



HFA-305

November 17, 2005 1977 5 NOV 22 P1:41

Dr. Jorge Roman
President
Asociacion Nacional de Cultivadores
De Palma Africana
Antonio Granda Centeno
Oe4-225 y Carondelet
Quito, Ecuador

Dear Dr. Roman:

This is in response to your letter addressed to Michael Leavitt, Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services, in which you expressed that the statements made by the Center for Science in the Public Interest on the use of palm oil are misleading accusations and unjustified. Your letter was referred to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for response.

Thank you for sharing your views on palm oil. A part of FDA's mission is to help the public receive accurate science-based information that affects their health. Americans face a wide range of food choices in grocery stores and at restaurants. FDA's responsibility is to empower consumers to make informed decisions about their food selections and to encourage them to make changes in their diets for better health. We appreciate receiving this information and will add your letter to the public docket for the *trans* fat advanced notice of proposed rulemaking (Docket 2003N-0076) for consideration on further rulemaking involving *trans* fat labeling.

Sincerely,

Andrew C. von Eschenbach, M.D.
Acting Commissioner of Food and Drugs

2003N-0076

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