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MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 11, 1997
TO: John Hoel
FROM: Marco Giamberardino
RE: USDA Smoking Ban

In response to your recent request, I have researched the specifics of the smoking ban adopted by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). The Property Management Division of USDA issued a departmental regulation prohibiting smoking inside all USDA facilities and motor vehicles. The policy dictates that any outside smoking areas must be at least 15 feet away from "common points of ingress and egress of facilities."

The new policy affects all buildings, facilities and motor vehicles owned, leased or occupied by USDA nationwide. In addition, this regulation covers any person who enters any of these facilities as well.

This is the first comprehensive smoking policy adopted by USDA. Previously, there was no consistent smoking policy for the various agencies that comprise the department. In 1987, the General Services Administration (GSA) issued a rule reducing smoking in all GSA-controlled facilities "to an absolute minimum in areas where there are non-smokers." That rule applied to approximately 10% of all federal domestic facilities. However, those facilities and the other remaining facilities may exceed the rule by banning all smoking activities completely. USDA has decided to follow that path.

I have enclosed some materials for your review. First, you will find the copy of the departmental regulation itself. Since this rule is an internal matter, it is not required to be published in the Federal Register. In addition, please be advised that the original GSA regulation does not require any departments or agencies to report their activities back to GSA. Attached is a copy of the GSA rule as well. Finally, I have included some articles for your review.

Please do not hesitate to call me if you require any additional information.

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The following agencies ban smoking outright. All smoking must take place outdoors:

Department of Agriculture	Department of State
Department of Commerce	Department of Transportation
Department of Defense	Department of Treasury
Department of Education	Department of Veterans Affairs
Department of Health and Human Services	Environmental Protection Agency
Department of Interior	Federal Trade Commission
Department of Justice	Internal Revenue Service
Department of Labor	General Services Administration
	Peace Corps

The following agencies allow smoking in designated areas, such as a cafeteria or snack bar:

Department of Energy
Department of Housing

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