

EVEREST REINSURANCE HOLDINGS INC

Form 424B5

October 06, 2004

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Filed Pursuant to Rule 424(b)(5)

Registration No. 333-106595

The information in this prospectus supplement is not complete and may be changed. This prospectus supplement is not an offer to sell these notes nor is it seeking an offer to buy these notes in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted.

Subject to completion. Dated October 6, 2004.

Prospectus Supplement to Prospectus dated December 22, 2003.

\$

Everest Reinsurance Holdings, Inc.

% Senior Notes due 2014

Everest Reinsurance Holdings, Inc., which we refer to in this prospectus supplement as Everest Holdings, will pay interest on the notes on April 15 and October 15 of each year. The first interest payment will be made on April 15, 2005. The notes will initially be issued only in denominations of \$2,000 and integral multiples of \$1,000 in excess of \$2,000.

Everest Holdings has the option to redeem all or a part of the notes at any time at the redemption prices set forth in this prospectus supplement under the caption Description of the Notes Optional Redemption.

The notes will be unsecured and rank equally with all of Everest Holdings other unsecured senior indebtedness.

See [Risk Factors](#) beginning on page S-5 to read about important factors you should consider before buying the notes.

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any other regulatory body has approved or disapproved of these securities or passed upon the accuracy or adequacy of this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

	<u>Per Note</u>	<u>Total</u>
Initial public offering price	%	\$
Underwriting discount	%	\$
Proceeds, before expenses, to Everest Holdings	%	\$

The initial public offering price set forth above does not include accrued interest, if any. Interest on the notes will accrue from October , 2004 and must be paid by the purchaser if the notes are delivered after October , 2004.

The underwriters expect to deliver the notes through the facilities of The Depository Trust Company against payment in New York, New York on October , 2004.

Goldman, Sachs & Co.

Wachovia Securities

Citigroup

Deutsche Bank Securities

JPMorgan

Prospectus Supplement dated October , 2004.

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ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

This document consists of two parts. The first part is this prospectus supplement, which describes the terms of the offering of the notes and also adds to and updates information contained in the accompanying prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference into the accompanying prospectus. The second part is the accompanying prospectus, which gives more general information, some of which may not apply to the offering of the senior notes.

You should rely only on the information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus. Incorporated by reference means that Everest Holdings can disclose important information to you by referring you to another document filed separately with the SEC. Everest Holdings has not authorized any other person to provide you with different information. If anyone provides you with different or inconsistent information, you should not rely on it. Everest Holdings is not making, nor will it make, an offer to sell securities in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted. You should assume that the information appearing in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus is current only as of the dates on their covers. Everest Holdings' business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects may have changed since that date.

Unless the context otherwise requires, references in this prospectus supplement to Everest Group refer to Everest Re Group, Ltd. and its subsidiaries, collectively. References to Everest Holdings refer to Everest Reinsurance Holdings, Inc. and its subsidiaries, collectively. References to Everest Bermuda refer to Everest Reinsurance (Bermuda), Ltd. References to \$ are to United States currency, and the terms United States and U.S. mean the United States of America, its states, its territories, its possessions and all areas subject to its jurisdiction.

CAUTIONARY NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This prospectus supplement and the information incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement may contain forward-looking statements within the meaning of the U.S. federal securities laws. These forward-looking statements are intended to be covered by the safe harbor provisions for forward-looking statements in the federal securities laws. In some cases, you can identify these statements by the use of forward-looking words such as may, will, should, anticipate, estimate, expect, plan, predict, potential and intend. You should be aware that these statements and any other forward-looking statements in these documents only reflect expectations and are not guarantees of performance. These statements involve risks, uncertainties and assumptions. Actual events or results may differ materially from expectations. Important factors that could cause actual results to be materially different from expectations include those discussed under the captions Risk Factors on page S-5 of this prospectus supplement and on page 4 of the accompanying prospectus. Everest Holdings does not undertake any obligation to update or revise publicly any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

CERTAIN PERSONS PARTICIPATING IN THE OFFERING MADE HEREBY MAY ENGAGE IN TRANSACTIONS THAT STABILIZE, MAINTAIN OR OTHERWISE AFFECT THE PRICE OF THE SECURITIES, INCLUDING OVER-ALLOTMENT, STABILIZING AND SHORT-COVERING TRANSACTIONS IN THE SECURITIES AND THE IMPOSITION OF A PENALTY BID, IN CONNECTION WITH THE OFFERING MADE HEREBY.

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SUMMARY INFORMATION Q&A

The following information supplements, and should be read together with, the information contained in other parts of this prospectus supplement and in the accompanying prospectus. This summary highlights selected information from this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus to help you understand the notes. You should carefully read this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus to understand fully the terms of the notes, as well as the tax and other considerations that are important to you in making a decision about whether to invest in the notes. You should pay special attention to the Risk Factors section in this prospectus supplement to determine whether an investment in the notes is appropriate for you.

Who is Everest Holdings?

Everest Holdings' principal business, conducted through its operating subsidiaries, is the underwriting of reinsurance and insurance in the United States and international markets. Reinsurance is a form of insurance purchased by an insurance company to indemnify it for all or part of the loss that it may sustain under insurance contracts it has written. Insurance companies purchasing reinsurance are often referred to as ceding companies or reinsureds. Everest Holdings underwrites reinsurance both through brokers and directly with ceding companies, giving it the flexibility to pursue business regardless of the ceding company's preferred reinsurance purchasing method.

Everest Holdings was established in 1993 in Delaware to serve as the parent holding company of Everest Reinsurance Company, referred to in this prospectus supplement as Everest Re. Until October 6, 1995, Everest Holdings was an indirect, wholly-owned subsidiary of The Prudential Insurance Company of America, referred to in this prospectus supplement as The Prudential. On October 6, 1995, The Prudential sold its entire interest in Everest Holdings' shares of common stock in an initial public offering. Effective February 24, 2000, Everest Holdings completed a restructuring pursuant to which Everest Holdings became the wholly-owned subsidiary of Everest Group, and each outstanding share of common stock of Everest Holdings automatically converted into one common share of Everest Group. Everest Holdings continues to act as the holding company for the subsidiaries of Everest Group in the United States and Canada, the most significant of which are listed below:

Everest Reinsurance Company, a Delaware insurance company, underwrites property and casualty reinsurance for insurance and reinsurance companies in the United States and international markets.

Everest National Insurance Company, an Arizona insurance company, writes property and casualty insurance in the United States.

Everest Indemnity Insurance Company, a Delaware insurance company, engages in the excess and surplus lines insurance business in the United States. Excess and surplus lines insurance is specialty property and liability coverage that an insurer not licensed to write insurance in a particular state is permitted to provide when the specific specialty coverage is unavailable from licensed insurers.

Mt. McKinley Insurance Company, formerly known as Gibraltar Casualty Company, a Delaware insurance company, engaged in the excess and surplus lines insurance business in the United States from 1978 to 1985. In 1985, it ceased writing new and renewal insurance, and now its ongoing operations relate to servicing claims arising from its previously

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written business.

Everest Security Insurance Company, formerly known as Southeastern Security Insurance Company, a Georgia insurance company, writes property and casualty insurance in Georgia and Alabama.

Everest Holdings' principal executive offices are located at 477 Martinsville Road, P.O. Box 830, Liberty Corner, New Jersey 07938-0830, and its telephone number is (908) 604-3000.

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Who is Everest Group?

Everest Group was established in 1999 as a Bermuda company to serve as the parent holding company of Everest Holdings. Everest Group's principal business is the underwriting of reinsurance and insurance in the United States and international markets through Everest Holdings' operating subsidiaries and through Everest Group's subsidiary, Everest Bermuda. Everest Bermuda is a Bermuda insurance company that writes property and casualty business and life and annuity business from its offices in Bermuda. All of Everest Group's insurance company subsidiaries, except Mt. McKinley Insurance Company, are rated A+ (Superior) by A.M. Best Company, an independent insurance industry rating organization that rates insurance companies on factors of concern to policyholders.

Everest Group is *not* issuing or guaranteeing the notes described in this prospectus supplement and will not have any liability for any of the notes described in this prospectus supplement.

Everest Group's principal executive offices are located at c/o ABG Financial & Management Services Inc., Parker House, Wildey Business Park, Wildey Road, St. Michael, Barbados.

When will you receive semi-annual interest payments?

You will be entitled to receive semi-annual interest payments at an annual rate of _____% of the aggregate principal amount of the notes held by you. Interest will accrue from the date Everest Holdings issues the notes and will be paid semi-annually in arrears on the 15th day of April and October of each year, beginning April 15, 2005.

When can Everest Holdings redeem the notes?

The notes will be redeemable, in whole or in part, at the option of Everest Holdings at any time at a redemption price equal to the greater of:

100% of the principal amount of the notes; or

the sum of the present values of the remaining scheduled payments of principal and interest on the notes, not including any portion of the payments of interest accrued as of the date of redemption, discounted to the redemption date on a semi-annual basis at the Treasury Rate, plus _____ basis points;

plus, in each case, accrued and unpaid interest on the notes to the date of redemption. The manner in which the Treasury Rate is determined is explained on page S-9 of this prospectus supplement.

In what form will the notes be issued?

The notes will be represented by one or more global securities that will be deposited with, or on behalf of, and registered in the name of The Depository Trust Company, New York, New York, referred to in this prospectus supplement as DTC, or its nominee. This means that you will not receive a certificate for your notes. Instead, you will hold your interest in your notes through DTC's book-entry-only system. Everest Holdings expects that the notes offered under this prospectus supplement will be ready for delivery through DTC on or about October 1, 2004.

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RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Everest Holdings announced on October 6, 2004 that, based on its initial assessment of potential exposures, it expects aggregate losses from Hurricanes Charley, Frances, Ivan and Jeanne, and the third quarter's Pacific typhoons, to approximate \$120 million, net of tax.

Everest Group announced on October 1, 2004 that, based on its initial assessment of potential exposures, it expects aggregate losses from Hurricanes Charley, Frances, Ivan and Jeanne, and the third quarter's Pacific typhoons, to approximate \$190 million, net of tax.

Everest Group announced on September 21, 2004 that its Board of Directors had approved an amended share repurchase program whereby Everest Group and/or its subsidiary, Everest Holdings could purchase up to an aggregate of 5,000,000 of Everest Group's common shares. Also announced on September 21, 2004 was the authorization by Everest Group's board of directors to change the location of Everest Group's principal executive office from Barbados to Bermuda.

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RISK FACTORS

You should carefully consider the following risk factors regarding the notes, in addition to the other information set forth in this prospectus supplement and accompanying prospectus, before you purchase any notes.

Everest Holdings obligations under the notes are unsecured and subordinated in right of payment to all of Everest Holdings secured debt.

The notes are unsecured obligations of Everest Holdings, subordinated in right of payment to the prior payment in full of all secured indebtedness of Everest Holdings to the extent of the security and rank equal in priority with Everest Holdings outstanding senior debt. As a result, in the event of the bankruptcy, liquidation or reorganization of Everest Holdings, or upon acceleration of the notes due to an event of default, Everest Holdings assets will be available to pay its obligations on the notes only after all secured indebtedness has been paid in full. There may not be sufficient assets remaining to pay amounts due on any or all of the notes then outstanding. As of June 30, 2004, Everest Holdings had no secured indebtedness and approximately \$519.2 million of unsecured senior debt outstanding.

Everest Holdings obligations under the notes are effectively subordinated to all of the indebtedness and other liabilities of Everest Holdings subsidiaries.

Everest Holdings is a holding company that conducts substantially all of its business through its subsidiaries. The notes are effectively subordinated to the indebtedness and other liabilities of Everest Holdings subsidiaries. As a result, in the event of the bankruptcy, liquidation or reorganization of Everest Holdings, or upon acceleration of the notes due to an event of default, assets of Everest Holdings subsidiaries will be available to pay obligations under the notes only after all creditors of the subsidiaries have been paid in full. Accordingly, holders of the notes should look only to the assets of Everest Holdings for payments on the notes. As of June 30, 2004, Everest Holdings subsidiaries had approximately \$8.7 billion of indebtedness and other liabilities, including insurance reserves, which would rank structurally senior to the notes issued by Everest Holdings.

Everest Holdings may incur additional indebtedness that could limit the amount of funds available to make payments on the notes.

Neither the notes nor the indenture prohibit or limit the incurrence of secured or senior indebtedness or the incurrence of other indebtedness and liabilities by Everest Holdings or its subsidiaries. Any additional indebtedness or liabilities so incurred would reduce the amount of funds Everest Holdings would have available to pay its obligations under the notes.

Everest Holdings is a holding company that relies on payments from its subsidiaries to make payments under the notes.

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Everest Holdings is a holding company that has no significant operations or assets other than its ownership of the capital stock of Everest Re. Dividends and other permitted payments from Everest Re are expected to be the sole source of funds to meet the financial obligations of Everest Holdings and to make payments on the notes. The payment of dividends by Everest Re to Everest Holdings is limited by the Delaware Insurance Code and the Delaware General Corporation Law. Accordingly, Everest Re may not be able to pay dividends to Everest Holdings in the future, which would prevent Everest Holdings from making payments on the notes.

Everest Group, which owns Everest Holdings, is *not* issuing or guaranteeing the notes described in this prospectus supplement and will not have any liability for any of the notes described in this prospectus supplement.

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You have limited rights to enforce Everest Holdings obligations under the indenture and the notes.

Events of default under the indenture are limited to payment defaults, breach of covenants, cross defaults on indebtedness in excess of \$25,000,000 and events of bankruptcy, insolvency and reorganization of Everest Holdings. The holders of 33% in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding notes may accelerate payment of the principal and accrued and unpaid interest on the notes only upon the occurrence and continuation of an event of default under the indenture.

An active trading market for the notes may not develop and may not afford sufficient liquidity to allow timely disposition of the notes.

The notes constitute a new issue of securities with no established trading market and will not be listed on any stock exchange. You should be aware that an active trading market may not develop or be sustained for the notes. A lack of liquidity in the trading of the notes could prevent you from selling the notes in the amount and at the time you desire. Additionally, an illiquid trading market for the notes could result in trading prices that are substantially below the value of the principal of and the accrued but unpaid interest on the notes.

The notes may be redeemed prior to maturity; you may be taxed on the proceeds and you may not be able to reinvest the proceeds at the same or a higher rate of return.

The notes may be redeemed in whole or in part on one or more occasions at any time. If redeemed, the redemption price for the notes would be equal to the greater of:

100% of the principal amount of the notes; or

the sum of the present values of the remaining scheduled payments of principal and interest on the notes, not including any portion of the payments of interest accrued as of the date of redemption, discounted to the redemption date on a semi-annual basis at the Treasury Rate, plus basis points;

plus, in each case, accrued and unpaid interest on the notes to the date of redemption.

The redemption of the notes would be a taxable event to you for U.S. federal income tax purposes. In addition, you may not be able to reinvest the money that you receive in the redemption at a rate that is equal to or higher than the rate of return on the notes.

If you sell notes between record dates for interest payments, you may incur an adverse tax effect.

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USE OF PROCEEDS

The net proceeds will be approximately \$ from the sale of the notes, less expenses incurred by Everest Holdings in connection with this offering. Everest Holdings intends to use the proceeds from its sale of the notes for general corporate purposes, including contributing to the retirement of its outstanding 8.50% Senior Notes due March 15, 2005 and contributing to the repayment of amounts outstanding under its credit facility. Pending application of the proceeds, Everest Holdings may invest the net proceeds in short-term investments.

RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES

The following table sets forth the ratio of our earnings to fixed charges for each of the periods indicated:

	<u>Period Ended June 30, 2004</u>	<u>Year Ended December 31,</u>				
		<u>2003</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>1999</u>
<u>Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges(1)</u>	7.8	5.5	4.0	1.6	6.0	73.4

(1) For purposes of determining this ratio, earnings consist of consolidated net income before federal income taxes plus fixed charges. Fixed charges consist of interest expense on senior and subordinated debt and the revolving credit agreement and that portion of operating leases that are representative of the interest factor.

CAPITALIZATION

The following table sets forth as of June 30, 2004 (1) our actual capitalization and (2) our capitalization as adjusted to give effect to the sale of the notes. You should read this table together with our consolidated financial statements, including the notes to the financial statements, which are incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus.

	<u>As of June 30, 2004</u>	
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>As Adjusted</u>
	<u>(dollars in millions, except per share amounts) (unaudited)</u>	
Debt		
8.50% Senior Notes due 3/15/2005	\$ 249.9	\$ 249.9
8.75% Senior Notes due 3/15/2010	199.3	199.3
Junior subordinated debt securities payable	546.4	546.4
Revolving credit agreement borrowings	70.0	70.0
Notes offered hereby		

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DESCRIPTION OF THE NOTES

The following description of the particular terms of the notes offered hereby supplements, and to the extent inconsistent therewith replaces, the description of the general terms and provisions of our debt securities set forth in the accompanying prospectus.

General

The notes will be issued as a series of debt securities under the indenture, dated as of March 14, 2000, as supplemented by the third supplemental indenture, to be dated as of October , 2004, relating to the notes, in each case between Everest Holdings and JPMorgan Chase Bank (formerly known as The Chase Manhattan Bank), as trustee. For a description of the rights attaching to different series of notes under the indenture, see Description of the Debt Securities in the accompanying prospectus.

The notes will be issued as unsecured obligations of Everest Holdings. The notes will be offered in an initial aggregate principal amount of \$, although we may reopen this series of notes in the future and issue additional notes of this series. The notes will be issued only in book-entry form through the facilities of The Depository Trust Company, and will initially be issued in denominations of \$2,000 and integral multiples of \$1,000 in excess of \$2,000, and, as provided in the indenture and subject to certain limitations set forth in the indenture, the notes will be exchangeable for notes in different authorized denominations, including denominations of \$1,000, after the original issuance. Transfers or exchanges of beneficial interests in the notes in book-entry form may be effected only through a participating member of the depository. See Global Securities below. The notes will mature on October , 2014.

The notes will bear interest from October , 2004, payable in arrears on each April 15 and October 15, commencing April 15, 2005 at the rate set forth on the cover page of this prospectus supplement, to the persons in whose names the notes are registered on the preceding April 1 and October 1, respectively.

Optional Redemption

The notes will be redeemable, in whole or in part, at the option of Everest Holdings at any time at a redemption price equal to the greater of:

100% of the principal amount of the notes; or

the sum of the present values of the remaining scheduled payments of principal and interest on the notes, not including any portion of the payments of interest accrued as of the date of redemption, discounted to the redemption date on a semi-annual basis at the Treasury Rate, plus basis points;

plus, in each case, accrued and unpaid interest on the notes to the date of redemption.

Comparable Treasury Issue means the United States Treasury security selected by the Independent Investment Banker as having a maturity comparable to the remaining term of the notes that would be utilized, at the time of selection and in accordance with customary financial practice, in pricing new issues of corporate debt securities of comparable maturity to the remaining term of the notes.

Comparable Treasury Price means, with respect to any redemption date, the average of the Reference Treasury Dealer Quotations for the redemption date.

Independent Investment Banker means either Goldman, Sachs & Co. or Wachovia Capital Markets, LLC as selected by us and any successor firm or, if each firm is unwilling or unable to select the Comparable Treasury Issue, an independent investment banking institution of national standing appointed by the trustee after consultation with Everest Holdings.

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Payment of principal of and any premium and interest on the notes represented by any global security will be made to the depositary's nominee as the registered owner and holder of the global security. None of Everest Holdings, the trustee or any agent of Everest Holdings or the trustee will have any responsibility or liability for any aspect of the depositary's or its nominee's records or any participant's records relating to or payments made on account of the beneficial ownership interests in a global security or for maintaining, supervising or reviewing any of the depositary's or its nominee's records or any participant's records relating to the beneficial ownership interests.

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A global security is exchangeable for definitive notes registered in the name of, and a transfer of a global security may be registered to, any person other than the depository or its nominee, only if:

the depository notifies us and the trustee that it is unwilling or unable to continue as depository for the global security and a successor depository is not appointed by us within 90 days;

if, at any time, the depository ceases to be a clearing agency registered under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and a successor depository is not appointed by us within 90 days;

if an event of default has occurred and is continuing; or

we determine, in our sole discretion, that the global security shall be exchangeable for definitive notes in registered form. Everest Holdings understands, however, that under current industry practices, the depository would notify its direct and indirect participants of Everest Holdings' decision, but will only withdraw beneficial interests from a global security at the request of the related direct or indirect participant. In that event, certificates for the notes will be printed and delivered to the applicable direct or indirect participant.

The depository is a limited-purpose trust company organized under the New York Banking Law, a banking organization within the meaning of the New York Banking Law, a member of the Federal Reserve System, a clearing corporation within the meaning of the New York Uniform Commercial Code and a clearing agency registered pursuant to the provisions of Section 17A of the Exchange Act. The depository was created to hold securities of its participants and to facilitate the clearance and settlement of securities transactions, such as transfers and pledges, among its participants in securities through electronic computerized book-entry changes in accounts of the participants, thereby eliminating the need for physical movement of securities certificates. Participants include brokers, dealers, banks, trust companies, clearing corporations and other organizations, some of whom own the depository. Access to the depository's book-entry system is also available to others, such as banks, brokers, dealers and trust companies that clear through or maintain a custodial relationship with a participant, either directly or indirectly. Persons who are not participants may beneficially own securities held by the depository only through participants.

Certain Covenants in the Supplemental Indenture

Limitations on Sales of Restricted Subsidiaries Capital Stock

We will not sell, transfer or otherwise dispose of any shares of capital stock of a restricted subsidiary, and we will not permit any restricted subsidiary to sell, transfer or otherwise dispose of any shares of capital stock of any other restricted subsidiary, unless the entire capital stock of the restricted subsidiary at the time owned by us and our restricted subsidiaries is disposed of at the same time for a consideration consisting of cash or other property, which, in the opinion of our board of directors, is at least equal to the fair value of the restricted subsidiary. These restrictions do not apply to the sale, transfer or disposition of directors' qualifying shares or sales or transfers to us or to other restricted subsidiaries.

For purposes of the supplemental indenture, restricted subsidiary means a subsidiary that is a regulated insurance company principally engaged in one or more of the life, annuity, property and casualty insurance or reinsurance businesses and whose total assets and total revenues are 10% or more of the total assets and total revenues, respectively, of Everest Holdings and its

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consolidated subsidiaries, including the restricted subsidiary, unless our board of directors determines that the subsidiary is not material to the financial condition of Everest Holdings and its subsidiaries taken as a whole. As of the date of this prospectus supplement, our only restricted subsidiary is Everest Re. Everest Re accounted for approximately 96% of our consolidated revenues during 2003 and approximately 94% of our consolidated assets at June 30, 2004.

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a person who acquires the notes in connection with his employment or other performance of services.

In addition, the following summary does not address all possible tax consequences. In particular, except as specifically provided, it does not discuss any estate, gift, generation-skipping, transfer, state, local or foreign tax consequences. Everest Holdings has not sought a ruling from the Internal Revenue Service with respect to the statements made and the conclusions reached in the following summary, and there can be no assurance that the IRS will agree with such statements and conclusions. For all these reasons, you are urged to consult with your tax advisor about the U.S. federal income tax and other tax consequences of the acquisition, ownership and disposition of the notes.

INVESTORS CONSIDERING THE PURCHASE OF THE NOTES SHOULD CONSULT THEIR OWN TAX ADVISORS WITH RESPECT TO THE APPLICATION OF THE U.S. FEDERAL INCOME TAX LAWS TO THEIR PARTICULAR SITUATIONS, AS WELL AS ANY CONSEQUENCES ARISING UNDER THE LAWS OF ANY STATE, LOCAL OR FOREIGN TAXING JURISDICTIONS OR UNDER ANY APPLICABLE TAX TREATY.

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ERISA CONSIDERATIONS

This section is relevant to you if you are proposing to use plan assets of a pension plan or another employee benefit plan to invest in the debt securities.

Before authorizing an investment in the notes, a fiduciary of a pension, profit-sharing or other employee benefit plan subject to Title I of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) should consider the fiduciary standards of ERISA in the context of the plan's particular circumstances. Among other factors, the fiduciary should consider whether the investment would satisfy the prudence and diversification requirements of ERISA and would be consistent with the documents and instruments governing the plan.

Section 406 of ERISA and Section 4975 of the Code prohibit the following types of investors, which we refer to as plan investors, from engaging in certain transactions involving plan assets with persons who are parties in interest under ERISA or disqualified persons under the Code with respect to the plan investor:

an employee benefit plan;

individual retirement accounts;

Keogh plans;

other pension and profit sharing plans subject to Section 4975 of the Code; and

entities deemed to hold plan assets of the foregoing.

A violation of these prohibited transaction rules may result in excise tax or other liabilities under ERISA and Section 4975 of the Code for such persons, unless exemptive relief is available under an applicable statutory or administrative exemption. Therefore, a plan investor should also consider whether an investment in notes might constitute or give rise to a non-exempt prohibited transaction under ERISA or Section 4975 of the Code. Employee benefit plans which are governmental plans (as defined in Section 3(32) of ERISA), certain church plans (as defined in Section 3(33) of ERISA), and foreign plans (as described in Section 4(b)(4) of ERISA) generally are not subject to the requirements of ERISA or Section 4975 of the Code, but may be subject to substantially similar applicable law.

Everest Holdings and certain of its affiliates may each be considered a party in interest or disqualified person with respect to many employee benefit plans. This could be the case, for example, if one of these companies is a service provider to a plan. Special caution should be exercised, therefore, before notes are purchased by a plan investor. In particular, the fiduciary of the plan investor should consider whether exemptive relief is available under an applicable administrative exemption. The Department of Labor has issued five prohibited transaction class exemptions that could apply to exempt the purchase, sale and holding of notes from the prohibited transaction provisions of ERISA and Section 4975 of the Code. Those class exemptions are Prohibited Transaction Exemption 96-23 (for transactions determined by in-house asset managers), Prohibited Transaction Exemption 95-60

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In connection with this offering, the underwriters may purchase and sell notes in the open market. These transactions may include over-allotment, syndicate covering transactions and stabilizing

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transactions. An over-allotment involves syndicate sales of notes in excess of the number of notes to be purchased by the underwriters in the offering, which creates a syndicate short position. Syndicate covering transactions involve purchases of notes in the open market after the distribution has been completed in order to cover syndicate short positions.

Stabilizing transactions consist of some bids or purchases of notes made for the purpose of preventing or slowing a decline in the market price of the notes while the offering is in progress.

In addition, the underwriters may impose penalty bids, under which they may reclaim the selling concession from a syndicate member when the notes originally sold by that syndicate member are purchased in a stabilizing transaction or syndicate covering transaction to cover syndicate short positions.

Similar to other purchase transactions, these activities may have the effect of raising or maintaining the market price of the notes or preventing or slowing a decline in the market price of the notes. As a result, the price of the notes may be higher than the price that might otherwise exist in the open market.

Neither we nor the underwriters make any representation or prediction as to the direction or magnitude of any effect that the transactions described above may have on the market price of the notes. The underwriters may conduct these transactions in the over-the-counter market, or otherwise. If the underwriters commence any of these transactions, they may discontinue them at any time without notice. The expenses associated with the offer and sale of the notes to be paid by Everest Holdings, are estimated to be approximately \$.

Some of the underwriters and their affiliates have performed commercial banking, investment banking and advisory services for Everest Holdings and its affiliates from time to time for which they have received customary fees and expenses. Affiliates of Wachovia Capital Markets, LLC and the other underwriters are parties to a credit facility of Everest Holdings and its affiliates, and affiliates of Deutsche Bank Securities Inc. perform investment advisory services for Everest Holdings and its affiliates. The underwriters and their affiliates may, from time to time, engage in transactions with and perform services for Everest Holdings and its affiliates in the ordinary course of their business.

As noted above, an affiliate of each of the underwriters is a party to a credit facility of Everest Holdings. More than 10% of the proceeds of the offering of the notes may be used by Everest Holdings to reduce outstanding borrowings under this credit facility. Therefore, this offering will be made in compliance with Rule 2710(h) of the NASD.

A prospectus in electronic format may be made available on the websites maintained by one or more of the underwriters. The representatives may agree to allocate a number of notes to underwriters for sale to their online brokerage account holders. The representatives will allocate notes to underwriters that may make Internet distributions on the same basis as other allocations. In addition, notes may be sold by the underwriters to securities dealers who resell shares to online brokerage account holders.

Everest Holdings has agreed to indemnify the underwriters against specified liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act of 1933, or to contribute to payments the underwriters may be required to make because of any of those liabilities.

Each underwriter has represented, warranted and agreed that:

it has not offered or sold, and, prior to the expiry of a period of six months from the date of initial issuance of the notes, will not offer or sell, any notes to persons in the UK except to

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persons whose ordinary activities involve them in acquiring, holding, managing or disposing of investments, as principal or agent, for the purposes of their businesses or otherwise in circumstances which have not resulted and will not result in an offer to the public in the UK within the meaning of the Public Offers of Securities Regulations 1995;

it has only communicated or caused to be communicated, and will only communicate or cause to be communicated, any invitation or inducement to engage in investment activity within the meaning of section 21 of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000, which we refer to as FSMA, received by it in connection with the issue or sale of any notes in circumstances in which section 21(1) of the FSMA does not apply to Everest Holdings; and

it has complied and will comply with all applicable provisions of the FSMA with respect to anything done by it in relation to the notes in, from or otherwise involving the UK.

Each initial purchaser has represented and agreed that it has not, directly or indirectly, offered or sold and will not, directly or indirectly, offer or sell in the Netherlands any notes with a denomination of less than EUR50,000 or its foreign currency equivalent other than to persons who trade or invest in securities in the conduct of a profession or business, which include banks, stockbrokers, insurance companies, pension funds, other institutional investors and finance companies and treasury departments of large enterprises, unless one of the other exemptions from or exceptions to the prohibition contained in article 3 of the Dutch Securities Transactions Supervision Act 1995 (Wet toezicht effectenverkeer 1995) is applicable and the conditions attached to the exemption or exception are complied with.

The notes may not be offered or sold by means of any document other than to persons whose ordinary business is to buy or sell shares or debentures, whether as principal or agent, or in circumstances which do not constitute an offer to the public within the meaning of the Companies Ordinance (Cap. 32) of Hong Kong, and no advertisement, invitation or document relating to the notes may be issued, whether in Hong Kong or elsewhere, which is directed at, or the contents of which are likely to be accessed or read by, the public in Hong Kong, except if permitted to do so under the securities laws of Hong Kong, other than with respect to notes which are or are intended to be disposed of only to persons outside Hong Kong or only to professional investors within the meaning of the Securities and Futures Ordinance (Cap. 571) of Hong Kong and any rules made under the Securities and Futures Ordinance (Cap. 571) of Hong Kong.

This prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus has not been registered as a prospectus with the Monetary Authority of Singapore. Accordingly, this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus and any other document or material in connection with the offer or sale, or invitation for subscription or purchase, of the notes may not be circulated or distributed, nor may the notes be offered or sold, or be made the subject of an invitation for subscription or purchase, whether directly or indirectly, to persons in Singapore other than under circumstances in which the offer, sale or invitation does not constitute an offer or sale, or invitation for subscription or purchase, of the notes to the public in Singapore.

The notes have not been and will not be registered under the Securities and Exchange Law of Japan, and each underwriter has agreed that it will not offer or sell any notes, directly or indirectly, in Japan or to, or for the benefit of, any resident of Japan, which term as used in this paragraph means any person resident in Japan, including any corporation or other entity organized under the laws of Japan, or to others for re-offering or resale, directly or indirectly, in Japan or to a resident of Japan, except pursuant to an exemption from the registration requirements of, and otherwise in compliance with, the Securities and Exchange Law of Japan and any other applicable laws, regulations and ministerial guidelines of Japan.

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EXPERTS

The consolidated financial statements of Everest Holdings and its subsidiaries incorporated in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus by reference to Everest Holdings' Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2003 have been so incorporated in reliance on the report of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, independent accountants, given on the authority of said firm as experts in auditing and accounting.

VALIDITY OF THE NOTES

The validity of the notes will be passed upon for Everest Holdings by Mayer, Brown, Rowe & Maw LLP, Chicago, Illinois and for the underwriters by Sullivan & Cromwell LLP, New York, New York.

INCORPORATION BY REFERENCE

The rules of the SEC allow us to incorporate by reference information into this prospectus supplement. The information incorporated by reference is considered to be a part of this prospectus supplement, and information that we file later with the SEC will automatically update and supersede this information. This prospectus supplement incorporates by reference the documents listed below:

Everest Holdings' Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2003;

Everest Holdings' Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2004;

Everest Holdings' Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2004;

Everest Holdings' Current Report on Form 8-K filed on March 19, 2004;

Everest Holdings' Current Report on Form 8-K filed on March 30, 2004; and

Everest Holdings' Current Report on Form 8-K filed on October 6, 2004.

All documents filed by Everest Holdings pursuant to Section 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act after the date of this prospectus shall be deemed to be incorporated by reference and to be a part of this prospectus from the respective dates of filing of those documents.

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Upon request, we will provide without charge to each person to whom a copy of this prospectus has been delivered a copy of any and all of these filings. You may request a copy of these filings by writing or telephoning us at:

Everest Reinsurance Holdings, Inc.

477 Martinsville Road

P.O. Box 830

Liberty Corner, New Jersey 07938-0830

Attention: Joseph A. Gervasi

(908) 604-3000

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PROSPECTUS

\$975,000,000

EVEREST RE GROUP, LTD.

**Common Shares, Preferred Shares, Debt Securities,
Warrants to Purchase Common or Preferred Shares or Debt Securities,
Share Purchase Contracts and Share Purchase Units**

EVEREST REINSURANCE HOLDINGS, INC.

Debt Securities

EVEREST RE CAPITAL TRUST II

EVEREST RE CAPITAL TRUST III

Preferred Securities

We may offer and sell from time to time securities in one or more offerings up to a total dollar amount of \$975,000,000. This prospectus provides you with a general description of the securities we may offer.

Everest Group may offer and sell the following securities:

common shares;

preferred shares;

senior or subordinated debt securities, which may be convertible into common or preferred shares;

warrants to purchase common shares, preferred shares or debt securities; and

share purchase contracts and share purchase units.

Everest Holdings may offer and sell senior or subordinated debt securities, which may be convertible into Everest Group common or preferred shares and which may be guaranteed by Everest Group.

Each Everest Capital Trust may offer and sell investment grade preferred securities, which will be guaranteed by Everest Holdings and which may be guaranteed by Everest Group.

Each time that securities are sold using this prospectus, we will provide a supplement to this prospectus that contains specific information about the offering. The supplement may also add to or update information contained in this prospectus. You should read this prospectus and any supplement carefully before you invest.

The securities will be offered through underwriters, dealers or agents or directly to investors. The supplements to this prospectus will provide the specific terms of the plan of distribution.

The securities offered by this prospectus involve a high degree of risk. See [Risk Factors](#) beginning on page 4 for a discussion of certain factors that you should consider before buying the securities.

Everest Group's common shares are listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the ticker symbol RE. The closing price of the common shares, as reported on the New York Stock Exchange Composite Tape on December 16, 2003, was \$81.26 per share. If we decide to list any other of these securities on a national securities exchange upon issuance, the applicable supplement to this prospectus will identify the exchange and the date when we expect trading to begin.

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of these securities or passed upon the adequacy or accuracy of this prospectus. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

The date of this prospectus is December 22, 2003.

Everest Reinsurance Company, a Delaware insurance company, referred to in this prospectus as Everest Re, underwrites property and casualty reinsurance for insurance and reinsurance companies in the United States and international markets.

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issue and sell its common securities, representing undivided beneficial interests in the assets of the trust, to Everest Holdings;

use the proceeds from the sale of its preferred and common securities to purchase a series of Everest Holdings junior subordinated debt securities;

distribute the cash payments it receives from the junior subordinated notes it owns to the holders of the preferred and common securities; and

engage in other activities that are necessary or incidental to these purposes.

<u>Calendar year</u>	<u>Effect on pre-tax net income (in millions)</u>
1998	\$ 26.2 decrease
1999	35.4 increase
2000	7.8 decrease
2001	no change
2002	140.1 decrease

The discussion of our business in Everest Group's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2002 includes a section captioned "Changes in Historical Reserves," which provides a more detailed chart showing the effect of reserve re-estimates on calendar year operating results for the past ten years.

The difficulty in estimating our reserves is increased because our loss reserves include reserves for potential asbestos and environmental liabilities. Asbestos and environmental liabilities are especially hard to estimate for many reasons, including the long waiting periods between exposure and manifestation of any bodily injury or

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property damage, difficulty in identifying the source of the asbestos or environmental contamination, long reporting delays and difficulty in properly allocating liability for the asbestos or environmental damage. Legal tactics and judicial and legislative developments affecting the scope of insurers' liability, which can be difficult to predict, also contribute to uncertainties in estimating reserves for asbestos and environmental liabilities.

The failure to assess underwriting risk accurately could reduce our net income and even result in an operating loss.

Our success depends on our ability to assess accurately the risks associated with the businesses on which the risk is retained. If we fail to assess accurately the risks we retain, we may fail to establish adequate premium rates to cover our losses and loss adjustment expenses. This could reduce our net income and even result in an operating loss. Losses may arise from events or exposures that are not anticipated when the coverage is priced. An example of an unanticipated event is the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. Our loss from those attacks, after reinsurance and taxes, was \$75 million. Neither the magnitude of loss on a single line of business nor the combined impact on several lines of business from acts of terrorism on such a large scale was contemplated when we priced our coverages. In addition to unanticipated events, we also face the unanticipated expansion of our exposures, particularly in our long-tail liability lines. An example of this is the ongoing expansion of the scope of insurers' legal liability for asbestos and environmental exposures discussed above.

Decreases in pricing for property and casualty reinsurance and insurance could reduce our net income.

We write primarily property and casualty reinsurance and insurance. The worldwide reinsurance and insurance businesses are highly competitive, yet cyclical by product and market. These cycles, as well as other business, economic and societal trends that influence aggregate supply and demand for property and casualty insurance and reinsurance products, are outside of our control. The phase of the industry cycle that prevailed from 1987 through 1999 was characterized by increasingly competitive global market conditions across most lines of business, leading to decreasing prices and broadening contract terms, which in turn had a negative impact on insurers' financial results and eroded the industry capital base. These trends resulted from a number of factors, including the emergence of significant reinsurance capacity in Bermuda, changes in the Lloyd's market, consolidation and increased capital levels in the insurance and reinsurance industries and the emergence of new reinsurance and financial products addressing traditional exposures in alternative fashions. This industry cycle began to reverse in 2000, when the industry entered a period of firming prices, more restrictive terms and conditions and tightened coverage availability across most classes and markets. These new trends were intensified and accelerated by losses from the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, which reduced industry capacity and were of sufficient magnitude to cause most insurers to reassess their capital position, tolerance for risk, exposure control mechanisms and the pricing terms and conditions at which they are willing to take on risk. Additional contributing factors included deteriorating investment market conditions and results and renewed concerns regarding longer-term industry-specific issues, such as asbestos and environmental exposures. Although the industry is currently in a favorable phase of the pricing cycle, we cannot assure you that this favorable phase will continue. Many of the factors that contributed to decreasing prices during the prior phase of the cycle continue to exist and new and unanticipated factors could emerge. Any significant decrease in pricing for property and casualty insurance or reinsurance could reduce our ability to write business profitably and reduce our net income. Further discussion of competition issues can be found on pages 26-27 of Everest Group's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2002.

If rating agencies downgrade their ratings of our insurance company subsidiaries, our future prospects for growth and profitability could be significantly and adversely affected.

Our insurance company subsidiaries, other than Mt. McKinley Insurance Company, Everest Insurance Company of Canada and Everest International Reinsurance, Ltd., currently hold an A+ (Superior) financial strength rating from A.M. Best Company. Everest Re, Everest Bermuda and Everest National hold an AA (Very Strong) financial strength rating from Standard & Poor's Ratings Services. Everest Re and Everest

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Bermuda hold an Aa3 (Excellent) financial strength rating from Moody's Investors Service, Inc. Financial strength ratings are used by insurers and reinsurance and insurance intermediaries as an important means of assessing the financial strength and quality of reinsurers. In addition, the rating of a company purchasing reinsurance may be adversely affected by an unfavorable rating or the lack of a rating of its reinsurer. A downgrade or withdrawal of any of these ratings might adversely affect our ability to market our insurance products and could have a significant and adverse effect on our future prospects for growth and profitability. During the last five years, no active subsidiary of the Company has experienced a credit rating downgrade. However, we cannot assure you that no credit downgrade will ever occur in the future. Consistent with market practice, roughly 20% to 30% of our treaty reinsurance business allows the ceding company to terminate the contract in the event of a rating downgrade. The termination provision would generally be triggered only if a rating fell below A.M. Best's A rating level, which is three levels below Everest Re's current rating of A+. Everest Re also has minimal exposure to reinsurance contracts that contain provisions for obligatory funding of outstanding liabilities in the event of a rating agency downgrade. That provision would also generally be triggered only if Everest Re's rating fell below A.M. Best's A rating level.

Our reinsurers may not satisfy their obligations to us.

We are subject to credit risk with respect to our reinsurers because the transfer of risk to a reinsurer does not relieve us of our liability to the insured. In addition, reinsurers may be unwilling to pay us even though they are able to do so. The failure of one or more of our reinsurers to honor their obligations to us in a timely fashion would impact our cash flow and reduce our net income and could cause us to incur a significant loss.

If we are unable or choose not to purchase reinsurance and transfer risk to reinsurers, our net income could be reduced or we could incur a net loss in the event of unusual loss experience.

We are generally less reliant on the purchase of reinsurance than many of our competitors, in part because of our strategic emphasis on underwriting discipline and management of the cycles inherent in our business. We try to separate our risk taking process from our risk mitigation process in order to avoid developing too great a reliance on reinsurance. Thus, we generally evaluate, underwrite, select and price our products prior to consideration of reinsurance. However, our underwriters generally consider purchasing reinsurance with respect to specific insurance contracts or programs, and our senior management generally considers purchasing reinsurance with respect to our overall operations, where reinsurance is deemed prudent from a risk mitigation perspective or is expected to have a positive cost/benefit relationship. Since we generally purchase reinsurance only when we expect a net benefit, the percentage of business that we reinsure, as indicated in the chart below, varies considerably from year to year, depending on our view of the relationship between cost and expected benefit for the contract period.

	2000	2001	2002	2003
	September 30,			
	Nine months ended			
Percentage of gross written premiums ceded for reinsurance	12.0%	16.8%	7.3%	5.6%

Changes in the availability and cost of reinsurance, which are subject to market conditions that are outside of our control, have thus reduced to some extent our ability to use reinsurance to tailor the risks we assume on a contract or program basis or to mitigate or balance exposures across our reinsurance operations. Because we have reduced our level of reinsurance purchases, our net income could be reduced in the event of a large non-reinsured event or adverse overall experience.

Our industry is highly competitive and we may not be able to compete successfully in the future.

Our industry is highly competitive and has experienced significant price competition over most of the last decade. In addition, a number of new well-capitalized competitors have entered the market recently, and we expect to face further competition from new market entrants in the future. We compete globally in the United

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States, Bermuda and other international markets. According to the 2002 edition of Standard & Poor's special report on the global reinsurance industry, there are 232 reinsurance organizations operating worldwide, consisting of 32 groups and 200 operating companies from 38 countries. Market share is largely concentrated within the top 25 groups, one of which is our Everest group of companies. We consider the 15 groups that have financial strength ratings generally comparable to or above our rating to be our primary competitors. The leaders in this market are Munich Re, Swiss Re, Berkshire Hathaway, Hannover Re and Employers Re. Some of these competitors have greater financial resources than we do, have been operating for longer than we have and have established long-term and continuing business relationships throughout the industry, which can be a significant competitive advantage. In addition, we expect to face further competition in the future. We may not be able to compete successfully in the future.

We are dependent on our key personnel.

Our success has been, and will continue to be, dependent on our ability to retain the services of our existing key executive officers and to attract and retain additional qualified personnel in the future. The loss of the services of any of our key executive officers or the inability to hire and retain other highly qualified personnel in the future could adversely affect our ability to conduct our business. Generally, we consider our key executive officers to be those individuals who have the greatest influence in setting our overall policy and controlling our operations: our Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Joseph V. Taranto (age 54), our President and Chief Operating Officer, Thomas J. Gallagher (age 54), and our Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, Stephen L. Limauro (age 51). Of those three officers, we only have an employment contract with Mr. Taranto. That contract has been previously filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission and was most recently amended on April 18, 2003 to extend Mr. Taranto's term of employment from March 31, 2004 until March 31, 2006. We are not aware that any of the above three officers are planning to leave the company or retire in the near future. We do not maintain any key employee insurance on any of our employees.

Special considerations apply to our Bermuda operations. Under Bermuda law, non-Bermudians, other than spouses of Bermudians and individuals holding permanent resident certificates, are not permitted to engage in any gainful occupation in Bermuda without a work permit issued by the Bermuda government. A work permit is only granted or extended if the employer can show that, after a proper public advertisement, no Bermudian, spouse of a Bermudian or individual holding a permanent resident certificate is available who meets the minimum standards for the position. The Bermuda government has announced a policy that places a six-year term limit on individuals with work permits, subject to specified exemptions for persons deemed to be key employees. Currently, all five of our Bermuda-based professional employees who require work permits have been granted permits by the Bermuda government that expire at various times between July 2004 and May 2006. This includes Peter J. Bennett, the chief executive officer of our Bermuda reinsurance operation. In the event his work permit were not renewed, we could lose his services, thereby adversely affecting our ability to conduct our business in Bermuda until we were able to replace him with an individual in Bermuda who did not require a work permit or who was granted the permit.

The value of our investment portfolio and the investment income we receive from that portfolio could decline as a result of market fluctuations and economic conditions.

A significant portion of our investment portfolio consists of fixed income securities and a smaller portion consists of equity securities. Both the fair market value of these assets and the investment income from these assets fluctuate depending on general economic and market conditions. For example, the fair market value of our fixed income securities generally increases or decreases in an inverse relationship with fluctuations in interest rates. The fair market value of our fixed income securities can also decrease as a result of any downturn in the business cycle that causes the credit quality of those securities to deteriorate. The net investment income that we realize from future investments in fixed income securities will generally increase or decrease with interest rates. Interest rate fluctuations also can cause net investment income from investments that carry prepayment risk, such as mortgage-backed and other asset-backed securities, to differ from the income anticipated from those securities.

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at the time we bought them. In addition, if issuers of individual investments are unable to meet their obligations, investment income will be reduced and realized capital losses may arise. Because all of our securities are classified as available for sale, changes in the market value of our securities are reflected in our financial statements. Similar treatment is not available for liabilities. As a result, a decline in the value of the securities in our portfolio could reduce our net income or cause us to incur a loss.

The following table quantifies the portion of our investment portfolio that consists of fixed income securities, equity securities and investments that carry prepayment risk.

Summary of Selected Invested Assets**Everest Re Group, Ltd.****as of December 31, 2002**

Type of Security	Market Value (in thousands of dollars)
Fixed Income:	
Mortgage Backed Securities	\$ 881,429
Other Asset Backed	196,699
Total Asset Backed	1,078,128
Other Fixed Income	5,701,730
Total Fixed Income	6,779,858
Equity Securities	47,473
Other Invested Assets	53,856
Cash and Short-term Investments	377,946
Total Investments and Cash	\$ 7,259,133

Further discussion of market-sensitive instruments can be found on pages 58-63 of Everest Group's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2002.

We may experience foreign currency exchange losses.

Our functional currency is the United States dollar. However, we write a portion of our business in currencies other than United States dollars. During the year ended December 31, 2002, we wrote approximately 14% of our insurance coverages in currencies other than United States dollars. We also maintain a portion of our investment portfolio in investments denominated in currencies other than United States dollars. As of December 31, 2002, we maintained approximately 7% of our investment portfolio in investments denominated in currencies other than United States dollars. Consequently, quarterly exchange rate fluctuations may have a material impact on our quarterly net income. During 2000, 2001, 2002 and the first three quarters of 2003, the impact on our quarterly pre-tax net income from exchange rate fluctuations ranged from a loss of

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\$3.6 million to a gain of \$1.8 million. Further discussion of foreign currency rate risk can be found on pages 60-61 of Everest Group's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2002.

Risks Relating to Regulation

Insurance laws and regulations restrict our ability to operate and any failure to comply with those laws and regulations could have a material adverse effect on our business.

We are subject to extensive regulation under U.S., state and foreign insurance laws. These laws limit the amount of dividends that can be paid to us by our operating subsidiaries, impose restrictions on the amount and type of investments that they can hold, prescribe solvency standards that must be met and maintained by them and require them to maintain reserves. These laws also require disclosure of material intercompany transactions

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consider favorable. The effect of these provisions could be to prevent a shareholder from receiving the benefit from any premium over the market price of our common shares offered by a bidder in a potential takeover. Even in the absence of an attempt to effect a change in management or a takeover attempt, these provisions may adversely affect the prevailing market price of our common shares if they are viewed as discouraging takeover attempts in the future.

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For example, Everest Group's by-laws contain the following provisions that could have an anti-takeover effect:

election of directors is staggered, meaning that the members of only one of three classes of directors are selected each year;

shareholders have limited ability to remove directors;

the total voting power of any shareholder owning more than 9.9% of the common shares will be reduced to 9.9% of the total voting power of the common shares;

the board of directors may decline to register any transfer of common shares if it has reason to believe that the transfer would result in:

any person that is not an investment company beneficially owning more than 5.0% of any class of the issued and outstanding share capital of Everest Group,

any person holding controlled shares in excess of 9.9% of any class of the issued and outstanding share capital of Everest Group, or

any adverse tax, regulatory or legal consequences to Everest Group, any of its subsidiaries or any of its shareholders;

Everest Group has the option to redeem or purchase all or part of a shareholder's common shares to the extent the board of directors determines it is necessary or advisable to avoid or cure any adverse or potential adverse consequences if:

any person that is not an investment company beneficially owns more than 5.0% of any class of the issued and outstanding share capital of Everest Group,

any person holds controlled shares in excess of 9.9% of any class of the issued and outstanding share capital of Everest Group, or

share ownership by any person may result in adverse tax, regulatory or legal consequences to Everest Group, any of its subsidiaries or any other shareholder.

Applicable insurance laws may also have an anti-takeover effect.

Before a person can acquire control of a U.S. insurance company, prior written approval must be obtained from the insurance commissioner of the state where that insurance company is domiciled. Prior to granting approval of an application to acquire control of a domestic insurance company, a state insurance commissioner will consider such factors as the financial strength of the applicant, the integrity and competence of the applicant's board of directors and executive officers, the acquirer's plans for changes to the insurance company's board of directors and executive officers, the acquirer's plans for the future operations of the insurance company and any anti-competitive results that may arise from the consummation of the acquisition of control. Because any person who acquired control of Everest Group would thereby acquire indirect control of our insurance company subsidiaries in the United States, the insurance change of control laws of Delaware, Arizona and Georgia would apply to such a transaction. This could have the effect of delaying or even preventing such a change of control.

Investors in Everest Group may have more difficulty in protecting their interests than investors in a U.S. corporation.

The Companies Act 1981 of Bermuda differs in material respects from the laws applicable to U.S. corporations and their shareholders. The following is a summary of material differences between the Bermuda Companies Act, as modified in some instances by provisions of Everest Group's by-laws, and Delaware corporate law that could make it more difficult for investors in Everest Group to protect their interests than investors in a U.S. corporation. Because the following statements are summaries, they do not address all aspects of Bermuda law that may be relevant to Everest Group and its shareholders.

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Alternate Directors. The Everest Group bye-laws provide, as permitted by Bermuda law, that each director may appoint an alternate director, who shall have the power to attend and vote at any meeting of the board of directors or committee at which that director is not personally present and to sign written consents in place of that director. Delaware law does not provide for alternate directors.

Committees of the Board of Directors. The Everest Group bye-laws provide, as permitted by Bermuda law, that the board of directors may delegate any of its powers to committees that the board appoints, and those committees may consist partly or entirely of non-directors. Delaware law allows the board of directors of a corporation to delegate many of its powers to committees, but those committees may consist only of directors.

Interested Directors. Bermuda law and Everest Group s bye-laws provide that if a director has a personal interest in a transaction to which the company is also a party and if the director discloses the nature of this personal interest at the first opportunity, either at a meeting of directors or in writing to the directors, then the company will not be able to declare the transaction void solely due to the existence of that personal interest and the director will not be liable to the company for any profit realized from the transaction. In addition, after a director has made the declaration of interest referred to above, he or she is allowed to be counted for purposes of determining whether a quorum is present and to vote on a transaction in which he or she has an interest, unless disqualified from doing so by the chairman of the relevant board meeting. Under Delaware law, a corporation may be able to declare a transaction with an interested director to be void unless one of the following conditions is fulfilled:

the material facts as to the interested director s relationship or interests are disclosed or are known to the board of directors and the board in good faith authorizes the transaction by the affirmative vote of a majority of the disinterested directors,

the material facts are disclosed or are known to the stockholders entitled to vote on the transaction and the transaction is specifically approved in good faith by the holders of a majority of the voting shares or

the transaction is fair to the corporation as of the time it is authorized, approved or ratified.

Under Delaware law, an interested director could be held liable for a transaction in which that director derived an improper personal benefit.

Transactions with Significant Shareholders. As a Bermuda company, Everest Group may enter into business transactions with its significant shareholders, including asset sales, in which a significant shareholder receives, or could receive, a financial benefit that is greater than that received, or to be received, by other shareholders with prior approval from Everest Group s board of directors but without obtaining prior approval from the shareholders. In the case of an amalgamation, in which two or more companies join together and continue as a single company, a resolution of shareholders approved by a majority of at least 75% of the votes cast is required in addition to the approval of the board of directors, except in the case of an amalgamation with and between wholly-owned subsidiaries. If Everest Group were a Delaware corporation, any business combination with an interested shareholder (which, for this purpose, would include mergers and asset sales of greater than 10% of Everest Group s assets that would otherwise be considered transactions in the ordinary course of business) within a period of three years from the time the person became an interested shareholder would require prior approval from shareholders holding at least 66 ²/₃% of Everest Group s outstanding common stock not owned by the interested shareholder, unless the transaction qualified for one of the exemptions in the relevant Delaware statute or Everest Group opted out of the statute. For purposes of the Delaware statute, an interested shareholder is generally defined as a person who together with that person s affiliates and associates owns, or within the previous three years did own, 15% or more of a corporation s outstanding voting stock.

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Takeovers. Under Bermuda law, if an acquiror makes an offer for shares of a company and, within four months of the offer, the holders of not less than 90% of the shares that are the subject of the offer tender their shares, the acquiror may give the nontendering shareholders notice requiring them to transfer their shares on the terms of the offer. Within one month of receiving the notice, dissenting shareholders may apply to the court

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objecting to the transfer. The burden is on the dissenting shareholders to show that the court should exercise its discretion to enjoin the transfer. The court will be unlikely to do this unless there is evidence of fraud or bad faith or collusion between the acquiror and the tendering shareholders aimed at unfairly forcing out minority shareholders. Under another provision of Bermuda law, the holders of 95% of the shares of a company, whom we refer to as the acquiring shareholders, may give notice to the remaining shareholders requiring them to sell their shares on the terms described in the notice. Within one month of receiving the notice, dissenting shareholders may apply to the court for an appraisal of their shares. Within one month of the court's appraisal, the acquiring shareholders are entitled either to acquire all shares involved at the price fixed by the court or cancel the notice given to the remaining shareholders. If shares were acquired under the notice at a price below the court's appraisal price, the acquiring shareholders must either pay the difference in price or cancel the notice and return the shares thus acquired to the shareholder, who must then refund the purchase price. There are no comparable provisions under Delaware law.

Inspection of Corporate Records. Members of the general public have the right to inspect the public documents of Everest Group available at the office of the Registrar of Companies and Everest Group's registered office, both in Bermuda. These documents include the memorandum of association, which describes the company's permitted purposes and powers, any amendments to the memorandum of association and documents relating to any increase or reduction in the company's authorized share capital. Shareholders of Everest Group have the additional right to inspect the company's bye-laws, minutes of general meetings of shareholders and audited financial statements that must be presented to the annual general meeting of shareholders. The register of shareholders of Everest Group also is open to inspection by shareholders without charge, and to members of the public for a fee. Everest Group is required to maintain its share register at its registered office in Bermuda. Everest Group also maintains a branch register in the offices of its transfer agent in the United States, which is open for public inspection as required under the Companies Act. Everest Group is required to keep at its registered office a register of its directors and officers that is open for inspection by members of the public without charge. However, Bermuda law does not provide a general right for shareholders to inspect or obtain copies of any other corporate records. Under Delaware law, any shareholder may inspect or obtain copies of a corporation's shareholder list and its other books and records for any purpose reasonably related to that person's interest as a shareholder.

Shareholder's Suits. The rights of shareholders under Bermuda law are not as extensive as the rights of shareholders under legislation or judicial precedent in many U.S. jurisdictions. Class actions and derivative actions are generally not available to shareholders under the laws of Bermuda. However, the Bermuda courts ordinarily would be expected to follow English case law precedent, which would permit a shareholder to bring an action in the name of Everest Group to remedy a wrong done to Everest Group where the act complained of is alleged to be beyond the corporate power of Everest Group or illegal or would result in the violation of Everest Group's memorandum of association or bye-laws. Furthermore, the court would give consideration to acts that are alleged to constitute a fraud against the minority shareholders or where an act requires the approval of a greater percentage of Everest Group's shareholders than actually approved it. The winning party in an action of this type generally would be able to recover a portion of attorneys' fees incurred in connection with the action. Under Delaware law, class actions and derivative actions generally are available to stockholders for breach of fiduciary duty, corporate waste and actions not taken in accordance with applicable law. In these types of actions, the court has discretion to permit the winning party to recover its attorneys' fees.

Limitation of Liability of Directors and Officers. Everest Group's bye-laws provide that Everest Group and its shareholders waive all claims or rights of action that they might have, individually or in the right of the company, against any director or officer for any act or failure to act in the performance of that director's or officer's duties. However, this waiver does not apply to claims or rights of action that arise out of fraud or dishonesty. This waiver may have the effect of barring claims arising under U.S. federal securities laws. Under Delaware law, a corporation may include in its certificate of incorporation provisions limiting the personal liability of its directors to the corporation or its stockholders for monetary damages for many types of breach of fiduciary duty. However, these provisions may not limit liability for any breach of the duty of loyalty, acts or omissions not in good faith or that involve intentional misconduct or a knowing violation of law, the

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authorization of unlawful dividends, stock repurchases or stock redemptions, or any transaction from which a director derived an improper personal benefit. Moreover, these provisions would not be likely to bar claims arising under U.S. federal securities laws.

Indemnification of Directors and Officers. Everest Group's by-laws provide that Everest Group shall indemnify its directors or officers to the full extent permitted by law against all actions, costs, charges, liabilities, loss, damage or expense incurred or suffered by them by reason of any act done, concurred in or omitted in the conduct of Everest Group's business or in the discharge of their duties. Under Bermuda law, this indemnification may not extend to any matter involving fraud or dishonesty of which a director or officer may be guilty in relation to the company, as determined in a final judgment or decree not subject to appeal. Under Delaware law, a corporation may indemnify a director or officer who becomes a party to an action, suit or proceeding because of his position as a director or officer if (1) the director or officer acted in good faith and in a manner he reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of the corporation and (2) if the action or proceeding involves a criminal offense, the director or officer had no reasonable cause to believe his or her conduct was unlawful.

Enforcement of Civil Liabilities. Everest Group is organized under the laws of Bermuda. Some of its directors and officers, as well as some of the experts named in this prospectus, may reside outside the United States. A substantial portion of our and their assets are or may be located in jurisdictions outside the United States. You may not be able to effect service of process within the United States on directors and officers of Everest Group and those experts who reside outside the United States. You also may not be able to recover against them or Everest Group on judgments of U.S. courts or to obtain original judgments against them or Everest Group in Bermuda courts, including judgments predicated upon civil liability provisions of the U.S. federal securities laws.

Risks Relating to Taxation

If U.S. tax law changes, our net income may be reduced.

In the last few years, some members of Congress have expressed concern about U.S. corporations that move their place of incorporation to low-tax jurisdictions. Also, some members of Congress have expressed concern over a competitive advantage that foreign-controlled insurers and reinsurers may have over U.S.-controlled insurers and reinsurers due to the purchase of reinsurance by U.S. insurers from affiliates operating in some foreign jurisdictions, including Bermuda. Legislation has recently been proposed in Congress that would increase the U.S. tax burden on so-called "inverting" companies and increase the U.S. tax burden on related-party reinsurance transactions. We do not know whether this legislation or any similar legislation will ever be enacted into law. If it were enacted, the U.S. tax burden on our Bermuda operations, or on some business ceded from our licensed U.S. insurance subsidiaries to some offshore reinsurers, could be increased. This could reduce our net income.

Everest Group and/or Everest Bermuda may be subject to U.S. corporate income tax, which would reduce our net income.

The income of Everest Bermuda is a significant portion of our worldwide income from operations. We have established guidelines for the conduct of our Bermuda operations that are designed to ensure that Everest Bermuda is not engaged in the conduct of a trade or business in the United States. Based on its compliance with those guidelines, we believe that Everest Bermuda should not be required to pay U.S. corporate income tax, other than withholding tax on U.S. source dividend income. However, if the IRS successfully contended that Everest Bermuda was engaged in a trade or business in the United States, Everest Bermuda would be required to pay U.S. corporate income tax on any income that is subject to the taxing jurisdiction of the United States, and possibly the U.S. branch profits tax. Even if the IRS successfully contended that Everest Bermuda was engaged in a U.S. trade or business, the U.S.-Bermuda tax treaty would preclude the IRS from taxing Everest Bermuda's income except to the extent that its income were attributable to a permanent establishment maintained by that

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subsidiary. We do not believe that Everest Bermuda has a permanent establishment in the United States. If the IRS successfully contended that Everest Bermuda did have income attributable to a permanent establishment in the United States, it would be subject to U.S. tax on that income.

We conduct our Barbados operations in a manner designed to minimize our U.S. tax exposure. Based on our compliance with guidelines designed to ensure that we generate only immaterial amounts, if any, of income that is subject to the taxing jurisdiction of the United States, we believe that we should be required to pay only immaterial amounts, if any, of U.S. corporate income tax, other than withholding tax on U.S. source dividend income. However, if the IRS successfully contended that we had material amounts of income that is subject to the taxing jurisdiction of the United States, we would be required to pay U.S. corporate income tax on that income, and possibly the U.S. branch profits tax. Even if the IRS successfully contended that we had material amounts of income that is subject to the taxing jurisdiction of the United States, the U.S.-Barbados tax treaty would preclude the IRS from taxing our income, except to the extent that our income was attributable to a permanent establishment maintained by us in the United States. We do not believe that we have material amounts of income attributable to a permanent establishment in the United States. If the IRS successfully contended, however, that we did have income attributable to a permanent establishment in the United States, we would be subject to U.S. tax on that income.

If Everest Bermuda became subject to U.S. income tax on its income or if we became subject to U.S. income tax on more than immaterial amounts of income, our income could also be subject to the U.S. branch profits tax. In that event, Everest Group and Everest Bermuda would be subject to taxation at a higher combined effective rate than if they were organized as U.S. corporations. The combined effect of the 35% U.S. corporate income tax rate and the 30% branch profits tax rate is a net tax rate of 54.5%. The imposition of these taxes would reduce our net income.

The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and the European Union are considering measures that might increase Everest Group's taxes and reduce our net income.

A number of multinational organizations, including the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, also referred to in this prospectus as the OECD, the European Union, the Financial Action Task Force and the Financial Stability Forum, also referred to in this prospectus as FSF, have all recently identified some countries as not participating in adequate information exchange, engaging in harmful tax practices or not maintaining adequate controls to prevent corruption, such as money laundering activities. The OECD has threatened non-member jurisdictions that do not agree to cooperate with the OECD with punitive sanctions by OECD member countries, though specific sanctions have yet to be adopted by OECD member countries. It is as yet unclear as to what these sanctions will be, who will adopt them and when or if they will be imposed. On April 18, 2002, the OECD published a list of uncooperative tax havens, which are those jurisdictions from whom the OECD has not received commitments to the OECD's principles of regulatory and tax transparency and effective exchange of information. The governments of both Bermuda and Barbados have made these commitments. As a result, neither Bermuda nor Barbados is currently listed as an uncooperative tax haven. However, it is possible that the OECD could change its view in the future and decide to list Bermuda or Barbados as an uncooperative tax haven, or that one of the other multinational organizations could take a different view from the OECD and decide to recommend sanctions against Bermuda or Barbados. Any sanctions imposed on Bermuda or Barbados could increase Everest Group's taxes and reduce our net income. In addition, we are not able to predict what changes will arise from the commitments given to the OECD by Bermuda and Barbados or whether those changes will subject us to additional taxes.

Everest Group and/or Everest Bermuda may become subject to Bermuda tax, which would reduce our net income.

Everest Group and Everest Bermuda currently are not subject to income or capital gains taxes in Bermuda. Both companies have received an assurance from the Bermuda Minister of Finance under The Exempted Undertakings Tax Protection Act 1966 of Bermuda to the effect that if any legislation is enacted in Bermuda that

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imposes any tax computed on profits or income, or computed on any capital asset, gain or appreciation, or any tax in the nature of estate duty or inheritance tax, then that tax will not apply to us or to any of our operations or our shares, debentures or other obligations until March 28, 2016. This assurance does not prevent the application of any of those taxes to persons ordinarily resident in Bermuda and does not prevent the imposition of any tax payable in accordance with the provisions of The Land Tax Act of 1967 of Bermuda or otherwise payable in relation to any land leased to Everest Group or Everest Bermuda. There are currently no procedures for extending these assurances. As a result, Everest Group and Everest Bermuda could be subject to taxes in Bermuda after March 28, 2016, which could reduce our net income.

Everest Group may become subject to Barbados tax, which would reduce our net income.

Everest Group has obtained an international business company license under the Barbados International Business Companies Act, 1991-24. Based on this license, Everest Group is entitled to special tax benefits, including a preferred rate of tax on profits and gains and an exemption from withholding tax in respect of any dividends, interest, royalties, fees or management fees deemed to be paid to another international business company or to a person not resident in Barbados. Everest Group also has obtained from the Ministry of Economic Development a fifteen year guarantee in accordance with Section 27 of the International Business Companies Act with regards to its continued eligibility for this preferred status. This guarantee is applicable until 2014 and is subject to negative resolution, which means that this guarantee can be revoked at any time. In addition, there are currently no procedures for extending this guarantee. As a result, Everest Group could be ineligible for these benefits after that period or earlier if the guarantee is revoked, which could reduce our net income.

Our net income will be reduced if U.S. excise and withholding taxes are increased.

Everest Bermuda is subject to an excise tax on reinsurance and insurance premiums it collects with respect to risks located in the United States. In addition, Everest Bermuda may be subject to withholding tax on dividend income from United States sources. These taxes could increase and other taxes could be imposed in the future on Everest Bermuda's business, which could reduce our net income.

CAUTIONARY NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This prospectus and the information incorporated by reference in this prospectus may contain forward-looking statements within the meaning of the U.S. federal securities laws. We intend these forward-looking statements to be covered by the safe harbor provisions for forward-looking statements in the federal securities laws. In some cases, you can identify these statements by our use of forward-looking words such as may, will, should, anticipate, estimate, expect, plan, believe, predict, potential and intend. You should be aware that these statements are forward-looking statements in these documents only reflect our expectations and are not guarantees of performance. These statements involve risks, uncertainties and assumptions. Actual events or results may differ materially from our expectations. Important factors that could cause our actual results to be materially different from our expectations include those discussed under the caption Risk Factors beginning on page 4. We undertake no obligation to update or revise publicly any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

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direct insurance subsidiaries are domiciled, require regulatory approval before those subsidiaries can pay dividends or make loans or advances to Everest Holdings that exceed specified statutory thresholds. In addition, the terms of Everest Holdings' credit facility require Everest Re, Everest Holdings' principal insurance subsidiary, to maintain a certain surplus level. At December 31, 2002, \$986.3 million of the \$1,290.7 million in net assets of Everest Holdings' consolidated subsidiaries were subject to these regulatory restrictions.

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Limitation on Voting Rights. If and for as long as the aggregate number of controlled shares, as defined below, of any person exceeds 9.9% of the total voting power of all of the issued and outstanding share capital of Everest Group, each controlled share, regardless of the identity of the registered holder, will confer only a fraction of a vote as determined by the following formula:

$$\frac{(T - C)}{(9.1 \times C)}$$

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Where:

T is the aggregate number of votes conferred by all of the issued and outstanding share capital prior to the application of the formula with respect to any particular person, adjusted to take into account any prior reduction taken with respect to any other person as a result of a previous application of the formula.

C is the number of controlled shares attributable to the person; and

Controlled shares of any person refers to all shares of the issued and outstanding share capital owned by that person, whether directly,

with respect to persons who are U.S. persons, by application of the attribution and constructive ownership rules of sections 958(a) and 958(b) or 544 and 554 of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or

beneficially within the meaning of Section 13(d)(3) of the U.S. Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

The formula will be applied successively, starting with the person to whom the largest number of controlled shares is attributable, as many times as may be necessary to ensure that the aggregate number of controlled shares of any person does not exceed 9.9% of the total voting power of all of the issued and outstanding share capital at any time.

The directors retain discretion to make final adjustments to the aggregate number of votes attaching to the shares of any shareholder that they consider fair and reasonable in all the circumstances to ensure that the aggregate number of controlled shares of any person does not exceed 9.9% of the total voting power of Everest Group.

Restrictions on Transfer. Our bye-laws permit our board of directors to decline to register any transfer of common shares if it has reason to believe that the transfer would result in:

any person that is not an investment company beneficially owning more than 5.0% of any class of the issued and outstanding share capital of Everest Group,

any person holding controlled shares in excess of 9.9% of any class of the issued and outstanding share capital of Everest Group, or

any adverse tax, regulatory or legal consequences to Everest Group, any of its subsidiaries or any of its shareholders.

If the directors refuse to register a transfer for any reason, they must notify the proposed transferor and transferee within 30 days of their refusal. Our bye-laws also provide that the board of directors may suspend the registration of transfers at any time and for any period that it determines, provided that they may not suspend the registration of transfers for more than 45 days in any period of 365 consecutive days.

We have been advised by Conyers Dill & Pearman, our Bermuda counsel, that while the precise form of the restrictions on transfer contained in the bye-laws is untested, as a matter of general principle, restrictions on transfers are enforceable under Bermuda law and are not uncommon. A proposed transferee will be permitted to dispose of any common shares purchased that violate the restrictions and as to the transfer of which registration is refused. The transferor of those common shares will be deemed to own those common shares for dividend, voting and reporting purposes until a transfer of those common shares has been registered on the shareholder register of Everest Group.

Repurchase Rights. Our bye-laws provide that if the board of directors has reason to believe that

any person that is not an investment company beneficially owns more than 5.0% of any class of the issued and outstanding share capital of Everest Group,

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any person holds controlled shares in excess of 9.9% of any class of the issued and outstanding share capital of Everest Group or

share ownership by any person may result in adverse tax, regulatory or legal consequences to Everest Group, any of its subsidiaries or any other shareholder,

then Everest Group will have the option, but not the obligation, subject to compliance with Bermuda law, to redeem or purchase all or any part of the common shares so held to the extent the board of directors determines it is necessary or advisable to avoid or cure any adverse or potential adverse consequences. The price to be paid for any common shares redeemed or purchased will be the fair market value of those shares, defined as the average of the high and low sale prices of the common shares on the New York Stock Exchange for the last 15 trading days immediately preceding the day on which Everest Group sends a notice of redemption or purchase to the shareholder.

The limitations on voting, restrictions on transfer and repurchase rights described above could have the effect of rendering more difficult or discouraging unsolicited takeover bids from third parties or the removal of incumbent directors of Everest Group.

Information Requirements. Our bye-laws provide that the board of directors may require any shareholder or proposed transferee of shares to certify or otherwise provide to the board of directors complete and accurate information necessary for it to give effect to the limitations on voting, restrictions on transfer and repurchase rights described above. If any shareholder or proposed transferee fails to respond to that request in a timely fashion or if the board of directors has reason to believe that any certification or other information provided is inaccurate or incomplete, the board of directors may decline to approve any transfer to which that request relates or may determine to disregard for all purposes all votes attached to any common shares held by that shareholder.

Transfer Agent. The transfer agent and registrar for our common shares is EquiServe Trust Company, N.A.

Preferred Shares

Subject to the Companies Act 1981 of Bermuda, the board of directors may establish one or more series of preferred shares having the number of shares, designation, powers, preferences, voting rights, dividend rates, repurchase provisions and other rights, qualifications, limitations or restrictions that may be fixed by the board of directors. The issuance of preferred shares could have the effect of discouraging an attempt to obtain control of Everest Group. The issuance of preferred shares also could adversely affect the voting power of the holders of our common shares, deny shareholders the receipt of a premium on their common shares in the event of a tender or other offer for the common shares and have a depressive effect on the market price of the common shares.

The preferred shares to be offered by a prospectus supplement, upon issuance against full consideration, will be fully paid and non-assessable within the meaning of applicable Bermuda law. The terms of any preferred shares offered by a prospectus supplement will be filed with the SEC on a Form 8-K or by post-effective amendment to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part.

The applicable prospectus supplement relating to the particular series of preferred shares will describe the specific terms of that series as fixed by the board of directors, including:

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the offering price at which Everest Group will issue the preferred shares;

the title, designation and number of preferred shares;

the dividend rate or method of calculation, the payment dates for dividends and the place or places where the dividends will be paid, whether dividends will be cumulative or noncumulative and, if cumulative, the dates from which dividends will begin to cumulate;

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any conversion or exchange rights;

whether the preferred shares will be subject to repurchase and the repurchase price and other terms and conditions relative to the repurchase rights;

any liquidation rights;

any sinking fund provisions;

any voting rights; and

any other rights, preferences, privileges, limitations and restrictions that are not inconsistent with the terms of Everest Group's memorandum of association and bye-laws.

Bermuda Exchange Control

We have obtained consent for the issue and transfer of our shares to and between non-residents of Bermuda for exchange control purposes from the Bermuda Monetary Authority as required by The Exchange Control Act 1972 of Bermuda and related regulations. This consent is subject to the condition that our common shares be listed on an appointed stock exchange, which includes the New York Stock Exchange. No further permission from the Bermuda Monetary Authority will be required to issue our shares or to transfer our shares between persons regarded as non-resident in Bermuda for exchange control purposes. The issue and transfer of in excess of 20% of our shares involving any persons regarded as resident in Bermuda for exchange control purposes require prior authorization. The Bermuda Monetary Authority also has designated Everest Group as non-resident for exchange control purposes. This designation allows Everest Group to transfer funds in and out of Bermuda and to pay dividends to non-residents of Bermuda who are holders of our shares in currencies other than the Bermuda Dollar. There are no provisions of Bermuda law or our memorandum of association or bye-laws which impose any limitation on the rights of shareholders to hold or vote our shares by reason of their not being residents of Bermuda.

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DESCRIPTION OF THE DEBT SECURITIES

Everest Group or Everest Holdings may elect to offer debt securities. The following description of debt securities sets forth the material terms and provisions of the debt securities to which any prospectus supplement may relate. Everest Group's senior debt securities would be issued under a senior indenture between Everest Group and JPMorgan Chase Bank, as trustee. Everest Group's subordinated debt securities would be issued under a subordinated indenture between Everest Group and JPMorgan Chase Bank, as trustee. The Everest Group senior indenture and subordinated indenture have been filed as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part. A supplemental indenture containing the particular terms of any debt securities issued by Everest Group will be executed at the time the debt securities are issued and will be filed with the SEC on a Form 8-K or by a post-effective amendment to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part.

Everest Holdings' senior debt securities would be issued under a senior indenture, dated March 14, 2000, between Everest Holdings and The Chase Manhattan Bank, now known as JPMorgan Chase Bank, as trustee. Everest Holdings' subordinated debt securities would be issued under a subordinated indenture, dated November 14, 2002, between Everest Holdings and JPMorgan Chase Bank, as trustee. The Everest Holdings' senior indenture and subordinated indenture have been filed as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part. A supplemental indenture containing the particular terms of any debt securities issued by Everest Holdings will be executed at the time the debt securities are issued and will be filed with the SEC on a Form 8-K or by a post-effective amendment to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part.

Everest Group's senior indenture, Everest Group's subordinated indenture, Everest Holdings' senior indenture and Everest Holdings' subordinated indenture are sometimes referred to in this prospectus collectively as the indentures and each, individually, as an indenture. Everest Group's senior indenture and Everest Holdings' senior indenture are sometimes referred to in this prospectus collectively as the senior indentures and each, individually, as a senior indenture. Everest Group's subordinated indenture and Everest Holdings' subordinated indenture are sometimes referred to in this prospectus collectively as the subordinated indentures and each, individually, as a subordinated indenture. The indentures have been qualified under the Trust Indenture Act of 1939. The terms of the debt securities will include those stated in the indentures and those made part of the indentures by reference to the Trust Indenture Act.

The following discussion summarizes the material terms and provisions of the indentures and the related debt securities; however, you should refer to the forms of the indentures and the debt securities for complete information on some of the terms and provisions of the indentures, including definitions of some of the terms used below, and the debt securities. The senior indentures and subordinated indentures are substantially identical to one another, except for specific covenants relating to subordination contained in the subordinated indentures.

General

The indentures provide that the issuer may issue the debt securities thereunder from time to time in one or more series.

Unless otherwise stated in the applicable prospectus supplement, senior debt securities will be unsecured obligations of the issuer and will rank equally with all of the issuer's other unsecured and unsubordinated indebtedness. The senior debt securities will be subordinated in right of payment to all of the issuer's existing and future secured indebtedness. As a result, in the event of the issuer's bankruptcy, liquidation or reorganization or upon acceleration of the senior debt securities due to an event of default, the issuer's assets will be available to pay its obligations on the senior debt securities only after all secured indebtedness has been paid in full in cash or other payment satisfactory to the holders of the secured indebtedness has been made. There may not be sufficient assets remaining to pay amounts due on any or all of the senior debt securities then outstanding. The senior debt securities are also effectively subordinated to the indebtedness and other liabilities of the issuer's

subsidiaries. The senior indentures do not prohibit or limit the incurrence of secured or senior indebtedness or the incurrence

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of other indebtedness and liabilities by the issuers or their respective subsidiaries. The incurrence of additional senior indebtedness and other liabilities by the issuer or its subsidiaries could adversely affect the issuer's ability to pay the obligations on any senior debt securities.

Unless otherwise stated in the applicable prospectus supplement, subordinated debt securities will be unsecured obligations of the issuer, subordinated in right of payment to the prior payment in full of all secured and senior indebtedness of the issuer, as described below under Subordination of Subordinated Debt Securities and in the applicable prospectus supplement. As a result, in the event of the issuer's bankruptcy, liquidation or reorganization or upon acceleration of the subordinated debt securities due to an event of default, the issuer's assets will be available to pay its obligations on the subordinated debt securities only after all secured and senior indebtedness has been paid in full in cash or other payment satisfactory to the holders of the secured and senior indebtedness has been made. There may not be sufficient assets remaining to pay amounts due on any or all of the subordinated debt securities then outstanding. The subordinated debt securities are also effectively subordinated to the indebtedness and other liabilities of the issuer's subsidiaries. The subordinated indentures do not prohibit or limit the incurrence of secured or senior indebtedness or the incurrence of other indebtedness and liabilities by the issuers or their respective subsidiaries. The incurrence of additional senior, secured and subordinated indebtedness and other liabilities by the issuer or its subsidiaries could adversely affect the issuer's ability to pay the obligations on any subordinated debt securities.

As of September 30, 2003, Everest Group had no secured indebtedness outstanding and guaranteed approximately \$70.0 million of unsecured senior indebtedness of Everest Holdings, which would rank equal in priority with other senior debt securities issued by Everest Group. As of September 30, 2003, Everest Group's subsidiaries had approximately \$9.1 billion of indebtedness and other liabilities, including insurance reserves and trust preferred securities. As of September 30, 2003, Everest Holdings had no secured indebtedness outstanding and approximately \$519.1 million of unsecured senior indebtedness outstanding, which would rank equal in priority with other senior debt securities issued by Everest Holdings. As of September 30, 2003, Everest Holdings' subsidiaries had approximately \$7.9 billion of indebtedness and other liabilities, including insurance reserves and trust preferred securities.

The rights of our creditors, including the holders of Everest Group's debt securities and the holders of Everest Holdings' debt securities who are creditors of Everest Group by virtue of any guarantee of the debt securities issued by Everest Holdings, to participate in the distribution of stock owned by us in some of our subsidiaries, including our insurance subsidiaries, may be subject to approval by insurance regulatory authorities having jurisdiction over the subsidiaries. The rights of Everest Holdings' creditors, including the holders of its debt securities, to participate in the distribution of stock owned by it in some of its subsidiaries, including its insurance subsidiaries, may also be subject to approval by insurance regulatory authorities having jurisdiction over the subsidiaries.

The prospectus supplement relating to the particular debt securities offered by the prospectus supplement will describe the following terms of the offered debt securities:

the title of the debt securities;

the aggregate principal amount of the debt securities;

the price at which the debt securities will be issued;

the date or dates, or the method or methods, if any, by which the date or dates will be determined, on which the principal of the debt securities will be payable;

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the rate or rates at which the debt securities will bear interest, if any, which rate may be zero in the case of some debt securities issued at an issue price representing a discount from the principal amount payable at maturity, or the method by which the rate or rates will be determined, including, if applicable, any remarketing option or similar method;

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the date or dates from which interest, if any, will accrue or the method by which the date or dates will be determined, the date or dates on which interest, if any, on the debt securities will be payable and any regular record dates applicable to the date or dates on which interest will be so payable;

any right to extend or defer the interest payment period and the duration of any extension;

the portion of the principal amount of the debt securities that will be payable if the maturity is accelerated, if other than the entire principal amount;

if other than as set forth in this prospectus, the place or places where the principal of, any premium or interest on or any additional amounts with respect to the debt securities will be payable, and any of the debt securities that may be surrendered for registration of transfer, conversion or exchange;

any obligation of the issuer to redeem or purchase the debt securities pursuant to any sinking fund, amortization or other provision and the terms and conditions on which the debt securities may be redeemed or purchased pursuant to any obligation;

the terms and conditions, if any, on which the debt securities of the series may be redeemed at the issuer's option or at the option of the holders;

any index, formula or other method used to determine the amount of payments of principal of, any premium or interest on or any additional amounts with respect to the debt securities;

whether the debt securities will be convertible into common shares or preferred shares of Everest Group and/or exchangeable for other securities of Everest Group or Everest Holdings and, if so, the terms and conditions upon which the debt securities will be so convertible or exchangeable;

whether the debt securities are to be issued in the form of one or more global securities and, if so, the identity of the depository for the global security or securities;

whether the debt securities will be secured or unsecured obligations of the issuer;

whether the debt securities are senior debt securities or subordinated debt securities and, if subordinated debt securities, the specific subordination provisions applicable thereto;

in the case of debt securities issued by Everest Holdings, the provisions, if any, relating to our guarantee of Everest Holdings' debt securities;

any additions to the events of default or covenants of the issuer with respect to the debt securities; and

any other material terms of the debt securities.

The issuer will have the ability under the indentures to reopen a previously issued series of the debt securities and issue additional debt securities of that series or establish additional terms of that series. The issuer is also permitted to issue debt securities with the same terms as previously

issued debt securities.

The issuer may offer and sell the debt securities at a substantial discount below their principal amount and the indentures do not provide any limit on the amount by which the issuer may discount the debt securities. The applicable prospectus supplement will describe the special United States federal income tax and other considerations, if any, applicable to the discounted debt securities. In addition, the applicable prospectus supplement may describe special United States federal income tax or other considerations, if any, applicable to any debt securities that are denominated in a currency or currency unit other than U.S. dollars.

Unless the applicable prospectus supplement states otherwise, the issuer will only issue the debt securities in fully registered form, without coupons, in denominations of \$1,000 and any integral multiple of \$1,000, and there will be no service charge for any registration of transfer or exchange of the debt securities. We may, however, require payment to cover any tax or other governmental charge payable in connection with the registration or transfer. Unless otherwise provided in the applicable prospectus supplement, interest may be paid by check

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mailed to the persons entitled to the interest at their addresses appearing on the security register or by wire transfer to an account maintained by the payee with a bank located in the United States and will be payable on any interest payment date to the persons in whose name the debt securities are registered at the close of business on the regular record date with respect to each interest payment date. In the case of wire transfers, acceptable wire transfer instructions must be received at least 16 days prior to the applicable payment date.

Interest on the debt securities in connection with a redemption, whether the redemption is before or after the regular record date, will be payable to the persons in whose names the debt securities are registered on the redemption date, unless the redemption date is on an interest payment date. If the redemption date is on an interest payment date, interest on the debt securities will be payable to the persons in whose names the debt securities were registered on the next preceding regular record date. All paying agents initially designated by the issuer for the debt securities will be named in the applicable prospectus supplement. The issuer may, at any time, designate additional paying agents or rescind the designation of any additional paying agent or approve a change in the office through which any paying agent acts, except that the issuer will be required to maintain a paying agent in each place where the principal of, any premium or interest on or any additional amounts with respect to the debt securities are payable.

Everest Group and Everest Holdings have appointed the trustee as security registrar. Unless otherwise provided in the applicable prospectus supplement, the debt securities may be presented for transfer, duly endorsed or accompanied by a written instrument of transfer, if so required by the issuer or the security registrar, or exchanged for other debt securities of the same series, containing identical terms and provisions, in any authorized denominations, and of a like aggregate principal amount, at the office or agency maintained by the issuer for these purposes, which shall initially be the corporate trust office of the trustee. Any registration, transfer or exchange will be made without service charge, but the issuer may require payment of a sum sufficient to cover any tax or other governmental charge and any other expenses then payable. The issuer will not be required to:

issue, register the transfer of, or exchange any debt securities during a period beginning at the opening of business 15 days before the day of mailing of a notice of redemption of debt securities of that series or tenor and ending at the close of business on the day of the mailing;

register the transfer of or exchange any debt security so selected for redemption in whole or in part, except the unredeemed portion of any debt security being redeemed in part; or

register the transfer of or exchange any debt security which, in accordance with its terms, has been surrendered for repayment at the option of the holder, except the portion, if any, of the debt security not to be so repaid.

The debt securities may be represented in whole or in part by one or more global debt securities registered in the name of a depository or its nominee and, if so represented, interests in the global debt security will be shown on, and transfers thereof will be effected only through, records maintained by the designated depository and its participants as described below. Where the debt securities of any series are issued in bearer form, the special restrictions and considerations, including special offering restrictions and special United States federal income tax considerations, applicable to the debt securities and to payment on and transfer and exchange of the debt securities will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Unless otherwise described in the applicable prospectus supplement, the indentures do not contain any provisions that would limit the issuer's ability to incur indebtedness or that would afford holders of the debt securities protection in the event of a sudden and significant decline in the issuer's credit quality or a takeover, recapitalization or highly leveraged or similar transaction involving the issuer. Accordingly, the issuer could in the future enter into transactions that could increase the amount of indebtedness outstanding at that time or otherwise affect its capital structure or credit rating. You should refer to the applicable prospectus supplement for information regarding any additions to the events of default described below or covenants contained in the indentures, including any addition of a covenant or other provisions providing event risk or similar protection.

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Global Securities

The debt securities of a series may be issued in whole or in part in the form of one or more global debt securities that will be deposited with, or on behalf of, a depositary identified in the applicable prospectus supplement.

The specific terms of the depositary arrangement with respect to the debt securities will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement. Everest Group and Everest Holdings anticipate that the following provisions will apply to all depositary arrangements.

Upon the issuance of a global security, the depositary for the global security or its nominee will credit, on its book-entry registration and transfer system, the respective principal amounts of the debt securities represented by the global security. The accounts will be designated by the underwriters or agents with respect to the debt securities or by the issuer if the debt securities are offered and sold directly by the issuer. Ownership of beneficial interests in a global security will be limited to persons that may hold interests through participants. Ownership of beneficial interests in the global security will be shown on, and the transfer of that ownership will be effected only through, records maintained by the depositary or its nominee, with respect to interests of participants, and on the records of participants, with respect to interests of persons other than participants. The laws of some states require that some purchasers of securities take physical delivery of securities in definitive form. These limits and laws may impair the ability to transfer beneficial interests in a global security.

So long as the depositary for a global security, or its nominee, is the registered owner of the global security, the depositary or nominee, as the case may be, will be considered the sole owner or holder of the debt securities represented by the global security for all purposes under the applicable indenture. Except as described below, owners of beneficial interests in a global security will not be entitled to have the debt securities represented by the global security registered in their names and will not receive or be entitled to receive physical delivery of the debt securities in definitive form.

Principal of, any premium and interest on, and any additional amounts with respect to, the debt securities registered in the name of a depositary or its nominee will be paid to the depositary or its nominee, as the case may be, as the registered owner of the global security representing the debt securities. None of the trustee, any paying agent, the security registrar or the issuer will have any responsibility or liability for any aspect of the records relating to or payments made on account of beneficial ownership interests of the global security for the debt securities or for maintaining, supervising or reviewing any records relating to the beneficial ownership interests.

Everest Group and Everest Holdings expect that the depositary or its nominee, upon receipt of any payment with respect to the debt securities, will immediately credit participants' accounts with payments in amounts proportionate to their respective beneficial interest in the principal amount of the global security for the debt securities as shown on the records of the depositary or its nominee. Everest Group and Everest Holdings also expect that payments by participants to owners of beneficial interests in the global security held through its participants will be governed by standing instructions and customary practices, as is now the case with securities held for the accounts of customers registered in street name, and will be the responsibility of the participants.

The indentures provide that if:

the depositary for a series of the debt securities notifies the issuer that it is unwilling or unable to continue as depositary or if the depositary ceases to be eligible under the applicable indenture and, in each case, a successor depositary is not appointed by the issuer

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within 90 days of written notice;

the issuer determines that the debt securities of a series will no longer be represented by global securities and executes and delivers to the trustee a company order to this effect; or

an event of default with respect to a series of the debt securities has occurred and is continuing,

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the global securities will be exchanged for the debt securities of that series in definitive form of like tenor and of an equal aggregate principal amount in authorized denominations. The definitive debt securities will be registered in the name or names as the depositary shall instruct the trustee. It is expected that these instructions may be based upon directions received by the depositary from participants with respect to ownership of beneficial interests in global securities.

Guarantee of Everest Holdings Debt Securities by Everest Group

If provided for in the applicable prospectus supplement, Everest Group will fully and unconditionally guarantee all obligations with respect to any series of debt securities issued by Everest Holdings. Unless provided otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement, each Everest Group debt security guarantee will be unsecured indebtedness of Everest Group and will rank equally with all of Everest Group's other unsecured indebtedness. Each Everest Group debt security guarantee may rank equally with or senior or subordinate to Everest Group's other indebtedness. As a result, in the event of Everest Group's bankruptcy, liquidation or reorganization or upon acceleration of any series of debt securities due to an event of default, Everest Group's assets will be available to pay its obligations on the Everest Group debt security guarantee only after all secured indebtedness and other indebtedness senior to the guarantee has been paid in full in cash or other payment satisfactory to the holders of the secured and senior indebtedness has been made. There may not be sufficient assets remaining to pay amounts due on any or all of the Everest Group debt securities guarantees. Each Everest Group debt security guarantee will also effectively be subordinated to the indebtedness and other liabilities of Everest Group's subsidiaries.

Unless provided otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement, each Everest Group debt security guarantee will constitute a guarantee of payment and not of collection. This means that the holder of the guaranteed security may sue Everest Group to enforce its rights under the Everest Group debt security guarantee without first suing any other person or entity.

Payment of Additional Amounts

Unless otherwise provided in the applicable prospectus supplement, Everest Group will make all payments of principal and premium, if any, interest and any other amounts on, or in respect of, the debt securities issued by Everest Group and all payments under any Everest Group debt security guarantee without withholding or deduction at source for, or on account