Indian Affairs - Office of Public Affairs

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(WASHINGTON, D.C.) - Interior Assistant Secretary - Indian Affairs Neal A. McCaleb and Deputy Assistant Secretary Wayne Smith will meet with tribal leaders on Thursday, December 20, 2001, in Minneapolis, Minn., at a second consultation meeting on the Department's plan to improve the management of Indian trust assets. The meeting will be held at the Doubletree Hotel (7901 24th Avenue South) starting at 9:00 a.m. (CST).

On November 15, 2001, the Department announced plans to transfer and consolidate Indian trust asset management functions currently administered by the Bureau of Indian Affairs and other Interior agencies within a new Bureau of Indian Trust Assets Management. The Department also announced the establishment of an Assistant Secretary for Indian Trust Assets Management to oversee BIT AM and a new Office of Indian Trust Transition to implement the transfer and consolidation plans.

The Department has scheduled a series of consultation meetings with tribal leaders and other affected and interested parties. Additional meetings will be held on January 3, 2002, in Oklahoma City, Okla.; January 10 in Rapid City, S.D.; January 17 in San Diego, Calif.; January 23 in Anchorage, Alaska; and February 1 in Washington, D.C. (Arlington, Va.). A notice on the meetings with dates and locations was published in the December 11 Federal Register.

WHO:	Interior Assistant Secretary - Indian Affairs Neal A. McCaleb and Deputy Assistant Secretary - Indian Affairs Wayne Smith.
WHEN:	9:00 a.m. (CST), Thursday, December 20, 2001.
WHAT:	Interior Department tribal consultation meeting on improving the management of Indian trust assets.
WHERE:	Doubletree Hotel, 7901 24th Avenue South, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

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