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ARCH CAPITAL GROUP LTD

Form S-3

February 12, 2002

As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on February 12, 2002
Registration No. 333-

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM S-3
REGISTRATION STATEMENT UNDER THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933

ARCH CAPITAL GROUP LTD.
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Bermuda
(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization)

N/A
(I.R.S. Employer Identification Number)

Craig Appin House
8 Wesley Street
Hamilton HM 11 Bermuda
(441) 296-8240

National Registered Agents, Inc.
440 9th Avenue, 5th Floor
New York, NY 10001
(800) 767-1553

(Address, including zip code, and telephone number, including (Name, address, including zip code, and telephone area code, of registrant's principal executive office) number, including area code, of agent for service))

Copy to:

Immanuel Kohn, Esq.
Cahill Gordon & Reindel
80 Pine Street
New York, New York 10005-1702
(212) 701-3000

Approximate date of commencement of proposed sale to the public: From time to time after the registration statement becomes effective.

If the only securities being registered on this Form are being offered pursuant to dividend or interest reinvestment plans, please check the following box.

If any of the securities being registered on this Form are to be offered on a delayed or continuous basis pursuant to Rule 415 under the Securities Act of 1933, please check the following box.

If this Form is filed to register additional securities for an offering pursuant to Rule 462(b) under the Securities Act, check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering.

If this Form is a post-effective amendment filed pursuant to Rule 462(c) under the Securities Act, check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering.

If delivery of the prospectus is expected to be made pursuant to Rule 434,

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please check the following box. |_|

 CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE
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Title of each class of securities to be registered	Proposed maximum aggregate offering price(1)	Amount registration
Unsecured debt securities		
Preference shares, par value U.S. \$0.01 per preference share		
Common shares, par value U.S. \$0.01 per common share		
Common shares, par value U.S. \$0.01 per common share, as may be issued from time to time upon conversion or exchange of the preference shares and unsecured debt securities being registered		
Units consisting of two or more of the above		
Total	\$500,000,000	\$46,000,000

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(1) There are being registered under this registration statement such indeterminate number of common shares of the registrant, such indeterminate number of preference shares of the registrant and such indeterminate principal amount of unsecured debt securities of the

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registrant as shall have an aggregate initial offering price not to exceed \$500,000,000. If any debt securities are issued at an original issue discount, then the securities registered shall include such additional unsecured debt securities as may be necessary such that the aggregate initial public offering price of all securities issued pursuant to this registration statement will equal \$500,000,000. In addition, pursuant to Rule 416 under the Securities Act of 1933, this registration statement will cover such indeterminate number of shares of common stock of the registrant that may be issued in respect of stock splits, stock dividends and similar transactions. Any securities registered under this registration statement may be sold separately or as units with other securities registered under this registration statement. The proposed maximum initial offering price per security will be determined from time to time by the registrant in connection with the sale of the securities registered under this registration statement.

(2) The estimated registration fee for the common shares, preference shares and unsecured debt securities has been calculated pursuant to Rule 457(o).

The registrant hereby amends this registration statement on such date or dates as may be necessary to delay its effective date until the registrant shall file a further amendment which specifically states that this registration statement shall thereafter become effective in accordance with Section 8(a) of the Securities Act or until this registration statement shall become effective on such date as the Commission, acting pursuant to said Section 8(a), may determine.

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The information in this prospectus is not complete and may be changed. We may not sell these securities until the registration statement filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission is effective. This prospectus is not an offer to sell these securities and we are not soliciting offers to buy these securities in any jurisdiction where the offer is not permitted.

PRELIMINARY PROSPECTUS

Subject to Completion, February 12, 2002

\$500,000,000

Arch Capital Group Ltd.
Common Shares
Preference Shares
Unsecured Debt Securities

We may offer from time to time:

- o Common shares
- o Preference shares
- o Unsecured debt securities

A prospectus supplement, which must accompany this prospectus, will describe the securities we are offering and selling, as well as the specific terms of the securities. Those terms may include, among others, as applicable:

- | | | | |
|---|--------------------|---|----------------------------------|
| o | Maturity | o | Redemption terms |
| o | Interest rate | o | Conversion terms |
| o | Dividend rate | o | Listing on a securities exchange |
| o | Sinking fund terms | o | Amount payable at maturity |
| o | Ranking | o | Liquidation preference |

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of these securities or determined if this prospectus is truthful or complete. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

The securities may be offered in amounts, at prices and on terms determined at the time of offering. The securities may be sold directly to you through agents which we may select or through underwriters and dealers which we may select. If we use agents, underwriters or dealers to sell the securities, we will name them and describe their compensation in a prospectus supplement.

We will provide the specific terms of the securities of the securities in supplements to this prospectus. You should read this prospectus and the prospectus supplement carefully before you invest in the securities. This prospectus may not be used to consummate sales of securities unless accompanied by a prospectus supplement.

Our common shares are traded on the Nasdaq National Market under the symbol "ACGL." The closing price of our common shares was \$26.62 per share on February 11, 2002.

, 2002

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No person has been authorized to give any information or to make any representation not contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus or the accompanying prospectus supplement and, if given or made, such information or representation must not be relied upon as having been authorized by us or any underwriter, dealer or agent. Neither this prospectus nor the accompanying prospectus supplement constitutes an offer to sell or a solicitation of an offer to buy securities in any jurisdiction in which such offer or solicitation is not authorized or in which the person making such offer or solicitation is not qualified to do so or to any person to whom it is unlawful to make such offer or solicitation.

In this prospectus and in the accompanying prospectus supplement, unless the context requires otherwise, "we," "us" and "our" refer to Arch Capital Group Ltd. and its subsidiaries.

ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

This prospectus is part of a registration statement that we have filed with

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the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC") utilizing a "shelf" registration process, relating to our shares, preference shares and unsecured debt securities.

Under this shelf process, we may sell the securities described in this prospectus in one or more offerings for up to an aggregate initial offering price of \$500,000,000. This prospectus provides you with a general description of the securities that we may offer. This prospectus does not contain all of the information set forth in the registration statement as permitted by the rules and regulations of the SEC. For additional information regarding Arch Capital and the offered securities, please refer to the registration statement. Each time we sell securities, we will provide a prospectus supplement that will contain specific information about the terms of that offering. The prospectus supplement may also add, update or change information contained in this prospectus. You should read both this prospectus and any prospectus supplement together with additional information described under the heading "Where You Can Find More Information."

We have obtained consent for the issue and transfer of shares to and between persons regarded as non-resident in Bermuda for exchange control purposes without specific consent under the Exchange Control Act of 1972 and regulations thereunder. Issues and transfers of shares to any person regarded as resident in Bermuda for exchange control purposes require specific prior approval under the Exchange Control Act of 1972.

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Cautionary Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements

The Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 provides a "safe harbor" for forward-looking statements. This prospectus and the documents incorporated herein by reference may include forward-looking statements that reflect our current views with respect to future events and financial performance. All statements other than statements of historical fact included or incorporated by reference in this prospectus are forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements involve the our current assessment of risks and uncertainties, including statements regarding anticipated future financial results and prospects for the insurance and reinsurance markets generally. Actual events and results and prospects for the insurance and reinsurance markets may differ materially from those expressed or implied in these statements. In addition to risks and uncertainties related to the our business described in filings by us with the Securities Exchange Commission which are incorporated herein by reference or in the prospectus supplement relating to specific offerings of securities, the matters described in this prospectus are subject to various risks and uncertainties including, but not limited to, the risks relating to the successful implementation of our new business plan and integration of new management personnel into our existing structure and conditions in the insurance and reinsurance markets. The foregoing review of important factors should not be construed as exhaustive and should be read in conjunction with other cautionary statements that are included herein or elsewhere. We undertake no obligation to publicly update or revise any forward-looking statement, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

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WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

As required by law, we file reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC (SEC file number: 0-26456). These reports, proxy statements and other information contain additional information about us. You can inspect and copy these materials at the SEC's Public Reference Room at 450 Fifth Street, N.W., Judiciary Plaza, Washington, D.C. 20549. You can obtain information about the Public Reference Room by calling the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330. The SEC maintains an Internet website that contains reports, proxy and information statements and other information regarding companies that file electronically with the SEC. The SEC's Internet address is <http://www.sec.gov>. You can also inspect these materials at the offices of the Nasdaq Stock Market, 1735 K Street, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20006.

The SEC allows us to "incorporate by reference" information into this prospectus, which means that we can disclose important information by referring you to another document filed separately with the SEC. Information incorporated by reference is considered part of this prospectus, except to the extent that the information is superseded by information in this prospectus. This prospectus incorporates by reference the following:

- o Our annual report on Form 10-K/A for the year ended December 31, 2000.
- o Our quarterly report on Form 10-Q/A for the quarter ended March 31, 2001, our quarterly report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2001 and our quarterly report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2001.
- o Our current reports on Form 8-K filed on March 15, 2001, July 6, 2001 (as amended on August 7, 2001), November 8, 2001 and January 4, 2002 (as amended on January 7, 2002) and our current report on Form 8-K/A filed on May 14, 2001.
- o Our proxy statement on Schedule 14A for our annual meeting of shareholders held on June 7, 2001 (other than the sections entitled "Execution Compensation -- Report of the Compensation and Stock Awards Committees of the Board of Directors," "Performance Graph," "Report of the Audit Committee of the Board of Directors" and "Audit Fees").
- o Our proxy statement on Schedule 14A for our special general meeting of shareholders scheduled to be held on March 7, 2002.

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- o The description of the common shares contained in our registration statement on Form 8-A filed on November 7, 2000 pursuant to Section 12 of the Exchange Act, including any amendment or report filed for the purpose of updating such description.

We are also incorporating by reference the information contained in all other documents that we file with the SEC between the date of the initial filing of the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part and the effectiveness of the registration statement, as well as between the date of this prospectus and the time that all of the securities registered under the registration statement are sold. The information contained in any of these documents will be considered part of this prospectus from the date these documents are filed.

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Any statement contained in this prospectus or in a document incorporated or deemed to be incorporated by reference herein will be deemed to be modified or superseded for purposes of this prospectus to the extent that a statement contained herein or in any other subsequently filed document which also is or is deemed to be incorporated by reference herein modifies or supersedes such statement. Any statement so modified or superseded will not be deemed, except as so modified or superseded, to constitute a part of this prospectus.

If you would like to receive a copy of any document incorporated by reference into this prospectus (which will not include any of the exhibits to the document other than those exhibits that are themselves specifically incorporated by reference into this prospectus), you should call or write to Arch Capital Group Ltd., Clarendon House, 2 Church Street, Hamilton, HM 12 Bermuda, Attention: Secretary (telephone (441) 295-1422). We will provide these documents, without charge, by first class mail.

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ARCH CAPITAL GROUP LTD.

Arch Capital Group Ltd. ("ACGL"), a Bermuda public limited company with more than \$1 billion in equity capital, provides insurance and reinsurance on a worldwide basis through its wholly owned subsidiaries.

On November 8, 2000, following the approval by its shareholders, Arch Capital Group (U.S.) Inc. ("Arch-U.S.") completed an internal reorganization that resulted in Arch-U.S. becoming a wholly owned subsidiary of ACGL, which was formed in September 2000 in connection with this reorganization. Arch-U.S. is a Delaware company formed in March 1995 under the original name of "Risk Capital Holdings." Arch-U.S. commenced operations in September 1995 following the completion of its initial public offering. Prior to May 5, 2000, Arch-U.S. provided reinsurance and other forms of capital for insurance companies through its wholly owned subsidiary, Arch Reinsurance Company ("Arch Re"), a Nebraska corporation formed in 1995 under the original name of "Risk Capital Reinsurance Company." On May 5, 2000, Arch-U.S. sold the reinsurance operations of Arch Re to Folksamerica Reinsurance Company in an asset sale.

On November 20, 2001, investors led by Warburg Pincus investment funds and Hellman & Friedman investment funds and certain members of management purchased from us, for \$763.15 million in cash, 35,687,735 series A convertible preference shares and 3,776,025 class A warrants. The purpose of this investment was to provide a significant infusion of capital to launch a new underwriting initiative to meet current and future demand in the global insurance and reinsurance markets. We have also made several additions to our reinsurance team, including Paul Ingrey, formerly Chairman of F&G Re; Dwight Evans, formerly Executive Vice President, North American Property for St. Paul Re and F&G Re; and Marc Grandisson, Vice President and Actuary of the reinsurance division of Berkshire Hathaway. In early 2002, Constantine "Dinos" Iordanou, formerly Senior Executive Vice President of group operations worldwide of Zurich Financial Services, having previously been CEO of Zurich North America, became president of our worldwide insurance and reinsurance group and a member of our board of directors.

In connection with these investments, we have scheduled a special meeting of our shareholders for March 7, 2002 at which one of the proposals to be voted upon will be the issuance of common shares upon conversion or exercise of these new securities in excess of the maximum amount of common shares that is

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permitted under Nasdaq Stock Market rules to be issued without shareholder approval, and the provision for voting power of the preference shares in excess of the maximum amount that is permitted under Nasdaq Stock Market rules without shareholder approval. At this special meeting, our shareholders are also being asked to approve, among other proposals, amendments to our bye-law limiting voting power of specified shareholders to 9.9% of the voting power of our shares and our bye-law concerning election of subsidiary directors.

ACGL has its registered office at Clarendon House, 2 Church Street, Hamilton HM 11 Bermuda and its principal executive offices will be location at Craig Appin House, 8 Wesley Street, Hamilton HM 11, Bermuda.

USE OF PROCEEDS

Except as may otherwise be described in the prospectus supplement relating to an offering of securities, the net proceeds from the sale of the securities included in this prospectus will be used for general corporate purposes. Any specific allocation of the net proceeds of an offering of securities to a specific purpose will be determined at the time of such offering and will be described in the related prospectus supplement.

RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES AND PREFERENCE SHARE DIVIDENDS

Because we have, and for the previous five fiscal years have had, no fixed charges, the ratio of earnings to fixed charges and the ratio of earnings to combined fixed charges and preference share dividends are not applicable.

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GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE OFFERED SECURITIES

We may offer from time to time under this prospectus, separately or together:

- o common shares,
- o preference shares and
- o unsecured senior or subordinated debt securities.

The aggregate initial offering price of the offered securities will not exceed \$500,000,000.

DESCRIPTION OF SHARE CAPITAL

The authorized share capital of the company consists of 200,000,000 common shares, par value U.S.\$0.01 per share, and 50,000,000 preference shares, par value U.S.\$0.01 per share. As of February 7, 2002, there were 15,733,332 common shares outstanding and 35,687,735 preference shares outstanding.

DESCRIPTION OF DEBT SECURITIES

General

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We may issue debt securities from time to time in one or more series, under one or more indentures, each dated as of a date on or prior to the issuance of the debt securities to which it relates. Senior debt securities and subordinated debt securities may be issued pursuant to separate indentures, a senior indenture and a subordinated indenture, respectively, in each case between us and a trustee qualified under the Trust Indenture Act. The form of such indentures have been filed as an exhibit to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part, subject to such amendments or supplements as may be adopted from time to time. The senior indenture and the subordinated indenture, as amended or supplemented from time to time, are sometimes referred to individually as an "indenture" and collectively as the "indentures." Each indenture will be subject to and governed by the Trust Indenture Act. The aggregate principal amount of debt securities which may be issued under each indenture will be unlimited and each indenture will set forth the specific terms of any series of debt securities or provide that such terms shall be set forth in, or determined pursuant to, an authorizing resolution, as defined in the applicable prospectus supplement, and/or a supplemental indenture, if any, relating to such series.

The statements made below relating to the debt securities and the indentures are summaries of the anticipated provisions thereof, do not purport to be complete and are subject to, and are qualified in their entirety by reference to, all of the provisions of the applicable indenture and any applicable U.S. federal income tax considerations as well as any applicable modifications of or additions to the general terms described below in the applicable prospectus supplement. The applicable prospectus supplement may also state that any of the terms set forth herein are inapplicable to such series of debt securities.

Terms

The debt securities will be our unsecured obligations.

The senior debt securities will rank equal in right of payment with all our other unsecured and unsubordinated indebtedness.

The subordinated debt securities will be subordinated in right of payment to the prior payment in full of all our senior indebtedness, which is defined in the section called "-- Ranking of Debt Securities" below.

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The specific terms of each series of debt securities will be set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement relating thereto, including the following, as applicable:

- (1) the title of such debt securities and whether such debt securities are senior debt securities or subordinated debt securities and, if subordinated debt securities, the specific subordination provisions applicable thereto;
- (2) the aggregate principal amount of such debt securities and any limit on such aggregate principal amount;
- (3) the price (expressed as a percentage of the principal amount thereof) at which such debt securities will be issued and, if other than the principal amount thereof, the portion of the principal amount thereof payable upon declaration of acceleration of the maturity thereof;

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- (4) if convertible into common shares or preference shares, the terms on which such debt securities are convertible, including the initial conversion price, the conversion period, any events requiring an adjustment of the applicable conversion price and any requirements relating to the reservation of such common shares or preference shares for purposes of conversion;
- (5) the date(s), or the method for determining such date or dates, on which the principal of such debt securities will be payable and, if applicable, the terms on which such maturity may be extended;
- (6) the rate(s) (which may be fixed or floating), or the method by which such rate or rates shall be determined, at which such debt securities will bear interest, if any;
- (7) the date(s), or the method for determining such date or dates, from which any such interest will accrue, the dates on which any such interest will be payable, the record dates for such interest payment dates, or the method by which such dates shall be determined, the persons to whom such interest shall be payable, and the basis upon which interest shall be calculated if other than that of a 360-day year of twelve 30-day months;
- (8) the place(s) where the principal of and interest, if any, on such debt securities will be payable, where such debt securities may be surrendered for registration of transfer or exchange and where notices or demands to or upon us in respect of such debt securities and the applicable indenture may be served;
- (9) the period(s), if any, within which, the price or prices at which and the other terms and conditions upon which such debt securities may, pursuant to any optional or mandatory redemption provisions, be redeemed, as a whole or in part, at our option;
- (10) our obligation, if any, to redeem, repay or purchase such debt securities pursuant to any sinking fund (as defined in the applicable indenture) or analogous provision or at the option of a holder thereof, and the period or periods within which, the price or prices at which and the other terms and conditions upon which such debt securities will be redeemed, repaid or purchased, as a whole or in part, pursuant to such obligations;
- (11) if other than U.S. dollars, the currency or currencies in which the principal of and interest, if any, on such debt securities are denominated and payable, which may be a foreign currency or units of two or more foreign currencies or a composite currency or currencies, and the terms and conditions relating thereto;
- (12) whether the amount of payments of principal of or interest, if any, on such debt securities may be determined with reference to an index, formula or other method

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(which index, formula or method may, but need not be, based on the yield on or trading price of other securities, including United States Treasury securities, or on a currency, currencies, currency unit or units, or composite currency or currencies) and the manner in which

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such amounts shall be determined;

- (13) whether the principal of or interest, if any, on the debt securities of the series are to be payable, at our election or a holder thereof, in a currency or currencies, currency unit or units or composite currency or currencies other than that in which such debt securities are denominated or stated to be payable and the period or periods within which, and the terms and conditions upon which, such election may be made;
- (14) provisions, if any, granting special rights to the holders of debt securities of the series upon the occurrence of such events as may be specified;
- (15) any deletions from, modifications of or additions to the events of default or our covenants with respect to debt securities of the series, whether or not such events of default or covenants are consistent with the events of default or covenants described herein;
- (16) whether debt securities of the series are to be issuable initially in temporary global form and whether any debt securities of the series are to be issuable in permanent global form and, if so, whether beneficial owners of interests in any such security in permanent global form may exchange such interests for debt securities of such series and of like tenor of any authorized form and denomination and the circumstances under which any such exchanges may occur, if other than in the manner provided in the applicable indenture, and, if debt securities of the series are to be issuable as a global security, the identity of the depository for such series;
- (17) the applicability, if any, of the defeasance and covenant defeasance provisions of the applicable indenture to the debt securities of the series;
- (18) if exchangeable into another series of debt securities, the terms on which such debt securities are exchangeable; and
- (19) any other terms of the series of debt securities and any additions, deletions or modifications to the applicable indenture.

If the applicable prospectus supplement provides, the debt securities may be issued at a discount below their principal amount and provide for less than the entire principal amount thereof to be payable upon declaration of acceleration of the maturity thereof. In such cases, all material U.S. federal income tax considerations will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement.

The applicable prospectus supplement will contain information with respect to any deletions from, modifications of or additions to the events of default or covenants described below.

Denomination, Interest, Registration and Transfer

We will issue the debt securities of each series only in registered form, without coupons, in denominations of \$1,000, or in such other currencies or denominations as may be set forth in the applicable indenture or specified in, or pursuant to, an authorizing resolution and/or supplemental indenture, if any, relating to such series of debt securities.

The principal of and interest, if any, on any series of debt securities will be payable at the corporate trust office of the trustee, the address of which will be stated in the applicable prospectus supplement. However, at our

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option, interest payments may be made by check mailed to the address of the person entitled thereto as it appears in the applicable register for such debt securities.

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Subject to certain limitations imposed upon debt securities issued in book-entry form, the debt securities of any series:

- o will be exchangeable for any authorized denomination of other debt securities of the same series and of a like aggregate principal amount and tenor upon surrender of such debt securities at the trustee's corporate trust office or at the office of any registrar designated by us for such purpose; and
- o may be surrendered for registration of transfer or exchange thereof at the corporate trust office of the trustee or at the office of any registrar designated by us for such purpose.

No service charge will be made for any registration of transfer or exchange, but we may require payment of a sum sufficient to cover any tax or other governmental charge payable in connection with certain transfers and exchanges. We may act as registrar and may change any registrar without notice.

Certain Covenants

The applicable prospectus supplement will describe any material covenants in respect of a series of debt securities that are not described in this prospectus.

Unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, senior debt securities and the subordinated debt securities will include the provisions described below.

Merger, Amalgamation, Consolidation or Sale of Assets

We may not (1) consolidate or amalgamate with or merge into any other person or convey, transfer, sell or lease our properties and assets substantially as an entirety to any person, (2) permit any person to consolidate with or merge into us or (3) permit any person to convey, transfer, sell or lease that person's properties and assets substantially as an entirety to us unless:

- o in the case of (1) and (2) above, if we are not the surviving person, the surviving person assumes the payment of the principal of, premium, if any, and interest on the debt securities and the performance of our other covenants under the applicable indenture, and
- o in all cases, immediately after giving effect to the transaction, no event of default, and no event that, after notice or lapse of time or both, would become an event of default, will have occurred and be continuing.

Ranking of Debt Securities

General

We currently conduct substantially all of our operations through our subsidiaries and our subsidiaries generate substantially all of our operating

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income and cash flow. As a result, distributions and advances from our subsidiaries will be the principal source of funds necessary to meet our debt service obligations. Contractual provisions or laws, as well as our subsidiaries' financial condition and operating and regulatory requirements, may limit our ability to obtain cash from our subsidiaries that we require to pay our debt service obligations. In addition, holders of the debt securities will have a junior position to the claims of creditors of our subsidiaries on their assets and earnings.

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Senior debt securities

The senior debt securities will be our unsecured unsubordinated obligations and will:

- o rank equal in right of payment with all our other unsecured and unsubordinated indebtedness;
- o be effectively subordinated in right of payment to all our secured indebtedness to the extent of the value of the assets securing such indebtedness; and
- o be effectively subordinated to all of our subsidiaries' indebtedness.

Except as otherwise set forth in the applicable senior indenture or specified in an authorizing resolution and/or supplemental indenture, if any, relating to a series of senior debt securities to be issued, there will be no limitations in any senior indenture on the amount of additional indebtedness which may rank equal with the senior debt securities or on the amount of indebtedness, secured or otherwise, which may be incurred by any of our subsidiaries.

Subordinated debt securities

The subordinated debt securities will be our unsecured subordinated obligations. Unless otherwise provided in the applicable prospectus supplement, the payment of principal of, interest on and all other amounts owing in respect of the subordinated debt securities will be subordinated in right of payment to the prior payment in full in cash of principal of, interest on and all other amounts owing in respect of all of our senior indebtedness. Upon any payment or distribution of our assets of any kind or character, whether in cash, property or securities, to creditors upon any total or partial liquidation, dissolution, winding up, reorganization, assignment for the benefit of creditors or marshaling of our assets or in a bankruptcy, reorganization, insolvency, receivership or other similar proceeding relating to us or our property, whether voluntary or involuntary, all principal of, interest on and all other amounts due or to become due shall be paid, first, to all senior indebtedness in full in cash, or such payment duly provided for to the satisfaction of the holders of senior indebtedness, before any payment or distribution of any kind or character is made on account of any principal of, interest on or other amounts owing in respect of the subordinated debt securities, or for the acquisition of any of the subordinated debt securities for cash, property or otherwise.

If any default occurs and is continuing in the payment when due, whether at maturity, upon any redemption, by declaration or otherwise, of any principal of, interest on, unpaid drawings for letters of credit issued in respect of, or regularly accruing fees with respect to, any senior indebtedness, no payment of any kind or character shall be made by or on behalf of us or any other person on

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our or their behalf with respect to any principal of, interest on or other amounts owing in respect of the subordinated debt securities or to acquire any of the subordinated debt securities for cash, property or otherwise.

If any other event of default occurs and is continuing with respect to any senior indebtedness, as such event of default is defined in the instrument creating or evidencing such senior indebtedness, permitting the holders of such senior indebtedness then outstanding to accelerate the maturity thereof and if the representative (as defined in the applicable indenture) for the respective issue of senior indebtedness gives written notice of the event of default to the trustee (a "default notice"), then, unless and until all events of default have been cured or waived or have ceased to exist or the trustee receives notice from the representative for the respective issue of senior indebtedness terminating the blockage period (as defined below), during the 179 days after the delivery of such default notice (the "blockage period"), neither we nor any other person on its behalf shall:

- (1) make any payment of any kind or character with respect to any principal of, interest on or other amounts owing in respect of the subordinated debt securities; or
- (2) acquire any of the subordinated debt securities for cash, property or otherwise.

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Notwithstanding anything herein to the contrary, in no event will a blockage period extend beyond 179 days from the date the payment on the subordinated debt securities was due and only one such blockage period may be commenced within any 360 consecutive days. No event of default which existed or was continuing on the date of the commencement of any blockage period with respect to the senior indebtedness shall be, or be made, the basis for commencement of a second blockage period by the representative of such senior indebtedness whether or not within a period of 360 consecutive days unless such event of default shall have been cured or waived for a period of not less than 90 consecutive days (it being acknowledged that any subsequent action, or any breach of any financial covenants for a period commencing after the date of commencement of such blockage period that, in either case, would give rise to an event of default pursuant to any provisions under which an event of default previously existed or was continuing shall constitute a new event of default for this purpose).

The subordinated indentures will not restrict the amount of our or our subsidiaries' senior indebtedness or other indebtedness. As a result of the foregoing provisions, in the event of our insolvency, holders of the subordinated debt securities may recover ratably less than our general creditors.

"senior indebtedness," unless otherwise specified in one or more applicable supplemental indentures or approved pursuant to a board resolution in accordance with the applicable indenture, means, with respect to us,

- (1) the principal (including redemption payments), premium, if any, interest and other payment obligations in respect of (A) our indebtedness for money borrowed and (B) our indebtedness evidenced by securities, debentures, bonds, notes or other similar instruments issued by us, including any such securities issued under any deed, indenture or other instrument to which we are a party (including, for the avoidance of doubt, indentures pursuant to which senior debt

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securities have been or may be issued);

- (2) all of our obligations issued or assumed as the deferred purchase price of property, all of our conditional sale obligations, all of our hedging agreements and agreements of a similar nature thereto and all agreements relating to any such agreements, and all of our obligations under any title retention agreement (but excluding trade accounts payable arising in the ordinary course of business);
- (3) all of our obligations for reimbursement on any letter of credit, banker's acceptance, security purchase facility or similar credit transaction;
- (4) all obligations of the type referred to in clauses (1) through (3) above of other persons for the payment of which we are responsible or liable as obligor, guarantor or otherwise;
- (5) all obligations of the type referred to in clauses (1) through (4) above of other persons secured by any lien on any of our property or asset (whether or not such obligation is assumed by us) and
- (6) any deferrals, amendments, renewals, extensions, modifications and refundings of all obligations of the type referred to in clauses (1) through (5) above, in each case whether or not contingent and whether outstanding at the date of effectiveness of the applicable indenture or thereafter incurred,

except, in each case, for the subordinated debt securities and any such other indebtedness or deferral, amendment, renewal, extension, modification or refunding that contains express terms, or is issued under a deed, indenture or other instrument, which contains express terms, providing that it is subordinate to or ranks equal with the subordinated debt securities.

Such senior indebtedness shall continue to be senior indebtedness and be entitled to the benefits of the subordination provisions of the applicable indenture irrespective of any amendment, modification or waiver of any term of such senior indebtedness and notwithstanding that no express written subordination agreement may have been entered into between the holders of such senior indebtedness and the trustee or any of the holders.

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Discharge

Under the terms of the indenture, we will be discharged from any and all obligations in respect of the debt securities of any series and the applicable indenture (except in each case for certain obligations to register the transfer or exchange of debt securities, replace stolen, lost or mutilated debt securities, maintain paying agencies and hold moneys for payment in trust) if we deposit with the applicable trustee, in trust, moneys or U.S. government obligations in an amount sufficient to pay all the principal of, and interest on, the debt securities of such series on the dates such payments are due in accordance with the terms of such debt securities.

In addition, unless the applicable prospectus supplement and supplemental indenture provide otherwise, we may elect either (1) to defease and be discharged from any and all obligations with respect to such debt securities ("defeasance") or (2) to be released from our obligations with respect to such debt securities under certain covenants in the applicable indenture, and any

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omission to comply with such obligations will not constitute a default or an event of default with respect to such debt securities ("covenant defeasance"):

- (1) by delivering all outstanding debt securities of such series to the trustee for cancellation and paying all sums payable by it under such debt securities and the indenture with respect to such series; or
- (2) after giving notice to the trustee of our intention to defease all of the debt securities of such series, by irrevocably depositing with the trustee or a paying agent
 - (a) in the case of any debt securities of any series denominated in U.S. dollars, cash or U.S. government obligations sufficient to pay all principal of and interest on such debt securities; and
 - (b) in the case of any debt securities of any series denominated in any currency other than U.S. dollars, an amount of the applicable currency in which the debt securities are denominated sufficient to pay all principal of and interest on such debt securities.

Such a trust may only be established if, among other things:

- (1) the applicable defeasance or covenant defeasance does not result in a breach or violation of, or constitute a default under or any material agreement or instrument to which we are a party or by which we are bound;
- (2) no event of default or event which with notice or lapse of time or both would become an event of default with respect to the debt securities to be defeased will have occurred and be continuing on the date of establishment of such a trust after giving effect to such establishment and, with respect to defeasance only, no bankruptcy proceeding with respect to us will have occurred and be continuing at any time during the period ending on the 91st day after such date; and
- (3) we have delivered to the trustee an opinion of counsel (as specified in the applicable supplemental indenture) to the effect that the holders will not recognize income, gain or loss for United States federal income tax purposes as a result of such defeasance or covenant defeasance and will be subject to United States federal income tax on the same amounts, in the same manner and at the same times as would have been the case if such defeasance or covenant defeasance had not occurred, and such opinion of counsel, in the case of defeasance, must refer to and be based upon a letter ruling of the Internal Revenue Service received by us, a Revenue Ruling published by the Internal Revenue Service or a change in applicable United States federal income tax law occurring after the date of the applicable supplemental indenture.

In the event we effect covenant defeasance with respect to any debt securities and such debt securities are declared due and payable because of the occurrence of any event of default, other than an event of default with re-

spect to any covenant as to which there has been covenant defeasance, the government obligations on deposit with the trustee will be sufficient to pay amounts due on such debt securities at the time of the stated maturity but may not be sufficient to pay amounts due on such debt securities at the time of the

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acceleration resulting from such event of default.

Modification and Waiver

We, when authorized by a board resolution, and the trustee may modify, amend and/or supplement the applicable indenture and the applicable debt securities with the consent of the holders of not less than a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of all series affected thereby (voting as a single class); provided, however, that such modification, amendment or supplement may not, without the consent of each holder of the debt securities affected thereby:

- (1) change the stated maturity of the principal of or any installment of interest with respect to the debt securities;
- (2) reduce the principal amount of, or the rate of interest on, the debt securities;
- (3) change the currency of payment of principal of or interest on the debt securities;
- (4) change the redemption provisions, if any, of any debt securities in any manner adverse to the holders of such series of debt securities;
- (5) impair the right to institute suit for the enforcement of any payment on or with respect to the debt securities; (6) reduce the above-stated percentage of holders of the debt securities of any series necessary to modify or amend the indenture relating to such series;
- (7) modify the foregoing requirements or reduce the percentage of outstanding debt securities necessary to waive any covenant or past default;
- (8) in the case of any subordinated indenture, modify the subordination provisions thereof in a manner adverse to the holders of subordinated debt securities of any series then outstanding; or
- (9) in the case of any convertible debt securities, adversely affect the right to convert the debt securities into common shares or preference shares in accordance with the provisions of the applicable indenture.

Holders of not less than a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of all series affected thereby (voting as a single class) may waive certain past defaults and may waive compliance by us with any provision of the indenture relating to such debt securities (subject to the immediately preceding sentence); provided, however, that:

- (1) without the consent of each holder of debt securities affected thereby, no waiver may be made of a default in the payment of the principal of or interest on any debt security; and
- (2) only the holders of a majority in principal amount of debt securities of a particular series may waive compliance with a provision of the indenture relating to such series or the debt securities of such series having applicability solely to such series.

We, when authorized by a board resolution, and the trustee may amend or

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supplement the indentures or waive any provision of such indentures and the debt securities without the consent of any holders of debt securities in some circumstance, including:

- o to cure any ambiguity, omission, defect or inconsistency;
- o to make any change that does not, in the good faith opinion of our board of directors and the trustee, adversely affect the interests of holders of such debt securities in any material respect.
- o to provide for the assumption of our obligations under the applicable indenture by a successor upon any merger, consolidation or asset transfer permitted under the applicable indenture;
- o to provide any security for or guarantees of such debt securities;
- o to add events of default with respect to such debt securities;
- o to add covenants that would benefit the holders of such debt securities or to surrender any rights or powers we have under the applicable indenture;
- o to make any change necessary for the registration of the debt securities under the Securities Act or to comply with the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, or any amendment thereto, or to comply with any requirement of the SEC in connection with the qualification of the applicable indenture under the Trust Indenture Act of 1939; provided, however, that such modification or amendment does not, in the good faith opinion of our board of directors and the trustee, adversely affect the interests of the holders of such debt securities in any material respect;
- o to provide for uncertificated debt securities in addition to or in place of certificated debt securities;
- o to add to or change any of the provisions of the applicable indenture to such extent as shall be necessary to permit or facilitate the issuance of the debt securities in bearer form, registrable or not registrable as to principal, and with or without interest coupons;
- o to change or eliminate any of the provisions of the applicable indenture, provided, however, that any such change or elimination shall become effective only when there is no debt security outstanding of any series created prior to the execution of such supplemental indenture which is entitled to the benefit of such provision;
- o to establish the form or terms of debt securities of any series as permitted by the applicable indenture; or
- o to evidence and provide for the acceptance of appointment by a successor trustee with respect to the debt securities of one or more series and to add to or change any of the provisions of the applicable indenture as shall be necessary to provide for or facilitate the administration of the trusts under the applicable indenture by more than one trustee, pursuant to the requirements of the applicable indenture.

Events of Default and Notice Thereof

The following events are "events of default" with respect to any series of debt securities issued thereunder:

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- (1) failure to pay interest on any debt securities of such series within 60 days of when due or principal of any debt securities of such series when due (including any sinking fund installment);

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- (2) failure to perform any other agreement contained in the debt securities of such series or the indenture relating to such series (other than an agreement relating solely to another series of debt securities) for 60 days after notice; and
- (3) certain events of bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization with respect to us.

Additional or different events of default, if any, applicable to the series of debt securities in respect of which this prospectus is being delivered will be specified in the applicable prospectus supplement.

The trustee under such indenture shall, within 90 days after the occurrence of any default (the term "default" to include the events specified above without grace or notice) with respect to any series of debt securities actually known to it, give to the holders of such debt securities notice of such default; provided, however, that, except in the case of a default in the payment of principal of or interest on any of the debt securities of such series or in the payment of a sinking fund installment, the trustee for such series shall be protected in withholding such notice if it in good faith determines that the withholding of such notice is in the interest of the holders of such debt securities; and provided, further, that in the case of any default of the character specified in clause (2) above with respect to debt securities of such series, no such notice to holders of such debt securities will be given until at least 30 days after the occurrence thereof. We shall certify to the trustee quarterly as to whether any default exists.

In the case of an event of default, other than an event of default resulting from bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization, with respect to any series of debt securities shall occur and be continuing, the trustee for such series or the holders of at least 25% in aggregate principal amount of the debt securities of such series then outstanding, by notice in writing to us (and to the trustee for such series if given by the holders of the debt securities of such series), will be entitled to declare all unpaid principal of and accrued interest on such debt securities then outstanding to be due and payable immediately.

In the case of an event of default resulting from certain events of bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization, all unpaid principal of and accrued interest on all debt securities of such series then outstanding shall be due and payable immediately without any declaration or other act on the part of the trustee for such series or the holders of any debt securities of such series.

Such acceleration may be annulled and past defaults (except, unless theretofore cured, a default in payment of principal of or interest on the debt securities of such series) may be waived by the holders of a majority in principal amount of the debt securities of such series then outstanding upon the conditions provided in the applicable indenture.

No holder of the debt securities of any series issued thereunder may pursue any remedy under such indenture unless the trustee for such series shall have failed to act after, among other things, notice of an event of default and request by holders of at least 25% in principal amount of the debt securities of

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such series of which the event of default has occurred and the offer to the trustee for such series of indemnity satisfactory to it; provided, however, that such provision does not affect the right to sue for enforcement of any overdue payment on such debt securities.

Conversion and Exchange Rights

The terms and conditions, if any, upon which the debt securities of any series will be convertible into common shares or preference shares or upon which the senior debt securities of any series will be exchangeable into another series of debt securities will be set forth in the prospectus supplement relating thereto. Such terms will include the conversion or exchange price (or manner of calculation thereof), the conversion or exchange period, provisions as to whether conversion or exchange will be at the option of the holders of such series of debt securities or at our option or automatic, the events requiring an adjustment of the conversion or exchange price and provisions affecting conversion or exchange in the event of the redemption of such series of debt securities.

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The Trustee

The trustee for each series of debt securities will be named in the prospectus supplement relating to each issuance of debt securities. Each indenture will contain certain limitations on a right of the trustee, as our creditor, to obtain payment of claims in certain cases, or to realize on certain property received in respect of any such claim as security or otherwise. The trustee will be permitted to engage in other transactions; provided, however, that if it acquires any conflicting interest, it must eliminate such conflict or resign.

The holders of a majority in principal amount of all outstanding debt securities of a series (or if more than one series is affected thereby, of all series so affected, voting as a single class) will have the right to direct the time, method and place of conducting any proceeding for exercising any remedy or power available to the trustee for such series or all such series so affected.

In case an event of default shall occur (and shall not be cured) under any indenture relating to a series of debt securities and is actually known to a responsible officer of the trustee for such series, such trustee shall exercise such of the rights and powers vested in it by such indenture and use the same degree of care and skill in its exercise as a prudent person would exercise or use under the circumstances in the conduct of his own affairs. Subject to such provisions, the trustee will not be under any obligation to exercise any of its rights or powers under the applicable indenture at the request of any of the holders of debt securities unless they shall have offered to the trustee security and indemnity satisfactory to it.

Governing Law

The indentures and the debt securities will be governed by the laws of the State of New York.

Global Securities; Book-Entry System

We may issue the debt securities of any series in whole or in part in the form of one or more global securities to be deposited with, or on behalf of, a depository (the "depository") identified in the prospectus supplement relating

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to such series. Global securities, if any, issued in the United States are expected to be deposited with The Depository Trust Company ("DTC"), as depository. Global securities will be issued in fully registered form and may be issued in either temporary or permanent form. Unless and until it is exchanged in whole or in part for the individual debt securities represented thereby, a global security may not be transferred except as a whole by the depository for such global security to a nominee of such depository or by a nominee of such depository to such depository or another nominee of such depository or by such depository or any nominee of such depository to a successor depository or any nominee of such successor.

The specific terms of the depository arrangement with respect to any series of debt securities will be described in the prospectus supplement relating to such series. We expect that unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, the following provisions will apply to depository arrangements.

Upon the issuance of a global security, the depository for such global security or its nominee will credit on its book-entry registration and transfer system the respective principal amounts of the individual debt securities represented by such global security to the accounts of persons that have accounts with such depository ("participants"). Such accounts will be designated by the underwriters, dealers or agents with respect to such debt securities or by us if such debt securities are offered directly by us. Ownership of beneficial interests in such global security will be limited to participants or persons that may hold interests through participants.

We expect that, pursuant to procedures established by DTC, ownership of beneficial interests in any global security with respect to which DTC is the depository will be shown on, and the transfer of that ownership will be effected only through, records maintained by DTC or its nominee (with respect to beneficial interests of participants) and records of participants (with respect to beneficial interests of persons who hold through participants). Neither we nor the trustee will have any responsibility or liability for any aspect of the records of DTC or for maintaining,

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supervising or reviewing any records of DTC or any of its participants relating to beneficial ownership interests in the debt securities. The laws of some states require that certain purchasers of securities take physical delivery of such securities in definitive form. Such limits and laws may impair the ability to own, pledge or transfer beneficial interest in a global security.

So long as the depository for a global security or its nominee is the registered owner of such global security, such depository or such nominee, as the case may be, will be considered the sole owner or holder of the debt securities represented by such global security for all purposes under the applicable indenture. Except as described below or in the applicable prospectus supplement, owners of beneficial interest in a global security will not be entitled to have any of the individual debt securities represented by such global security registered in their names, will not receive or be entitled to receive physical delivery of any such debt securities in definitive form and will not be considered the owners or holders thereof under the applicable indenture. Beneficial owners of debt securities evidenced by a global security will not be considered the owners or holders thereof under the applicable indenture for any purpose, including with respect to the giving of any direction, instructions or approvals to the trustee thereunder. Accordingly, each person owning a beneficial interest in a global security with respect to

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which DTC is the depository must rely on the procedures of DTC and, if such person is not a participant, on the procedures of the participant through which such person owns its interests, to exercise any rights of a holder under the applicable indenture. We understand that, under existing industry practice, if it requests any action of holders or if an owner of a beneficial interest in a global security desires to give or take any action which a holder is entitled to give or take under the applicable indenture, DTC would authorize the participants holding the relevant beneficial interest to give or take such action, and such participants would authorize beneficial owners through such participants to give or take such actions or would otherwise act upon the instructions of beneficial owners holding through them.

Payments of principal of, and any interest on, individual debt securities represented by a global security registered in the name of a depository or its nominee will be made to or at the direction of the depository or its nominee, as the case may be, as the registered owner of the global security under the applicable indenture. Under the terms of the applicable indenture, we and the trustee may treat the persons in whose name debt securities, including a global security, are registered as the owners thereof for the purpose of receiving such payments. Consequently, neither we nor the trustee has or will have any responsibility or liability for the payment of such amounts to beneficial owners of debt securities (including principal and interest). We believe, however, that it is currently the policy of DTC to immediately credit the accounts of relevant participants with such payments, in amounts proportionate to their respective holdings of beneficial interests in the relevant global security as shown on the records of DTC or its nominee. We also expect that payments by participants to owners of beneficial interests in such global security held through such participants will be governed by standing instructions and customary practices, as is the case with securities held for the account of customers in bearer form or registered in street name, and will be the responsibility of such participants. Redemption notices with respect to any debt securities represented by a global security will be sent to the depository or its nominee. If less than all of the debt securities of any series are to be redeemed, we expect the depository to determine the amount of the interest of each participant in such debt securities to be redeemed to be determined by lot. None of us, the trustee, any paying agent or the registrar for such debt securities will have any responsibility or liability for any aspect of the records relating to or payments made on account of beneficial ownership interests in the global security for such debt securities or for maintaining any records with respect thereto.

Neither we nor the trustee will be liable for any delay by the holders of a global security or the depository in identifying the beneficial owners of debt securities and we and the trustee may conclusively rely on, and will be protected in relying on, instructions from the holder of a global security or the depository for all purposes. The rules applicable to DTC and its participants are on file with the SEC.

If a depository for any debt securities is at any time unwilling, unable or ineligible to continue as depository and a successor depository is not appointed by us within 90 days, we will issue individual debt securities in exchange for the global security representing such debt securities. In addition, we may at any time and in our sole discretion, subject to any limitations described in the prospectus supplement relating to such debt securities, determine not to have any of such debt securities represented by one or more global securities and in such event we will issue individual debt securities in exchange for the global security or securities representing such debt securities. Individual debt securities so issued will be issued in denominations of \$1,000 and integral multiples thereof.

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All moneys paid by us to a paying agent or a trustee for the payment of the principal of or interest on any debt security which remain unclaimed at the end of two years after such payment has become due and payable will be repaid to us, and the holder of such debt security thereafter may look only to us for payment thereof.

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DESCRIPTION OF PREFERENCE SHARES

Our bye-laws allow the board to authorize the issuance of preference shares in one or more series, and may fix the rights and preferences of those shares, including as to dividends, voting (which shall be subject to the limitations described below under "Description of Common Shares -- Voting Limitation"), redemption, conversion rights and otherwise.

Issuances of preference shares are subject to the applicable rules of the Nasdaq National Market or other organizations on whose systems the stock of the company may then be quoted or listed. Depending upon the terms of preference shares established by our board of directors, any or all series of preference shares could have preferences over the common shares with respect to dividends and other distributions and upon liquidation of the company. Issuance of any such shares with voting powers, or issuance of additional shares of common shares, would dilute the voting power of the outstanding common shares.

Terms

The terms of each series of preference shares will be described in any prospectus supplement related to such series of preference shares.

The board of directors in approving the issuance of a series of preference shares has authority to determine, and the applicable prospectus supplement may set forth with respect to such series, the following terms, among others:

- o The number of shares constituting that series and the distinctive designation of that series;
- o The dividend rate on the shares of that series, whether dividends shall be cumulative and, if so, from which date or dates, and the relative rights of priority, if any, of payment of dividends on shares of that series;
- o The voting rights for shares of the series, if any, in addition to the voting rights provided by law, and the terms of such voting rights;
- o The conversion or exchange privileges for shares of the series, if any (including, without limitation, conversion into common shares), and the terms and conditions of such conversion or exchange, including provisions for adjustment of the conversion or exchange rate in such events as the board shall determine;
- o Whether or not the shares of that series shall be redeemable and, if

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so, the terms and conditions of such redemption, including the manner of selecting shares for redemption if less than all shares are to be redeemed, the date or dates upon or after which they shall be redeemable, and the amount per share payable in case of redemption, which amount may vary under different conditions and at different redemption dates;

- o Any sinking fund for the redemption or purchase of shares of that series and the terms and amount of such sinking fund;
- o The right of the shares of that series to the benefit of conditions and restrictions upon the creation of indebtedness of Arch Capital or any of our subsidiaries, upon the issue of any additional shares (including additional shares of such series or any other series) and upon the payment of dividends or the making of other distributions on, and the purchase, redemption or other acquisition by us or any of our subsidiaries of, any of our outstanding shares;

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- o The rights of the shares of that series in the event of our voluntary or involuntary liquidation, dissolution or winding up, and the relative rights of priority, if any, of payment of shares of that series; and
- o Any other relative participating, optional or other special rights, qualifications, limitations or restrictions of that series.

Material U.S. federal income tax considerations pertaining to an investment in our preference shares will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement.

DESCRIPTION OF COMMON SHARES

Holders of the common shares have no preemptive, redemption, conversion or sinking fund rights. Subject to the voting restrictions described below, holders of common shares are entitled to one vote per share on all matters submitted to a vote of holders of common shares and do not have any cumulative voting rights. In the event of a liquidation, dissolution, or winding up of the company, the holders of common shares are entitled to share equally and ratably in the assets of the company, if any, remaining after the payment of all debts and liabilities of the company and the liquidation preference of any outstanding preference shares. All outstanding common shares are fully paid and non-assessable. The board is permitted to authorize the issuance of additional common shares.

Issuances of common shares are subject to the applicable rules of the Nasdaq National Market or other organizations on whose systems the stock of the company may then be quoted or listed.

American Stock Transfer & Trust Company is the transfer agent and registrar of our common shares.

Voting Limitation

Our bye-laws contain a provision limiting the voting rights of any person who owns (directly, indirectly or constructively under the United States Internal Revenue Code) shares with more than 9.9% of the total voting power of all shares entitled to vote generally at an election of directors to 9.9% of

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such voting power. This provision does not restrict the ability of any person holding shares of the company that were either (1) converted from shares of Arch Delaware owned on September 8, 2000 or (2) issued upon exercise of warrants owned by such person on September 8, 2000 which were assumed by the company, from voting such shares except with respect to the election of directors. This provision is intended to prevent the company from being characterized as a controlled foreign corporation which could cause U.S. persons owning 10% or more of our shares to suffer adverse U.S. tax consequences.

The bye-laws of the company also contain a provision limiting the rights of any group (within the meaning of the Exchange Act) that owns shares with more than 9.9% of the total voting power of all shares entitled to vote generally at an election of directors to 9.9% of such voting power. This provision does not restrict (a) the ability of any such group holding shares of the company that were converted from shares of Arch Delaware owned on September 8, 2000 or acquired upon exercise of warrants owned by such person on September 8, 2000 which were assumed by the company or (b) any person or group that the board of directors, by the affirmation vote of at least 75% of the existing board, may exempt from this provision, from voting such shares.

One of the proposals to be voted upon at our special general meeting scheduled to occur on March 7, 2002 would change these voting limitations so that the limitation would apply only to votes conferred (directly or indirectly or by attribution) by our shares directly, indirectly or constructively owned (within the meaning of section 958 of the Code) by any U.S. person, as defined in section 7701(a)(30) of the Code. If the votes so conferred on such U.S. person would represent more than 9.9% of the voting power of all shares entitled to vote generally at an election of directors, the votes so conferred would, in general, be reduced by whatever amount is necessary so that after the reduction the votes so conferred on such U.S. person constitutes 9.9% of the total voting power of all shares of the company entitled to vote generally at any election of directors.

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Material U.S. federal income tax considerations pertaining to an investment in our common shares will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement.

The description of the common shares contained in our registration statement on Form 8-A filed on November 7, 2000 pursuant to Section 12 of the Exchange Act, including any amendment or report filed for the purpose of updating such description is incorporated by reference herein.

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PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

We may sell the securities in any of three ways: (1) through underwriters or dealers; (2) directly to a limited number of institutional purchasers or to a single purchaser; or (3) through agents. Any such dealer or agent, in addition

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to any underwriter, may be deemed to be an underwriter within the meaning of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended and any discounts or commissions they receive from us and any profit on the resale of the offered securities by them may be treated as underwriting discounts and commissions under the Securities Act. The terms of the offering of the securities with respect to which this prospectus is being delivered will be set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement and will include:

- o the name or names of any underwriters, dealers or agents;
- o the purchase price of such securities and the proceeds to us from such sale;
- o any underwriting discounts and other items constituting underwriters' compensation;
- o the public offering price; and
- o any discounts or concessions which may be allowed or reallocated or paid to dealers and any securities exchanges on which the securities may be listed.

If underwriters are used in the sale of securities, such securities will be acquired by the underwriters for their own account and may be resold from time to time in one or more transactions, including negotiated transactions, at a fixed public offering price or at varying prices determined at the time of sale. The securities may be offered to the public either through underwriting syndicates represented by managing underwriters or directly by one or more underwriters acting alone. Unless otherwise set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement, the obligations of the underwriters to purchase the securities described in the applicable prospectus supplement will be subject to certain conditions precedent, and the underwriters will be obligated to purchase all such securities if any are so purchased by them. Any public offering price and any discounts or concessions allowed or reallocated or paid to dealers may be changed from time to time.

The securities may be sold directly by us or through agents designated by us from time to time. Any agents involved in the offer or sale of the securities in respect of which this prospectus is being delivered, and any commissions payable by us to such agents, will be set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement. Unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, any such agent will be acting on a best efforts basis for the period of its appointment.

If dealers are utilized in the sale of any securities, we will sell the securities to the dealers, as principals. Any dealer may resell the securities to the public at varying prices to be determined by the dealer at the time of resale. The name of any dealer and the terms of the transaction will be set forth in the prospectus supplement with respect to the securities being offered.

Securities may also be offered and sold, if so indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, in connection with a remarketing upon their purchase, in accordance with a redemption or repayment pursuant to their terms, or otherwise, by one or more firms, which we refer to herein as the "remarketing firms," acting as principals for their own accounts or as our agents, as applicable. Any remarketing firm will be identified and the terms of its agreement, if any, with us and its compensation will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement. Remarketing firms may be deemed to be underwriters, as that term is defined in the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, in connection with the securities remarketed thereby.

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If so indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, we will authorize agents, underwriters or dealers to solicit offers by certain specified institutions to purchase the securities to which this prospectus and the applicable prospectus supplement relates from us at the public offering price set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement, plus, if applicable, accrued interest, pursuant to delayed delivery contracts providing for payment and delivery on a specified date in the future. Such contracts will be subject only to those conditions set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement, and the applicable prospectus supplement will set forth the commission payable for solicitation of such contracts.

Underwriters will not be obligated to make a market in any securities. No assurance can be given regarding the activity of trading in, or liquidity of, any securities.

Agents, dealers, underwriters and remarketing firms may be entitled, under agreements entered into with us to indemnification by us against certain civil liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or to contribution to payments they may be required to make in respect thereof. Agents, dealers, underwriters and remarketing firms may be customers of, engage in transactions with, or perform services for, us in the ordinary course of business.

Each series of securities will be a new issue and, other than the common shares, which are listed on the Nasdaq National Market, will have no established trading market. We may elect to list any series of securities on an exchange, and in the case of the common shares, on any additional exchange, but, unless otherwise specified in the applicable prospectus supplement, we shall not be obligated to do so. No assurance can be given as to the liquidity of the trading market for any of the securities.

The place, time of delivery and other terms of the offered securities will be described in the prospectus supplement.

LEGAL MATTERS

The validity of the common shares and the preference shares will be passed upon for us by Conyers Dill & Pearman, Hamilton, Bermuda. Certain legal matters with respect to the debt securities will be passed upon for us by Cahill Gordon & Reindel, New York, New York.

EXPERTS

The financial statements incorporated in this Prospectus by reference to the Annual Report on Form 10-K/A for the year ended December 31, 2000 have been so incorporated in reliance on the report of PricewaterhouseCoopers, independent accountants, given on the authority of said firm as experts in auditing and accounting.

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PART II INFORMATION NOT REQUIRED IN PROSPECTUS

Item 14. Other Expenses of Issuance and Distribution.

The following table sets forth the costs and expenses, other than underwriting discounts and commissions, incurred in connection with the distribution of the securities being registered (all amounts are estimated except the SEC registration fee).

SEC registration fee.....	\$ 46,000
Printing and engraving expenses.....	75,000
Legal fees and expenses.....	500,000
Accounting fees and expenses.....	150,000
Trustees and transfer agents fees.....	75,000
Miscellaneous.....	29,000

Total.....	\$875,000
	=====

Item 15. Indemnification of Directors and Officers.

Under Bermuda law, a company is permitted to indemnify any officer or director, out of the funds of the company, against (a) any liability incurred by him or her in defending any proceedings, whether civil or criminal, in which judgment is given in his or her favor, or in which he or she is acquitted, or in connection with any application under relevant Bermuda legislation in which relief from liability is granted to him or her by the court and (b) any loss or liability resulting from negligence, default, breach of duty or breach of trust, save for his or her fraud and dishonesty.

Our bye-laws provide for us to indemnify our officers, directors and employees to the fullest extent permitted by law.

Our bye-laws also provide that expenses (including attorneys' fees) incurred by one of our officers or directors in defending any civil, criminal, administrative or investigative action, suit or proceeding will be paid by us in advance of the final disposition of such action, suit or proceeding upon receipt of an undertaking by or on behalf of such director or officer to repay such amount if it shall ultimately be determined that he or she is not entitled to be indemnified by us pursuant to Bermuda law.

Our bye-laws also provide that our officers and directors will not be personally liable to us or our shareholders for monetary damages for any breach of fiduciary duty as a director or officer, except to the extent that such limitation is prohibited by Bermuda Law.

Item 16. Exhibits.

See Exhibit Index immediately preceding the Exhibits.

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Item 17. Undertakings.

THE UNDERSIGNED REGISTRANTS HEREBY UNDERTAKE:

- (1) To file, during any period in which offers or sales are being made, a post-effective amendment to this registration statement:

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- (i) To include any prospectus required by section 10(a)(3) of the Securities Act of 1933;
- (ii) To reflect in the prospectus any facts or events arising after the effective date of the registration statement (or the most recent post-effective amendment thereof) which, individually or in the aggregate, represent a fundamental change in the information set forth in the registration statement. Notwithstanding the foregoing, any increase or decrease in volume of securities offered (if the total dollar value of securities offered would not exceed that which was registered) and any deviation from the low or high end of the estimated maximum offering range may be reflected in the form of the prospectus filed with the Commission pursuant to Rule 424(b) if, in the aggregate, the changes in volume and price represent no more than a 20% change in the maximum aggregate offering price set forth in the "Calculation of Registration Fee" table in the effective registration statement; and
- (iii) To include any material information with respect to the plan of distribution not previously disclosed in the registration statement or any material change to such information in the registration statement;

provided, however, that paragraphs (1)(i) and (1)(ii) do not apply if the information required to be included in a post-effective amendment by those paragraphs is contained in periodic reports filed by the Registrant pursuant to section 13 or section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 that are incorporated by reference in the registration statement.

- (2) That, for the purpose of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, each such post-effective amendment shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.
- (3) To remove from registration by means of a post-effective amendment any of the securities being registered which remain unsold at the termination of the offering.
- (4) That, for purposes of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, each filing of the Registrant's annual report pursuant to section 13(a) or section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 that is incorporated by reference in the registration statement shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.
- (5) For purposes of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, the information omitted from the form of prospectus filed as part of a registration statement in reliance upon Rule 430A and contained in a form of prospectus filed by the registrant pursuant to Rule 424(b)(1) or (4) or 497(h) under the Securities Act shall be deemed to be part of this registration statement as of the time it was declared effective.

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- (6) For the purposes of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, each post-effective amendment that contains a form of prospectus shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.

Insofar as indemnification for liabilities arising under the Securities Act of 1933 may be permitted to directors, officers and controlling persons of the Registrant pursuant to the provisions described under Item 15 above, or otherwise, the Registrant has been advised that in the opinion of the Securities and Exchange Commission such indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act of 1933 and is, therefore, unenforceable. In the event that a claim for indemnification against such liabilities (other than the payment by the Registrant of expenses incurred or paid by a director, officer or controlling person of the Registrant in the successful defense of any action, suit or proceeding) is asserted by such director, officer or controlling person in connection with the securities being registered, the Registrants will, unless in the opinion of its counsel the matter has been settled by controlling precedent, submit to a court of appropriate jurisdiction the question whether such indemnification by it is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act of 1933 and will be governed by the final adjudication of such issue.

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SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act, the Registrant certifies that it has reasonable grounds to believe that it meets all of the requirements for filing on Form S-3 and has duly caused this registration statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, in the City of Greenwich, State of Connecticut on February 12, 2002.

ARCH CAPITAL GROUP LTD.

By: /s/ Peter A. Appel

Peter A. Appel
President and Chief Executive Officer

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, this registration statement has been duly signed below by the following persons on behalf of the Registrant and in the capacities and on the dates indicated.

Signature Title

*
----- Chairman and Director
Robert Clements

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/s/ Peter A. Appel ----- Peter A. Appel	President and Chief Executive Officer (Principal Executive Officer) and Director
* ----- John D. Vollaro	Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer (Principal Financial and Accounting Officer)
* ----- John M. Pasquesi	Vice Chairman and Director
* ----- John L. Bunce, Jr.	Director
* ----- Michael P. Esposito, Jr..	Director

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Signature -----	Title -----
* ----- Paul B. Ingrey	Director
* ----- Constantine Ioradnou	Director
* ----- Kewsong Lee	Director
* ----- James J. Meenaghan	Director
* ----- Robert F. Works	Director

*By: /s/ Peter A. Appel

Attorney-in-fact

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EXHIBITS

Exhibit Number -----	Description -----
1.1*	Form of Underwriting Agreement (Equity).
1.2*	Form of Underwriting Agreement (Debt securities).
3.1	Memorandum of Association of Arch Capital Group Ltd. (Incorporated by reference to Arch Capital Group Ltd.'s registration statement on Form S-4 (File No. 333-45418), as filed with the SEC on September 26, 2000.)
3.2	Bye-laws of Arch Capital Group Ltd. (Incorporated by reference to Arch Capital Group Ltd.'s registration statement on Form S-4 (File No. 333-45418), as filed with the SEC on September 26, 2000.)
3.3	Form of Amended and Restated Bye-law 45 and Bye-law 75. (Incorporated by reference to the current report on Form 8-K of Arch Capital Group Ltd. as filed with the SEC on January 4, 2002.)
3.4	Certificate of Designations of Series A Convertible Preference Shares. (Incorporated by reference to the current report on Form 8-K of Arch Capital Group Ltd. as filed with the SEC on January 4, 2002.)
4.1	Specimen Common Share Certificate. (Incorporated by reference to the annual report on Form 10-K/A of Arch Capital Group Ltd. for the year ended December 31, 2000, as filed with the SEC on August 10, 2001.)
4.2	Form of Senior Indenture.
4.3*	Form of Senior Debt Security.
4.4	Form of Subordinated Indenture.
4.5*	Form of Subordinated Debt Security.
5.1*	Opinion of Conyers Dill & Pearman.
5.2*	Opinion of Cahill Gordon & Reindel.
23.1*	Consent of Conyers Dill & Pearman (included as part of Exhibit 5.1).
23.2*	Consent of Cahill Gordon & Reindel (included as part of Exhibit 5.2).
23.3	Consent of PricewaterhouseCoopers.
24.1	Power of Attorney.
25(a)*	Form T-1 Statement of Eligibility of Trustee (Senior Indenture and Subordinated Indenture).

* To be filed as an amendment or as an exhibit to an Exchange Act report of the Registrant(s) and incorporated herein by reference.

