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**UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**
Washington, D.C. 20549

SCHEDULE 13G

Under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

(Amendment No. 8)*

MICROSOFT CORPORATION

(Name of Issuer)

Common Stock, \$0.0000125 par value per share

(Title of Class of Securities)

594918104

(CUSIP Number)

December 31, 2000

(Date of Event Which Requires Filing of this Statement)

Check the appropriate box to designate the rule pursuant to which this schedule is filed:

// Rule 13d-1(b)

// Rule 13d-1(c)

/x/ Rule 13d-1(d)

*The remainder of this cover page shall be filled out for a reporting person's initial filing on this form with respect to the subject class of securities, and for any subsequent amendment containing information which would alter disclosures provided in a prior cover page.

The information required on the remainder of this cover page shall not be deemed to be "filed" for the purpose of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act") or otherwise subject to the liabilities of that section of the Act but shall be subject to all other provisions of the Act (however, see the Notes).

CUSIP No.: 594918104

1 NAME OF REPORTING PERSON

William H. Gates III

S.S. OR I.R.S. IDENTIFICATION NO. OF ABOVE PERSON

2 CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A
MEMBER OF A GROUP

(a) //

(b) //

3 SEC USE ONLY

4 CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION

United States of America

NUMBER OF SHARES BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY
EACH REPORTING PERSON WITH:

5 SOLE VOTING POWER

721,749,668

6 SHARED VOTING POWER

- -0-

7 SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER

721,749,668

8 SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER

- -0-

9 AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON

721,749,668

10 CHECK BOX IF THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW (9) EXCLUDES CERTAIN SHARES //

11 PERCENT OF CLASS REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW (9)

13.5%

12 TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON

IN

2

Item 1.

- (a) *Name of Issuer:* Microsoft Corporation (the "Issuer")
- (b) *Address of principal executive offices of the Issuer:* One Microsoft Way, Redmond, Washington 98052

Item 2.

- (a) *Name of Persons Filing:* William H. Gates III
- (b) *Address of Principal Business Office:* One Microsoft Way, Redmond, Washington 98052
- (c) *Citizenship:* United States of America
- (d) *Title of Class of Securities:* Common Stock, \$0.0000125 par value per share
- (e) *CUSIP Number:* 594918104

Item 3. Not Applicable

Item 4. *Ownership.*

- (a) *Amount beneficially owned:* 721,749,668
- (b) *Percent of class:* 13.5%
- (c) *Number of shares as to which the person has:*
 - (i) Sole power to vote or to direct the vote 721,749,668
 - (ii) Shared power to vote or to direct the vote -0-
 - (iii) Sole power to dispose or to direct the disposition of 721,749,668
 - (iv) Shared power to dispose or to direct the disposition of -0-

Item 5. *Ownership of Five Percent or Less of a Class:* Not Applicable

- Item 6.** *Ownership of More than Five Percent on Behalf of Another Person:* Not Applicable
- Item 7.** *Identification and Classification of the Subsidiary Which Acquired the Security Being Reported on By the Parent Holding Company:* Not Applicable
- Item 8.** *Identification and Classification of Members of the Group:* Not Applicable
- Item 9.** *Notice of Dissolution of a Group:* Not Applicable
- Item 10.** *Certifications*
Not Applicable

SIGNATURE

After reasonable inquiry and to the best of my knowledge and belief, I certify that the information set forth in this statement is true, complete and correct.

February 13, 2001

Date

WILLIAM H. GATES III

/s/ William H. Gates III, by Michael Larson as attorney in
fact

William H. Gates III, by Michael Larson as
attorney in fact*

* Duly authorized under power of attorney dated March 20, 2000, by and on behalf of William H. Gates III, filed with Cascade's Schedule 13G with respect to Wisconsin Central Transportation Corporation on April 28, 2000, SEC File Number 005-41648, and incorporated by reference herein.

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