

**Communiqué from the Argentine Ministry of Economy  
February 28, 2003**

Following its agreements with the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and the Interamerican Development Bank, the Republic of Argentina has decided to reinforce its dialogue with its private creditors. Argentina plans to establish a program of constructive, on-going discussions and meetings with its creditors with a view to finding, in the context of its current economic difficulties, appropriate solutions to its external public debt service problems.

To assist in these efforts, the Ministry of Economy has appointed Lazard Frères as its Financial Adviser. Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton, which has acted as legal adviser to Argentina for many years, and Lazard Frères will both work closely with the Ministry of Economy teams.

The Ministry of Economy, assisted by its Advisers, is in the process of organizing a series of visits in the major world financial centers, to meet with its private creditors and to begin to gather their views and expectations. Visits will start in New York on March 6th, and in Tokyo from March 10th to 12th . Visits in Europe will also be organized at dates soon to be confirmed.

To facilitate future communications, bondholders are invited to identify themselves with Lazard Frères at the e-mail addresses indicated hereafter.

[Michele\\_lamarche@lazard.fr](mailto:Michele_lamarche@lazard.fr)

[Pierre\\_denis@lazard.fr](mailto:Pierre_denis@lazard.fr)

[Eric\\_lalo@lazard.fr](mailto:Eric_lalo@lazard.fr)

[Raul.arrazcaeta@lazard.com](mailto:Raul.arrazcaeta@lazard.com)