if the undersigned could do if personally present. This Power of Attorney shall remain in effect until revoked, in writing, by the undersigned.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned has executed this Power of Attorney this 30th day of November, 1995.

Merrill Lynch Asset Management, L.P.
d/b/a Merrill Lynch Asset Management
By: Princeton Services, Inc., General Partner

By: /s/ Philip L. Kirstein

Name: Philip L. Kirstein
Title: Director, Senior Vice President
Secretary and General Counsel