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EXHIBIT A

No.

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MID-CAROLINA TELEPHONE COMPANY  
16.75% FIRST MORTGAGE BOND, SERIES 1981-C  
DUE OCTOBER 15, 1993

MID-CAROLINA TELEPHONE COMPANY, a corporation duly organized and existing under the laws of the State of North Carolina (herein referred to as the "Company"), for value received, hereby promises to pay to

or registered assigns, on October 15, 1993, the principal sum of and to pay interest on said principal sum from and after the date hereof at the rate of 16.75% per annum, semi-annually on October 15 and April 15 of each year, until the principal sum hereof shall have become due and payable and to pay interest on any overdue principal and on any overdue installment of interest at the rate of 17.75% per annum, so far as the same may be legally enforceable, from the due date thereof until fully paid.

Both principal of and interest on this Bond will be paid in lawful money of the United States of America at the corporate trust office of the Trustee, hereinafter designated, in the City of Columbus, Ohio.

This Bond is one of a duly authorized issue of Bonds of the Company (herein referred to as the "Bonds") of a series designated as its 16.75% First Mortgage Bonds, Series 1981-C, due October 15, 1993, limited to the aggregate principal amount of Five Million Dollars (\$5,000,000), all issued or to be issued under and pursuant to an indenture dated as of May 31, 1974 (herein referred to as the "Indenture"), duly executed and delivered by the Company to The Ohio National Bank of Columbus (now BancOhio National Bank), Trustee (herein referred to as the "Trustee"), under which Indenture P. Joseph Sesler has been appointed Co-Trustee (the Trustee and Co-Trustee being herein referred to as the "Trustees"), to which Indenture and all indentures supplemental thereto reference is hereby made for a description of the property mortgaged and pledged as security for the Bonds and the rights, limitation of rights, obligations, duties and immunities thereunder of the Trustees, the Company may execute an indenture or indentures supplemental to the Indenture authorizing the issuance thereunder of additional Bonds if the tests set forth in the Indenture for the issuance of additional Bonds are met. Any additional Bonds to be issued shall be entitled to be secured equally and ratably with the outstanding Bonds but may vary from the Bonds as to date, maturity, rate of interest, sinking fund provisions, redemption

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