

### IMPLICATIONS AND ACTIVITIES ARISING FROM CORRELATION

OF SMOKE PH WITH NICOTINE IMPACT, OTHER

SMOKE QUALITIES, AND CIGARETTE SALES

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### I. INTRODUCTION; OBJECTIVES:

This year the continuing, vigorous sales growth of various competitive cigarette brands, especially Marlboro and Kool, prompted an intensive study of the physical and chemical properties of those brands as compared with our brands. This was aimed at (1) identifying any significant property differences which might correlate with market performance, (2) measuring and monitoring such differences, and (3) learning how such differences are achieved, permitting us to achieve similar effects in our existing or new brands, if desired.

### II. HISTORICAL DATA, TRENDS AND BRAND COMPARISONS

In seeking out significant property differences, we gathered available historical and current data on our brands and competitive brands, and made comparisons. It soon became apparent that in recent years, corresponding to recent sales performance, the most significant difference between our brands and Philip Morris brands and Kool has been in the area of smoke pH.

It will be recalled that smoke pH is a means for expressing, on a 0-14 scale, the degree of acidity or alkalinity of the smoke system. As smoke pH increases the system becomes more alkaline, and as smoke pH decreases the system becomes more acidic. Chart I\* illustrates the pH concept, Chart II shows typical smoke pH curves from which average values are derived, and Chart III shows typical smoke pH data for various tobacco materials and products. Current data on smoke pH and related properties of our brands and competitive brands are given in Appendix I.

Our data show that smoke from our brands, and all other significant competitive brands, in recent years has been consistently and significantly lower in pH (less alkaline) than smoke from Marlboro and to a lesser degree Kool. Chart IV shows averaged smoke pH data for WINSTON vs. Marlboro over the years, Chart V shows a SALEM vs. Kool comparison, and Charts VI and VII show smoke pH data for some other major brands. All evidence indicates that the relatively high smoke pH (high alkalinity) shown by Marlboro (and other Philip Morris brands) and Kool is deliberate and controlled. This has raised questions as to: (1) the effect of higher smoke pH on nicotine impact and smoke quality, hence market performance, and (2) how the higher smoke pH might be accomplished.

<sup>\*</sup>Charts I - XIII appear on pages 6 - 18.

### III. SMOKE PH AND "FREE" NICOTINE

In essence, a cigarette is a system for delivery of nicotine to the smoker in attractive, useful form. At "normal" smoke pH, at or below about 6.0, essentially all of the smoke nicotine is chemically combined with acidic substances, hence is non-volatile and relatively slowly absorbed by the smoker. As the smoke pH increases above about 6.0, an increasing proportion of the total smoke nicotine occurs in "free" form, which is volatile, rapidly absorbed by the smoker, and believed to be instantly perceived as nicotine "kick". Chart VIII shows how proportion of "free" nicotine increases as pH goes higher.

Marlboro and Kool deliver about the same amounts of total smoke nicotine as do our comparable brands (Charts IX and X). However, Marlboro smoke is typically at pH 6.8-7.3, and Kool smoke is typically at 6.4-6.6, as compared with WINSTON smoke at pH 5.8-6.0 and SALEM smoke at pH 6.0-6.2. Thus, Marlboro and Kool smokes contain more "free" nicotine than our comparable brands, hence would be expected to show more instantaneous nicotine "kick" than our brands. Charts XI and XII show these relationships, along with some comparative sales data to be discussed later.

As a result of its higher smoke pH, the current Marlboro, despite a two-thirds reduction in smoke "tar" and nicotine over the years, calculates to have essentially the same amount of "free" nicotine in its smoke as did the early WINSTON. Over the same period, with some reduction in smoke pH and about two-thirds reductions in smoke "tar" and nicotine, the calculated amount of "free" nicotine in WINSTON smoke has decreased by about two-thirds. Thus, currently the calculated amount of "free" nicotine in Marlboro smoke is almost three times the amount in WINSTON smoke. In Kool vs. SALEM comparisons, much the same pattern emerges over time, although the differences are not as pronounced.

### IV. SMOKE PH AND OTHER SMOKE QUALITIES

In addition to enhancing nicotine "kick", increasing the pH (increasing alkalinity) of smoke above about 6.0 causes other changes, particularly when the increase in smoke pH is achieved by adding ammonia to the blend. As smoke pH increases, in general stemmy taste, mouth irritation, flue-cured flavor and Turkish flavor are diminished, and burley flavor and character are enhanced. It should be noted, however, that if the smoke pH goes much above 7 at normal total smoke nicotine levels (1.1-1.6  $\mu$ g/cigt.), the amount of "free" nicotine becomes high, and this may cause harshness to the throat. These changes in smoke qualities with changes in smoke pH are illustrated in Chart VIII.

### V. MARKETING CORRELATIONS AND IMPLICATIONS

Putting all of this together, we see that Marlboro (and other Philip Morris brands) as compared with WINSTON, our other brands and most other brands on the market shows: (1) higher smoke pH (higher alkalinity), hence increased amounts of "free" nicotine in smoke, and higher immediate nicotine "kick", (2) less mouth irritation, less stemmy taste and less Turkish and flue-cured flavor, and (4) increased burley flavor and character. Kool differs from SALEM in much the same way; however, the differences are not as great and the different levels of menthol and other factors tend to blur the picture.

These differences in nicotine impact and other smoke qualities arising from smoke pH increases would be expected to give rise to differences in consumer response, hence market performance. Our preliminary correlations strongly suggest that this is the case and that the vigorous, sustained growth in sales of Marlboro (and other Philip Morris brands) and Kool correlates closely with the increased smoke pH, hence increased "free" nicotine and nicotine impact of those brands. The accompanying reduction in mouth irritation and stemmy taste, and the increased burley character may also be factors.

Chart XI compares regular WINSTON to regular Marlboro in terms of smoke pH, calculated amount of "free" nicotine in smoke, and annual sales, for recent years. Chart XII compares regular SALEM to regular Kool in the same way. Chart XIII suggests that market performance of various brands correlates positively with total amount of "free" smoke nicotine, and that all brands surveyed having over about 35 micrograms of "free" nicotine/cigarette increased in market share in the period studied.

Subsequent detailed analysis by Marketing Research of our pH and "free" nicotine data along with sales data and other factors has confirmed the strongly positive correlation between "free" nicotine in smoke (determined by pH and total nicotine in smoke) and market share performance. Memoranda in Appendix II summarize the work of Marketing Research.

### VI. PRESENT RJR BRAND ACTIVITY

If our data, correlations and conclusions are valid, then what has emerged is a rather new type of cigarette, represented by Marlboro and Kool, with high nicotine "kick", burley flavor, mildness to the mouth, and increased sensation to the throat, all largely the result of higher smoke pH. There is evidence that other brands which are selling well also have some of these attributes, particularly increased "free" nicotine impact. Because brands of the new type continue to show vigorous growth in sales; because a high proportion of beginning smokers are learning to like Marlboro, the leading brand of the new type; and because we have no current brand in this newly identified, major segment of the market; it has become appropriate for us to consider moving our present brands in the direction of the new type of cigarette and/or creating new products to compete directly in that area of the market.

Currently, Research, Tobacco Development and Marketing are collaborating on a series of tests aimed at exploring the newly-identified area of the market. The three basic types of products being prepared for evaluation are: (1) direct matches of Marlboro (NFO 10/15) and Kool (NFO 12/3), (2) WINSTON KING (NFO 10/15) and CAMEL FILTER (NFO 10/15) maintaining basic integrity but with smoke pH same as Marlboro, and (3) SALEM KING (NFO 12/3) maintaining basic integrity and menthol level but matching Kool in smoke pH. Work is planned, but NFO target dates are not yet established, for evaluation of similar smoke pH changes in DORAL and VANTAGE.

Additionally, a series of WINSTON-type cigarettes with step-wise increases in smoke pH, with the top-step well above the smoke pH of Marlboro, will be made for evaluation in the first quarter of 1974. Panel testing of these cigarettes should provide information on: (1) the minimum smoke pH change detected by the consumer, (2) changes in satisfaction factors and other smoke qualities associated with small pH changes, (3) the preferred pH range for smoke of a given, normal nicotine content, and (4) the break-over point, beyond which increasing the smoke pH gives smoke which is undesirable and too harsh to inhale.

A memorandum describing these activities and schedules in more detail appears as Appendix III.

### VII. RESEARCH ACTIVITIES, CURRENT AND PLANNED

As its part in this collaborative effort, Research has: (1) collected, correlated, interpreted and described to Management data on smoke pH of various brands, (2) developed and put into routine use improved methods for measurement of smoke pH, (3) discovered and reproduced the additives and procedures necessary to prepare the G-7 type of material used to increase the smoke pH of Marlboro, and (4) monitored, on a continuous basis, smoke pH and related properties of Marlboro, other Philip Morris brands, Kool, our brands, and some other competitive brands. Additionally, Research has substantial work in progress on (1) determining how smoke pH elevation and control are achieved in Kool, (2) developing a method for measuring pH of pipe smoke, (3) studying how smoke composition and other things change as pH is changed, and (4) evaluating various methods whereby smoke pH may be increased, with emphasis on ammonia treatments of stem materials.

Methods which may be used to increase smoke pH and/or nicotine "kick" include: (1) increasing the amount of (strong) burley in the blend, (2) reduction of casing sugar used on the burley and/or blend, (3) use of alkaline additives, usually ammonia compounds, to the blend, (4) addition of nicotine to the blend, (5) removal of acids from the blend, (6) special filter systems to remove acids from or add alkaline materials to the smoke, and (7) use of high air dilution filter systems. Methods 1-3, in combination, represent the Philip Morris approach, and are under active investigation. The remaining methods appear less attractive or less practical, and are currently receiving less attention.

Thus in this continuing, collaborative effort, Research is providing measurements, data, interpretations, new information and discoveries, and technical consultation to TPD, Marketing, and others. We anticipate continued intensive effort in this potentially fruitful area throughout 1974.

Claude E. Teague, Jr.

:jhb

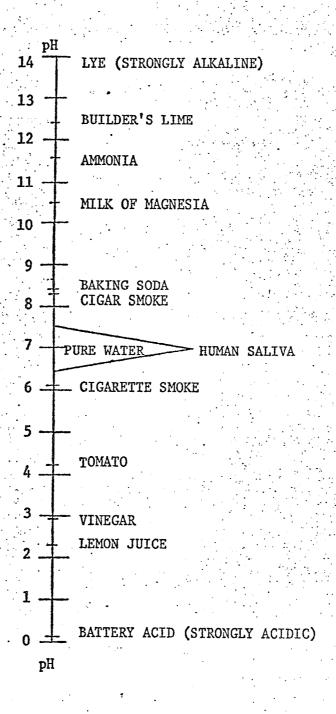
Xc: Dr. Murray Senkus

### CHART I

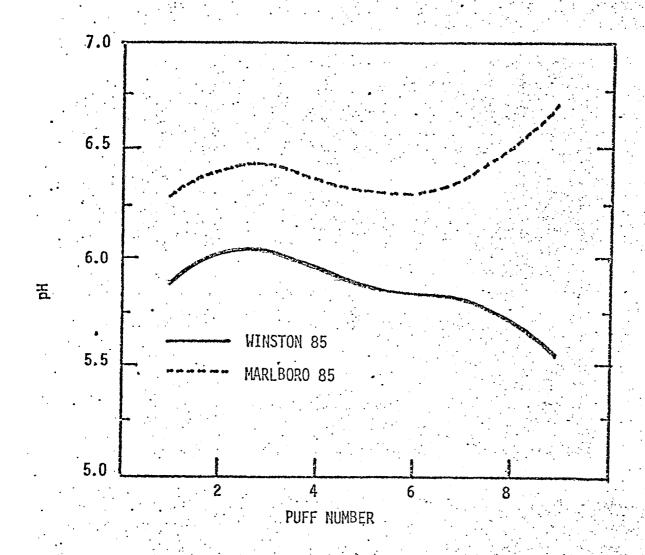
### PH CONCEPT AND SCALE

<u>DEFINITION</u>: pH IS A MEANS FOR EXPRESSING, ON A 0-14 SCALE, THE DEGREE

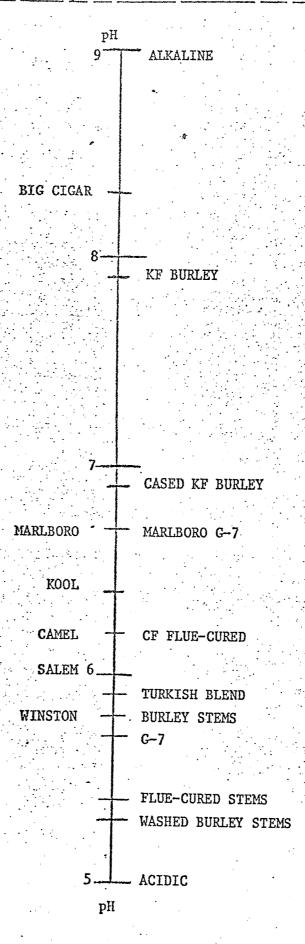
OF ACIDITY OR ALKALINITY OF A SYSTEM.

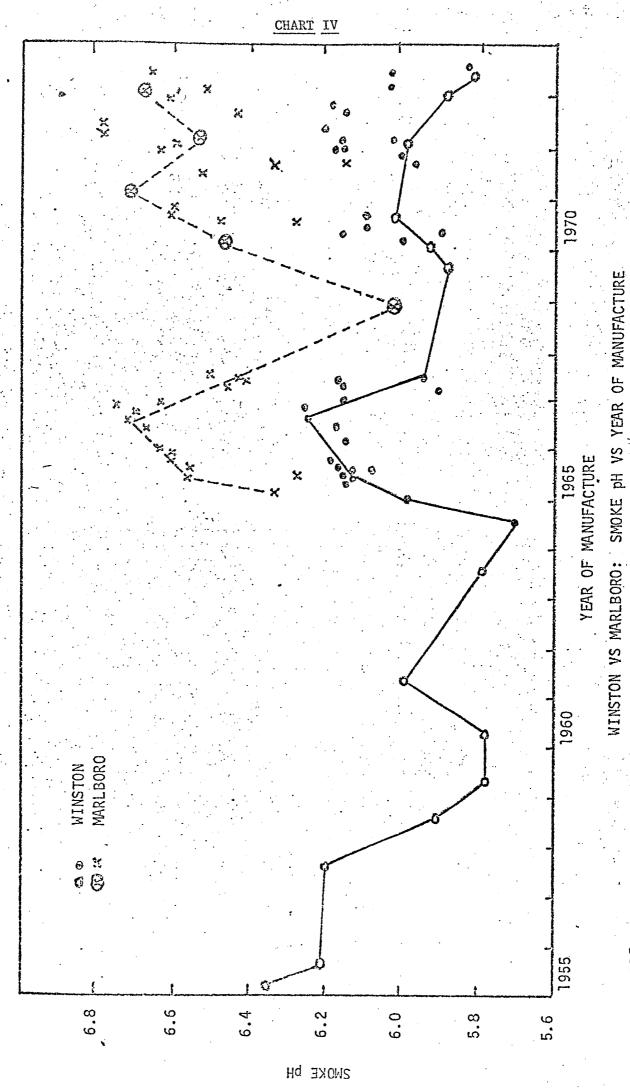


## PUFF-BY-PUFF pH VALUES: 1972 WINSTON AND MARLBORO 85

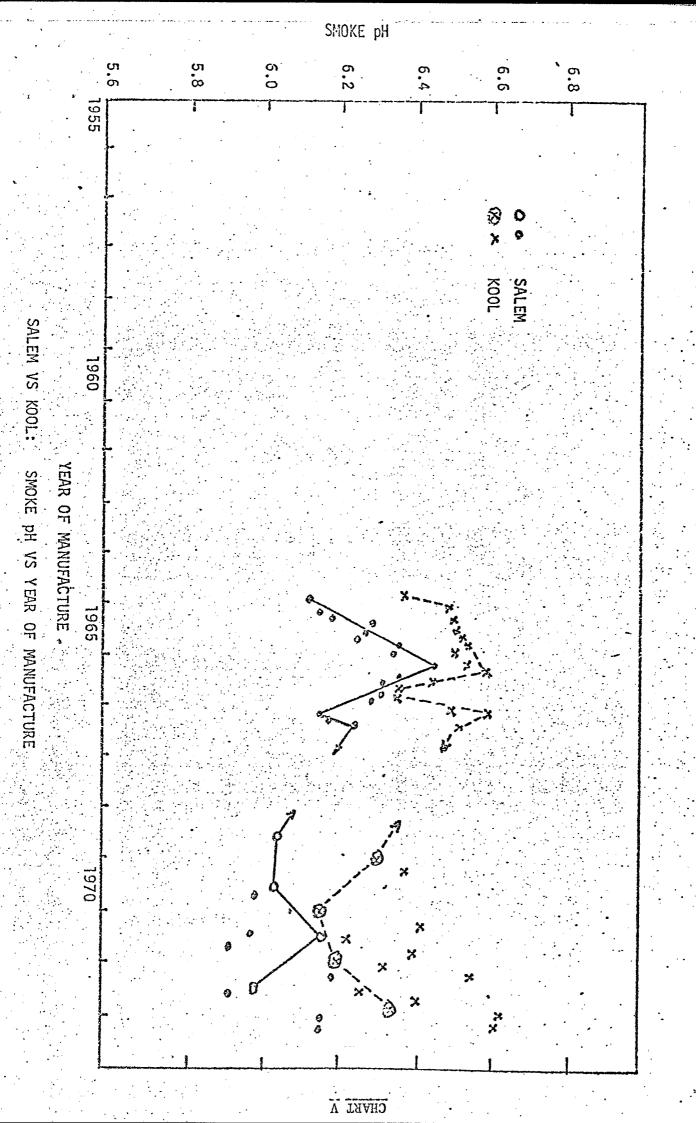


### AVERAGE MAXIMUM SMOKE PH OF TOBACCO MATERIALS AND PRODUCTS





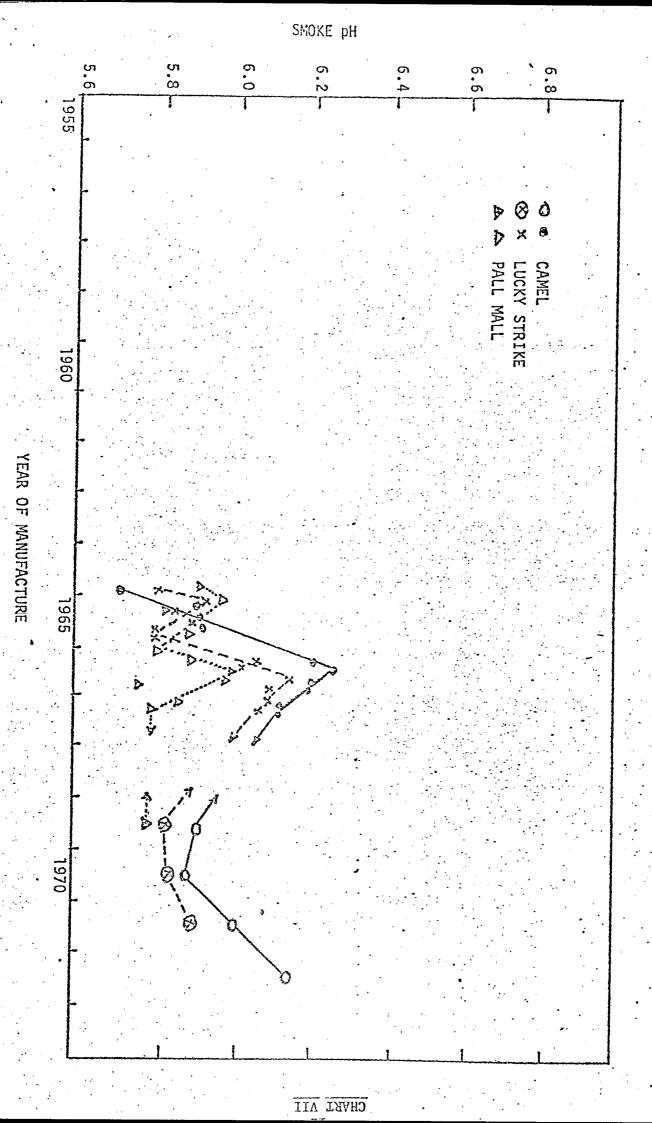
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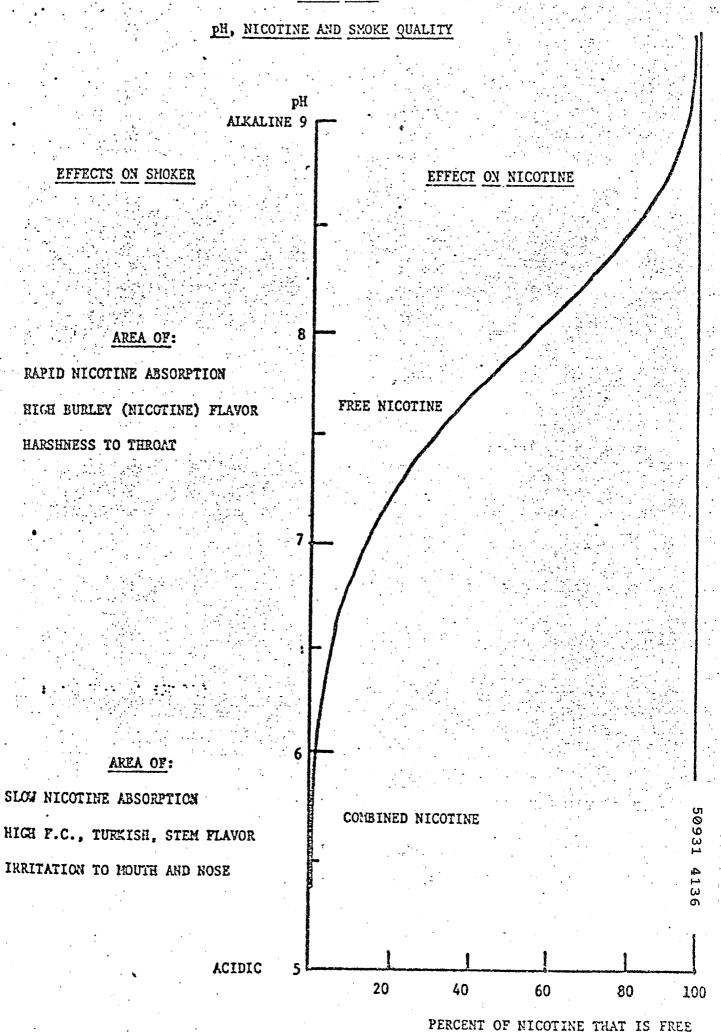
FILTER CIGARETTE: SMOKE PH VS YEAR OF MANUFACTURE

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NONFILTER CIGARETTES: SMOKE PH VS YEAR OF MANUFACTURE

### CHART VIII



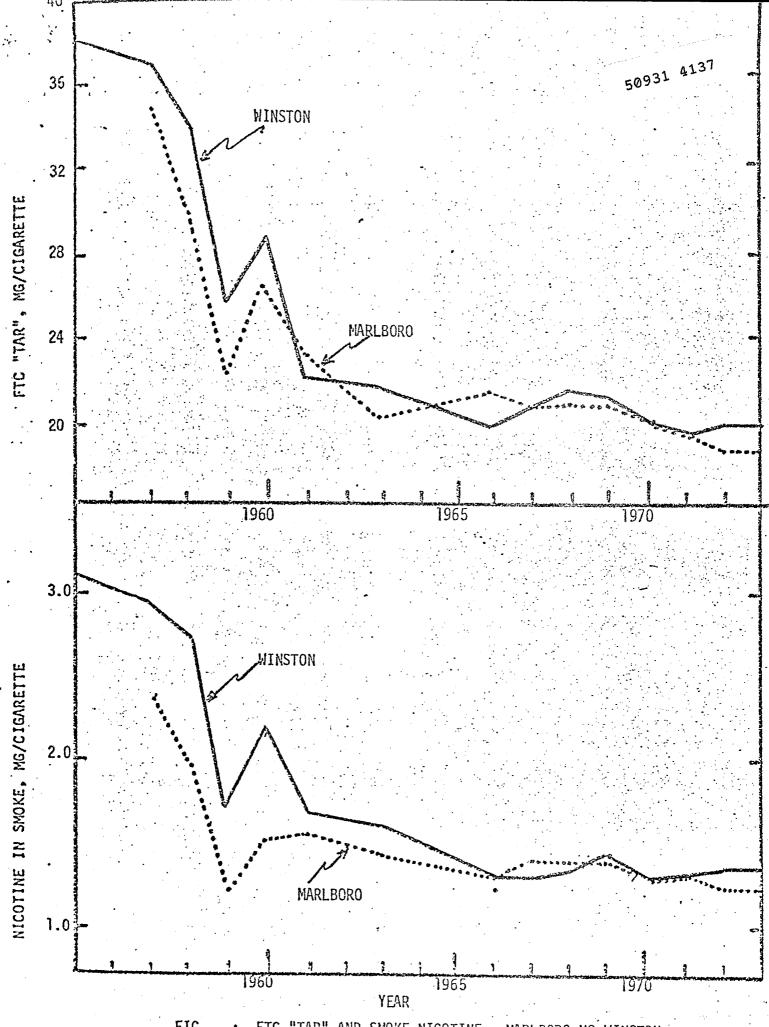
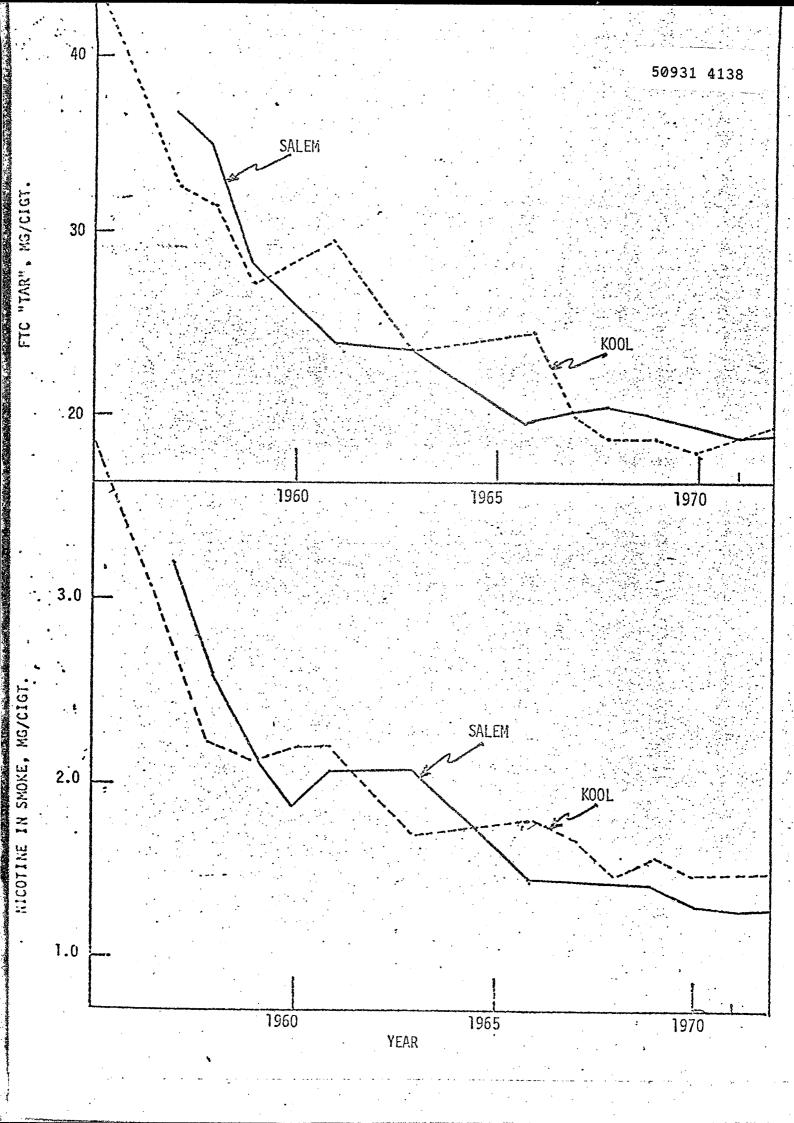
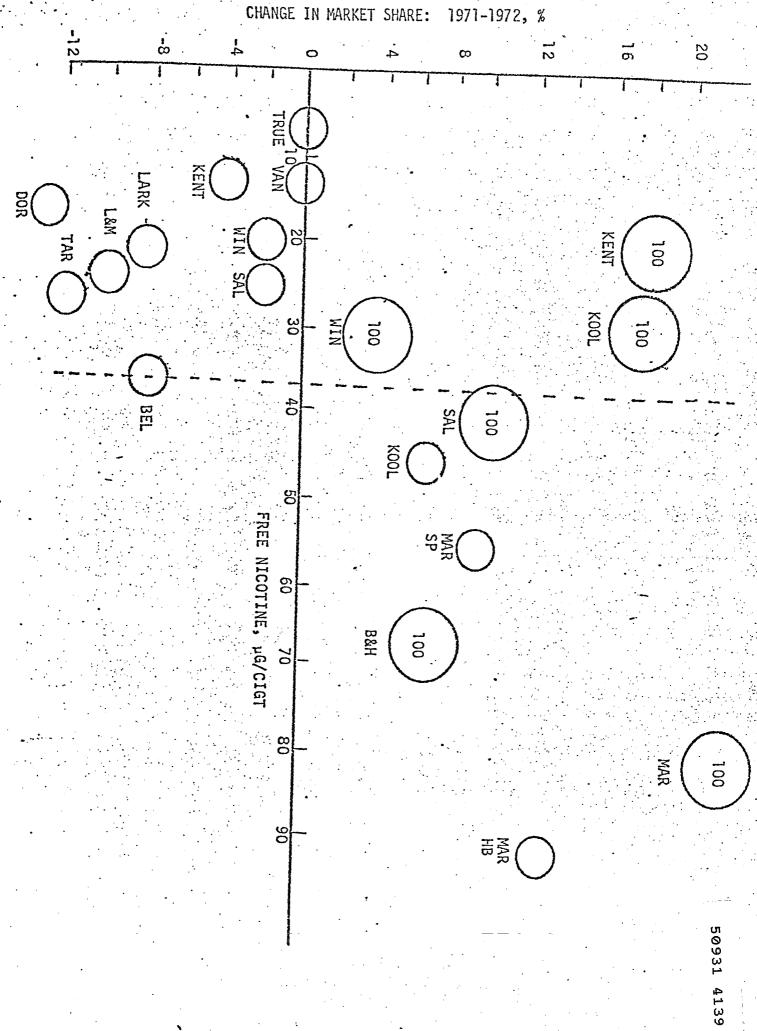


FIG. : FTC "TAR" AND SMOKE NICOTINE - MARLBORO VS WINSTON





## GED CONFIDENTIAL

July 12, 1973

Mr. W. S. Smith, Jr.

Free nicotine does help explain the differences in performance between Winston, Marlboro, Salem and Kool but not all of the difference.

We have reviewed free nicotine, advertising expenditures, and 100mm spin-off data for Winston, Marlboro, Salem and Kool from 1963 through 1972 and found that the difference in share performance of the 85mm styles of each brand is affected by all of the above factors independently and collectively.

Together these three factors statistically explain 97% of the variability between share performance of Winston and Marlboro (King and Box). They explain 95% of the variability between Salen and Kool.

The variability due to "free nicotine" was significant and its contribution was over and above that of advertising expenditures and 100mm spin-off.

Other factors which we reviewed but which did not seem to correlate favorably were:

combined nicotine, tar, nitrogen, and sugar.

Ammonia and out-of-stock conditions look promising, but we have only limited data on both.

Our analysis suggests that pH does not correlate as closely with share performances as does free nicotine. Our emphasis should be directed toward free nicotine while pH would provide us with a measure of or tool to effect free nicotine. We will conduct correlations between performance and pH if you desire.

R. A. Blevins, Jr.

RAB: fm

CC: Mr. W. D. Hobbs
Mr. C. A. Tucker
Mr. C. E. Teague, Jr.

Christ

August 10, 1973

Mr. R. A. Blevins, Jr.

Re: CORRELATION OF PH AND SHARE OF MARKET PERFORMANCE

The correlation of pH and SOM performance holds, but only for those brands having the same nicotine levels. In the analysis of differences in performance between WINSTON and Marlboro and between SAMEM and Kool, pH does correlate equally as well with performance as does free nicotine. The total nicotine in WINSTON and Marlboro and in SALEM and Kool is almost equal.

Os. (X)

Since pH is a measure of the percent of free nicotine and since the amount of free nicotine present would then depend on the total amount of nicotine, two brands with the same pH could have different amounts of total nicotine and, therefore, different amounts of free nicotine.

Jerry R. Moore Marketing Research Department

JRM: vhl

July 3, 1973

Mr. R. A. Blevins, Jr.

Re: CORRELATION OF SMOKE BALANCE FACTORS WITH SOM TRENDS

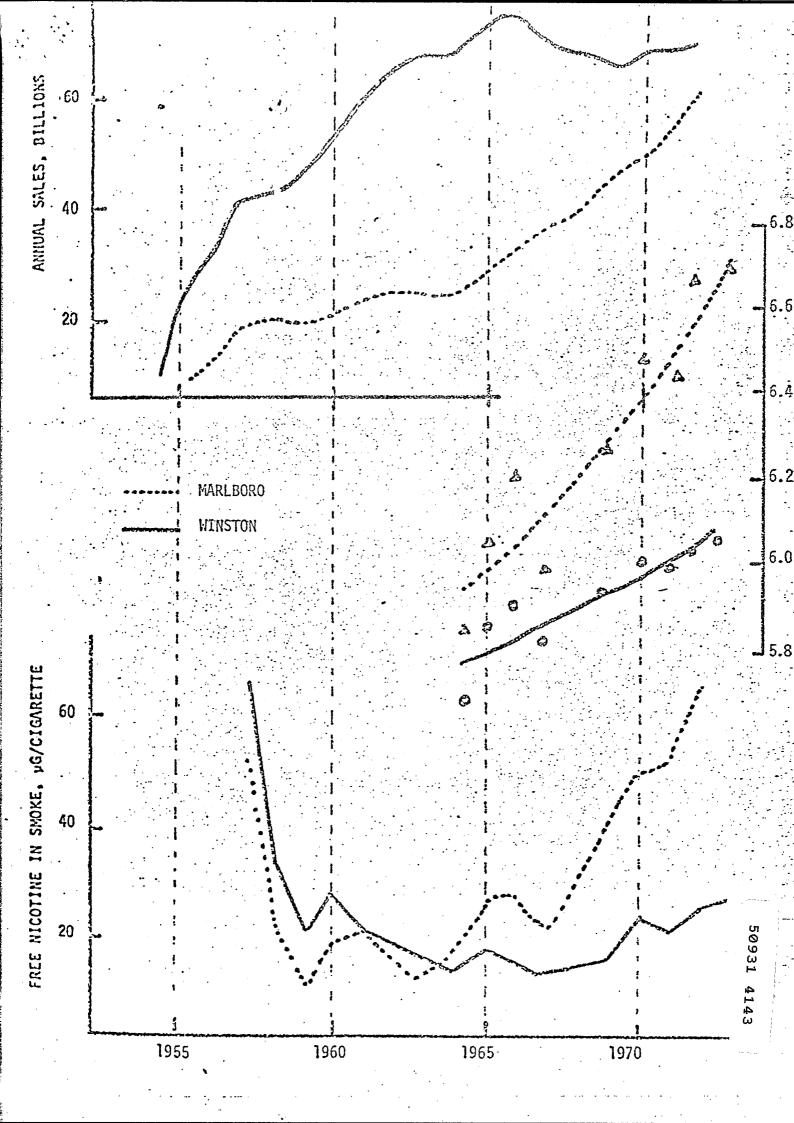
A preliminary correlation study of smoke balance factors (free nicotine, combined nicotine, tar, nitrogen, ammonia, and sugar) with SOM trends for WINSTON 85's vs. Marlboro 85's and SALEM 85's vs. Kool 85's from 1963 to 1972 confirms the correlation of free nicotine to sales previously reported by Research. Differences in SOM for each year between WINSTON 85's and Marlboro 85's and between SALEM 85's and Kool 85's were correlated with differences in the smoke balance factors (see Table I attached). A correlation of approximately .40 is significant at the 80% level of significance.

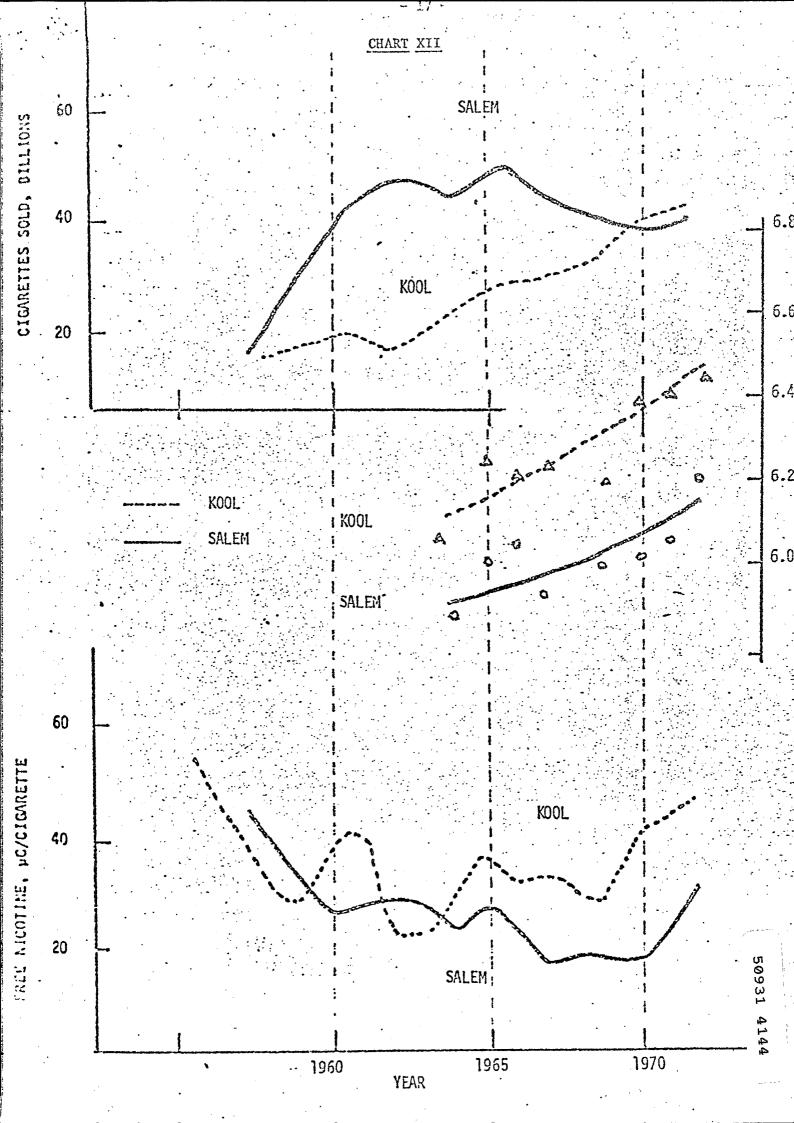
While the correlations of differences in SOM with various smoke balance factors (particularly free nicotine) are suggestive, there are other factors, such as differences in advertising expenditures, and differences in SOM of the 100's for the brands also significantly correlated with differences in SOM. Assuming that cause and effect relationships do exist, it is not possible with available data to separate the effects of smoke balance factors and other factors.

In spite of the confounding of effects, a regression model including differences in free nicotine, advertising expenditures, and SOM of the 100's with difference in SOM as the dependent variable resulted in 97% of the variability explained in the case of WINSTON 85's vs. Marlboro 85's and 95% of the variability explained in the case of SALEM 85's vs. Kool 85's. In both cases, free nicotine contributed significantly to the model over and above the other factors.

Jerry R. Moore

JRM:vl Attachment





Dr. Jenger

August 14, 1973

Mr. Wm. D. Hobbs:

Re: Tobacco Development Product Direction

The attached represents the Marketing Department's understanding of agreed to product objectives for Tobacco Development's direction. If they meet your approval, we request that you forward to Tobacco Development and coordinate with Dr. Senkus of Research.

As agreed, this research program should also answer the question on the maximum acceptable level of Ph that optimizes tobacco satisfaction. Marketing believes that this testing program should be developed between Tobacco Development and Research and coordinated through Marketing Research by them. We would appreciate being kept informed of the progress in this area.

Should you have any questions or comments, please advise,

T. E. Sandefur, Jr.

J. F. Hind

2344

Attachment

50931 4145

SECRET

## No. 202 BY

# PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT DIRECTIONS TO TD

August 13, 1973

	Better against Kool among other NF menthol smokers.	a)	
12/3	blend among SALEM King smokars.  Parity or botter against Kool among Kool smokers.	SALEM King blend with adjust factor towards Kool King. I not be a Kool King in that i retain its relatively lower	•
NFO tost mail-	Parity or better against current	SALEM King Maintain basic integrity of current 1)	
	Better against Marlboro among other NFF smokers.	**************************************	
	Parity or better against Marlboro among Marlboro smokers,		
NFO test mail- out 10/15.	Parity or better against current blend among CAMEL Filter smokers.	Significantly Revise Replicate the Marlboro bland in all (1)	
Madd Opportunities and responsibility of the state of the	Detter against Marlboro among other NFF smokers.		/
	Parity or better against Marlboro among Marlboro smokers.	2)	
NFO test mail- out 10/15.	Parity or better against current blend among CAMEL Filter smokers.	in basic integrity	
	Better against Marlboro among other NFF smokers.	3)	
	Parity or better against Marlboro among Marlboro smokers.	2)	
NFO test mail- out 10/15.	Parity or better against current blend among WINSTON King smokers.	y of current adjusted Ph. (1)	
Due Date	Nction Standard*	Brand/Style Development Directions	21 67

		Review to ensure best smoking satistaction, specifically an acceptable ph level. While there is no evidence of a product problem, we believe it worthwhile to review its smoking characteristics in view of recent ph analyses.	VANTAGE King/Menthol	>
	<ol> <li>Parity against current DORAL among DORAL smokers.</li> <li>Parity against True among True smokers.</li> <li>Better against Kent among NFF smokers.</li> </ol>	Improved smoking satisfaction.	DORAL Regular/Menthol	2
	<ul><li>2) Parity or bettor against Marlboro King among MB smokers.</li><li>3) Detter than MK among other NFF smokers.</li></ul>			
NFO tost mail- out 9/15.	1) Parity or better against current WK among WK smokers.	Sweeter WINSTON.	WINSTON King	Α.
NFO test mail- out 12/3.	Detter than Kool King on an unidentified and identified/concept basis among Black Kool King smokers.	Duplicate Kool King in every respect in tobacco taste and menthel level.	New King Size Menthol	λ
NFO test mail out 12/3.	Action Standard*  1) Product acceptable to current SALEM King smokers.  2) Parity or better against Kool King among Kool King smokers.  3) Better than Kool King among other NF menthol smokers (Delair, Newport, etc.)	Duplicate smoking characteristics of SALEM Super King and adjust Ph factor towards Kool King. It would not be a Kool King in that it would retain its rolatively lower menthol level.	SALEM King	N V TYOUTEN
<i>3</i>				7

9/1/73	Initial prototype blends to be based Product Manager to determine. on competitive digar evaluations.  Drand will forward more precise direction as soon as MRD research on consumer attitudes toward cigar product attributes are available.	A ZAP
NFO mailout 12/10	o1 Product	A MTP - menthol
Concept test 9/6; NFO Mail out 12/10.	120mm long, 21mm circumference, Product Manager to determine. 30mm filter - Normal Flavor Filter - smoking qualities/satisfaction.	A MTP - filter
	Improved smoking satisfaction Better than current WM among WM smokers.	B WINSTON Monthol
	Ph level. While there is no evidence of a product problem, we believe it worthwhile to review its smoking characteristics in view of recent.  Ph analysis.	

SALEM Super King

Roview to ensure best smoking satis-

<sup>\*</sup>Outside blind panel testing will be used unless otherwise noted.

### APPENDIX I

CURRENT DATA ON RJR AND
COMPETITIVE BRANDS

	21.5/12	4:	M. Pjara								
	0, 123	20 20									FORM 1620
		6.42	5.94	11.9	+	9.6					
		5.96			7 /	0 77	14.1	8.	33	9/73	True 85MVF
		20.00	2,30	11 0	1.55	0.73	13.2	7.6	33	7/73	True 85VF
		F 30	7 07	17.7	2.6	1.19	21.5	10.0	33	3/73	-Kent 100F
		6.30	5.00	15.7	3.4	1.00 ·	20.2	9.1	27	8/73	Kent 85F
		6.88	6.26	18.5	3.0	1.21	22.7	9.3	35	9/73	Renson & Hedges 100MF
		6.83	6.19	17.9	2.8	1.18	21.9	9.2	35	8/73	Benson & Hedges 100F
		6.47	5.76	14.2	2.2	0.84	17.2	8.1	33	7/73	Parliament 85F
		6.74	6.2]	17.4	3.2	1.15	21.8	8.6	28	9/73	Harlboro 85F
		6.82	6,06	17.7	3.7	1.12	22.5	8,9	26	7/73	Marlhoro 80FCP
		5.96	5.56	16.8	3.2	1.20 ·	21.2	8.1	28	7/73	lark 85CF
		6.26	5,83	18.4	4.0	1:35	23.8	8.8	27	8//3	L & M 85F
		6.23	5.84	21.6	5.2	1.50	28.2	10.3	27	9/73	lareyton 85CF
		6.20	5.87	20.3	3.4	1.53	25.2	10.8	33	9//3	ra i i ra i i i uur
		6.22	5.96	26.7	3.7	1.79	32.2	10.3	. 23	0//3	n-11 rall SSNT
		6.21	5.88	25.3	4.1	1.64	31.0	0,9	23	0//3	- CALL WALL SELECTION TO THE COURT OF THE CO
		6.37	5.93	10.7	1.4	0.77	12.8	3.4	33	27/0	lucku Studie 7000
		6.21	5,78	10.5	1.4	0.78	12.7	ŭ.5	23.23	8/73	VANTAGE RENE
		6.14	5.88	14.1	- 8	1.06	10.9	3 9 0	3 2	8/73	VANTAGE 85F
		6.20	88.6	14.3	. 9	7 00	7.0	0 5	33	я/73	DORAL 85MVF
		0.50	7.24	17.3	7 0	1 05	17 9	9.6	33	8/73	DORAL 35VF
	-	72.0	6 34	0 7	7 7	0.78	11.6	8.5	33	8/73	TEMPO 85CVF
		0 - 0	6 00	18.5	<b>ာ</b>	1.32	22.6	10.4	34	8/73	SALEM 100MF
1			5.73	18.6	ມ	1.28	23.7	9.4	28	8/73	SALEN 85MF
		6 31	5.99	18.7	2.7	1,35	22.7	10.4	34	8/73	WINSTON TOOME
		g 08	5.72	18.6	2.9	· ~ 1.27	22.8	10.5	33	8/73	WINSTON 100F
		6 23	5.86	19.9	4.5	1.39	25.8	9.7	27	8/73	WINSTON 85F
-		EE: 9.	6.02	20.1	4.9	1,37	26.3	9.4	26	8/73	WIRISTON BOFCP
- _ l	50931 4130	6.08	5.79	18.5	3,9	1,29	23.7	9.7	28	8/73	CAMEL 85F
1		F 00		22.1	2.9	1.55	26.6	8.2	23	8/73	7.
		X Nin X	X MIN	FTC "TAR"	H_0	NIC.	TPM	)dd	LENGTH	DATE, MFG.	SAMP E
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1											
		6.16	5.76	15.3	12.7	1.06	19.1	8.0	29	7.73	Belair 85MF
		6.40	5,92	14.8	2.6	1.06	18,4	8.3	29	9/73	* Ralcigh 85F
		6.56	6.13	17.2	2.6	1.24	21.0	9.3	35	8/73	K001 100MF
		6.56	6.35	15.4	2.4	1.19	19.1	8.0	29	9/73	K001 85MF
9	50931 4151	6 28	5.73	15.5	2.9	1,03	19.4	0,5	29	8/73	Viceroy 85F
<b>\( \)</b>			X MIN.	FIC "TAR" X MIN.	П <sub>2</sub> 0	NIC.	TPM	PPC	LENGTH	DATE, MFG.	SAMPLE
								•			(A

### APPENDIX II

MEMORANDA FROM MARKETING RESEARCH.

# NSTON 85's Vs. Marlboro 85's

		SOM	Free	Combined	Tar	Sugar	Nitrogen	Ammonia	Adver
SOM		00	.82	57	ı,	70	01		3
zi o.	ne		1.00	72	- 555	NA NA	000	NA.	
Comb. Nicotine Tar	ine			1.00	. 67	NA KN	. 20	NA	
Sugar					) ) •	1.00	en.	NA NA	
Nıtrogen Ammonia							1.00	NA .	
Advertising								> > • •	
U CC MCV		٠.,				•			

## SALEM 85's Vs. Kool 85's

	SOM Nicotine	Combined	Tar	Sugar	Nitrogen	Ammonia	Advertising Expenditures	30%
SOM	1.00	-15	09		NA	NA	in .co	6.
Comb. Nicotine	00 · T	1.00	0 F 0	NA NA	NA VA	NA AN	တ န	.2
Tar Sugar			1.00	NA 1.00	NA NA	NA	88°-	₹ <b>.</b>
Nitrogen Ammonia					1.00	NA	NA	
Advortising SOM 100's	50931 4153						7.00	300

### APPENDIX III

PRESENT BRAND ACTIVITY