

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. 2 )\*

Platinum Technology, Inc.

-----  
(Name of Issuer)

Common Stock

-----  
(Title of Class of Securities)

72764T10

-----  
(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 (the "1934 Act") or otherwise subject to the liabilities of that section of the 1934 Act but shall be subject to all other provisions of the 1934 Act (however, see the Notes).

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CUSIP NO. 72764T10

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

956,626

7. SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER

NONE

8. SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER

956,626

9. AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON

956,626

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

11. PERCENT OF CLASS REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW 9

1.7%

12. TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON\*

HC, CO

\*SEE INSTRUCTION BEFORE FILING OUT!

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CUSIP NO. 72764T10 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

936.000

7. SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER

NONE

8. SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER

936,000

9. AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON

936,000

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

11. PERCENT OF CLASS REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW 9

1.7%

12. TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON\*

HC, CO

\*SEE INSTRUCTION BEFORE FILING OUT!

CUSIP NO. 72764T10 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

936,000

7. SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER

NONE

8. SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER

936,000

9. AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON

936,000

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

11. PERCENT OF CLASS REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW 9

1.7%

12. TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON\*

HC, CO

\*SEE INSTRUCTION BEFORE FILING OUT!

CUSIP NO. 72764T10 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

Delaware

NUMBER OF SHARES BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON WITH

5. SOLE VOTING POWER

NONE

6. SHARED VOTING POWER

53,400

7. SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER

NONE

8. SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER

53,400

9. AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON

53,400

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

11. PERCENT OF CLASS REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW 9

0.1%

12. TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON\*

IA, PN

\*SEE INSTRUCTION BEFORE FILING OUT!

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CUSIP NO. 72764T10 13G

1. NAME OF REPORTING PERSON

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

Merrill Lynch Growth Fund for Investment & Retirement

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

Massachusetts

NUMBER OF SHARES BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON WITH

5. SOLE VOTING POWER

NONE

6. SHARED VOTING POWER

NONE

7. SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER

NONE

8. SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER

NONE

9. AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON

NONE

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

11. PERCENT OF CLASS REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW 9

0%

12. TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON\*

IV, CO

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SCHEDULE 13G

ITEM 1 (a) Name of Issuer:  
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Platinum Technology, Inc.

ITEM 1 (b) Address of Issuer's Principal Executive Offices:  
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1815 South Meyers Road  
Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181

ITEM 2 (a) Name of Persons Filing:  
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Merrill Lynch & Co., Inc.  
Merrill Lynch Group, Inc.  
Princeton Services, Inc.  
Merrill Lynch Asset Management, L.P.  
Merrill Lynch Growth Fund for Investment & Retirement

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

Merrill Lynch Growth Fund for Investment & Retirement  
800 Scudders Mill Road  
Plainsboro, New Jersey 08536

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ITEM 2 (c) Citizenship:  
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See Item 4 of Cover Pages

ITEM 2 (d) Title of Class of Securities:  
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Common Stock

ITEM 2 (e) CUSIP NUMBER:

72764T10

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 (S) 203 of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 (the "Advisers Act"). Merrill Lynch Growth Fund for Investment & Retirement (the "Fund") is an investment company registered under Section 8 of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (the "Investment Company Act")

ITEM 4 Ownership

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(a) Amount Beneficially Owned:

See Item 9 of Cover Pages. Pursuant to (S) 240.13d-4, ML&Co., ML Group, and PSI disclaim beneficial ownership of the securities of Platinum Technology, Inc. (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 Company 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

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(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.

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If this statement is being filed to report the that the reporting person has ceased to be the beneficial owner of more than 5% of the class of securities reported herein, check the following [X].

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

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Not Applicable

ITEM 7 Identification and Classification of the Subsidiary Which

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

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See Exhibit A

ITEM 8 Identification and Classification of Members of the Group.

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Not Applicable

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ITEM 9 Notice of Dissolution of Group.

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Not Applicable

ITEM 10 Certification

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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\*\*\*\*

Merrill Lynch Growth Fund for Investment & Retirement

/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.

\*\*\*\*\* Signed pursuant to a power of attorney, dated November 22, 1995 included as Exhibit F to this Schedule 13G.

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EXHIBIT A TO SCHEDULE 13G  
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ITEM 7 DISCLOSURE RESPECTING SUBSIDIARIES  
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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 as defined in (S)240 13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(G) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the "1934 Act"). Pursuant to the instructions in Item 7 of Schedule 13G, the relevant subsidiaries of ML & Co. are Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner, and Smith ("MLPF&S"), Merrill Lynch Capital Markets Plc, a United Kingdom Corporation with its principal place of business at Ropemaker Place, 25 Ropemaker Street, London, England ("MLCM"), ML Group and PSI, which is the general partner of Merrill Lynch Asset Management, L.P.(d/b/a Merrill Lynch Asset Management "MLAM") and Fund Asset Management, L.P. (d/b/a Fund Asset Management "FAM"). The relevant subsidiary of ML Group is PSI.

ML&Co. may be deemed to be the beneficial owner of certain securities of Platinum Technology, Inc. (the "Company") held by or deemed to be beneficially owned by MLPF&S, ML Group, and MLCM.

MLPF&S, a Delaware corporation with its principal place of business at 250 Vesey Street, New York, New York, is a wholly-owned direct subsidiary of ML&Co. and a broker-dealer registered pursuant to Section 15 of the 1934 Act. MLPF&S holds certain of the securities of the Company in its proprietary trading accounts.

MLCM, a wholly-owned subsidiary of ML&Co., holds less than 1% of the reported securities of the Company in proprietary trading accounts.

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 its wholly-owned subsidiary, PSI.

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 and FAM.

MLAM, a Delaware limited partnership with its principal place of business at 800 Scudders Mill Road, Plainsboro, New Jersey, is an investment adviser registered under (S)203 of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 (the "Advisers Act"). 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 (the "Investment Company Act") and/or one or more private accounts.

Merrill Lynch Growth Fund for Investment & Retirement is a registered investment company advised by MLAM.

FAM, a Delaware limited partnership with its principal place of business at 800 Scudders Mill Road, Plainsboro, New Jersey, is an investment adviser registered under Section 203 of the Advisers Act. FAM 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 and/or 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 reported securities of the Company, 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  
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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  
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Name: Philip L. Kirstein  
Title: Director, Senior Vice President  
Secretary and General Counsel

EXHIBIT F  
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POWER OF ATTORNEY

The undersigned, Merrill Lynch Growth Fund for Investment and Retirement, a corporation duly organized under the laws of the State of Massachusetts, 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 22nd day of November, 1995.

MERRILL LYNCH GROWTH FUND FOR INVESTMENT AND RETIREMENT

By: /s/ Jerry Weiss  
-----  
Name: Jerry Weiss  
Title: Secretary