

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): August 31, 2004

Merrill Lynch & Co., Inc.  
(Exact name of Registrant as specified in its charter)

<u>Delaware</u>	<u>1-7182</u>	<u>13-2740599</u>
(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation)	(Commission File Number)	(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.)

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions (see General Instruction A.2. below):

- Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
- Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
- Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
- Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))

Item 8.01. Other Events

Exhibits are filed herewith in connection with the Registration Statement on Form S-3 (File No. 333-109802) 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 shall issue \$162,000,000 aggregate principal amount of PROTECTED Covered Call Enhanced Income Note<sup>SM</sup> Linked to the Select 30 PROCEEDS Index due August 31, 2009 under the Indenture. The exhibits consist of the form of Securities and an opinion of counsel relating thereto.

Item 9.01. 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 PROTECTED Covered Call Enhanced Income Note<sup>SM</sup> Linked to the Select 30 PROCEEDS Index due August 31, 2009.
- (5) & (23) Opinion re: legality; consent of counsel.
- Opinion of Sidley Austin Brown & Wood LLP relating to the PROTECTED Covered Call Enhanced Income Note<sup>SM</sup> Linked to the Select 30 PROCEEDS Index due August 31, 2009 (including consent for inclusion of such opinion in this report and in Merrill Lynch & Co., Inc.'s Registration Statement relating to such Securities).

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**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: August 31, 2004

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

MERRILL LYNCH & CO., INC.

EXHIBITS TO CURRENT REPORT ON  
FORM 8-K DATED AUGUST 31, 2004

Commission File Number 1-7182

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**Exhibit Index**

<u>Exhibit No.</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Page</u>
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THIS PROCEEDS 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 PROCEEDS IN CERTIFICATED FORM, THIS PROCEEDS 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 PROCEEDS 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 PROCEEDS 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-1  
CUSIP: 59021 W225

16,200,000 Units  
(each Unit representing \$10 principal  
amount of PROtected Covered Call  
EnhancED Income Note<sup>SM</sup>)

MERRILL LYNCH & CO., INC.  
PROtected Covered Call EnhancED Income Note<sup>SM</sup>  
Linked to the Select 30 PROCEEDS Index  
due August 31, 2009  
(the "PROCEEDS")

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, for each Unit the Interest Amount (as defined below) on each Interest Payment Date (as defined below). On August 31, 2009 (the "Stated Maturity"), the Company hereby promises to pay to CEDE & CO., or its registered assigns, a sum for each Unit equal to the sum of the principal amount of the PROCEEDS and the Supplemental Redemption Amount (as defined below), if any.

Payment or delivery per Unit of the above-referenced principal amount of the PROCEEDS and the Supplemental Redemption Amount, if any, and any interest on any overdue amount thereof with respect to this PROCEEDS and the Interest Amount, if any, 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.

**Interest**

The Company shall pay interest, if any, on each Unit of the PROCEEDS equal to the Interest Amount on the third Business Day following each Commencement Date (as defined below) (each, an "Interest Payment Date"). A "Commencement Date" shall mean each March 1, June 1, September 1 and December 1, beginning December 1, 2004. If a Commencement Date falls on a day that is not a Business Day, the Commencement Date shall be the next succeeding Business Day. The Company shall pay interest to the persons in whose names the PROCEEDS are registered at the close of business on a "Regular Record Date", which shall be the Business Day (as defined below) immediately succeeding the last day of the applicable Quarterly Calculation Period (as defined below). If an Interest Payment Date falls on a day that is not a Business Day, the Interest Amount payment, if any, to be made on such day shall be made on the next succeeding Business Day with the same force and effect as if made on such Interest Payment Date, and no additional interest shall be paid as a result of such delayed payment.

The "Interest Amount" shall be the amount determined by the Calculation Agent in a notice provided to the Trustee (as defined below) on or before the second Business Day immediately following the last day of the applicable Quarterly Calculation Period.

"Quarterly Calculation Period" means the period from and including a Commencement Date to, but excluding, the next Commencement Date, provided that the initial Quarterly Calculation Period shall commence on, and include, August 31, 2004 and the final Quarterly Calculation Period shall extend to, and include, the Valuation Date (as defined below).

**Payment at Maturity**

At maturity, a Holder shall receive a cash payment with respect to each Unit of the PROCEEDS equal to the sum of:

(i) the principal amount of \$10

and

(ii) the Supplemental Redemption Amount, if any.

The "Supplemental Redemption Amount" with respect to each Unit of this PROCEEDS shall be determined by the Calculation Agent (as defined below) and shall equal:

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

provided, however, that in no event shall the Supplemental Redemption Amount be less than zero.

The "Ending Value" shall be determined by the Calculation Agent and shall equal the closing level of the Reference Index (as defined below) determined on the Valuation Date.

The "Threshold Value" equals 100.

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The "Reference Index" means the Select 30 PROCEEDS Index published as of 4:00 p.m. (New York City time) on each Business Day (as defined below) on Reuters Page MEREDUS 13 (or any successor page as identified by the Calculation Agent).

The "Valuation Date" shall be the seventh scheduled Index Business Day before the Stated Maturity, or if that day is not an Index Business Day (as defined below), the next Index Business Day; provided, however, that if no Index Business Days occur between the seventh scheduled Index Business Day before the Stated Maturity and the second scheduled Index Business Day before the Stated Maturity, the Valuation Date shall be the second scheduled Index Business Day prior to the State Maturity, regardless of the occurrence of a Market Disruption Event (as defined below).

An "Index Business Day" shall be any day designated as such by the Calculation Agent.

"Business Day" shall be any day on which the New York Stock Exchange (the "NYSE"), the American Stock Exchange and The Nasdaq Stock Market are open for trading and commercial banks in New York are open to conduct business.

"Calculation Agent" means Merrill Lynch International.

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

"Market Disruption Event" means either of the following events as determined by the Calculation Agent:

- (A) the suspension of or material limitation on trading for more than two hours of trading, or during the one-half hour period preceding the close of trading, on the applicable exchange (without taking into account any extended or after-hours trading session), in 20% or more of the stocks which then comprise the Reference Index; or
- (B) the suspension of or material limitation on trading, in each case, for more than two hours of trading, or during the one-half hour period preceding the close of trading, on the applicable exchange (without taking into account any extended or after-hours trading session), whether by reason of movements in price otherwise exceeding levels permitted by the relevant exchange or otherwise, in option contracts or futures contracts related to 20% or more of the stocks which then comprise the Reference Index.

For the purpose of the above definition:

- (1) a limitation on the hours in a trading day and/or number of days of trading shall not constitute a Market Disruption Event if it results from an announced change in the regular business hours of the relevant exchange; and



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- (2) for the purpose of clause (A) above, any limitations on trading during significant market fluctuations under NYSE Rule 80A, or any applicable rule or regulation enacted or promulgated by the NYSE or any other self regulatory organization or the Securities and Exchange Commission of similar scope as determined by the Calculation Agent, shall be considered “material”.

#### General

This PROCEEDS 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 this PROCEEDS, and the terms upon which this PROCEEDS is, and is to be, authenticated and delivered.

The Company hereby covenants for the benefit of the Holders of this PROCEEDS, 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 this PROCEEDS.

This PROCEEDS is not subject to redemption by the Company or at the option of the Holder prior to the Stated Maturity.

In case an Event of Default with respect to this PROCEEDS shall have occurred and be continuing, the amount payable to a Holder of a PROCEEDS upon any acceleration permitted by this PROCEEDS, with respect to each Unit hereof, shall be equal to the amount payable on the Stated Maturity with respect to such Unit, calculated as though the date of acceleration were the Stated Maturity of this PROCEEDS, *provided, however*, the Index Adjustment Factor (as defined in the prospectus supplement relating to the PROCEEDS) shall be applied to the values used to calculate the Supplemental Redemption Amount as if the PROCEEDS had not been accelerated and had remained outstanding to the Stated Maturity.

In case of default in payment of this PROCEEDS (whether at the Stated Maturity or upon acceleration), from and after such date this PROCEEDS shall bear interest, payable upon demand of the Holders of this PROCEEDS, at the rate of 1.50% per annum on the unpaid amount due and payable on such date in accordance with the terms of this PROCEEDS 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 <sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub>% 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

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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 PROCEEDS shall be conclusive and binding upon such Holder and upon all future Holders of this PROCEEDS and of any PROCEEDS issued upon the registration of transfer hereof or in exchange herefor or in lieu hereof whether or not notation of such consent or waiver is made upon this PROCEEDS.

No reference herein to the Indenture and no provision of this PROCEEDS or of the Indenture shall alter or impair the obligation of the Company, which is absolute and unconditional, to pay any amount payable with respect to this PROCEEDS 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 PROCEEDS may be registered on the Security Register of the Company, upon surrender of this PROCEEDS 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 PROCEEDS, of authorized denominations and for the same aggregate principal amount, shall be issued to the designated transferee or transferees.

The PROCEEDS are issuable only in registered form without coupons in denominations of a single Unit and integral multiples thereof. This PROCEEDS 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 PROCEEDS shall be exchangeable or (z) an Event of Default has occurred and is continuing with respect to this PROCEEDS, this PROCEEDS shall be exchangeable for PROCEEDS in definitive form of like tenor and of an equal aggregate principal amount, in denominations of a single Unit and integral multiples thereof. Such definitive PROCEEDS shall be registered in such name or names as the Depository shall instruct the Trustee. If definitive PROCEEDS are so delivered, the Company may make such changes to the form of this PROCEEDS as are necessary or appropriate to allow for the issuance of such definitive PROCEEDS.

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.

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The Company and each Holder by acceptance hereof hereby agree to treat this PROCEEDS for all tax purposes as a debt instrument that is subject to U.S. Treasury Regulation section 1.1275-4(b) governing contingent payment debt instruments, and, where required, the Company shall file information returns with the Internal Revenue Service in accordance with this treatment, in the absence of any change or clarification in the law, by regulation or otherwise, requiring a different characterization of the PROCEEDS.

Prior to due presentment of this PROCEEDS 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 PROCEEDS is registered as the owner hereof for all purposes, whether or not this PROCEEDS 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 PROCEEDS which are defined in the Indenture but not in this PROCEEDS 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 PROCEEDS shall not be entitled to any benefits under the Indenture or be valid or obligatory for any purpose.

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

Dated: August 31, 2004

CERTIFICATE OF AUTHENTICATION

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

Merrill Lynch & Co., Inc.

[Copy of Seal]

JPMorgan Chase Bank, as Trustee:

By:

Treasurer

By:

Authorized Officer

Attest:

Secretary

August 31, 2004

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 August 25, 2004 (the "Terms Agreement") between the Company and MLPF&S (the "Underwriter"), of the Company's PROtected Covered Call EnhancED Income NoteS<sup>SM</sup> Linked to the Select 30 PROCEEDS Index due August 31, 2009 (the "Securities") in an amount equal to \$162,000,000 aggregate principal amount of the Securities. 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 Statement on Form S-3 (File No. 333-109802) relating to the Securities (the "Registration Statement").

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

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

2. The Securities have been duly and validly authorized by the Company and when the Securities 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 Securities 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 Statement and as an exhibit to the Current Report of the Company on Form 8-K dated August 31, 2004. We also consent to the use of our name under the caption "United States Federal Income Taxation" in the prospectus supplement related to the offering of the Securities.

Very truly yours,

/s/ SIDLEY AUSTIN BROWN & WOOD LLP