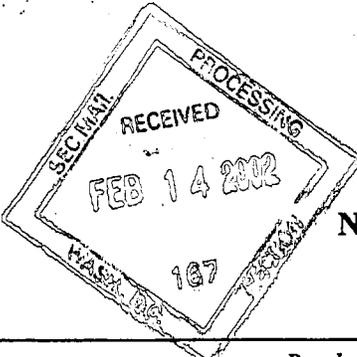




SECUR 02006206 SION
Washington, D.C.

OMB APPROVAL	
OMB Number:	3235-0151
Expires:	August 31, 2002
Estimated average burden hours per response:	0.5



FORM TA-W

NOTICE OF WITHDRAWAL FROM REGISTRATION AS TRANSFER AGENT Pursuant To Section 17A of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

OFFICIAL USE	
FILE NO.	
DOC. SEQ. NO.	
EFFECTIVE DATE	

Read all instructions on reverse side before preparing form. Please print or type.

PROCESSED
APR 15 2002
THOMSON FINANCIAL

- Transfer Agent File No.: 2. Full name of registrant: 84-295 RALSTON PURINA COMPANY
- Name under which transfer agent activities are conducted, if different from above:
- Address of registrants principal place of business: No. and street City State Zip
#1 Checkerboard Square St. Louis MO 63104
- Furnish registrants reasons for ceasing the performance of transfer agent functions or for otherwise requesting withdrawal of its registration. all outstanding shares acquired by Nestle, S.A.
- Furnish the last date registrant performed transfer agent functions as defined by Section 3(a)(25) of the Act for any security, including debt and equity, registered under Section 12 of the Act or which would be required to be registered except for the exemption from registration provided by subsection (g)(2)(B) or (g)(2)(G) of that section. December 12, 2001
Does registrant have any intention of performing in the near future a transfer agent function for any such security? No
- Is registrant directly or indirectly involved in any legal actions or proceedings or aware of any potential claims (including out-of-proof conditions) against it in connection with its performance of transfer agent functions for any security? If so, furnish complete information with respect to each.
 Yes No
- Are there any unsatisfied judgments or liens against registrant arising out of its performance of transfer agent functions for any security? If so, furnish complete information regarding each judgment or lien.
 Yes No
- For each issue shown on Schedule B of registrants Form TA-I, as amended, and for any issues for which registrant assumed transfer agent functions since the last amendment to Schedule B, furnish the name(s) and address(es) of any successor transfer agent(s) and state whether such transfer agent(s) is registered as a transfer agent pursuant to the Act. If there is no successor transfer agent(s), so state.
no successor
- For each issue shown on Schedule B of registrants Form TA-I, as amended, and for any issues for which registrant assumed transfer agent functions since the last amendment to Schedule B, furnish the name(s) and address(es) of the person(s) who has or will have custody or possession of the books and records which registrant maintained in connection with its performance of transfer agent functions.
Nestle, S.A. (Formerly Ralston Purina Company) St. Louis MO 63104
- Furnish the address(es), if different from Item 10, where such books and records will be located.

12. EXECUTION. The registrant submitting this Form and its attachments and the person executing it represent hereby that it and all materials filed in connection therewith contain a true, correct and complete statement of all required information. Registrant also consents hereby to make the books and records it is required to preserve by Rules 17A d-6 and 7 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (17 CFR 240.17A d-6 and 7) available for examination by authorized representatives of the Securities and Exchange Commission during the period the rules require registrant to preserve such books and records and hereby authorizes the person having custody of such books and records to make them available to such representatives.

ATTENTION
Intentional misstatements or omissions of fact constitute federal criminal violations.
(See 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).)

Dated the 13th day of February 19 2001
Ralston Purina Company
Brenda Riley (Name of transfer agent)
Brenda Riley (Manual signature of principal officer or duly authorized principal)
Brenda Riley (Printed name of principal officer or duly authorized principal)
Manager, Shareholder Services 314-982-1693
(Title) (Telephone number)

84-295
RALSTON PURINA COMPANY

Answer to Item 10: Continental Stock Transfer & Trust Company
(Co-Agent)
17 Battery Place 8th Floor
New York NY 10004

Answer to Item 5: shares purchased for \$33.50 pursuant to
Agreement and Plan of Merger dated January
15, 2001.