

PRIVATE OFFERING NOTICE

[LOGO]

Merrill Lynch & Co., Inc.

Currency Notes Linked to the United States Dollar/Japanese Yen Exchange Rate  
due August 2005  
US\$10 principal amount per security  
(the "Notes")

Private Offering Notice

Summary Terms

The securities:

Payment at maturity:

- o No payments prior to maturity.
- o The securities may not be redeemed prior to maturity.
- o The securities are denominated and payable in U.S. dollars.
- o Senior unsecured debt securities of Merrill Lynch & Co., Inc.
- o Linked to the United States dollar/Japanese Yen exchange rate, a rate which expresses the number of United States dollars that can be exchanged for one Japanese Yen. The United States dollar/Japanese Yen exchange rate increases as the value of the Japanese Yen increases relative to the United States dollar and decreases as the value of the Japanese Yen declines relative to the United States dollar.
- o Expected settlement date: February , 2004.
- o Minimum repayment will not be less than 96% of the principal amount per security.
- o Maximum repayment will not be greater than 111.6% of the principal amount per security.
- o The securities are made available to each investor outside of the United States in a minimum initial investment of US\$50,000 or such other amount, and subject to such other restrictions, as may be applicable to such investor under the private offering rules of any jurisdiction outside of the United States.

The securities (the "Securities"), the subject of the attached offering document (the "Offering Document"), have not been approved for public sale in any jurisdiction outside of the United States. As such, the Securities are made available to investors outside of the United States only in accordance with applicable private offering rules. The Offering Document may not be copied or otherwise made available to any other person by any recipient without the express written consent of the Company.

The discussion contained in the Offering Document relating to the tax implications of investing in the Securities is not based upon, and does not reflect, the tax laws of any jurisdiction outside of the U.S. Accordingly, investors should consult their local tax advisor before making an investment in the Securities.

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This Notice and the Offering Document have been issued by Merrill Lynch & Co., Inc. (the "Company") for information only. Prospective investors should not treat the contents of this Notice as advice relating to legal, taxation or investment matters and are advised to consult their own professional advisors concerning the purchase, holding or disposal of the Securities. Attention is

drawn in particular to risk factors on pages S-7 to S-10 of the Offering Document. Subject to this Notice, the Offering Document has been approved for issue in the United Kingdom by Merrill Lynch International Bank Limited ("MLIB"), which is regulated by the Financial Services Authority, with registered office at Merrill Lynch Financial Center, 2 King Edward Street, London EC1A 1HQ, United Kingdom. This Notice is issued in Hong Kong by Merrill Lynch (Asia Pacific) Limited.

Investors in the United Kingdom should be aware that Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated ("MLPF&S"), which is handling the sale of the Securities, has no place of business in the UK and is not regulated by the Financial Services Authority. Therefore, with respect to anything done by MLPF&S, the regulatory regime governing an investor's rights will be different than that of investors' rights in the UK, and the UK rules for the protection of private investors and the UK Financial Compensation Scheme will not apply to any business MLPF&S conducts with or for UK investors.

Investors should also note the following:

(a) The Securities are denominated and payable in United States dollars. Investors that purchase securities with a currency other than U.S. dollars should note that changes in rates of exchange may have an adverse effect on the value, price or income of their investment.

(b) The price and value of the Securities and the income from them can fluctuate and may fall against the investor's interest and an investor may get back less than he invested.

(c) Investment in the Securities may not be suitable for all investors. Investors should seek advice from their investment advisor for information concerning the Company, the Securities and the suitability of purchasing the Securities in the context of their individual circumstances. Past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance, and no projection, representation or warranty is made regarding future performance.

(d) Save as disclosed herein and in the Offering Document, no commissions, discounts, brokerages or other special terms have been granted or are payable by the Company in connection with the issue or sale of any Securities.

(e) MLPF&S or one of its affiliates may be the only market maker, if any, in the Securities.

(f) Information relating to taxation is based on information currently available. The levels and bases of, and reliefs from, taxation in relevant jurisdictions can change. The value of any reliefs depends upon the circumstances of the investor. See additional comments about taxation above.

The date of this Notice is January 15, 2004.

This Notice supplements the Preliminary Prospectus Supplement, dated January 15, 2004, and the Prospectus, dated November 26, 2003.