DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

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December 14, 2000

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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DOC Youth Preparing for Holiday Events

(Pierre) - The spirit of the holiday season is apparent in state juvenile correctional facilities in Custer and Plankinton.

Youth committed to Department of Corrections (DOC) facilities will be allowed several privileges over the Christmas holiday:

   *Families will be allowed extra visits with their children.

   *Youth will be allowed to make a free phone call home on Christmas day.

   *Youth who are close to completing their programming are allowed off-campus
    visits.

Plans are underway for Christmas parties at both Custer and Plankinton. A traditional holiday meal will also be served on Christmas day at both locations.

DOC youth and staff are also helping to make the holiday season brighter by participating in the Christmas at the Capitol program in Pierre.

Youth and staff of the Custer Youth Corrections Center (CYCC) decorated one of the Christmas trees at the State Capitol. The Pierre Juvenile Aftercare Mentoring Committee also decorated a tree on display at the capitol.

Family of youth at the Custer Youth Corrections Center will be able to stay for free at the Super 8 Motel in Custer on either Christmas Eve or Christmas night. The Plankinton Super 8 will offer the free accommodations to family members of youth at the State Training School on Christmas Eve.

The motel chain's "Rooms at the Inn" program is designed to bring out-of-town families and friends together during the holidays with people in correctional facilities, hospitals, nursing homes, veteran's homes and treatment facilities.

Advanced registration is recommended since the number of available rooms may be limited.
Reservations can be made by calling the Super 8 motels in each community
or through the motel chain's toll-free reservation center at 1-800-800-8000.