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PUTNAM PREMIER INCOME TRUST

Form NSAR-A

March 31, 2004

PAGE 1
000 A000000 01/31/2004
000 C000000 0000827773
000 D000000 N
000 E000000 NF
000 F000000 Y
000 G000000 N
000 H000000 N
000 I000000 6.1
000 J000000 A
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001 C000000 6172921000
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002 C000000 MA
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003 000000 N
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005 000000 N
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007 C013500 35

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008 D020001 MA
008 D030001 02109
011 A000001 DELETE
012 A000001 PUTNAM INVESTOR SERVICES
012 B000001 84-401299
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013 A000001 KPMG LLP
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015 A000002 DEUTSCHE BANK TRUST COMPANY AMERICAS
015 B000002 S
015 C010002 JERSEY CITY
015 C020002 NJ
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015 A000003 BOSTON SAFE DEPOSIT AND TRUST COMPANY
015 B000003 S
PAGE 3
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015 A000005 JP MORGAN CHASE BANK
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015 C010005 NEW YORK
015 C020005 NY
015 C030005 10017
015 E010005 X

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015 A000006 CITIGROUP N.A.
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015 C010006 TAMPA
015 C020006 FL
015 C030006 33610
015 E010006 X
015 A000007 UMB BANK N.A.
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015 C010007 KANSAS CITY
015 C020007 MO
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020 A000002 MERRILL LYNCH & CO., INC.
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022 A000003 LEHMAN BROTHERS
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022 A000006 DEUTSCHE BANK SECURITIES, INC.
022 B000006 13-2730828
022 C000006 129882
022 D000006 65640
022 A000007 MERRILL LYNCH & CO., INC.

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022 B000007 13-5674085
022 C000007 67589
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022 A000008 CITIGROUP GLOBAL MARKETS HOLDINGS, INC.
022 B000008 11-2418191
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022 A000009 JP MORGAN CHASE & CO.
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054 C000000 Y
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054 F000000 N
054 G000000 N
PAGE 7
054 H000000 N
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070 C020000 N
PAGE 8
070 D010000 Y
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| 088 | B000000 | N |
| 088 | C000000 | N |
| 088 | D000000 | N |
| SIGNATURE | MICHAEL T. HEALY | |
| TITLE | PRINC. ACCT. OFFICER | |