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SUPPL



Dear Sirs

File 82-33

In accordance with the provisions of Rule 12g 3-2(b) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("the Act") I enclose an announcement that was filed with the London Stock Exchange yesterday.

The enclosed material shall not be deemed "filed" with the Commission or otherwise subject to the liabilities of Section 18 of the Act.

Kindly acknowledge receipt by signing and returning the attached copy of this letter.

Yours faithfully

G.C.W. Cunnington
Assistant Secretary

PROCESSED
JAN 13 2004
THOMSON
FINANCIAL

Attached: Italian competition authority gives British American Tobacco clearance to acquire ETI S.p.A.



BRITISH AMERICAN
TOBACCO

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news release



For immediate release: Thursday 18 December 2003

The Italian competition authority gives British American Tobacco clearance to acquire ETI S.p.A

British American Tobacco was today given regulatory approval by the Italian Competition Authority, subject to one condition, to acquire ETI SpA. The deal is expected to complete before the end of the year.

On 16 July 2003 British American Tobacco won the auction to acquire Ente Tabacchi Italiani S.p.A. (ETI), the State tobacco company, for €2.32 billion (£1.6 billion)

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