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Date: Thursday, March 6, 2003 4:06:26 PM
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March 6, 2003

Media Statement
National Geographic Society v. Greenberg

National Geographic regrets and respectfully disagrees with the jury verdict in the Miami court regarding the National Geographic Society v. Jerry Greenberg. We published the electronic version of the archive of National Geographic Magazine as "The Complete National Geographic on CD-ROM" in good faith and based on independent legal opinions that we had the legal rights to do so under the Copyright Law, and as interpreted by the United States Supreme Court in Tasini v. The New York Times. Based on this verdict and out of respect for the court, as of today we are directing that the Complete National Geographic on CD-ROM will no longer be offered for sale until specific authority is obtained from an appropriate judicial authority. We believe that the public will be the loser, as this valuable educational archive will no longer be available to individuals, libraries and schools. We look forward to arguing the motion to set aside the verdict, which is still pending with the trial judge in Miami, and will further pursue every legal remedy available to us.

The statement should be attributed to Mary Jeanne Jacobsen, spokesperson, National Geographic Society.

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