

EXHIBIT B-1
**JUNE 2004 WW PLACEHOLDER PROOF OF
CLAIM**

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✉ Wüstenrot & Württembergische AG, D-70163 Stuttgart
The Home Insurance Company in Liquidation
P.O. Box 1720
Manchester
New Hampshire 03105-1720

USA

By registered mail and fax (001-603 634 0425)

Stuttgart, 04.06.2004

The Home Insurance Company in Liquidation Wüstenrot & Württembergische AG – Proof of Claim

Dear Sirs,

We refer to the Proof of Claim Form we have attached and would like to explain some details in relation to our Claim.

The M.E. Ruty Pool and Württembergische's participation

The M.E. Ruty Pool was in existence from 1962 to 1967. In these years the M.E. Ruty Underwriting Agency Limited ("Ruty") underwrote risks on behalf of the Pool. The risk written comprised direct business, reinsurance of US cedants and London Market reinsurance. Each Pool Member entered into an agency agreement with Ruty and agreed to take a certain percentage of the risk so written. These Pool Shares changed from time to time. Often all of the Pool Members in the relevant underwriting year did not directly write their relevant proportions of the risk underwritten by Ruty. Instead of that, one or more of the Pool Members were "fronting" the risk, in the sense that those fronting companies were directly writing the risk, as between themselves and the insured or reinsured.

Württembergische Feuerversicherung AG of Stuttgart/Germany was a member of the M.E. Ruty Pool from 1964 to 1967. Württembergische's original pool shares were 15% from 1964 to 1966 and 18.75% in 1967. Wüstenrot & Württembergische AG ("Württembergische") is the successor of Württembergische Feuerversicherung AG.

The question of insolvency of a Pool Member was addressed in a separate agreement between the pool members under which, in the event of an insolvency, the remaining solvent participating Pool Members would be liable for their proportionate share of the unpaid loss. So far three Pool Members are insolvent. In March 1997 Provisional Liquidators were appointed for North Atlantic Insurance Company Limited (formerly British National Life Insurance Society Limited). In the meantime there is a Scheme of Arrangement implemented. FAI Insurances Limited (formerly Australian & International) is in liquidation since 2001. Finally, in August 2002 administrators were appointed for AFG Insurances Limited (formerly The Automobile Fire & General Insurance Company of Australia Limited).

Reinsurance Contract R

In 1977 the Home Insurance Company of New York ("the Home") agreed to reinsure Württembergische Feuerversicherung AG as underwritten for by M.E. Ruty Underwriting Agency Limited ("Reinsurance Contract R"). The Home acted as a fronting company for the American Foreign Insurance Association (AFIA). Reinsurance Contract R covered all losses presented for payment on or after 1st January 1977 arising out of the Reinsured's 1964, 1965, 1966 and 1967 underwriting accounts. We have attached a copy of the wording and a copy of the slip of Reinsurance Contract R.

There have been various disputes in the past between Württembergische and the Home about the construction of Reinsurance Contract R. While the legal relationship between the two parties in respect of Reinsurance Contract R is not established completely, we would like to refer to some English judgments that were rendered in the past in this context.

The Judgements of Evans J (November 1992) and the Court of Appeal (June 1994) in essence rule that on a true construction of Contract R Home was substituted for Württembergische as a member of the M.E. Ruty Pool and Württembergische were to have no further part in the business of the run-off of the Pool.

Waller J (June 1996) held that according to Reinsurance Contract R the Home was to relieve Württembergische from any further part in the run-off and consequently Württembergische should not have to incur any further expenditure either in respect of claims and expenses or costs as from 1st January 1977. Furthermore, the Home was not permitted to argue that they had no obligation to continue with the run-off.

Judge Kershaw QC (November 1997) and the Court of Appeal (March 1999) ruled on the issue, whether Home was obliged to indemnify Württembergische for any increase in its liability pursuant to the reallocation of the share of an insolvent pool member amongst other pool members as required by the pool agreements. They held that this increase would not be covered by Reinsurance Contract R, since it would arise as a consequence of the insolvency of another Pool Member and not as a consequence of the placement by Ruty.

On the basis of these judgments Reinsurance Contract R does not only cover losses, but also expenses and costs that are associated with the administration of the run-off and which will crystallize in the course of the run-off.

Administration of the M.E. Ruty Pool

ACE INA Services U.K. Limited (AISUK) (formerly CIGNA Services UK Limited (CSUK)) has administered the M.E. Ruty Pool for the Home in recent years.

There have been continuously difficulties with respect to the administration and in 2003 AISUK stopped the administration due to the Home's liquidation.

Württembergische does not know to what extent AISUK or the Home have paid for claims, expenses and costs that have arisen in connection with Württembergische's involvement in the M.E. Ruty Pool. It might be that claims have not been paid for which the Home is liable under Reinsurance Contract R. It might also be that claims have been paid for which the Home is not liable.

However, since AISUK stopped the administration of the Pool, Württembergische increasingly has been approached by cedants of the M.E. Ruty Pool which asked for the payment of claims.

As a result of the lack of information and transparency with respect to the administration Württembergische now experiences difficulties in submitting claims in the Home Liquidation.

Amount of Württembergische's claims

Due to the uncertainties described above Württembergische is currently not in a position to specify the amount of its claim.

Württembergische's claim consists of Paid Losses, Outstanding Losses and IBNR.

We have attached a summary statement of Paid Losses for the period of 4th Quarter 1996 to 4th Quarter 2003 received from AISUK. Furthermore, please find attached a summary statement of Outstanding Losses as at 4th Quarter 2003 provided by AISUK.

As to IBNR, KPMG estimated in an analysis in 2000 an IBNR loading of 268% of the notified outstanding losses. We consider this loading to be minimal in the light of the recent developments on asbestos and pollution.

For the sake of completeness we would like to point out that we have entered into an agreement with the Liquidator of the Home in March and May 2004 in which the Liquidator agreed not to oppose a withdrawal of our proof of claim filings should the intended Scheme of Arrangement between the Home and the AFIA Cedants not be implemented or terminated by the Liquidator.

Please note that I will be out of office from Thursday 10th June 2004 to Friday 18th June 2004. In urgent cases please contact:

Mr. Michael Gollhofer

Tel.: 0049-711 662 1347

Fax: 0049-711 662 2030

Email: michael.gollhofer@ww-ag.com

Please confirm safe receipt of this letter.

Should you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact us.

Kind regards,

Württembergische Versicherung AG

im Auftrag der

Wüstenrot & Württembergische AG

McC. F. A. A. Dany

PROOF OF CLAIM

The Home Insurance Company,

Merrimack County Superior Court, State of New Hampshire 03-E-0106

Read Carefully Before Completing This Form

Please print or type

FOR LIQUIDATOR'S USE ONLY

DATE PROOF OF CLAIM RECEIVED

The Deadline for Filing this Form is June 13, 2004.

You should file this Proof of Claim form if you have an actual or potential claim against The Home Insurance Company of any of its former subsidiaries* ("The Home") even if the amount of the claim is presently uncertain. To have your claim considered by the Liquidator, this Proof of Claim must be postmarked no later than June 13, 2004. Failure to timely return this completed form will likely result in the DENIAL OF YOUR CLAIM. You are advised to retain a copy of this completed form for your records.

- 1. Claimant's Name: Wuestenrot & Wuerttembergische AG
2. Claimant's Address: Gutenbergstrasse 30, 70176 Stuttgart, Germany
3. Claimant's Telephone Number: (0049) 711 662 1171
Fax Number: (0049) 711 662 2030
Email address: alexander.danyi@ww-ag.com
4. Claimant's Social Security Number, Tax ID Number or Employer ID Number:

If your name, address, e-mail address, or telephone number set forth above are incorrect, or if they change, you must notify the Liquidator so she can advise you of new information.

- 5. Claim is submitted by (check one):
a) ___ Policyholder or former policyholder
b) ___ Third Party Claimant making a claim against a person insured by The Home
c) ___ Employee or former employee
d) ___ Broker or Agent
e) [X] General Creditor, Reinsurer, or Reinsured
f) ___ State or Local Government Entity
g) ___ Other; describe:

Describe in detail the nature of your claim. You may attach a separate page if desired. Attach relevant documentation in support of your claim, such as copies of outstanding invoices, contracts, or other supporting documentation.

please see accompanying letter

6. Indicate the total dollar amount of your claim. If the amount of your claim is unknown, write the word "unknown", BUT be sure to attach sufficient documentation to allow for determination of the claim amount.

s unknown (if amount is unknown, write the word "unknown").

7. If you have any security backing up your claim, describe the nature and amount of such security. Attach relevant documentation.

8. If The Home has made any payments towards the amount of the claim, describe the amount of such payments and the dates paid:

9. Is there any setoff, counterclaim, or other defense which should be deducted by The Home from your claim?

10. Do you claim a priority for your claim? If so, why:

11. Print the name, address and telephone number of the person who has completed this form.

Name: Alexander Danyi
Address: Gutenbergstrasse 30, 70176 Stuttgart, Germany
Phone Number: (0049) 711 662 1171
Email address: alexander.danyi@ww-ag.com

* The Home Indemnity Company, The Home Insurance Company of Indiana, City Insurance Company, Home Lloyds Insurance Company of Texas, The Home Insurance Company of Illinois, and The Home Insurance Company of Wisconsin.

12. If represented by legal counsel, please supply the following information:
- a. Name of attorney: _____
 - b. Name of law firm: _____
 - c. Address of law firm: _____
 - d. Attorney's telephone: _____
 - e. Attorney's fax number: _____
 - f. Attorney's email address: _____
13. If using a judgment against The Home as the basis for this claim:
- a. Amount of judgment _____
 - b. Date of judgment _____
 - c. Name of case _____
 - d. Name and location of court _____
 - e. Court docket or index number (if any) _____

14. If you are completing this Proof of Claim as a Third Party Claimant against an insured of The Home, you must conditionally release your claim against the insured by signing the following, as required by N.H. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 402-C:40 I:

I, _____ (insert claimant's name), in consideration of the right to bring a claim against The Home, on behalf of myself, my officers, directors, employees, successors, heirs, assigns, administrators, executors, and personal representatives hereby release and discharge _____ (insert name of defendant(s) insured by The Home), and his/her/its officers, directors, employees, successors, heirs, assigns, administrators, executors, and personal representatives, from liability on the cause(es) of action that forms the basis for my claim against The Home in the amount of the limit of the applicable policy provided by The Home; provided, however, that this release shall be void if the insurance coverage provided by The Home is avoided by the Liquidator.

Claimant's signature

Date

15. All claimants must complete the following:

I, Michael Gollhofer (insert individual claimant's name or name of person completing this form for a legal entity) subscribe and affirm as true, under the penalty of perjury as follows: that I have read the foregoing proof of claim and know the contents thereof, that this claim in the amount of unknown dollars (\$ _____) against The Home is justly owed, except as stated in item 9 above, and that the matters set forth in this Proof of Claim are true to the best of my knowledge and belief. I also certify that no part of this claim has been sold or assigned to a third party.

Any person who knowingly files a statement of claim containing any false or misleading information is subject to criminal and civil penalties.

ppc. [Signature]
Claimant's signature

i. A. D. Dany

Stuttgart, 04. Juni 2004

Württembergische Versicherung AG
in Auftrag der
Wüstenrot & Württembergische AG

16. Send this completed Proof of Claim Form, postmarked by June 13, 2004, to:

The Home Insurance Company in Liquidation
P.O. Box 1720
Manchester, New Hampshire 03105-1720

You should complete and send this form if you believe you have an actual or potential claim against The Home even if the amount of the claim is presently uncertain.