

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 8-K

CURRENT REPORT

Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of
the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported): October 31, 2003

Merrill Lynch & Co., Inc.

(Exact name of Registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware

(State or other jurisdiction
of incorporation)

1-7182

(Commission
File Number)

13-2740599

(I.R.S. Employer
Identification No.)

4 World Financial Center, New York, New York 10080

(Address of principal executive offices) (Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (212) 449-1000

(Former name or former address, if changed since last report.)

Item 5. Other Events

Exhibits are filed herewith in connection with the Registration Statements on Form S-3 (File Nos. 333-97937 and 333-105098) filed by Merrill Lynch & Co., Inc. (the "Company") with the Securities and Exchange Commission covering Senior Debt Securities issuable under an indenture dated as of April 1, 1983, as amended through the date hereof, between the Company and JPMorgan Chase Bank (as so amended, the "Indenture"). The Company will issue \$20,000,000 aggregate original public offering price of Accelerated Return Notes Linked to Semiconductor HOLDERSSM due December 31, 2004 under the Indenture. The exhibits consist of the form of Securities and an opinion of counsel relating thereto.

Item 7. Financial Statements, Pro Forma Financial Information and Exhibits

EXHIBITS

- (4) Instruments defining the rights of security holders, including indentures.

Form of Merrill Lynch & Co., Inc.'s Accelerated Return Notes Linked to Semiconductor HOLDERSSM due December 31, 2004.
- (5) & (23) Opinion re: legality; consent of counsel.

Opinion of Sidley Austin Brown & Wood LLP relating to the Accelerated Return Notes Linked to Semiconductor HOLDERSSM due December 31, 2004 (including consent for inclusion of such opinion in this report and in Merrill Lynch & Co., Inc.'s Registration Statements relating to such Securities).

SIGNATURE

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereto duly authorized.

MERRILL LYNCH & CO., INC.
(Registrant)

By: _____ /s/ RUSSELL L. STEIN

Russell L. Stein
Treasurer

Date: October 31, 2003

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

MERRILL LYNCH & CO., INC.

EXHIBITS TO CURRENT REPORT ON
FORM 8-K DATED OCTOBER 31, 2003

Commission File Number 1-7182

Exhibit Index

<u>Exhibit No.</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Page</u>
(4)	Instruments defining the rights of security holders, including indentures. Form of Merrill Lynch & Co., Inc.'s Accelerated Return Notes Linked to Semiconductor HOLDRS SM due December 31, 2004.	
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THIS NOTE IS A GLOBAL SECURITY WITHIN THE MEANING OF THE INDENTURE HEREINAFTER REFERRED TO AND IS REGISTERED IN THE NAME OF A DEPOSITORY OR A NOMINEE THEREOF. UNLESS AND UNTIL IT IS EXCHANGED IN WHOLE OR IN PART FOR NOTES IN CERTIFICATED FORM, THIS NOTE MAY NOT BE TRANSFERRED EXCEPT AS A WHOLE BY THE DEPOSITORY TRUST COMPANY, A NEW YORK CORPORATION ("DTC"), TO A NOMINEE OF DTC OR BY DTC OR ANY SUCH NOMINEE TO A SUCCESSOR DEPOSITORY OR A NOMINEE OF SUCH SUCCESSOR DEPOSITORY. UNLESS THIS NOTE IS PRESENTED BY AN AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE OF DTC TO MERRILL LYNCH & CO., INC. OR ITS AGENT FOR REGISTRATION OF TRANSFER, EXCHANGE OR PAYMENT, AND ANY NOTE ISSUED IS REGISTERED IN THE NAME OF CEDE & CO. OR IN SUCH OTHER NAME AS REQUESTED BY AN AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE OF DTC (AND ANY PAYMENT IS MADE TO CEDE & CO. OR TO SUCH OTHER ENTITY AS IS REQUESTED BY AN AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE OF DTC), ANY TRANSFER, PLEDGE OR OTHER USE HEREOF FOR VALUE OR OTHERWISE BY OR TO ANY PERSON IS WRONGFUL INASMUCH AS THE REGISTERED OWNER HEREOF, CEDE & CO., HAS AN INTEREST HEREIN.

No. R-
CUSIP 59021W 76 1

2,000,000 Units
(Each Unit representing \$10
original public offering price per Note)

MERRILL LYNCH & CO., INC.
Accelerated Return Notes Linked to Semiconductor HOLDERSSM
due December 31, 2004 (the "Notes")

Merrill Lynch & Co., Inc., a Delaware corporation (hereinafter referred to as the "Company", which term includes any successor corporation under the Indenture herein referred to), for value received, hereby promises to pay to CEDE & CO., or its registered assigns, a sum for each Unit equal to the Redemption Amount, if any, as defined below, on December 31, 2004 (the "Stated Maturity").

Payment or delivery of the Redemption Amount and any interest on any overdue amount thereof with respect to this Note shall be made at the office or agency of the Company maintained for that purpose in the Borough of Manhattan, The City of New York, in such coin or currency of the United States of America as at the time of payment is legal tender for payment of public and private debts.

This Note is one of the series of Accelerated Return Notes Linked to Semiconductor HOLDERSSM due December 31, 2004.

Payment at Maturity

The "Redemption Amount" with respect to each Unit of this Note will be determined by the Calculation Agent, as defined below, as described below :

(i) If the Ending Value (as defined below) is greater than the Starting Value (as defined below), the Redemption Amount per Unit will equal:

$$\$10 + \left(\$30 \times \left(\frac{\text{Ending Value} - \text{Starting Value}}{\text{Starting Value}} \right) \right)$$

provided, however, the Redemption Amount cannot exceed \$12.40 per Unit.

(ii) If the Ending Value is equal to or less than the Starting Value, the Redemption Amount per Unit will equal:

$$\$10 \times \left(\frac{\text{Ending Value}}{\text{Starting Value}} \right)$$

The "Starting Value" equals 41.17. The "Ending Value" will be determined by Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated (the "Calculation Agent") and will equal the value of the Reference Property (as defined below) determined as follows:

(A) for any portion of the Reference Property consisting of cash:

- that cash, plus
- interest on the amount accruing from and including the date of the payment of that cash to holders of the Reference Property for which that cash was paid to but excluding the stated maturity date at a fixed interest rate determined on the date of the payment equal to the interest rate that would be paid on a fixed rate senior non-callable debt security of the Company with a term approximately equal to the remaining term for the Notes as determined by the Calculation Agent;

(B) for any portion of the Reference Property consisting of property other than cash or Reference Securities (as defined below):

- the market value of that property, as determined by the Calculation Agent on the date that the property was delivered to holders of the relevant Reference Property for which the property was distributed, plus
- interest on the amount accruing from and including the date of delivery to but excluding the Stated Maturity at a fixed interest rate determined as described in (A) above; and

- (C) for any portion of the Reference Property consisting of Reference Securities, the average or arithmetic mean, of the Closing Prices (as defined below) of each such Reference Security determined on each of the first five Calculation Days during the Calculation Period (each as defined below). If there are fewer than five Calculation Days in the Calculation Period with respect to any Reference Security, then the Ending Value shall be calculated using the average, arithmetic mean, of the Closing Prices of that Reference Security on those Calculation Days, and if there is only one Calculation Day, then the Ending Value shall be calculated using the Closing Price of that Reference Security on such Calculation Day. If no Calculation Days occur during the Calculation Period with respect to that Reference Security, then the Ending Value shall be calculated using the Closing Price of that Reference Security determined on the last scheduled Trading Day (as defined below) in the Calculation Period, regardless of the occurrence of a Market Disruption Event (as defined below) on that day.

“Reference Property” initially shall mean one Semiconductor HOLDR, and shall be subject to adjustment from time to time to reflect the distribution of cash, securities and/or other property in accordance with the adjustment provisions described below under “Dilution and Reorganization Adjustments”.

“Reference Securities” shall mean any securities included in the Reference Property.

The “Calculation Period” means the period from and including the seventh scheduled Trading Day prior to the Stated Maturity to and including the second scheduled Trading Day prior to the Stated Maturity.

“Calculation Day” means, with respect to any Reference Security, any Trading Day during the Calculation Period on which a Market Disruption Event has not occurred.

“Market Disruption Event” means, for any Reference Security, the occurrence or existence on any Trading Day during the one-half hour period that ends when the Closing Price is determined, of any suspension of, or limitation imposed on, trading in that Reference Security on the New York Stock Exchange (the “NYSE”) or other market or exchange, if applicable.

“Trading Day” means a day on which the American Stock Exchange (the “AMEX”), the NYSE and the Nasdaq National Market System (“Nasdaq NMS”) are open for trading.

“Closing Price” of a Reference Security means, for a Calculation Day, the following:

- (a) If the Reference Security is listed on a national securities exchange in the United States, is a Nasdaq NMS security or is included in the OTC Bulletin Board Service (“OTC Bulletin Board”) operated by the National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc. (the “NASD”), Closing Price means:
- (i) the last reported sale price, regular way, on that day on the principal United States securities exchange registered under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended

(the “Exchange Act”), on which that Reference Security is listed or admitted to trading, or

(ii) if not listed or admitted to trading on any such securities exchange or if the last reported sale price is not obtainable, the last reported sale price on the over-the-counter market as reported on the Nasdaq NMS or OTC Bulletin Board on that day, or

(iii) if the last reported sale price is not available pursuant to (i) and (ii) above, the mean of the last reported bid and offer price on the over-the-counter market as reported on the Nasdaq NMS or OTC Bulletin Board on that day as determined by the Calculation Agent.

The term “Nasdaq NMS security” shall include a security included in any successor to that system, and the term “OTC Bulletin Board” shall include any successor service to that service.

- (b) If the Reference Security is not listed on a national securities exchange in the United States or is not a Nasdaq NMS security or included in the OTC Bulletin Board operated by the NASD, Closing Price means the last reported sale price on that day on the securities exchange on which the Reference Security is listed or admitted to trading with the greatest volume of trading for the calendar month preceding that day as determined by the Calculation Agent, provided that if the last reported sale price is for a transaction which occurred more than four hours prior to the close of that exchange, then the Closing Price shall mean the average, mean, of the last available bid and offer price on that exchange. If the Reference Security is not listed or admitted to trading on any such securities exchange or if the last reported sale price or bid and offer are not obtainable, the Closing Price shall mean the last reported sale price for a transaction which occurred more than four hours prior to when trading in such over-the-counter market typically ends, then the Closing Price shall mean the average, mean, of the last available bid and offer prices in such market of the three dealers which have the highest volume of transactions in the Reference Security in the immediately preceding calendar month as determined by the Calculation Agent based on information that is reasonably available to it.

“Business Day” means each Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday that is not a day on which banking institutions in The City of New York are authorized or obligated by law to close and that is a day on which the NYSE, the Nasdaq National Market and the AMEX are open for trading.

All determinations made by the Calculation Agent shall be at the sole discretion of the Calculation Agent and, absent manifest error, shall be conclusive for all purposes and binding on the Company and the Holders and beneficial owners of the Notes.

Dilution and Reorganization Adjustments

The Reference Property is subject to adjustment if an issuer of any Reference Security shall:

-
- (i) pay a stock dividend or make a distribution on that Reference Security in Reference Securities;
 - (ii) subdivide or split the outstanding units of that Reference Security into a greater number of units;
 - (iii) combine the outstanding units of that Reference Security into a smaller number of units;
 - (iv) issue by reclassification of units of that Reference Security any units of another security of that issuer;
 - (v) issue rights or warrants to all holders of that Reference Security entitling them to subscribe for or purchase shares, in the aggregate, for more than 5% of the number of those Reference Securities outstanding prior to the issuance of the rights or warrants at a price per share less than the then current market price of that Reference Security (other than rights to purchase that Reference Security pursuant to a plan for the reinvestment of dividends or interest); or
 - (vi) pay a dividend or make a distribution to all holders of that Reference Security of evidences of its indebtedness or other assets:
 - including in the case where the Reference Security is Semiconductor HOLDRS, any of the securities underlying Semiconductor HOLDRS that may be distributed by the Semiconductor HOLDRS Trust, but,
 - excluding any stock dividends or distributions referred to in clause (i) above or any cash dividends other than any Extraordinary Cash Dividend or issuance to all holders of that Reference Security of rights or warrants to subscribe for or purchase any of its securities (other than those referred to in clause (v) above) (any of the foregoing assets are referred to as the "Distributed Assets" and any of the foregoing events are referred to as the "Dilution Events").

"Semiconductor HOLDRS" means the depositary receipts issued by the Semiconductor HOLDRS Trust which trade on the AMEX under the symbol "SMH".

For purposes of provision (vi) above, if the holder of a Reference Security can elect to receive securities in lieu of cash or property other than securities, then for purposes of provision (vi) above, the holders of the Reference Security shall be deemed to receive only the securities.

In the case of the Dilution Events referred to in clauses (i), (ii), (iii) and (iv) above, the Reference Property shall be adjusted to include the number of units of the Reference Security and/or security of that issuer which a holder of Reference Property as constituted immediately prior to the Dilution Event would have owned or been entitled to receive as a result of that Dilution Event. Each adjustment shall become effective immediately after the effective date for the dividend, distribution subdivision, split, combination or reclassification, as the case may be. Each adjustment shall be made successively.

In the case of the Dilution Event referred to in clause (v) above, the Reference Property shall be adjusted by multiplying the number of Reference Securities constituting Reference Property immediately prior to the date of issuance of the rights or warrants referred to in clause (v) above by a fraction:

- the numerator of which shall be the number of Reference Securities outstanding on the date immediately prior to such issuance, plus the number of additional Reference Securities offered for subscription or purchase pursuant to the rights or warrants, and
- the denominator of which shall be the number of Reference Securities outstanding on the date immediately prior to such issuance, plus the number of additional Reference Securities which the aggregate offering price of the total number of Reference Securities so offered for subscription or purchase pursuant to the rights or warrants would purchase at the current market price, determined as the average Closing Price per Reference Security for the 20 Trading Days immediately prior to the date of such rights or warrants are issued, subject to certain adjustments, which shall be determined by multiplying such total number of Reference Securities by the exercise price of the rights or warrants and dividing the product so obtained by the current market price.

To the extent that the rights or warrants are not exercised before they expire, or if the rights or warrants are not issued, the Reference Property shall be readjusted to the Reference Property which would then be in effect had such adjustments for the issuance of the rights or warrants been made upon the basis of delivery of only the number of Reference Securities actually delivered under the rights or warrants.

In the case of the Dilution Event referred to in clause (vi) above, the Reference Property shall be adjusted to include, from and after the dividend, distribution or issuance,

- for the portion of the Distributed Assets consisting of cash, the amount of such Distributed Assets consisting of cash received on Reference Property as constituted on the date of the dividend, distribution or issuance, plus
- for the portion of the Distributed Assets which are other than cash, the number or amount of each type of Distributed Assets other than cash received on Reference Property as constituted on the date of the dividend, distribution or issuance.

An "Extraordinary Cash Dividend" means, with respect to any consecutive 12-month period, the amount, if any, by which the aggregate amount of all cash dividends or any other distribution made by the issuer of a Reference Security or made pursuant to an arrangement effecting a distribution of distributable profits or reserves, whether in cash or in specie, on any Reference Security occurring in such 12-month period (or, if the Reference Security was not outstanding at the commencement of such 12-month period or was not then a part of the Reference Property, occurring in such shorter period during which such Reference Security was outstanding and was part of the Reference Property) exceeds on a per share basis 10% of the

average of the Closing Prices per share of such Reference Security over such 12-month period (or shorter period during which such Reference Security was outstanding and was part of the Reference Property); provided that, for purposes of the foregoing definition, the amount of cash dividends paid on a per share basis will be appropriately adjusted to reflect the occurrence during such period of any stock dividend or distribution of shares of capital stock of the issuer of such Reference Security or any subdivision, split, combination or reclassification of shares of such Reference Security.

If the Reference Security is Semiconductor HOLDRS, the determination as to whether any cash dividend on such Semiconductor HOLDRS is an Extraordinary Cash Dividend shall be made,

- by examining which of the stocks underlying Semiconductor HOLDRS is responsible for all or a portion of such cash dividend or distribution on Semiconductor HOLDRS, and
- treating each such stock underlying Semiconductor HOLDRS as if it were a Reference Security only for this purpose and then determining whether such cash dividend would be an Extraordinary Cash Dividend as defined above with respect to such deemed Reference Security.

A "Reorganization Event" shall mean:

- any consolidation or merger of an issuer of a Reference Security, or any surviving entity or subsequent surviving entity of that issuer (a "Successor Company"), with or into another entity, other than a merger or consolidation in which such issuer is the continuing corporation and in which the Reference Security outstanding immediately prior to the merger or consolidation is not exchanged for cash, securities or other property of such issuer or another corporation;
- any sale, transfer, lease or conveyance to another corporation of the property of an issuer of a Reference Security or any Successor Company as an entirety or substantially as an entirety;
- any statutory exchange of securities of an issuer of a Reference Security or any Successor Company with another corporation, other than in connection with a merger or acquisition; or
- any liquidation, dissolution, winding up or bankruptcy of an issuer of a Reference Security or any Successor Company.

If a Reorganization Event occurs, the Reference Property shall include:

- for any cash received in that Reorganization Event, the cash received by a holder of the Reference Property as constituted on the date of the Reorganization Event;

- for any property other than cash or securities received in that Reorganization Event, the property received by a holder of the Reference Property as constituted on the date of the Reorganization Event as determined by the Calculation Agent; and
- for any securities received in that Reorganization Event, the securities received by a holder of the Reference Property as constituted on the date of the Reorganization Event (subject to adjustment on a basis consistent with the adjustment provisions described above).

All adjustments will be calculated to the nearest 1/10,000th of a share of the Reference Security, or if there is not a nearest 1/10,000th of a share, to the next lower 1/10,000th of a share. No adjustment shall be required unless that adjustment would require an increase or decrease of at least one percent in the Closing Price; *provided, however*, that any adjustments which by reason of the foregoing are not required to be made shall be carried forward and taken into account in any subsequent adjustment.

The foregoing adjustments shall be made by the Calculation Agent, and all adjustments, absent a manifest error, shall be final.

The Company will, within ten Business Days following the occurrence of an event that requires an adjustment, or if the Company is not aware of such occurrence, as soon as practicable after becoming so aware, provide written notice to the Trustee (as defined below), which shall provide notice to the holders of the Notes of the occurrence of the event and, if applicable, a statement in reasonable detail setting forth the adjusted Closing Price to be used in determining the Ending Value.

General

This Note is one of a duly authorized issue of Securities of the Company, issued and to be issued under an Indenture, dated as of April 1, 1983, as amended and restated (herein referred to as the "Indenture"), between the Company and JPMorgan Chase Bank, as Trustee (herein referred to as the "Trustee", which term includes any successor Trustee under the Indenture), to which Indenture and all indentures supplemental thereto reference is hereby made for a statement of the respective rights thereunder of the Company, the Trustee and the Holders of the Notes, and the terms upon which the Notes are, and are to be, authenticated and delivered.

The Company hereby covenants for the benefit of the Holders of the Notes, to the extent permitted by applicable law, not to claim voluntarily the benefits of any laws concerning usurious rates of interest against a Holder of the Notes.

The Notes are not subject to redemption by the Company prior to the Stated Maturity.

In case an Event of Default with respect to any Notes shall have occurred and be continuing, the amount payable to a Holder of a Note upon any acceleration permitted by the Notes, with respect to each Unit, will be equal to the Redemption Amount, calculated as though the date of early repayment were the Stated Maturity of the Notes.

In case of default in payment of the Notes (whether at the Stated Maturity or upon acceleration), from and after such date of default the Notes shall bear interest, payable upon demand of the Holders thereof, at the rate of 1.25% per annum (to the extent that payment of such interest shall be legally enforceable) on the unpaid amount due and payable on such date in accordance with the terms of the Notes to the date payment of such amount has been made or duly provided for.

The Indenture permits, with certain exceptions as therein provided, the amendment thereof and the modification of the rights and obligations of the Company and the rights of the Holders of the Securities of each series to be affected under the Indenture at any time by the Company and the Trustee with the consent of the Holders of not less than 66 2/3% in aggregate original public offering price or principal amount, as the case may be of the Securities at the time Outstanding of each series affected thereby. Holders of specified percentages in aggregate original public offering price or principal amount, as the case may be of the Securities of each series at the time Outstanding, on behalf of the Holders of all Securities of each series, are permitted to waive compliance by the Company with certain provisions of the Indenture and certain past defaults under the Indenture and their consequences. Any such consent or waiver by the Holder of this Note shall be conclusive and binding upon such Holder and upon all future Holders of this Note and of any Note issued upon the registration of transfer hereof or in exchange hereof or in lieu hereof whether or not notation of such consent or waiver is made upon this Note.

No reference herein to the Indenture and no provision of this Note or of the Indenture shall alter or impair the obligation of the Company, which is absolute and unconditional, to pay the Redemption Amount with respect to this Note and any interest on any overdue amount thereof at the time, place, and rate, and in the coin or currency herein prescribed.

As provided in the Indenture and subject to certain limitations set forth therein and on the first page hereof, the transfer of this Note may be registered on the Security Register of the Company, upon surrender of this Note for registration of transfer at the office or agency of the Company in the Borough of Manhattan, The City of New York, duly endorsed by, or accompanied by a written instrument of transfer in form satisfactory to the Company duly executed by, the Holder hereof or by his attorney duly authorized in writing, and thereupon one or more new Notes, of authorized denominations and for the same aggregate original public offering price, will be issued to the designated transferee or transferees.

The Notes are issuable only in registered form without coupons in denominations of a single Unit and integral multiples thereof. This Note shall remain in the form of a global security held by a Depository. Notwithstanding the foregoing, if (x) any Depository is at any time unwilling or unable to continue as Depository and a successor depository is not appointed by the Company within 60 days, (y) the Company executes and delivers to the Trustee a Company Order to the effect that this Note shall be exchangeable or (z) an Event of Default has occurred and is continuing with respect to the Notes, this Note shall be exchangeable for Notes in definitive form of like tenor and of an equal aggregate original public offering price, in denominations of a single Unit and integral multiples thereof. Such definitive Notes shall be registered in such name or names as the Depository shall instruct the Trustee. If definitive Notes

are so delivered, the Company may make such changes to the form of this Note as are necessary or appropriate to allow for the issuance of such definitive Notes.

The Company and the Holder of a Note by acceptance hereof hereby agree (in the absence of an administrative determination or judicial ruling to the contrary) to characterize and treat each Note for all tax purposes as a pre-paid cash-settled forward contract linked to the price of Semiconductor HOLDERSSM.

No service charge shall be made for any such registration of transfer or exchange, but the Company may require payment of a sum sufficient to cover any tax or governmental charge payable in connection therewith.

Prior to due presentment of this Note for registration of transfer, the Company, the Trustee and any agent of the Company or the Trustee may treat the Person in whose name this Note is registered as the owner hereof for all purposes, whether or not this Note be overdue, and neither the Company, the Trustee nor any such agent shall be affected by notice to the contrary.

All terms used in this Note which are defined in the Indenture but not in this Note shall have the meanings assigned to them in the Indenture.

Unless the certificate of authentication hereon has been executed by JPMorgan Chase Bank, the Trustee under the Indenture, or its successor thereunder, by the manual signature of one of its authorized officers, this Note shall not be entitled to any benefits under the Indenture or be valid or obligatory for any purpose.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Company has caused this instrument to be duly executed under its corporate seal.

Dated: October 31, 2003

CERTIFICATE OF AUTHENTICATION

This is one of the Securities of the series designated therein referred to in the within-mentioned Indenture.

[Copy of Seal]

Merrill Lynch & Co., Inc.

JPMorgan Chase Bank, as Trustee

By:

Treasurer

By:

Authorized Officer

Attest:

Secretary

October 31, 2003

Merrill Lynch & Co., Inc.
4 World Financial Center
New York, New York 10080

Ladies and Gentlemen:

As your counsel, we have examined a copy of the Restated Certificate of Incorporation, as amended, of Merrill Lynch & Co., Inc. (hereinafter called the "Company"), certified by the Secretary of State of the State of Delaware. We are familiar with the corporate proceedings had in connection with the proposed issuance and sale by the Company to the Underwriter named in the Terms Agreement referred to below, pursuant to an Underwriting Agreement dated August 5, 1998 (the "Underwriting Agreement"), between the Company and Merrill Lynch & Co., Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated ("MLPF&S"), as supplemented by the Terms Agreement dated October 28, 2003 (the "Terms Agreement") between the Company and MLPF&S (the "Underwriter"), of the Company's Accelerated Return Notes Linked to Semiconductor HOLDRSSM due December 31, 2004 (the "Notes") in an amount equal to \$20,000,000 which equals the aggregate original public offering price of the Notes. We have also examined a copy of the Indenture between the Company and JPMorgan Chase Bank as Trustee, dated as of April 1, 1983, as amended (the "Indenture"), and the Company's Registration Statements on Form S-3 (File Nos. 333-97937 and 333-105098) relating to the Notes (the "Registration Statements").

Based upon the foregoing and upon such further investigation as we deemed relevant in the premises, we are of the opinion that:

1. The Company has been duly incorporated under the laws of the State of Delaware.

2. The Notes have been duly and validly authorized by the Company and when the Notes have been duly executed and authenticated in accordance with the terms of the Indenture and delivered against payment therefor as set forth in the Underwriting Agreement, as supplemented by the Terms Agreement, the Notes will constitute valid and legally binding obligations of the Company, enforceable against the Company in accordance with their terms, except to the extent that enforcement thereof may be limited by bankruptcy, moratorium, insolvency, reorganization or similar laws relating to or affecting creditors' rights generally and except as enforcement thereof is subject to general principles at equity (regardless of whether enforcement is considered in a proceeding in equity or at law).

We consent to the filing of this opinion as an exhibit to the Registration Statements and as an exhibit to the Current Report of the Company on Form 8-K dated October 31, 2003.

Very truly yours,

/s/ SIDLEY AUSTIN BROWN & WOOD LLP