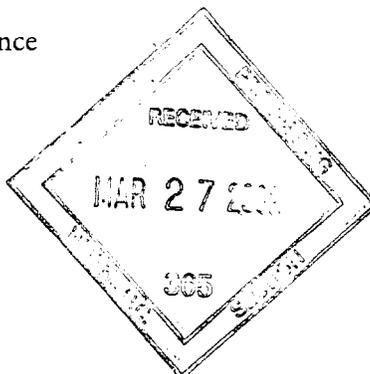




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ZURICH
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BY COURIER
Securities and Exchange Commission
Office of International Corporate Finance
Judiciary Plaza
450 Fifth Street, N.W.
USA - Washington, D.C. 20549



SUPPL

Your reference File No. 82-5089
Our reference
Date March 26, 2002

**Zurich Financial Services / File No. 82-5089;
Information furnished to maintain Rule 12g 3-2 (b) exemption**

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Dear Sirs

Enclosed herewith please find the English version of the following press release:

- "The Principal Financial Group to acquire Zurich Afore in Mexico" dated March 26, 2002.

Should there be any queries or comments please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely
Zurich Financial Services
Legal Departement

I. Klauer
Irene Klauer

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Enclosure

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The Principal Financial Group to acquire Zurich Afore in Mexico

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Zurich, March 26, 2002 – On March 25, 2002 Zurich Financial Services Group (Zurich) and The Principal Financial Group (The Principal) confirmed in Mexico City, that they have entered into an agreement by which The Principal will acquire Zurich Afore, Zurich’s private retirement fund management company in Mexico. With the acquisition of Zurich Afore, Principal Afore is expected to increase its market share to more than 8%. The agreement is still subject to the approval of the Mexican authorities.

Rolf Gafner, CEO of Zurich Group Mexico said: “This transaction reflects Zurich’s strategy and intent to further concentrate our efforts in Mexico in the areas of property & casualty and life in the consumer and corporate segments, as well as risk engineering in the corporate segment”.

Zurich’s insurance business in Mexico has outgrown the market, closing 2001 with a gross written premiums of over USD 280 million. This reflects a real growth of more than 55%, compared with the 13% rate of the total market. Regarding gross written premiums, Zurich Group Mexico is ranked 4th in property & casualty, and 7th overall as of year end 2001. Mexico plays a key role for Zurich’s commitment to the Latin American market.

Zurich Group Mexico is a business unit of Zurich Financial Services Group and has more than USD 280 million in gross written premiums. It employs more than 400 people in Mexico City and in 6 regional offices.

The Zurich Financial Services Group (www.zurich.com) provides its customers solutions in the areas of financial protection (non-life insurance and structured solutions) and asset gathering (life insurance and asset management). The Group focuses its activities on its key markets of North America, UK and Continental Europe. Founded in 1872, Zurich is headquartered in Zurich, Switzerland. It has offices in more than 60 countries and employs approximately 70,000 people.

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