Edgar Filing: LAZARD GLOBAL TOTAL RETURN & INCOME FUND INC - Form N-30B-2

LAZARD GLOBAL TOTAL RETURN & INCOME FUND INC Form N-30B-2 December 02, 2005

Lazard Global Total Return & Income Fund, Inc. Investment Overview

#### Dear Shareholders,

We are pleased to present this third quarter report for Lazard Global Total Return & Income Fund, Inc. ([LGI] or the [Fund]), for the period ended September 30, 2005. LGI is a diversified, closed-end management investment company that began trading on the New York Stock Exchange ([NYSE]) on April 28, 2004. Its ticker symbol is [LGI.]

With close to a year and a half of performance, we are pleased with the returns that have been generated by LGI on its investments since inception, and believe that the Fund has provided investors with an attractive yield and diversification, backed by the extensive experience, commitment, and professional management of Lazard Asset Management LLC ([Lazard]]).

#### Portfolio Update (September 30, 2005)

For the third quarter of 2005, the Fund  $\exists$  s performance, as measured by the Net Asset Value per share ( $\exists$ NAV $\exists$ ), rose 4.7%, while the benchmark, the Morgan Stanley Capital International (MSCI<sup>®</sup>) World<sup>®</sup> Index gained 7.0%. Although the Fund underperformed the Index in this period, LGI s historical performance has been strong, such that the annualized since-inception NAV return of 12.9% still compares very favorably with the Index s return of 12.4%. Shares of LGI ended the third quarter with a closing market price of \$19.20, representing a 8.5% discount to the Fund  $\exists$ s NAV. The Fund  $\exists$ s net assets were \$201.6 million as of September 30, 2005, with total leveraged assets of \$291.8 million, representing 30.9% leverage.

We believe that LGI investment thesis remains sound, and we are encouraged by strong performance over the last year, and since-inception. However, NAV returns for the year-to-date have been weaker than hoped for, with the Fund is large capitalization, developed market equity stocks underperforming, and the short duration emerging market currency and debt portfolio adding only moderate value to overall returns so far in 2005.

As of September 30, 2005, approximately 69.1% of the Fund<sub>s</sub> total leveraged assets consisted of global equities and approximately 30.7% consisted of emerging market currency and debt instruments, while the remaining 0.2% consisted of cash and other assets.

#### **Declaration of Dividends**

Pursuant to LGI s level distribution policy, the Fund s Board of Directors has declared a monthly dividend distribution of \$0.1042 per share on the company s outstanding stock for each month since the Fund s initial distribution on July 23, 2004. This distribution level represents an annualized market yield of 6.5%, based on the share price of \$19.20 at the close of the NYSE trading on September 30, 2005. To date, LGI has met all of its dividend obligations without returning any of the Fund s capital.

#### **Additional Information**

Please note that frequent updates on the Fund s performance, press releases, and a monthly fact sheet that provides information about the Fund s major holdings, sector weightings, regional exposures, and other characteristics are available on www.LazardNet.com. You may also reach Lazard by phone at 1-800-828-5548.

On behalf of Lazard, we thank you for your investment in Lazard Global Total Return & Income Fund, Inc. and look forward to continuing to serve your investment needs in the future.

#### Message from the Portfolio Manager

## Global Equity Portfolio (69.1% of total leveraged assets)

The Fund<sup>[]</sup>s equity portfolio is invested primarily in 35 to 45 equity securities of large, well-known global companies with strong financial productivity and attractive val-

uations. Examples of equity investments as of September 30, 2005 included GlaxoSmithKline, a global, research-based pharmaceutical company based in the United Kingdom; Home Depot, a U.S.-based company that operates warehouse-style stores selling building materials, home improvement supplies, and lawn and garden products; Nokia Corp., the Finnish manufacturer of mobile telephones, enhanced communicators, entertainment and gaming devices, and media and imaging telephones; and Total SA, the French-based energy supplier that explores for, produces, refines, transports, and markets oil and natural gas.

These companies are all based in developed-market regions around the world. As of September 30, 40.3% of the global equity portfolio is stocks were based in North America, 30.8% were from continental Europe (not including the U.K.), 22.6% were from the U.K., and 6.3% were from Japan. The global equity portfolio is similarly well diversified across a number of industry sectors. The top two sectors, by weight, at the end of September were financials (27.7%), which includes banks, insurance companies, and financial services companies, and consumer staples (15.4%), a sector that encompasses those industries that manufacture and sell food/beverages, tobacco, and household products. Other sectors included consumer discretionary, energy, health care, industrials, information technology, and telecommunications services.

## **Global Equity Market Review**

After concerns regarding global growth emerged in the first quarter of 2005, stocks rebounded in the third quarter, as the outlook for global growth improved. The U.S. dollar weakened early in the quarter and, later, rallied to end roughly flat. Energy stocks outpaced the market during the quarter, as the price of oil briefly topped \$70 per barrel after hurricanes Katrina and Rita devastated the Gulf shores, crippling U.S. oil production and refining in the area. In September, consumer confidence fell, and the U.S. Federal Reserve raised the benchmark interest rate by 25 basis points, the second hike this quarter, and the eleventh consecutive increase since the Fund[]s April 2004 inception. Growth in the European economies appeared to be picking up. In Germany, business confidence rose to a new high in September, unemployment in Italy reached a new low, and consumer spending in France was strong. European economies have benefited from a weak euro this year, making their goods more attractive abroad. From a sector perspective, the rally was broad based, as all sectors had positive returns. In particular, energy and materials dramatically outperformed during the quarter. Energy stocks were up sharply, as the price of oil rose dramatically, and the materials sector performed well as commodity producers benefited from further commodity price increases. Regionally, the rally was broad based with most countries performing roughly in line with the market. However, Japanese markets rallied sharply during the quarter, as this country] s economy is showing signs of improvement. The U.S. markets lagged the rest of the world.

## What Helped and What Hurt LGI

During the quarter, the Fund[]s global equity portfolio[]s large position in energy stocks helped performance, as this sector dramatically outperformed the market due to a sharp increase in the price of oil. Despite the rise in stock prices, the global equity portfolio[]s holdings in integrated oil companies trade at attractive valuations that do not discount the current high level of oil prices. Stock selection in technology detracted from performance, as Oracle Corp. declined after reporting earnings. The company reaffirmed earnings for next year, but the outlook for revenues was less positive. However, we believe that Oracle[]s strategy of consolidating the enterprise software industry, through acquisitions, and reducing its costs should drive returns going forward. The company currently trades at an attractive valuation. An underweight position in the materials sector detracted from performance, as metals prices rebounded from weakness in the spring. Current valuations in this group discount an extreme period of strong prices.

# Emerging Market Currency and Debt Portfolio (30.7% of total leveraged assets)

The Fund also seeks enhanced income through investments in high-yielding, short duration<sup>1</sup> (typically, below one year) emerging market forward currency contracts and local currency debt instruments. As of September 30, this portfolio consisted of primarily forward currency contracts (85.5%) with a smaller allocation to sovereign debt obligations (14.5%). The average duration of the emerging market currency and debt portfolio was approximately 3.2 months as of the end of September 30, with an average credit rating<sup>2</sup> of A.

As of September 30, the Fund semerging market currency and debt holdings were highly diversified across 27 countries within Eastern Europe (18.2%), Asia (30.8%), Latin America (17.3%), the Middle East (7.4%), Africa (12.4%), and the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Baltic countries (18.2%).

#### Emerging Market Currency and Debt Market Review

In the third quarter, the emerging markets experienced an increase in volatility that was triggered by several macro and market events. Commodities continued to rise and emerging market external debt spreads tightened. On the macro front, the twin hurricanes Katrina and Rita raised concerns regarding potential damage to the U.S. economic growth. The end of the Chinese ren-minbi peg to the U.S. dollar as well as news of China's move to a floating exchange rate was announced on July 21, which resulted in a +2% revaluation versus the U.S. dollar. Malaysia also broke with its currency peg regime, moving to a floating rate system. The broad-based rally in Asian currencies (the Malaysian ringgit and renminbi forwards) proved short lived as the quarter revealed more details of the new Chinese currency regime, which essentially was termed inadequate. At the September 20 FOMC meeting, the Fed hike in interest rates signaled their view that post-hurricane production setbacks were only temporary. Growth- and interest-rate expectations in the United States rose again due to a rally in U.S. dollar, especially against the euro.

#### What Helped and What Hurt LGI

Brazil, once again, was the star performer during the third quarter of 2005. A combination of high carry and strong trade and current account numbers helped Brazil[s currency to appreciate 4.5%. Combined with high, implied interest rates (19%), the portfolio[s real position posted a strong return despite volatility intra-quarter. Turkey, which has been a multi-quarter top performer, contributed significantly. While its currency weakened modestly over the quarter, the high level of interest rates, over 15% in U.S.-dollar terms, led to a strong total return. The portfolio also benefited by reducing its exposure to Turkey as the tourist season ended along with the inflow of tourists[] dollars. Poland had a strong quarter, as the local bond market rallied on continued rate-cut expectations, and the currency strengthened on the back of continued strong balance-of-payment support from foreign direct investment and cross-border portfolio inflows.

All Asian exposures, except the Philippines, hurt the portfolio s performance in the third quarter. Rising oil prices (all Asian countries in the portfolio except Malaysia are oil importers) affected balance of payments. The small revaluation of the Chinese renminbi inspired regional central banks to aggressively intervene to prevent substantial currency strengthening in order to retain competitiveness with China. Central banks continue to choose economic growth at the risk of increased inflation, seeking to help their exporters by preventing FX appreciation.

Indonesia, although a member of OPEC, imports finished oil products (gasoline, heating oil, etc.) while exporting crude oil. With huge oil subsidies in place for the consumer, like many Asian economies, oil price increases were transformed into additional fiscal losses. Loose monetary policy and lack of immediate policy response led to a sharp fall in the value of the rupiah.

The government then announced its plans to phase out oil subsidies starting in early October, and the Central Bank hiked rates, successfully stemming the sell off of the rupiah.

The portfolio has had no exposure to the Chilean peso and thus did not participate in its strong performance this quarter. The currency is combination of extremely low yields, speculative capital, and a tendency to be viewed as a copper proxy on the upside and a Latin American proxy on the downside leads to high volatility. Thus the portfolio continues to avoid exposure to Chile.

All returns are for the period ended September 30, 2005 and reflect reinvestment of all dividends and distributions, if any. Past performance is not indicative, nor a guarantee, of future results.

The performance data of the index and other market data have been prepared from sources and data that Lazard Asset Management LLC (the [Investment Manager]) believes to be reliable, but no representation is made as to their accuracy. The index is unmanaged, has no fees or costs and is not available for investment.

The views of the Fund<sub>s</sub> management and the portfolio holdings described in this report are as of September 30, 2005; these views and portfolio holdings may have changed subsequent to this date. Nothing herein should be construed as a recommendation to buy, sell, or hold a particular investment. There is no assurance that the portfolio holdings discussed herein will remain in the Fund at the time you receive this report, or that portfolio holdings sold will have not been repurchased. The specific portfolio holdings may in aggregate represent only a small percentage of the Fund<sub>s</sub> holdings. It should not be assumed that investments in the securities identified and discussed were, or will be, profitable, or that the investment decisions we make in the future will be profitable, or equal the performance of the investments discussed herein.

The views and opinions expressed are provided for general information only, and do not constitute specific tax, legal, or investment advice to, or recommendations for, any person. There can be no guarantee as to the accuracy of the outlooks for markets, sectors and securities as discussed herein. You should read the Fund s prospectus for a more detailed discussion of the Fund s investment objective, strategies, risks and fees.

4

<sup>1</sup> A measure of the average cash weighted term-to-maturity of the investment holdings. Duration is a measure of the price sensitivity of a bond to interest rate movements. Duration for a forward currency contract is equal to its term-to-maturity.

<sup>2</sup> Source: S&P, Moody<sub>□</sub>s and Fitch. Ratings for the forward currency contracts represent the counterparty credit rating. Ratings for the bonds represent the bond issuer rating.

## Comparison of Changes in Value of \$10,000 Investment in LGI and MSCI World Index\* (unaudited)

## Total Return Information\* (unaudited) For the period ended September 30, 2005

	One Year	Since Inception**
Market Price	13.63%	3.07%
Net Asset Value	17.02	12.88
MSCI World Index	18.93	12.35

\* All returns reflect reinvestment of all dividends and distributions, if any. Past performance is not indicative, nor a guarantee, of future results; the investment return, market price and net asset value of the Fund will fluctuate, so that an investor[]s shares in the Fund, when sold, may be worth more or less than their original cost. The returns do not reflect the deduction of taxes that a stockholder would pay on the Fund[]s distributions or on the sale of Fund shares.

The performance data of the index has been prepared from sources and data that the Investment Manager believes to be reliable, but no representation is made as to its accuracy. The index is unmanaged, has no fees or costs and is not available for investment. The MSCI World Index represents market value-weighted average returns of selected securities listed on the stock exchanges of Europe, Australasia and Far East, New Zealand, Canada, and the United States.

\*\* The Fund is inception date was April 28, 2004.

## Ten Largest Equity Holdings September 30, 2005 (unaudited)

Security	Value	Percentage of Net Assets
GlaxoSmithKline PLC ADR	\$8,830,416	4.38%
Exxon Mobil Corp.	8,145,828	4.04
Total SA Sponsored ADR	7,891,142	3.92
Microsoft Corp.	7,219,838	3.58
Credit Suisse Group Sponsored ADR	6,680,896	3.31
Nokia Oyj Sponsored ADR	6,628,720	3.29
Johnson & Johnson	6,600,104	3.27
General Electric Co.	6,228,950	3.09
HSBC Holdings PLC Sponsored ADR	6,197,849	3.07
Oracle Corp.	5,910,030	2.93

6

Lazard Global Total Return & Income Fund, Inc. Portfolio of Investments September 30, 2005 (unaudited)

Description	Shares	Value
Common Stocks[]100.1%		
Finland[]3.3%		
Nokia Oyj Sponsored ADR (c), (d)	392,000	\$ 6,628,720
France[]7.1%		
Societe Generale Sponsored ADR	101,300	2,319,770
Total SA Sponsored ADR (c), (d)	58,100	7,891,142
Vivendi Universal SA Sponsored ADR	124,800	4,084,704
Total France		14,295,616
Germany□3.7%		
Schering AG ADR (d)	56,800	3,601,120
Siemens AG Sponsored ADR (d)	50,600	3,912,898
Total Germany		7,514,018
ltaly <b></b> ]2.6%		
Eni SpA Sponsored ADR (d)	35,700	5,287,170
Japan⊡6.3%		
Canon, Inc. Sponsored ADR (c), (d)	69,000	3,743,940
Kao Corp. Sponsored ADR (d)	15,400	3,799,334
Nomura Holdings, Inc. ADR (d)	332,600	5,168,604
Total Japan		12,711,878
Netherlands[]2.6%		
Heineken NV ADR (d)	163,750	5,274,388
Switzerland[]11.5%		
Credit Suisse Group		_
Sponsored ADR (d)	150,200	6,680,896
Nestle SA Sponsored ADR (d)	57,400	4,219,474
Novartis AG ADR (d)	82,800	4,222,800

Swiss Re Sponsored ADR (c), (d) UBS AG <b>Total Switzerland</b>	55,200 51,000	3,639,888 4,360,500 23,123,558
Total Switzerland	-	23,123,558
	-	
United Kingdom[]22.7%	-	
Barclays PLC Sponsored ADR (c), (d)	60,600	5,517,534
BP PLC Sponsored ADR (c), (d)	69,600	4,931,160
Cadbury Schweppes PLC		
Sponsored ADR (d)	112,700	4,590,271
Diageo PLC Sponsored ADR (d)	101,100	5,864,811
GlaxoSmithKline PLC ADR (c), (d)	172,200	8,830,416
HSBC Holdings PLC		
Sponsored ADR (d)	76,300	6,197,849
Unilever PLC Sponsored ADR (d)	95,500	4,032,010
Vodafone Group PLC		
Sponsored ADR (d)	219,100	5,690,027
Total United Kingdom		45,654,078
United States 40.3%		
Bank of America Corp. (c)	138,200	5,818,220
Cisco Systems, Inc. (a)	220,400	3,951,772
Citigroup, Inc. (c)	116,000	5,280,320
Exxon Mobil Corp. (c)	128,200	8,145,828
First Data Corp.	84,300	3,372,000
General Electric Co.	185,000	6,228,950
Golden West Financial Corp. (c), (d)	31,200	1,852,968
International Business	42,600	2 417 272
Machines Corp.	42,600	3,417,372
Johnson & Johnson JPMorgan Chase & Co. (c)	104,300 148,896	6,600,104 5,052,041
Microsoft Corp. (c)	280,600	7,219,838
Oracle Corp. (a), (c)	477,000	5,910,030
Pfizer, Inc.	103,500	2,584,395
The Coca-Cola Co. (c)	74,200	3,204,698
The Home Depot, Inc.	107,600	4,103,864
United Technologies Corp.	88,000	4,561,920
Wells Fargo & Co.	67,000	3,924,190
Total United States		81,228,510
Total Common Stocks		201 717 936

(Identified cos	st \$184,853,495)
-----------------	-------------------

201,717,936

See Notes to Portfolio of Investments.

## Lazard Global Total Return & Income Fund, Inc. **Portfolio of Investments (continued)** September 30, 2005 (unaudited)

Description	Principal Amount (000) (e)	Value
Foreign Government		
Obligations[]6.4%		
Egypt[]3.0%		
Egypt Treasury Bills (f):		
0.00%, 10/11/05	6,250	\$ 1,082,031
0.00%, 10/18/05	2,875	496,836
0.00%, 11/01/05	4,000	688,820
0.00%, 12/20/05	3,150	535,828
0.00%, 12/27/05	2,725	462,730
0.00%, 01/03/06	3,350	567,872
0.00%, 01/17/06	4,150	701,033
0.00%, 01/31/06	3,775	635,458
0.00%, 04/25/06	2,150	354,563
0.00%, 09/26/06	3,100	492,394
Total Egypt		6,017,565
Israel[]0.3%		
Israel Government Bond,		
7.00%, 02/27/09	2,750	635,276
Turkey[]3.1%		
Turkey Government Bonds (f):		
0.00%, 05/24/06	6,871	4,654,308
0.00%, 08/09/06	1,709	1,124,339
0.00%, 11/08/06	897	569,421
Total Turkey		6,348,068
Total Foreign Government		
Obligations		
(Identified cost \$12,900,237)		13,000,909
	Principal	
	Amount	
Description	(000)	Value

## **Repurchase Agreement** 0.1%

Net Assets[]100.0%		\$ 201,552,956
and Other Assets[(30.8)%		(62,094,444)
Liabilities in Excess of Cash		
(Identified cost \$246,682,287) (b)		\$ 263,647,400
Total Investments[]130.8%		
(Identified cost \$48,928,555)		48,928,555
Total Short-Term Investments		
3.79% (g), (h)	48,697	48,696,555
Lending Prime Portfolio,		
State Street Navigator Securities		
on Loan[]24.2%		
Collateral for Securities		
Proceeds of \$232,061 (c)	\$ 232	\$ 232,000
value of \$240,900)		
Note, 4.25%, 08/15/13, with a		
\$240,000 United States Treasury		
(Dated 09/30/05, collateralized by		
3.15%, 10/03/05		
State Street Bank and Trust Co.,		

See Notes to Portfolio of Investments.

8

## Lazard Global Total Return & Income Fund, Inc. **Portfolio of Investments (continued)** September 30, 2005 (unaudited)

Forward Currency Contracts open at September 30, 2005:

Forward Currency Purchase Contracts	Expiration Date	Foreign Currency	U.S. \$ Cost on Origination Date	U.S. \$ n Current Value	Unrealized Appreciation	Unrealized Depreciation
ARS	10/25/05	2,844,945	\$ 993,00	0 \$ 976,016	\$	\$ 16,984
ARS	11/14/05	2,898,700	1,010,00			16,188
ARS	11/29/05	2,746,106	939,00	0 940,890	1,890	
ARS	02/21/06	1,541,180	526,00	0 525,398		602
ARS	02/23/06	2,940,745	986,00	0 1,002,377	16,377	
BRL	10/05/05	288,355	101,00	0 129,520	28,520	
BRL	10/06/05	3,382,069	1,393,51	8 1,518,487	124,969	
BRL	10/11/05	8,204,538	3,415,00	0 3,675,966	260,966	
BRL	10/13/05	3,640,190	1,565,00	0 1,629,587	64,587	
BRL	11/03/05	2,015,904	736,00	0 894,784	158,784	
COP	11/18/05	1,222,519,000	529,00	0 533,804	4,804	
COP	11/30/05	697,318,000	302,00	0 304,346	2,346	
COP	12/01/05	1,163,232,000	504,00	0 507,671	3,671	
COP	12/07/05	3,898,132,500	1,693,00	0 1,700,763	7,763	
COP	12/12/05	1,418,340,000	616,00	0 618,672	2,672	
COP	03/02/06	1,038,288,000	446,00	0 450,808	4,808	
COP	05/12/06	1,119,552,000	476,00	0 484,032	8,032	
EGP	12/14/05	3,296,710	553,00	0 564,084	11,084	
EGP	02/28/06	5,443,460	908,00	0 917,719	9,719	
GHC	11/28/05	5,660,000,000	615,88	7 614,527		1,360
HRK	10/14/05	3,122,028	520,00	0 506,454		13,546
HRK	10/17/05	4,893,000	809,25	5 793,714	Π	15,541
HRK	10/31/05	5,763,000	951,72	8 934,692		17,036
IDR	10/11/05	9,312,345,000	943,50	0 904,990		38,510
IDR	10/12/05	11,098,560,000	1,056,00	0 1,078,577	22,577	
IDR	10/12/05	2,451,160,000	233,00	0 238,208	5,208	
IDR	10/20/05	11,388,600,000	1,110,00	0 1,106,764		3,236
IDR	11/14/05	9,359,520,000	943,50	0 909,574		33,926
ILS	11/30/05	3,573,000	779,77	3 777,238		2,535
ILS	09/29/06	2,418,504	528,00	0 526,311		1,689
INR	10/06/05	87,752,320	1,984,00	0 1,995,607	11,607	
INR	10/06/05	83,783,100	1,902,00	0 1,905,342	3,342	
INR	10/11/05	9,026,150	205,00	0 205,237	237	
INR	02/02/06	11,528,880	264,00	0 261,511		2,489
ISK	10/04/05	29,524,970	458,00	0 484,058	26,058	
ISK	10/13/05	16,424,185	251,00	0 268,879	17,879	
ISK	10/20/05	34,452,000	545,28	2 563,370	18,088	
ISK	10/31/05	16,544,000	262,23	1 270,051	7,820	

## Edgar Filing: LAZARD GLOBAL TOTAL RETURN & INCOME FUND INC - Form N-30B-2

ISK	11/08/05	29,617,000	475,088	482,802	7,714	
KRW	10/11/05	1,659,021,000	1,652,000	1,593,051		58,949
KRW	11/08/05	484,771,950	479,000	465,591		13,409
KRW	12/21/05	2,591,200,000	2,528,000	2,489,187		38,813
KRW	12/30/05	992,556,200	971,000	953,507		17,493
KRW	02/08/06	484,053,450	479,000	465,137		13,863
KZT	10/14/05	17,195,800	127,000	128,787	1,787	
KZT	10/19/05	30,649,540	227,000	229,652	2,652	
KZT	12/21/05	60,433,000	450,791	455,135	4,344	
MYR	11/14/05	2,771,400	745,000	736,662		8,338
MYR	02/13/06	2,752,775	745,000	734,503		10,497
PEN	10/31/05	1,594,296	488,000	476,300		