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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**STATEMENT OF AZEEZALY S. JAFFER  
VICE PRESIDENT OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS & COMMUNICATIONS**

**WASHINGTON, DC'S V STREET FACILITY  
NEGATIVE FOR RICIN; OPERATIONS RESUME**

WASHINGTON – All environmental samples taken Tuesday at Washington, DC's V Street postal facility have tested negative for ricin. Tests were conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta and the Maryland Department of Public Health. Test methods included wet swab and bulk samples.

The safety of our employees has been our primary concern and, out of an abundance of caution, testing was initiated at V Street following Monday's discovery of ricin in Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist's (R-TN) Capitol Hill office. The Postal Service also has been monitoring the health of V Street employees. None have reported symptoms consistent with ricin exposure.

Regular operations are resuming and employees are returning to the V Street facility this evening after being temporarily reassigned for the last two days. The facility was closed late Monday, just after the Postal Service learned of the situation at Sen. Frist's office.

A total of 132 samples were taken at the two buildings that make up the V Street complex. Based on the negative results from the extensive testing and the monitoring of employee health, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Department of Health and Human Services, and the Department of Homeland Security advised the Postal Service that the V Street facility could be reopened.

The incident remains under investigation by federal law enforcement officials, including the Postal Inspection Service.

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