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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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002 C000000 MA
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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 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
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015 C030006 33610
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015 A000007 UMB BANK N.A.
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020 A000002 MERRILL LYNCH & CO., INC.
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022 A000006 DEUTSCHE BANK SECURITIES, INC.
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022 A000007 MERRILL LYNCH & CO., INC.

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022 B000007 13-5674085
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054 C000000 Y
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 054 F000000 N
 054 G000000 N
 PAGE 7
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| 088 | D000000 | N |
| SIGNATURE | MICHAEL T. HEALY | |
| TITLE | PRINC. ACCT. OFFICER | |