

To: Stock Exchange

**For immediate release
24 March 2003**

Martin Currie Capital Return Trust Plc

Interim results for the six months to 31 January 2003

Activity has been at a low level with limited realisations during the period under review. There have however been increasingly attractive opportunities for private equity funds to make new investments.

The funds in our portfolio have found it increasingly difficult to make sales of companies in recent months. This reflects the lack of confidence in the business environment and slowing economies globally. Disposals have amounted to £6.7 million. New commitments to the continuation (B) pool amounted to £4.2 million. This pool is continuing to make new investments to replace its maturing portfolio. Undrawn commitments for this pool now total £29.7 million.

The challenging economic background has affected valuations as these are ultimately linked to profits and to values placed on businesses by third parties. The net asset value declined over the six month period by 3.9% for the A shares and 4.9% for the B shares, which are modestly geared. By comparison the FTSE All-Share index is down by 16.0% over the same period.

The Board has declared an interim dividend of 0.31pence per A share and 0.13 pence per B share.

The realisation (A) pool is once again in a net cash position of £2.2 million. A further special distribution is likely to be made in the third quarter of the calendar year. However, the exact timing of the distribution is dependent on the flow of realisations.

The net debt of £0.8 million in the B pool represents gearing of only 2%. There is considerable scope to increase this and the Board intends to make further commitments to high quality funds and to selected direct investments as opportunities arise. We expect the existing portfolio to yield good returns in the short term and the new commitments to build a base for longer-term appreciation.

For more information, please call:

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MARTIN CURRIE CAPITAL RETURN TRUST plc

Statement of total return (incorporating the revenue account)*

for the six months to 31 January 2003

		(Unaudited)		
		Revenue £000	Capital £000	Total £000
Gains/(losses) on investments	- realised	-	1,619	1,619
	- unrealised	-	(5,930)	(5,930)
Currency losses		-	(8)	(8)
Income	- franked	55	-	55
	- unfranked	597	-	597
Investment management fee		(140)	(420)	(560)
Other expenses		(132)	(4)	(136)
Net return on ordinary activities before finance costs and taxation		<u>380</u>	<u>(4,743)</u>	<u>(4,363)</u>
Interest payable and similar charges		(12)	(36)	(48)
Net return on ordinary activities before taxation		<u>368</u>	<u>(4,779)</u>	<u>(4,411)</u>
Taxation on ordinary activities		(105)	105	-
Net return on ordinary activities after taxation		<u>263</u>	<u>(4,674)</u>	<u>(4,411)</u>
Dividends in respect of equity shares (0.31p per A share, 0.13p per B share)		(259)	-	(259)
Transfer to/(from) reserves		<u>4</u>	<u>(4,674)</u>	<u>(4,670)</u>
Returns per A share		<u>0.32p</u>	<u>(3.78p)</u>	<u>(3.46p)</u>
Returns per B share		<u>0.13p</u>	<u>(5.45p)</u>	<u>(5.32p)</u>

* The revenue column of this statement is the profit and loss account of the company. All revenue and capital items in the above statement derive from continuing operations. No operations were acquired or discontinued in the period.

Accounts are prepared on the basis of management and finance costs being allocated 75% to capital and 25% to revenue.

The directors have declared an interim dividend on both the A and B shares of the company for the year ending 31 July 2003 of 0.31p per share for A shareholders and 0.13p per share for B shareholders to be paid on 23 May 2003 to shareholders on the register on 25 April 2003. The interim results will be circulated to shareholders in the form of an interim report, copies of which will be available at the company's registered office, Saltire Court, 20 Castle Terrace, Edinburgh, EH1 2ES.

MARTIN CURRIE CAPITAL RETURN TRUST plc

Statement of total return (incorporating the revenue account)*

for the six months to 31 January 2002

		(Unaudited)		
		Revenue £000	Capital £000	Total £000
Gains/(losses) on investments	- realised	-	6,792	6,792
	- unrealised	-	(15,947)	(15,947)
Currency gains		-	44	44
Income	- franked	37	-	37
	- unfranked	820	-	820
Investment management fee		(131)	(392)	(523)
Other expenses		(98)	(581)	(679)
Net return on ordinary activities before finance costs and taxation		628	(10,084)	(9,456)
Interest payable and similar charges		(84)	(253)	(337)
Net return on ordinary activities before taxation		544	(10,337)	(9,793)
Taxation on ordinary activities		(164)	164	-
Net return on ordinary activities after taxation		380	(10,173)	(9,793)
Dividends in respect of equity shares (0.30p per A and B share)		(319)	-	(319)
Transfer to/(from) reserves		61	(10,173)	(10,112)
Returns per A share		0.38p	(9.17p)	(8.79p)
Returns per B share		0.31p	(10.26p)	(9.95p)

* The revenue column of this statement is the profit and loss account of the company. All revenue and capital items in the above statement derive from continuing operations. No operations were acquired or discontinued in the period.

MARTIN CURRIE CAPITAL RETURN TRUST plc

Statement of total return (incorporating the revenue account)*

for the year to 31 July 2002

		(Audited)		
		Revenue £000	Capital £000	Total £000
Gains/(losses) on investments	- realised	-	16,671	16,671
	- unrealised	-	(33,670)	(33,670)
Currency gains		-	34	34
Income	- franked	118	-	118
	- unfranked	2,264	-	2,264
Investment management fee		(279)	(838)	(1,117)
Other expenses		(231)	(633)	(864)
Net return on ordinary activities before finance costs and taxation		1,872	(18,436)	(16,564)
Interest payable and similar charges		(135)	(404)	(539)
Net return on ordinary activities before taxation		1,737	(18,840)	(17,103)
Taxation on ordinary activities		(489)	372	(117)
Net return on ordinary activities after taxation		1,248	(18,468)	(17,220)
Dividends in respect of equity shares		(1,242)	(12,746)	(13,988)
Transfer to/(from) reserves		6	(31,214)	(31,208)
Returns per A share		1.26p	(15.61p)	(14.35p)
Returns per B share		1.03p	(20.41p)	(19.38p)

* The revenue column of this statement is the profit and loss account of the company.

The financial information for the period to 31 July 2002 has been extracted from the full accounts which have been filed with the Registrar of Companies and which contains an unqualified auditor's report.

MARTIN CURRIE CAPITAL RETURN TRUST plc

Balance Sheet

	Unaudited As at 31 January 2003 £000 £000		Unaudited As at 31 January 2002 £000 £000		Audited As at 31 July 2002 £000 £000	
Investments at market value		102,917		140,095		113,788
Current assets						
Debtors		275		122		95
Cash at bank and in hand		3,075		2,184		12,428
		<u>3,350</u>		<u>2,306</u>		<u>12,523</u>
Creditors						
Amounts falling due within one year		(2,406)		(1,574)		(17,780)
Net current assets/(liabilities)		<u>944</u>		<u>732</u>		<u>(5,257)</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>103,861</u>		<u>140,827</u>		<u>108,531</u>
Creditors						
Amounts falling due after one year		-		(11,200)		-
Total net assets		<u>103,861</u>		<u>129,627</u>		<u>108,531</u>
Capital reserves						
Called up share capital		1,063		1,063		1,063
Share premium		-		65,205		-
Special distributable capital reserve		40,000		40,000		40,000
Special distributable revenue reserve		52,459		-		52,459
Capital reserve		10,262		23,231		14,936
Revenue reserve		77		128		73
Total shareholders' funds		<u>103,861</u>		<u>129,627</u>		<u>108,531</u>
Net asset value per:						
A share		93.12p		122.41p		96.90p
B share		105.64p		121.25p		111.09p

MARTIN CURRIE CAPITAL RETURN TRUST plc

Statement of cash flow

	(Unaudited) Six months to 31 January 2003 £000 £000		(Unaudited) Six months to 31 January 2002 £000 £000		(Audited) Year to 31 July 2002 £000 £000	
Operating activities						
Net dividends and interest received from investments	386		999		2,414	
Interest received from deposits	81		22		82	
Cash paid to and on behalf of directors	(35)		(19)		(51)	
Bank charges	(3)		-		(1)	
Management fees	(556)		(512)		(1,121)	
Other cash payments	(175)		(698)		(716)	
Net cash inflow / (outflow) from operating activities		(302)		(208)		607
Servicing of finance						
Interest paid	(85)		(284)		(558)	
Net cash outflow from servicing of finance		(85)		(284)		(558)
Taxation						
Corporation taxation paid	-		-		(11)	
Net cash outflow from taxation		-		-		(11)
Capital expenditure and financial investments						
Payments to acquire investments	(4,246)		(2,480)		(10,344)	
Receipts from disposal of investments	10,729		11,714		37,311	
Net cash inflow from capital expenditure and financial investment		6,483		9,234		26,967
Equity dividends paid		(13,669)		(956)		(1,275)
Net cash (outflow)/inflow before financing		(7,573)		7,786		25,730
Financing						
Movement in long-term borrowings	-		(3,800)		(15,000)	
Movement in short-term borrowings	(1,780)		-		3,500	
Net cash outflow from financing		(1,780)		(3,800)		(11,500)
(Decrease) / Increase in cash for period		(9,353)		3,986		14,230