



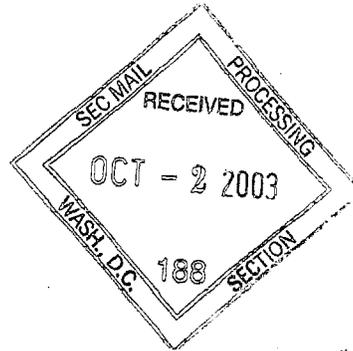
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File No. 82-5089



ZURICH
FINANCIAL SERVICES

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



Your reference File No. 82-5089
Our reference AC/eh
Date 10/01/2003

SUPPL

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:

- "Sale of Threadneedle to American Express Completer" dated October 10, 2003.

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

Yours sincerely
Zurich Financial Services
Legal Department

Andres Christen
Andres Christen

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Enclosure

Media Release



ZURICH
FINANCIAL SERVICES

Sale of Threadneedle to American Express Completed

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Zurich, October 1, 2003 – Zurich Financial Services Group (Zurich) today announced the completion of the sale of Threadneedle Asset Management Holdings Ltd (Threadneedle) to American Express Financial Corporation. This transaction was announced on June 16, 2003. The transaction value of approximately GBP 340 million (approximately USD 565 million at current exchange rates) was paid in cash on completion.

Threadneedle will maintain its close working relationship with Zurich's U.K. distribution network, which will continue to have access to Threadneedle investment products and services.

Zurich Financial Services is an insurance-based financial services provider with an international network that focuses its activities on its key markets of North America, the United Kingdom and Continental Europe. Founded in 1872, Zurich is headquartered in Zurich, Switzerland. It has offices in more than 50 countries and employs about 64,000 people.

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SWX Swiss Exchange/virt-x: ZURN