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

August 15, 2002 Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported): Merrill Lynch & Co., Inc. (Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in its Charter) 1-7182 13-2740599 Delaware _ ______ (I.R.S. Employer Identification No.) (State or Other (Commission Jurisdiction of File Number) Incorporation) 4 World Financial Center, New York, New York _ _____ (Address of Principal Executive Offices) (Zip Code) Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (212) 449-1000

Item 5. Other Events

On August 15, 2002, Standard & Poor's Ratings Services announced that it placed its long- and short-term counterparty credit ratings on Merrill Lynch & Co., Inc. on CreditWatch with negative implications. These long- and short-term ratings are currently 'AA-' and 'A-1+', respectively. It stated in its announcement that if these ratings are lowered, they are not likely to be lowered by more than one notch.

(Former Name or Former Address, if Changed Since Last Report)

At the same time, Standard & Poor's took negative rating actions on several other financial institutions.

2

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, hereunto duly authorized.

MERRILL LYNCH & CO., INC.
-----(Registrant)

Assistant Secretary

Date: August 15, 2002