

# ROTHSCHILDS CONTINUATION HOLDINGS AG

Annual Report 2000



## ROTHSCHILDS CONTINUATION HOLDINGS AG

Rothschilds Continuation Holdings AG is the co-ordinating company of the N M Rothschild merchant banking group.

Through its network of subsidiaries and affiliates in more than 30 countries, the Group provides banking, treasury, investment banking, fund management, private banking and trust management services to governments, corporations and individuals worldwide.



## ROTHSCHILDS CONTINUATION HOLDINGS AG

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### **WORLD PRESENCE**

The N M Rothschild merchant banking group has 40 offices in more than 30 countries and employs more than 2,000 people around the world.





### **DIRECTORS**

Chairman

Sir Evelyn de Rothschild

Directors

David de Rothschild

Eric de Rothschild

Benjamin de Rothschild

Edouard de Rothschild

Philip Brass

Anthony Chapman

Sir John Collins

Andrew Didham

Sir Graham Hearne

François Henrot

Dr Peter Kurer

Raymond W Smith

Dr Rudolf Tschäni

The Rt Hon Lord Wakeham

Sir Clive Whitmore

#### **DIRECTORS**

#### SIR EVELYN DE ROTHSCHILD

Sir Evelyn de Rothschild has been Chairman of Rothschilds Continuation Holdings AG since 1982.

Throughout his career, he has been actively involved in a number of organisations in both the public and private sectors. Directorships of note include: Chairman of The Economist Newspaper (1972-1989), Chairman of the British Merchant Banking & Securities House Association (1985-1989), Deputy Chairman of Milton Keynes Development Corporation (1971-1984) and Director of IBM United Kingdom Holdings Limited (1972-1995). In 1989 he was knighted by Her Majesty the Queen.

He is currently a Governor of the London School of Economics & Political Science and a Director of The Daily Telegraph plc. An active patron of the arts and supporter of a number of charities, Sir Evelyn is a Member of the Council of the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art, a trustee of the Shakespeare Globe Trust and in 1998 was appointed Chairman of the Princess Royal Trust for Carers.

#### DAVID DE ROTHSCHILD

David de Rothschild is Chairman of N M Rothschild Corporate Finance Limited, Rothschild Canada Inc, and Rothschild Europe BV. He is Deputy Chairman of N M Rothschild & Sons Limited and Vice Chairman of Rothschild Bank AG, Zurich. He is a Member of the Board of Rothschild North America Inc and a Senior Partner of Rothschild & Cie Banque.

Outside the Rothschild Group he is Chairman of the Management Board of Francarep and Member of the Boards of Compagnie Financière Martin Maurel and Paris-Orléans. He is also a Member of the Supervisory Boards of Casino, Imérys, ABN AMRO and Compagnie Financière Saint-Honoré.

#### ERIC DE ROTHSCHILD

Eric de Rothschild is Chairman of Rothschild Asset Management Limited and is a Board Member of N M Rothschild & Sons Limited and Rothschild North America Inc. He is a Partner of Rothschild & Cie Banque and Managing Partner of the Société Civile de Château Lafite Rothschild. Outside the Rothschild Group he is Chairman of Paris-Orléans and Francarep. He is a Board Member of Christie's France, the Federation Continentale, Chalone Inc, the Jardine Lloyd Thompson Group plc and SIACI. He is Chairman of the Comité d'Action Sociale Israélite de Paris, Centre de Documentation Juive Contemporaine, Mémorial du Martyr Juif Inconnu, Fondation de Rothschild, Fondation Nationale des Arts Graphiques and a Member of the Board of the Smithsonian Institute.

#### BENJAMIN DE ROTHSCHILD

Benjamin de Rothschild has presided over the Benjamin et Edmond de Rothschild Group since 1997 and is Chairman of La Compagnie Financière Holding Benjamin et Edmond de Rothschild, Genève SA, Banque Privée Edmond de Rothschild SA and La Compagnie de Trésorerie Benjamin de Rothschild SA. He is Chairman of the Supervisory Board of La Compagnie Financière Saint-Honoré and La Compagnie Financière Edmond de Rothschild Banque. He is a Director of Rothschild Bank AG, Zurich.

Benjamin de Rothschild is an active supporter of foundations for the arts and sciences. He holds, amongst others, the Chairmanships of The Edmond de Rothschild Foundation, New York, the Caesarea Edmond Benjamin de Rothschild Foundation and the Fondation Ophtalmologique Adolphe de Rothschild, Paris.

#### **EDOUARD DE ROTHSCHILD**

Edouard de Rothschild is a General Partner of Rothschild & Cie Banque and Rothschild & Cie. Outside the Rothschild Group he is a Director of Paris-Orléans, Global Asset Management, New York University and France Galop. He is a Member of the Supervisory Board and Strategic Committee of Imérys and a Member of the Board of Finance of MEDEF. Edouard de Rothschild is the Permanent Representative of Rothschild & Cie Banque on the Supervisory Board of Francarep.

#### PHILIP BRASS

Philip Brass is Chairman of N M Rothschild Australia Holdings Pty Limited, N M Rothschild & Sons (Australia) Limited and N M Rothschild & Sons (Hong Kong) Limited. He is a Director of N M Rothschild & Sons (Singapore) Limited and Rothschild Australia Asset Management Limited, and is also on the Supervisory Board of Rothschild Asset Management International Holdings BV. He is the Chairman of UCMS Pty Limited and a Director of UCMS plc, UCMS Inc, The Warehouse Group Limited (New Zealand) and SecureNet Limited.

#### **DIRECTORS**

#### **ANTHONY CHAPMAN**

Anthony Chapman was formerly a Partner in the law firm of Freshfields.

#### SIR JOHN COLLINS

After a career with Shell, culminating as Chairman and Chief Executive of Shell UK, Sir John Collins became Group Chief Executive of the Vestey Group of companies in December 1993. He is Chairman of National Power PLC, a Non-Executive Director of P&O and a Director of the London Symphony Orchestra.

#### ANDREW DIDHAM

Andrew Didham is Finance Director of the Rothschilds Continuation Holdings AG Group. He is also a member of the Board of N M Rothschild & Sons Limited, Rothschilds Continuation Limited, N M Rothschild & Sons (Australia) Limited, Rothschild Europe BV and Rothschild North America Inc. He was formerly a Partner in the accounting firm of KPMG.

#### **SIR GRAHAM HEARNE**

Sir Graham Hearne is Chairman of Enterprise Oil plc. He is Non-Executive Chairman of Caradon plc, Deputy Chairman of Gallaher Group plc and a Non-Executive Director of Invensys plc and Seascope Shipping Holdings plc. He was appointed to the Board of N M Rothschild & Sons Limited in September 1970, becoming Non-Executive in July 1977.

#### FRANÇOIS HENROT

François Henrot is Managing Partner of Rothschild & Cie Banque. He was a member of the Management Board of Compagnie Financière de Paribas, in charge of supervising the group's retail banking activities. He is a Non-Executive Director of Carrefour, British Petroleum France, Montupet, Télé Images International and Eramet and a member of the Supervisory Board of Pinault-Printemps-Redoute (PPR) and Vallourec.

#### DR PETER KURER

Peter Kurer is a partner of Homburger Rechtsanwälte, a Swiss law firm. He is also a Director of Holderbank Financière Glarus AG, Netstal-Maschinen AG, Sihl, Danzas Holding AG and Unisys (Schweiz) AG.

#### RAYMOND W SMITH

Raymond W Smith is Chairman of Rothschild North America Inc. He was Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Bell Atlantic (1989-1998), having previously been its Chief Financial Officer and Finance Director of AT&T. He was named 'CEO of the Year' by CNBC, 'Top Manager' by Business Week and 'Chief Executive of the Year' by the International Television Association. He also serves on advisory boards of the US House of Representatives for Renewing US Science Policy and the Library of Congress. He is also a member of the Board of Directors of Carnegie Corporation, US Airways Inc, CBS Corporation, Lincoln Center and Carnegie Mellon University.

#### DR RUDOLF TSCHÄNI

Rudolf Tschäni is a Partner of the Swiss law firm Lenz & Staehelin. He also serves on the boards of a number of Swiss companies.

#### THE RT HON LORD WAKEHAM

Lord Wakeham is Chairman of the Press Complaints Commission. He was a UK Member of Parliament from 1974 to 1992. He was a Minister in the Department of Trade and Industry and the Treasury before becoming Chief Whip in 1983. He was Leader of the House of Commons (1987-1989) and Leader of the House of Lords (1992-1994) and was from 1989 to 1992 Secretary of State for Energy. He recently chaired the Royal Commission on the Reform of the House of Lords. He is Chairman of Vosper Thornycroft and the Kalon Group. He is a Non-Executive Director of Bristol & West and the Enron Corporation.

#### SIR CLIVE WHITMORE

Sir Clive Whitmore was Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Defence from 1983 to 1988 and of the Home Office from 1988 to 1994. He is also a Non-Executive Director of The Boots Company plc, The Morgan Crucible Co plc and Racal Electronics plc.



#### **CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT**

Rothschilds Continuation Holdings AG, the co-ordinating company of the N M Rothschild merchant banking group, achieved a consolidated operating profit for the year ended 31st March 2000 of SFr200 million (SFr115 million). Total operating income was SFr1.3 billion (SFr1.0 billion). These figures reflect an excellent trading result for the Group, with a sound performance from each of our major businesses.

The measures which we initiated last year to consolidate our strategy on the three fronts of business management, people and systems as we entered the new century have already brought substantial benefits to our clients across the globe. We have continued to attract and recruit staff of the highest calibre, both



to drive these new initiatives and to identify further areas of demand for our expertise as an independent organisation.

Product performance in all areas, particularly against the backdrop of continuing market volatility, has been most encouraging with significant growth in the sectors in which we specialise. For example, we have developed a new and innovative range of securitisation products that facilitate inventory and supply chain management, and which are already proving to be of interest to some of the world's largest industrial corporations.

Treasury metals revenues increased both in our traditional precious metals business and in our developing base metals business. Resource banking undertook a significant level of new business with project finance being provided to several new mining clients worldwide, and our business has diversified into the power sector with clients in the UK and Australia. The success of our advisory services to the resources sector was especially pleasing, with very large financings completed for projects in Chile and Peru.

Our banking division, which offers a variety of debt advisory, securitisation and structured debt products to both public and private sectors, saw strong growth in revenues. We are particularly proud of the leading role played in the recent UK auction of radio spectrum for the third generation of mobile telephones.

Our investment banking division returned another year of outstanding performance. This year we have advised on more than US\$367 billion worth of mergers and acquisitions activity, making us the most active house in Europe by number of transactions. Reflecting our international spread, we also have thriving businesses in the Americas and in the Asia Pacific region. In the equity capital markets, our joint venture with ABN AMRO is in its fourth year of very successful operation. It continues to secure and service mandates on a global basis. In North America alone it has participated in over 70 domestic deals with a total value of nearly US\$34 billion.

#### CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT

We have seen an encouraging performance in our asset management business with good growth in assets under management and client mandates. We believe that there is significant scope for development and are pursuing new strategies building upon the Group's particular fields of expertise to win business in this highly competitive sector. Funds under management this year have increased by 26 per cent to US\$44 billion. Our trust and private banking businesses returned another strong performance and continue to grow well.

We have introduced a revised structure in N M Rothschild China Holding, to reflect the importance of business in China with three strategically placed offices in Beijing, Shanghai and Hong Kong and we are currently well advanced on a number of projects. In India our new office in Mumbai continues to make good progress.

On behalf of the Directors and myself I wish to extend our sincere thanks and appreciation to all of our employees for their significant individual and collective contributions to the continued growth and success of our Group. It is their dedication and expertise which provide those key ingredients of trust and personal attention to client needs upon which we have built, and will continue to grow and differentiate, our business.

I would also like to record my appreciation of Leopold de Rothschild, Peter Hafter, Bernie Myers and Guy Wais, all of whom have worked tirelessly for the Group over many years, and have retired from the Board during the year.

I very much welcome to the Board Edouard de Rothschild, Philip Brass, Sir John Collins, Sir Graham Hearne, François Henrot, Raymond Smith, Lord Wakeham and Sir Clive Whitmore. These distinguished new directors bring a wealth of experience and depth of business knowledge that will help us continue to move forward into the future.

Finally as many major corporates are reducing the number of their core relationship investment banks, we believe that we have gained by this changing environment in the banking community. Private ownership enables us to plan for the long term, free from the pressures of share price or the markets' reception of quarterly earnings reports. As global players increase in size we see new opportunities for independent investment banks and we intend to remain a world leader in this market.

Sir Evelyn de Rothschild

31st May 2000



#### FINANCIAL REVIEW

### Group Trading Performance

The Group achieved a record total operating income of SFr1.3 billion this year compared with SFr1.0 billion in 1999. Fees and commissions, which largely arise from our corporate advisory and asset management businesses, showed an increase of 41 per cent to SFr1.0 billion. Dealing profits were SFr88 million (1999: SFr74 million) with strong results across all markets. Our net interest income at SFr153 million (1999: SFr146 million) grew by 5 per cent in competitive markets.

General administrative expenses increased by 31 per cent over 1999, which includes the rewards to directors and employees. The success of our businesses is critically dependent on the skills and efforts of our people, whose contribution to the growth of our businesses will continue to be suitably rewarded. Depreciation and amortisation charges increased by SFr7 million to SFr34 million, reflecting the continuing investment made in the Group's infrastructure. Charges for value adjustments and provisions have decreased significantly to SFr31 million (1999: SFr43 million) reflecting the improvement in market conditions and our prudent lending policy.

Non-operating income of SFr6 million was much reduced from 1999 which benefited from profits on the disposal of certain of the Group's other participating interests. Profit for the financial year was SFr116 million (1999: SFr93 million).

#### **Balance Sheet**

The consolidated balance sheet totals increased by 16 per cent, which is due to a combination of favourable currency movements and the strong profit for the financial year.

Throughout the year, our capital ratios remained well in excess of the minimum required by the various regulators of the Group, in particular those of the UK Financial Services Authority, which acts as the Group's lead regulator.

### Risk Management

We continue to place great emphasis on the proper management and control of the risks associated with our business. Our risk policies and procedures are regularly updated to meet changing business requirements. The Group Risk Director co-ordinates risk policy and promotes the development and maintenance of effective procedures throughout the Group.

Each of our trading subsidiaries has a Board of Directors, including independent Non-Executives, responsible for exercising corporate governance of the highest standard. Responsibility for credit and market risk rests with separately constituted executive and credit committees, which set limits, monitor

exceptions, and make recommendations on credit decisions. The maintenance of strong internal controls is fundamental to the control of operational and other risks. Full external audits are carried out annually and these are supported by testing of our internal control framework by our internal auditors who report their findings to regional audit committees and ultimately to the Board of Directors of Rothschilds Continuation Holdings AG.

#### **EUROPE AND AFRICA**

### United Kingdom

Operating profit before profit share and tax for N M Rothschild & Sons Limited was £98.6 million, an increase of 44 per cent over last year. All of our businesses in the UK enjoyed good growth with sound performance.

Our investment banking business had an outstanding year with record revenues and profits being achieved. We acted on over 200 M&A transactions representing US\$367 billion in value, of which about half were cross-border. Our focus on specialised industry sectors has helped to support our continued growth as a leading M&A adviser. This is evident by looking at the calibre of our growing client base in the fast developing technology media and telecoms (TMT) sector: Mannesmann on the US\$202 billion hostile bid from Vodafone, BT on the US\$10 billion global venture with AT&T, the £3.5 billion acquisition of Cellnet and the £1.5 billion agreed offer for Esat, France Telecom on the US\$4.3 billion acquisition of interests in Global One, Vivendi on the US\$2.4 billion acquisition of 25 per cent of BSkyB, LVMH on its investment in Oxygen Media, ISDNet on its acquisition by Cable & Wireless, Rolls-Royce on the £576 million offer for Vickers, Wolverhampton & Dudley on the £380 million offer for Marston, Thompson and Evershed and subsequent disposal of 165 Marston pubs to Greene King, Finalrealm on the £1.4 billion offer for United Biscuits, Seton Scholl on the £1.7 billion merger with London International Group, and Arriva on the £513 million disposal of its car leasing division to General Motors Acceptance Corporation.

ABN AMRO Rothschild, our equity capital markets joint venture with ABN AMRO, continues to deliver strong results and was global co-ordinator on the largest number of European equity issues.

Our banking & treasury financial products division recorded strong performances with additional niche specialisations further broadening our spread of revenues.

High levels of corporate M&A activity created opportunities for our corporate debt advisory team, which led to assignments for Johnson Press plc, Travis Perkins plc, Express Dairies and D'Ieterer. Lease advisory assignments were also undertaken for BMW and Siemens.

In the public sector our teams advised the government on the ground breaking auction of radio spectrum for the third generation of mobile communications, raising higher bids than on any UK privatisation to date.

We have undertaken considerable investment in new staff and associated resources throughout the UK. A new securitisation team was established and completed its first mandate, the securitisation of £41 million of auto receivables originated by Benton Finance.

Five Arrows Finance continues to develop successfully and has broadened its product range to include the financing of film and medical equipment and the provision of invoice discounting in support of management buyouts.

Treasury metals had another good year with increased revenues and a number of major US corporations were added to the bank's client base.

Resource banking undertook a significant level of attractive new business during the year, including the arrangement of the landmark transaction for Randgold Resources' Morila gold mine in Mali.

The management team of Rothschild Asset Management Limited has been strengthened with a number of key appointments, led by Paul Manduca as Chief Executive of our worldwide asset management business.

Continued support by the major firms of investment consultants enabled our fixed interest team to secure substantial new business whilst our institutional equity group won a number of new accounts, and achieved top decile investment returns for UK equities for the year to 31st December 1999.

This success was mirrored in our retail business, where the Five Arrows Global Investment Asian Opportunities Fund was top of its sector over one year and, like the Five Arrows Global Investment UK Major Companies Fund, achieved top quartile performance over three and five years. Our market leading Private Portfolio Service saw funds under management grow by 52 per cent to over US\$1.4 billion.

#### Switzerland

Rothschild Bank AG, which provides private banking, investment management and trust and fiduciary services, reported consolidated revenues of SFr129.4 million, up 13 per cent. Gross profit increased by 14 per cent to SFr57.1 million. This was the sixth successive year of profit growth.

The acquisition of new clients saw funds under management and custody rise by SFr3.2 billion. Rothschild Trust showed similar results and again reflected the successful marketing of the Group's worldwide trust and fiduciary services to new clients.

### Germany, Italy, Portugal and Spain

Rothschild Europe BV is the co-ordinating body for investment banking activities in Germany, Italy, Portugal and Spain. During the year Rothschild Europe established a wholly owned company in Poland, RCF Polska Limited.

Our German operations took advantage of the favourable market. The rapid changes in the telecommunications sector created several high profile transactions in advisory work for our client Deutsche Telekom, in the sale of its cable business, the acquisition of the Austrian mobile phone company, Max Mobil, and the DM20 billion secondary offering of new shares.

The local utility group focused on the restructuring of the utility markets in Germany working with utilities companies, such as PreussenElektra and Mainova. We advised Rhone Poulenc on an important cross-border merger with Hoechst to create Adventis, the largest pharmaceutical company in the world, and we were retained by Carlyle, the US financial investor, for its first investment in Germany.

Rothschild Italia confirmed its position as a leading adviser in Italian M&A. We were able to play a major role in the consolidation process which the Italian financial sector is undergoing. Key transactions included advice to ABN AMRO in the acquisition of an 8.75 per cent stake in Banca di Roma (€700m) and on the subsequent hostile take over attempt by San Paolo IMI (€6.9 billion), Cassa Risparmio Reggio Emilia on the merger with BIPOP (€6.7 billion), Banca di Roma on the acquisition of Mediocredito Centrale (€2 billion) and Monte dei Paschi Siena on its acquisition of Banca del Salento (€1.3 billion).

We were also a leading player in the internet and telecom sector acting as adviser, sponsor and global co-ordinator in the global offering and listing on the Italian *Nuovo Mercato* of Tiscali, one of the largest independent European ISPs, the Italian Treasury on the Olivetti takeover of Telecom Italia, BIPOP on the acquisition of I-Bourse and Uniscourse Italia on its MBO.

The energy and telecommunications sectors continued to be our primary focus in Portugal. In addition to further advisory work with EDP-Electricidade de Portugal SA, on regulation and natural gas, we also advised ENI of Italy on the acquisition of a strategic stake in GALP, the Portuguese oil and gas company. We jointly won the mandate to float Sonae.com, the telecommunications subsidiary of Portugal's largest private non-financial group, Sonae SGPS.

In Spain, we have advised some of the Group's international clients such as Rolls-Royce, British Telecom, GE Capital, Vivendi and Aerospatiale. We have also worked for the Spanish government and Gas Natural, as well as for the construction groups FCC and Dragados.

### Africa

With our partners in South Africa, Kagiso Investment Trust, we have formed N M Rothschild (South Africa) (Pty) Limited. Significant progress has been made in growing both revenues and profits from corporate finance advisory work. The mix of work undertaken included domestic and cross-border M&A and privatisation advice to the government of South Africa and Transet on the restructuring of the rail utility, Spoornet, the biggest transaction of its type in South Africa to date.

We are currently advising the Departments of Trade and Industry, and Transport on the R3 billion Taxi Fleet Recapitalisation Project, the East Rand Water Care Company on the development of the R150 million Weigedacht Wastewater Treatment Plant, the Department of Public Works on the Asset Procurement and Operating Partnerships (APOPS) for new correctional facilities.

The South African government is developing a strategy to begin containing the backlog in infrastructure spending, estimated to be larger than R170 billion and we have advised the South African National Roads Agency on the development of the N3 toll road as a DBFO Project. We believe we are well placed to realise opportunities that arise in the public/private partnership sector.

#### ASIA PACIFIC AND INDIA

#### Australia

N M Rothschild Australia Holdings Pty Limited has had a strong year with most business areas registering record earnings.

The company recorded an operating profit before tax, exceptional items and profit share of A\$37.9 million. This represents a 33 per cent increase relative to the previous year.

Investment banking has enjoyed record revenues from mandates across a range of industry sectors, including the A\$340 million scheme of arrangement between Lihir Gold and Niugini Mining, advising Techniche Ltd on its development of a telecommunications service business, and Crown Castle International on its A\$200 million acquisition of Cable & Wireless Optus' mobile towers.

Our equity capital markets joint venture with ABN AMRO continues to perform strongly in Australia. Notable transactions during the year have been the role of joint global co-ordinator for the A\$16 billion secondary offering for Telstra Corporation Limited, global co-ordinator for the NZ\$2.3 billion IPO and trade sale of Contact Energy Limited and joint lead manager and underwriter for A\$800 million of income securities issued by Colonial Limited.

Our asset management business enjoyed an excellent year with record earnings and outstanding investment performance in all of our sector products. Total funds under management stood at A\$8.5 billion, an increase of 10.5 per cent over last year. Both retail and institutional businesses have performed well during the year. A relationship has also been established with Putnam Investments Inc of the US which will involve the launch of new range of retail international funds and also representing Putnam as a sales agent in Australia and New Zealand.

The banking business continues to perform well, although significant challenges remain for resource banking with the low bullion prices. We are continuing to broaden our business mix and geographic reach in support of our clients' expanding activities in a number of countries including China, Indonesia, South Korea, Philippines, Papua New Guinea, New Zealand, South Africa, India and Fiji.

Our treasury division has changed structure and recruited to further enhance the high level of service offered to clients. New risk measurement and management techniques have also been introduced. These moves have led to higher and more consistent profits and an excellent trading result.

The venture capital business continues to develop. We manage in excess of A\$240 million in four industry specific funds and are presently raising a converging technologies fund. These funds provide a platform for a sustainable and profitable long term business for the Group.

#### China

During the year, a new organisational structure in the form of N M Rothschild China Holding was introduced. This consists of a new holding company for all our operations in three locations in China, namely Beijing, Shanghai and Hong Kong.

N M Rothschild & Sons (Hong Kong) Limited achieved increased profits over the previous year. Our treasury and debt financial markets groups performed well. In investment banking the strategy of migrating the Group's pre-eminent privatisation expertise into the region resulted in several important mandates. We were appointed as the financial advisers to PetroChina, the largest oil and gas company in Asia, to the Mass Transit Railway Corporation of Hong Kong, and to Chunghwa Telecom of Taiwan. In the technology sector we advised CyberCity, an Internet incubation/property group in China on securing partners, and a listed vehicle in Hong Kong. The recovery in equity capital markets presented ABN AMRO Rothschild with underwriting opportunities. The joint venture completed a range of mandates including the equity offering for Ritek of Taiwan and the Hong Kong IPO of Beijing Capital International Airport of China.

### Singapore

N M Rothschild & Sons (Singapore) Limited returned to profit this year, reflecting the growing improvement in the region's overall economic environment.

The investment banking team advised on a number of important mandates including the US\$1 billion offer from BAT for Rothmans Industries Limited. Several strategic investor searches and debt restructuring mandates were also taken on, including assisting in the re-organisation of the Time Telecoms group in Malaysia. A notable success was the share offering for Del Monte Pacific, the first Singapore IPO undertaken in the name of ABN AMRO Rothschild.

Our treasury business remained actively engaged in the region, further consolidating our position as the leading physical bullion house in South East Asia. Although commercial banking activity was somewhat subdued as regional debt markets continued to be quiet, our private equity business, under Rothschild Ventures Asia, performed well.

PT Rothschild Indonesia, which recorded a small profit, was involved in a number of restructuring and advisory mandates, including work for the state-owned gas utility PGN.

In Malaysia, we have agreed to increase our shareholding in Bumiputra Merchant Bankers Berhad, further enhancing our local execution capability.

#### India

The Group's Indian offices focused primarily on privatisation, M&A and equity capital markets. Amongst the mandates under execution in India are fund raising for a telecom infrastructure start-up, advising on developing a broad band data business, and valuation and strategy advice for a leading domestic oil and gas company.

#### THE AMERICAS

#### **USA**

We saw US revenue increase by 15 per cent to US\$89 million led by an improvement in our corporate finance advisory businesses and strong growth in our ABN AMRO Rothschild joint venture. Gerald Rosenfeld has joined our US operations as Chief Executive Officer.

The New York office advised on 19 M&A transactions totalling US\$37.3 billion. These included advising British Telecom on its US\$10 billion joint venture with AT&T, France Telecom on the pending sale of its interest in Sprint to MCI WorldCom for US\$8.4 billion and on its pending purchase of the remaining interest in Global One for US\$4.5 billion, Ameritech on its purchase of a 20 per cent stake in Bell Canada for US\$4.8 billion, and National Grid on its purchase of New England Electric for US\$3.2 billion. The National Grid transaction represents only the second completed US utilities acquisition by a foreign purchaser.

The Natural Resources and Utilities Group advised on the successful completion of the US\$2.3 billion financing of the Antamina copper/zinc mine in Peru for Noranda, Teck and Rio Algom. The Antamina project represents the largest single mine financing undertaken to date worldwide. In addition, the Group completed the US\$300 million El Tesoro mine financing in Chile for Antofogasta Holdings and the AMP of Australia. As a consequence Rothschild was ranked by *Project Finance Yearbook* as the top adviser on mining project financings worldwide in 1999, as well as the top ranked adviser on Latin American project financings.

ABN AMRO Rothschild participated in over 70 domestic deals with a total value of nearly US\$34 billion. These transactions included lead co-manager roles for ACXIOM Corporation, Kerr-McGee, Galileo International, Global TeleSystems Group, Infonet, Lattice Semiconductor, Broadvision, Quotesmith.com and Comtech.

The debt capital markets business continued focusing on first time issuers, sub-prime auto loans and credit cards, equipment leases, charged-off credit cards and collateralised debt obligations. New products include intellectual property, cross-border and domestic future flows and off-balance sheet inventory financing.

In resource banking we introduced new metals trading clients, including several very large corporations from the automotive, manufacturing and supply industries. The Denver office now concentrates on resource banking business and several new mandates were won during the year.

Assets under management in US equity and balanced accounts rose 6 per cent to US\$2.2 billion, despite a difficult market environment for speciality value-based investment strategies. Our accounts recorded above-average performance relative to our peer group in every capitalisation range. Our mid-cap value strategy reached institutional scale with a US\$200 million award from the Arkansas Teachers' retirement plan, and our small-cap strategy won US\$125 million from the New Mexico Employees' plan.

Assets managed by Rothschild Realty grew 35 per cent to US\$1.1 billion from US\$814 million.

#### Canada

N M Rothschild & Sons Canada Limited focused on the telecommunications, media, financial services and utilities industries.

We advised Rogers Communications Inc and Rogers Cantel Mobile Wireless Communications Inc, Canada's largest mobile wireless communications company, on a C\$1.4 billion strategic alliance with AT&T Corp and BT, Clarica Insurance Inc on its C\$950 million IPO as part of its demutualisation and the Ministry of Energy of the Ontario government on matters relating to the restructuring of Ontario Hydro. We also completed strategic corporate reviews for several major public companies in the Canadian marketplace.

#### Mexico

N M Rothschild & Sons (Mexico), which is shortly to be wholly owned by the Group, continued to progress project finance in energy related areas with secured mandates for the financing of an Ash Recovery System for a 2,100MW power plant and the financing of three substations. In addition to ongoing privatisation transactions for Hondutel and Enitel, we advised companies such as ED&F Man, Cementos Apasco, Avantel and Banco Invex.

RC Corporate Consultants, a subsidiary of N M Rothschild & Sons (Mexico), in Colombia has advised Enron, Semana and Standard Chartered. Government related mandates include the concession of the Cali Airport, the design of the financial structure and international bidding of the Bogotá Metro, and the privatisation of 14 regional electricity companies.

#### Chile

In Chile, BICECORP SA, the holding company of our joint venture with the Matte Group, recorded a consolidated net income of US\$18.3 million (Ch\$9.7 billion). The company issued bonds for US\$34.0 million to fund the acquisition of the remaining 50 per cent of the insurance company BICE Vida Compañía de Seguros SA, from Allianz Inversiones SA.

Banco Bice, BICECORP's bank and principal operating company, achieved a net profit of US\$21.3 million (Ch\$11.3 billion). This represents a return on equity of 17.6 per cent, substantially higher than either the 9.4 per cent for the financial industry as a whole, or the Bank's return in 1998 of 1.5 per cent.

In conjunction with ABN AMRO Rothschild we completed the US\$1.09 billion sale of a 52 per cent controlling stake and a secondary share offering in the sanitary company EMOS, representing the largest privatisation in Chile's history. Bice Chileconsult also formed a strategic alliance with Apoyo Consultoria SA, the corporate finance subsidiary of a prestigious Peruvian financial advisory and consultancy group.

Asset management continues to be an important area of development of BICECORP with managed assets in excess of US\$750 million (Ch\$400 billion).

#### **Brazil**

In Brazil our investment banking business NMR Consultoria Financeira S/C Limitada had a good year, winning several major government mandates, namely the sale of 80 per cent of the government's electricity utility CELPE for US\$1.0 billion and a complementary mandate to advise on the secondary offering of 35 per cent of CVRD stock for approximately US\$2.0 billion. We also co-arranged the US\$1.5 billion project financing for an oil field in Brazil and advised Groupe Casino on its acquisition of a strategic stake of 26.2 per cent in Companhia Brasileira de Distribuição-Pão de Açúcar for approximately US\$1.6 billion.



#### ANNUAL REPORT

The Directors have pleasure in submitting their annual report, together with the accounts for the year ended 31st March 2000. The Directors in office at the date of this report are shown on pages 5 to 7.

#### PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY

The Company is the parent company of the N M Rothschild merchant banking group. The principal activities of the Group are reviewed in the Chairman's Statement and Review of Operations.

#### RESULT FOR THE YEAR

The consolidated operating profit for the financial year amounted to SFr200,173,000 (1999: SFr114,826,000). After non-operating income and taxation, the consolidated profit attributable to the shareholders amounted to SFr116,249,000 (1999: SFr92,541,000).

The Company's operating profit amounted to SFr37,305,000 (1999: SFr43,111,000). Profit after tax and non-operating items amounted to SFr37,213,000 (1999: SFr54,948,000).

#### APPROPRIATION OF ACCUMULATED PROFITS

It is proposed that a dividend of SFr27.00 per share (1999: SFr22.50 per share) is paid on the 22nd June 2000. The total cost of the dividend will be SFr36,585,459 (1999: SFr30,487,883). The Company's accumulated profit will therefore be appropriated as follows:

	SFr'000
Accumulated profits brought forward at 1st April 1999	267,796
Result for the year	37,213
Dividend proposed	(36,585)
Accumulated profits carried forward at 31st March 2000	268,424

The auditors, PricewaterhouseCoopers AG, recommend in their report that the accounts, as well as the above proposal of the Board, be approved.

The Board of Directors.

Grienbachstrasse 17, Zug.

31st May 2000



# REPORT OF THE GROUP AUDITORS ON THE CONSOLIDATED ACCOUNTS

#### to the General Meeting of shareholders of Rothschilds Continuation Holdings AG

As auditors of the Group, we have audited the consolidated financial statements (profit and loss account, balance sheet and notes on pages 21 to 27) of Rothschilds Continuation Holdings AG for the year ended 31st March 2000.

These consolidated financial statements are the responsibility of the Board of Directors. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these consolidated financial statements based on our audit. We confirm that we meet the legal requirements concerning professional qualification and independence.

Our audit was conducted in accordance with auditing standards promulgated by the profession, which require that an audit be planned and performed to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the consolidated financial statements are free from material misstatement. We have examined on a test basis evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the consolidated financial statements. We have also assessed the accounting principles used, significant estimates made and the overall consolidated financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the consolidated financial statements comply with the law and the consolidation and valuation principles as set out in the notes.

We recommend that the consolidated financial statements submitted to you be approved.

Zurich, 31st May 2000	
PricewaterhouseCoopers AG	
R Schönguer	T Romer



## CONSOLIDATED PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT

### for the year ended 31st March 2000

	Note	2000	1999
		SFr'000	SFr'000
Interest receivable		865,781	904,559
Less: interest payable and similar charges		(712,341)	(758,243)
Net interest income		153,440	146,316
Income from securities		9,046	12,611
Share of profits of associates		12,691	1,369
Fees and commissions receivable, net		1,015,757	719,001
Dealing profits		87,994	73,775
Other operating income		63,268	51,741
Total operating income		1,342,196	1,004,813
General and administrative expenses	2	(1,077,529)	(819,768)
Depreciation and amortisation		(33,873)	(27,344)
Value adjustments and provisions		(30,621)	(42,875)
Operating profit		200,173	114,826
Non-operating income, net		5,562	39,848
Profit on ordinary activities before tax		205,735	154,674
Tax on profit on ordinary activities		(65,204)	(21,293)
Minority interests in results of subsidiary undertakings		(24,282)	(40,840)
Profit for the financial year		116,249	92,541
Dividends paid		(30,488)	(27,100)
Profit retained for the financial year		85,761	65,441

The notes on pages 23 to 27 form an integral part of these financial statements.



## **CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET**

#### as at 31st March 2000

	Note	2000 SFr'000	1999 SFr'000
Assets			
Cash and balances at banks		541,437	607,469
Treasury bills and other bills eligible for			
refinancing with central banks		4,729	12,547
Loans and advances to credit institutions		3,724,125	2,306,515
Loans and advances to customers		4,205,305	3,721,861
Other assets		1,925,734	1,519,013
Debt securities including fixed-income securities		5,247,197	5,275,725
Equity investments		86,099	99,353
Interests in associated undertakings	3	129,406	113,898
Other participating interests	4	68,865	74,247
Tangible fixed assets	5	281,278	217,340
Prepayments and accrued income		236,852	219,533
Total assets	6	16,451,027	14,167,501
Liabilities			
Amounts owed to credit institutions		4,880,152	4,740,796
Amounts owed to customers		5,127,620	4,055,161
Debts evidenced by certificates		1,913,903	1,394,942
Other liabilities	7	1,511,050	1,403,801
Accruals and deferred income		518,797	336,493
Provisions for liabilities and charges		51,155	51,581
Subordinated loans	8	737,708	660,298
Total liabilities	6	14,740,385	12,643,072
Shareholders' equity			
Share capital		60,976	60,976
General reserve		19,485	19,485
Other reserves		577,268	554,773
Accumulated profits		820,524	655,822
Total shareholders' equity		1,478,253	1,291,056
Due to minority interests in equity of consolidated subs	idiaries	232,389	233,373
Total liabilities and shareholders' equity		16,451,027	14,167,501

The notes on pages 23 to 27 form an integral part of these financial statements.



#### year ended 31st March 2000

#### 1: Accounting Policies

- a: *Basis of presentation:* the consolidated financial statements have been drawn up under the historical cost convention in accordance with Swiss law.
- b: *Method of consolidation*: the consolidated accounts comprise the accounts of the Company and its majority-owned subsidiary undertakings. The accounts of the Company and of all of its major operating subsidiaries are drawn up to 31st March; in order to avoid undue delay in the preparation of these consolidated financial statements or in order to comply with local law, the accounts of certain subsidiaries are drawn up to 31st December. The excess of the cost of shares in subsidiary and associated undertakings over the fair value of net assets acquired, at the date of acquisition, or as at 1st April 1992 (the date of first consolidation), is deducted from the Group's reserves in the year of acquisition, or first consolidation, as appropriate. All inter-company investments, balances and non-trading transactions are eliminated upon consolidation.

The Group's principal subsidiary undertakings are listed on page 32 of this annual report.

During the year a decision was taken to dispose of the Group's interest in a company which was previously treated as a subsidiary on consolidation. The impact on this year's consolidated accounts of not consolidating a previously consolidated subsidiary is to reduce consolidated reserves by SFr8,863,000.

- c: Foreign currencies: assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are translated into Swiss Francs at the exchange rates ruling at the balance sheet date.
  - The results of overseas subsidiary undertakings are also translated at the exchange rates ruling at the balance sheet date. Translation differences arising from the application of year-end rates of exchange to opening net assets of overseas subsidiary and associated undertakings and to related foreign currency borrowings are dealt with through the Group's reserves.
  - Other translation differences are recognised in the profit and loss account.
- d: Bullion and base metals: assets and liabilities in bullion and base metals are included in the balance sheet at market values ruling at the balance sheet date. Bullion held in safe custody for customers on an allocated basis is not included in these accounts.
- e: Securities and negotiable instruments: securities and negotiable instruments are accounted for according to the purpose for which they were acquired. Long and short security positions arising from trading activities are carried at market value. Long positions held for investment purposes are stated at cost, adjusted for discount accretion or premium amortisation, as appropriate. Positions held for hedging purposes are valued on a basis consistent with the underlying transaction.

#### 1: (continued)

- f: Interest rate and exchange rate instruments: off balance sheet contracts, such as financial futures, forward rate agreements, interest rate swaps and options are valued at the market rates ruling at the balance sheet date and the resultant profits and losses are included in income. Where the contracts are entered into for hedging purposes, they are accounted for on a basis consistent with the underlying transaction.
- g: Interests in associated undertakings and other participating interests: the Group's interests in associated undertakings are included in the consolidated balance sheet at the Group's share of the underlying net assets. Other participating interests are accounted at cost, less provisions for permanent impairment in value.
- h: Fixed assets: freehold property is stated at cost. No depreciation is provided on freehold properties or properties on leases with more than twenty years to run at balance sheet date. It is the Group's policy to maintain these properties in good repair and it is considered that the residual values, based on prices prevailing at the time of acquisition or subsequent valuation, are such that any depreciation is insignificant. Any permanent diminution in the value of such buildings is charged to the profit and loss account as appropriate. Plant and equipment is stated at cost less depreciation calculated to write off the cost over its useful life which is estimated to be between three and five years.
- i: Provision for bad and doubtful debts: provisions for bad and doubtful debts are based on the year-end appraisal of loans and advances. Specific provisions have been made in respect of all identified impaired advances. If applicable, general provisions are made in respect of losses which although not yet specifically identified, are known from experience to be present. Loans and advances are written down to estimated realisable value when there is no realistic prospect of recovery; interest of doubtful collectability is held in suspense.
- j: *Taxation:* tax deferred by timing differences is accounted for to the extent that it is probable that a liability will arise. Deferred tax assets are recognised for timing differences which result in deductible amounts in future periods, but only to the extent it is probable that sufficient taxable profits will be available against which these timing differences can be utilised. Deferred tax assets and liabilities are calculated at rates expected to be applicable when the assets or liabilities are expected to crystallise. No provision has been made for taxation which might arise if the reserves of overseas subsidiaries were distributed.

#### 2: General and Administrative Expenses

	2000	1999
	SFr'000	SFr'000
Staff costs	760,375	574,254
Other	317,154	245,514
	1,077,529	819,768

#### 3: Interests in Associated Undertakings

The principal associated company is as follows:

Name	Country of incorporation	Principal activity	of ordina	rcentage ary share pital held
			2000	1999
Bicecorp SA	Chile	Holding company	33%	33%

#### 4: Other Participating Interests

The principal participating interest is as follows:

Name	Country of incorporation	•		•	
			2000	1999	
Paris Orleans SA	France	Holding company	19.9%	19.9%	

#### 5: Tangible Fixed Assets

The insurance value of tangible fixed assets was SFr365,394,000 (1999: SFr284,333,000) at 31st March 2000.

#### 6: Maturities of Assets and Liabilities

	2000	1999
	SFr'000	SFr'000
The following amounts are due in over one year, or are assets which are not current in nature		
Loans and advances to credit institutions	64,352	50,233
Loans and advances to customers	2,173,224	1,932,933
Debt securities including fixed-income securities	2,632,657	2,144,504
Equity investments	42,998	11,214
Interests in associated undertakings	129,406	113,898
Other participating interests	61,820	74,247
Tangible fixed assets	280,749	217,340
Other assets	37,993	29,733
Assets	5,423,199	4,574,102
The following amounts are due in over one year, or are liabilities which are not current in nature		
Amounts owed to customers and credit institutions	521,844	251,741
Debts evidenced by certificates	157,747	234,691
Other liabilities	119,408	73,374
Provisions for liabilities and charges	46,193	44,264
Subordinated loans	737,708	660,298
Liabilities	1,582,900	1,264,368

#### 7: Other Liabilities

At the end of the year there were amounts outstanding due to personnel welfare institutions of SFr15,004,000 (1999: SFr11,151,000).

#### 8: Subordinated Loans

	2000	1999 SFr'000
	SFr'000	
£125,000,000 9 per cent perpetual subordinated guaranteed notes	330,886	298,238
US\$200,000,000 primary capital undated guaranteed floating-rate notes	332,100	295,559
US\$45,000,000 subordinated guaranteed floating-rate notes due 2015	74,722	66,501
	737,708	660,298

The issue by Rothschilds Continuation Finance (CI) Limited (a subsidiary undertaking incorporated in Guernsey) of £125 million 9 per cent perpetual subordinated guaranteed notes has been guaranteed on a subordinated basis by Rothschilds Continuation Limited. The guarantee will only take effect following either a default by Rothschilds Continuation Finance (CI) Limited or the dissolution of that company or the winding up of the guarantor, and will be effected by the substitution of the guarantor as principal debtor under the Notes in place of Rothschilds Continuation Finance (CI) Limited.

The issues by Rothschilds Continuation Finance BV (a subsidiary undertaking incorporated in the Netherlands) of US\$45 million subordinated guaranteed floating-rate notes due 2015 and US\$200 million primary capital undated guaranteed floating-rate notes have been guaranteed on a subordinated basis by Rothschilds Continuation Limited. In the case of the US\$200 million primary floating-rate notes, the guarantee will only take effect following either a default by Rothschilds Continuation Finance BV or the dissolution of that company or the winding up of the guarantor, and will be effected by the substitution of the guarantor as principal debtor under the Notes in place of Rothschilds Continuation Finance BV.

#### 9: Memorandum Items

	2000	1999
	SFr'000	SFr'000
Contingent liabilities		
Guarantees and irrevocable letters of credit	348,517	577,267
Other contingent liabilities	983,490	1,456,183
	1,332,007	2,033,450
Commitments		
Lease commitments	220,389	99,126
Other commitments	1,312,702	1,936,786
	1,533,091	2,035,912
Pledged assets	422,381	333,778



### REPORT OF THE AUDITORS

to the General Meeting of shareholders of Rothschilds Continuation Holdings AG

As statutory auditors, we have audited the accounting records and the financial statements (profit and loss account, balance sheet and notes on pages 29 to 33) of Rothschilds Continuation Holdings AG for the year ended 31st March 2000.

These financial statements are the responsibility of the Board of Directors. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We confirm that we meet the legal requirements concerning professional qualification and independence.

Our audit was conducted in accordance with auditing standards promulgated by the profession, which require that an audit be planned and performed to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement. We have examined on a test basis evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. We have also assessed the accounting principles used, significant estimates made and the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the accounting records and financial statements and the proposed appropriation of available earnings (as set out on page 19) comply with the law and the Company's articles of incorporation.

We recommend that the financial statements submitted to you be approved.

Zurich, 31st May 2000

PricewaterhouseCoopers AG

R Schönauer T Romer



## **COMPANY PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT**

#### for the year ended 31st March 2000

	2000	1999
	SFr'000	SFr'000
Dividend income	57,860	50,929
Interest and other income	2,902	1,025
	60,762	51,954
Interest expense	(2,960)	(3,596)
Total operating income	57,802	48,358
General and administrative expenses	(3,594)	(2,773)
Personnel costs	(31)	(29)
Exchange profits/(losses)	1,857	(2,445)
Value adjustments and provisions	(18,729)	_
Operating profit	37,305	43,111
Gains on disposal of investments	_	12,444
Profit before income and capital taxes	37,305	55,555
Income and capital taxes	(92)	(607)
Net profit for the financial year	37,213	54,948

The notes on pages 31 to 33 form an integral part of these financial statements.



## **COMPANY BALANCE SHEET**

#### as at 31st March 2000

	Note	2000 SFr'000	1999 SFr'000
Assets			
Cash and short-term deposits			
– affiliated companies		1,515	4,879
– third parties		15,232	12,240
Accrued income and prepayments			
- affiliated companies		38,208	26,022
– third parties		3,486	2,300
Total current assets		58,441	45,441
Other assets		30,895	26,395
Permanent holdings	7	408,006	389,768
Total assets		497,342	461,604
Liabilities			
Accrued expenses			
– affiliated companies		131	255
– third parties		999	618
Other current liabilities		1,590	4,615
Total current liabilities		2,720	5,488
Long-term loans from affiliates		102,906	71,125
Total liabilities		105,626	76,613
Shareholders' equity			
Share capital	3	60,976	60,976
Capital reserve		6,246	6,246
General reserve	4	19,485	19,485
Accumulated profit brought forward		267,796	243,336
Net profit for the year		37,213	54,948
Total shareholders' equity		391,716	384,991
Total liabilities and shareholders' equity		497,342	461,604

The notes on pages 31 to 33 form an integral part of these financial statements.



### NOTES TO THE COMPANY ACCOUNTS

#### year ended 31st March 2000

#### 1: General

The Company is registered in the Canton of Zug, Switzerland and is the principal group holding company. The ultimate group holding company is Rothschild Concordia AG, Zug.

#### 2: Accounting Policies

- a: Basis of presentation: the accounts have been prepared on the accruals basis and in accordance with the significant accounting policies described below.
- b: *Permanent holdings:* investments, which are described in detail in note 7 below, are carried at historical cost adjusted for any permanent impairment of their total value.
- c: Foreign currencies: assets and liabilities which arise in currencies other than Swiss Francs are translated at rates of exchange prevailing at the Company's year end, except for permanent holdings and, to the extent matched by assets, borrowings which are translated at the rates prevailing at the dates of completion of purchase and draw-down respectively. Revenue and expenses are translated at the rates of exchange prevailing at the time of the transactions. Losses and realised profits on exchange are taken into account in arriving at the net profit.
- d: Dividend income: dividends are generally accounted for when they are received. However, dividends from permanent holdings are accrued if the investees are subsidiaries and have accrued the corresponding liability in their approved and audited accounts and provided that their accounting year end is no later than that of the Company.
- e: *Taxation:* provision is made for all income and capital taxes estimated to be payable on the basis of the accompanying accounts.

#### 3: Share Capital

The share capital of the Company amounts to SFr60,975,765 being 1,355,017 shares of SFr45 each.

#### 4: General Reserve

The Company is required by Swiss law to appropriate a proportion of its earnings to a general reserve which is not readily available for distribution. The amount set aside as at 31st March 2000 is SFr19,485,000 (1999: SFr19,485,000).

## NOTES TO THE COMPANY ACCOUNTS

#### 5: Transactions and Balances with Affiliated Companies

In the ordinary course of business, the Company receives dividend and interest income almost entirely from affiliated companies. In addition it pays certain expenses to, and maintains bank balances with, affiliated companies.

#### 6: Contingent Liabilities

Guarantees have been given in respect of loans amounting to the equivalent of SFr5,473,000 (1999: SFr7,306,000), commitments between Group companies of up to SFr269,544,000 (1999: SFr245,897,000) and to a regulatory authority of a subsidiary company.

#### 7: Permanent Holdings

The Company's principal direct and indirect investments, which have not changed in the year, are:

	Attributable percentage of ordinary share capital	
Incorporated in the United Kingdom		
Rothschilds Continuation Limited	100	
N M Rothschild & Sons Limited	100	
Rothschild Asset Management Limited	100	
Incorporated in the Netherlands		
Rothschild Asset Management International Holdings BV	100	
Incorporated in Guernsey, CI		
N M Rothschild & Sons (CI) Limited	100	
Rothschild Asset Management (CI) Limited	100	
Incorporated in Hong Kong		
N M Rothschild & Sons (Hong Kong) Limited	100	
Incorporated in Singapore		
N M Rothschild & Sons (Singapore) Limited	100	
Incorporated in Australia		
N M Rothschild Australia Holdings Pty Limited	100	
Incorporated in Switzerland		
Rothschild Holding AG	62	
Rothschild Bank AG	62	

## NOTES TO THE COMPANY ACCOUNTS

#### 7: (continued)

The table below summarises the activities and attributable disclosed capital and reserves and cost of the principal investments held directly by the Company.

	Attributable disclosed capital and reserves SFr million	Cost of investments SFr million
Rothschilds Continuation Limited		
Consolidated accounts for the year ended 31st March 2000	803	54
Co-ordinating company whose principal subsidiaries are N M Rothschild & Sons Limited and N M Rothschild & Sons (CI) Limited which carry on the business of merchants and bankers in the United Kingdom.		
N M Rothschild & Sons (Singapore) Limited		
Consolidated accounts for the year ended 31st March 2000	30	26
Merchant banking		
N M Rothschild & Sons (Hong Kong) Limited		
Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2000	36	11
Merchant banking		
N M Rothschild Australia Holdings Pty Limited		
Consolidated accounts for the year ended 31st March 2000	169	68
Holding company whose subsidiaries are engaged in merchant banking and investment management activities		
Rothschild Holding AG		
Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2000	258	100
Holding company, Swiss private bank and trust group		
	1,296	259
Other investments - at cost less provision		121
Loans		28
		408

The amounts of attributable disclosed capital and reserves are based on the most recent audited accounts of each company and translated into Swiss Francs at exchange rates prevailing at 31st March 2000. At that date the exchange rate against the Swiss Franc for Sterling (£1.00) was SFr2.64709 and for US Dollars (US\$1.00) was SFr1.66050.

There are no further matters that would require disclosure according to Art. 663b of the Swiss Code of Obligations.



#### **ARGENTINA**

#### Biceconsult Argentina SA

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#### AUSTRALIA

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2 The Esplanade, Perth WA 6000, Australia Telephone 61 8 9268 4600 Fax 61 8 9268 4646

#### ABN AMRO Rothschild

255 George Street Sydney NSW 2000, Australia Telephone 61 2 9259 5628 Fax 61 2 9259 5466

#### Rothschild Australia Asset Management Limited

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#### **BERMUDA**

## Rothschild Trust (Bermuda) Limited

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## NMR Consultoria Financeira S/C Limitada

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#### N M Rothschild & Sons Canada Limited

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#### Global Strategy Holdings Inc

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#### CAYMAN ISLANDS

#### Five Continents Financial Limited

Anchorage Centre PO Box 30715 SMB Harbour Drive, George Town Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands British West Indies Telephone 1 345 949 3022 Fax 1 345 949 3177

#### **CHANNEL ISLANDS**

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#### Rothschild Trust Guernsey Limited

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#### Rothschild Asset Management (CI) Limited

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## Rothschild Bank Switzerland (CI) Limited

PO Box 330, St. Julian's Court St. Peter Port, Guernsey Channel Islands GY1 3UA Telephone 44 1481 710521 Fax 44 1481 711272 Telex 888031

#### CHILE

#### Banco BICE SA

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#### **CHINA**

#### N M Rothschild China Holding AG

#### N M Rothschild & Sons Limited

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#### ABN AMRO Rothschild

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#### RC Corporate Consultants Limitada

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#### ABN AMRO Rothschild

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#### Rothschild & Cie Gestion

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