UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION Washington, D.C. 20549

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STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

(Print or Type Responses)										
1. Name and Address of Reporting Person [*] NEWBIGGING DAVID K	2. Issuer Name and MERRILL LYN			· ·		5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable) _X_Director10% Owner				
(Last) (First) FRIENDS PROVIDENT PLC, 15 C	T D D I II DI I	3. Date of Earliest Tr 04/23/2004	ansaction (N	Aontl	n/Day/Yea	ur)		Officer (give title below)O	her (specify bel	ow)
(Street) LONDON, X0 EC4M 7EF	2	4. If Amendment, Da	te Original	Filed	(Month/Day/	Year)		6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Che _X_Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting Person		ine)
(City) (State)	(Zip)	Т	able I - Noi	1-Dei	rivative S	ecurities	Acqu	ired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Ow	ned	
1.Title of Security (Instr. 3)	2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	3. Transact Code (Instr. 8)	ion	4. Securi (A) or Di (Instr. 3,	isposed o	of (D)	Owned Following Reported Transaction(s)	6. Ownership Form: Direct (D)	7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership
		(Wondi Day Tear)	Code	V	Amount	(A) or (D)	Price		or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	
Common Stock	04/23/2004 <mark>(1)</mark>		А		1,275	А	\$0	10,692 (2)	D	
Common Stock								11,191	Ι	Trust (3)

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

Persons who respond to the collection of information SEC 1474 (9-02) contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned

	(e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)														
1. Title of Derivative	2. Conversion	3. Transaction	3A. Deemed Execution Date, if	4. 5. Number		6. Date Exer Expiration I				8. Price of Derivative		10. Ownership	11. Nature of Indirect		
Security	or Exercise	(Month/Day/Year)	any	Code	Code Derivative		(Month/Day/Year)		Securities		Security	Securities	Form of	Beneficial	
(Instr. 3)	Price of Derivative		(Month/Day/Year)	(Instr. 8))	Securities Acquired				(Instr. 3 and 4)		· /		Derivative Security:	Ownership (Instr. 4)
	Security					(A) or								Direct (D)	(1130.4)
						Disposed of (D)							Reported Transaction(s)	or Indirect	
					(Instr. 3, 4,							5 C	(Instr. 4)		
						and 5)									
											Amount or				
								Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Number				
				Code	v	(A)	(D)				of Shares				
Stock															
Option -	\$ 56.88	04/23/2004		А		3,824		<u>(5)</u>	04/23/2014	Common Stock	3 824	\$ O	3,824	D	
Right to Acquire		04/23/2004		A		5,024			04/23/2014	Stock	3,024	Ф О	5,624	D	
<u>(4)</u>															

Reporting Owners

	Relationships							
Reporting Owner Name / Address	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other				
NEWBIGGING DAVID K FRIENDS PROVIDENT PLC 15 OLD BAILEY LONDON, X0 EC4M 7EF	Х							

Signatures

 David K. Newbigging (by Michael A. LaMaina, as agent)
 04/27/2004

 Signature of Reporting Person
 Date

-Signature of Reporting Perso

Explanation of Responses:

- * If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 4(b)(v).
- ** Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations. See 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).
- These Deferred Stock Units were granted on April 23, 2004 pursuant to the Merrill Lynch & Co., Inc. Deferred Stock Unit and Stock Option Plan for Non-Employee Directors, as (1) amended (the "Plan"). Deferred Stock Units are payable in Merrill Lynch & Co., Inc. Common Stock upon the earlier of the fifth Annual Meeting of Stockholders following the date of their grant or the director's End of Service Date, as defined in the Plan. Transactions under the Plan are exempt under Rule 16b-3.
- (2) This total reflects the reinvestment of dividend equivalents into Deferred Units and Deferred Stock Units pursuant to the terms of the Merrill Lynch & Co., Inc. Deferred Stock Unit and Stock Option Plan for Non-Employee Directors, as amended; these transactions are exempt from reporting pursuant to Rule 16a-3 and/or 16a-11.
- (3) These shares are held in a discretionary trust in which the reporting person is a permissable beneficiary.
- (4) These stock options were granted under the Merrill Lynch & Co., Inc. Deferred Stock Unit and Stock Option Plan for Non-Employee Directors, as amended. Transactions under this Plan are exempt under Rule 16b-3.
- (5) All stock options will become exercisable after 10/31/04.

Remarks:

All reported positions have been rounded down to the nearest whole number.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, see Instruction 6 for procedure.

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