

December 23, 2003

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

New York, December 23, 2003. ASA Limited (NYSE: ASA), a closed end investment company, announced today that on December 17, 2003 the South African Income Tax Act of 1962 was, as anticipated, amended to repeal ASA's exemption from certain South African taxes. However, the repeal of the exemption will not become effective for ASA until December 1, 2004.

ASA announced earlier this year that, in view of its tax situation, it had filed an application for an exemptive order with the Securities and Exchange Commission to permit ASA to move from the Republic of South Africa to the Commonwealth of Bermuda by reorganizing itself into a newly formed company incorporated in Bermuda. The move would not involve any material change in ASA's investment policies. The relocation to Bermuda is subject to a number of conditions, including (1) receiving the requested relief from the Securities and Exchange Commission; (2) receiving approval to list the shares of the new Bermuda company on the New York Stock Exchange; and (3) satisfying shareholder approval requirements. No assurance can be given that these conditions will be satisfied.

FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This press release contains "forward-looking statements" within the meaning of the Securities Act of 1933 and the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. By their nature, all forward-looking statements involve risks and uncertainties, and actual results could differ from those contemplated by the forward-looking statements.