



Department of Justice

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1970

The Department of Justice filed today a civil antitrust suit charging Viking Carpets, Inc. with allocating sales territories and fixing prices for Viking carpets.

At the same time, the Department filed a proposed consent judgment, which may become final in 30 days.

Attorney General John N. Mitchell said the complaint and proposed judgment were filed in the United States District Court in Cleveland, Ohio.

Since about 1963, the suit said, Viking has engaged in an unlawful combination and conspiracy through agreement with distributors to fix prices and limit sales territories, in violation of Section 1 of the Sherman Act.

The judgment would prohibit Viking from fixing prices and allocating territories in the sale or distribution of carpets throughout its distribution system.

Viking would also be prohibited from taking or threatening to take any disciplinary action against any distributor or dealer because of the prices at which or the territories in which such distributor or dealer had distributed or sold Viking carpets.

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Under the judgment, Viking may not for a period of three years suggest to its distributors resale prices at which Viking carpets shall be sold to other persons.

Viking's sales of carpets and related items exceeded \$21 million during 1968.