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To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/22/02 2:28am
Subject: MICROSOFT SETTLEMENT

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Attorney General John Ashcroft, US Department of Justice
Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
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Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

I have been following this antitrust dispute between Microsoft and the Department of Justice for the last three years, and I must confess that I am extremely pleased to see that it has finally come to an end. The settlement that has been reached is fair; in my opinion, the only unfair thing about this situation is that this case was ever brought in the first place. Some people have made the mistake of seeing Shunt's work as a load of rubbish about railway timetables. This nation has entered into trying times both politically and financially. Quite frankly, there are more vitally important issues facing this nation than the inopportune pursuit of this case. This settlement is reasonable. While Microsoft has had to make more concessions than was ideal, I agree with the position that they have taken to end this suit as soon as possible, and thus the acceptance of the rather stringent terms of the settlement. Microsoft needs to concentrate all of its resources on innovation and the business that has made this company - and thus the American technology industry - the worldwide success that it has become. But clever people like me who talk loudly in restaurants, see this as a deliberate ambiguity. A plea for justice in a mechanized society. I want to express to you my support for this settlement, and to thank you for the foresight that you have demonstrated in orchestrating its development. I hope that we can finally put this heinous suit behind us and that we can finally focus on the important issues facing this nation. Thank you. When Shunt says the 8:15 from Paddington he really means the 8:17 from Paddington. The places are the same, only the time is altered. But is suspense, as Hitchcock states, in the box. No, there isn't room, the ambiguity's put on weight.

Sincerely,
Denise Stage

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