

VORNADO REALTY TRUST

Form 424B5

February 27, 2002

PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT

(TO PROSPECTUS DATED FEBRUARY 11, 1998)

514,200 SHARES

[VORNADO REALTY TRUST LOGO]

COMMON SHARES OF BENEFICIAL INTEREST
(PAR VALUE \$0.04 PER SHARE)

Vornado Realty Trust is offering 514,200 common shares. The common shares are listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol "VNO". The last reported sale price of the common shares on the New York Stock Exchange on February 25, 2002 was \$42.96 per share.

Salomon Smith Barney Inc. has agreed to purchase from Vornado the common shares offered by this prospectus supplement at a price of \$40.82 per share, resulting in approximately \$20,989,644 in proceeds to Vornado before deducting expenses of approximately \$150,000, subject to the terms and conditions of an underwriting agreement. Salomon Smith Barney Inc. intends to deposit such common shares, valued at the last reported sales price on February 25, 2002, with the trustee of The Equity Focus Trusts--REIT Portfolio Series, 2002-A in exchange for units in the trust. The units of The Equity Focus Trusts--REIT Portfolio Series, 2002-A will be sold to investors at a price based upon the net asset value of the securities in the trust. For purposes of this calculation, the value of the common shares as of the evaluation time for units of this trust on February 25, 2002 was \$42.96 per common share. The underwriter may also purchase up to an additional 77,130 shares at the public offering price, less the underwriting discount, within 30 days from the date of this prospectus supplement. See "Underwriting".

There are restrictions on ownership of the common shares designed to preserve Vornado's status as a real estate investment trust for federal income tax purposes. See "Description of Shares of Beneficial Interest -- Description of Common Shares -- Restrictions on Ownership" beginning on page 31 of the accompanying prospectus for information about these restrictions.

SEE "RISK FACTORS" BEGINNING ON PAGE S-3 OF THIS PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT FOR INFORMATION ABOUT FACTORS RELEVANT TO AN INVESTMENT IN THE COMMON SHARES.

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of these securities or passed upon the accuracy or adequacy of this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

Salomon Smith Barney Inc. expects to deliver the common shares on or about February 28, 2002.

Edgar Filing: VORNADO REALTY TRUST - Form 424B5

SALOMON SMITH BARNEY

February 25, 2002

You should rely only on the information contained in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus or incorporated by reference in these documents. No dealer, salesperson or other person is authorized to give any information or to represent anything not contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus. If anyone provides you with different, inconsistent or unauthorized information or representations, you must not rely on them. This prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus are an offer to sell only the shares offered by these documents, but only under circumstances and in jurisdictions where it is lawful to do so. The information contained in this prospectus supplement is current only as of its date.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT

	Page

Cautionary Statement Regarding Forward-Looking Statements.....	1
Risk Factors.....	3
Vornado and the Operating Partnership.....	15
The Offering.....	16
Use of Proceeds.....	17
Supplemental Description of Shares of Beneficial Interest.....	18
Price Range of the Common Shares and Distributions.....	20
Federal Income Tax Considerations.....	21
Underwriting.....	33
Legal Matters.....	34
Experts.....	34
Where You Can Find More Information.....	34

PROSPECTUS

Available Information	2
Incorporation of Certain Documents by Reference.....	3
Risk Factors	5
Vornado and the Operating Partnership	12
Use of Proceeds	12
Consolidation Ratios of Earnings to Combined	
Fixed Charges and Preferred Share Dividend Requirements.....	13
Description of Debt Securities	14
Description of Shares of Beneficial Interest	23
Federal Income Tax Considerations	33
Plan of Distribution	44
Experts	45
Validity of the Securities	46

CAUTIONARY STATEMENT REGARDING
FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus contain certain forward-looking statements with respect to our financial condition, results of operations and business. These statements may be made directly in these documents or they may be made part of these documents by reference to other documents filed with the SEC, which is known as "incorporation by reference". You can find many of these statements by looking for words such as "believes", "expects", "anticipates", "estimates", "intends", "plans" or similar expressions in this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus or in documents incorporated by reference. Unless the context otherwise requires, references in this prospectus supplement to "we", "us", "our" or "Vornado" refer to Vornado Realty Trust and its subsidiaries.

These forward-looking statements are subject to numerous assumptions, risks and uncertainties. Factors that may cause actual results to differ materially from those contemplated by the forward-looking statements include, among others, those listed under the caption "Risk Factors" in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus as well as the following possibilities:

- o national, regional and local economic conditions;
- o the continuing impact of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on our tenants and the national, regional and local economies, including, in particular, the New York City and Washington, D.C. metropolitan areas;
- o local conditions such as an oversupply of space or a reduction in demand for real estate in the area;
- o competition from other available space;
- o whether tenants consider a property attractive;
- o the financial condition of our tenants;
- o whether we are able to pass some or all of any increased operating costs we experience through to our tenants;
- o how well we manage our properties;
- o increased interest expense;
- o decreases in market rental rates;
- o the timing and costs associated with property improvements and rentals;
- o changes in taxation or zoning laws;
- o government regulations;

Edgar Filing: VORNADO REALTY TRUST - Form 424B5

- o our failure to continue to qualify as a real estate investment trust;
- o availability of financing on acceptable terms or at all;
- o potential liability under environmental or other laws or regulations; and
- o general competitive factors.

Forward-looking statements are not guarantees of performance. They involve risks, uncertainties and assumptions. Our future results, financial condition and business may differ materially from those expressed in these forward-looking statements. Many of the factors that will determine these items are beyond our ability to control or predict. For these statements, we claim the protection of the safe harbor for forward-looking statements contained in the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. You are cautioned not to place undue reliance on our forward-looking statements, which speak only as of the date of this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus or the date of any document incorporated by reference.

All subsequent written and oral forward-looking statements attributable to us or any person acting on our behalf are expressly qualified in their entirety by the cautionary statements contained or referred to in this section. We do

S-1

not undertake any obligation to release publicly any revisions to our forward-looking statements to reflect events or circumstances after the date of this prospectus supplement to reflect the occurrence of unanticipated events. Furthermore, many of these factors may be more likely to occur as a result of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. For more information on the uncertainty of forward-looking statements, see "Risk Factors" in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus as well as our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2000 and our Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the periods ended March 31, 2001, June 30, 2001 and September 30, 2001.

S-2

RISK FACTORS

An investment in our common shares involves risks. You should carefully consider, among other things, the matters described below before deciding to purchase our common shares. The information presented here, to the extent inconsistent with the information in the accompanying prospectus under the caption "Risk Factors", supersedes that information.

REAL ESTATE INVESTMENTS' VALUE AND INCOME FLUCTUATE DUE TO VARIOUS FACTORS.

THE VALUE OF REAL ESTATE FLUCTUATES DEPENDING ON CONDITIONS IN THE GENERAL ECONOMY AND THE REAL ESTATE BUSINESS. THESE CONDITIONS MAY ALSO LIMIT OUR REVENUES AND AVAILABLE CASH.

Edgar Filing: VORNADO REALTY TRUST - Form 424B5

The factors that affect the value of our real estate include, among other things:

- o national, regional and local economic conditions;
- o the continuing impact of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on our tenants and the national, regional and local economies, including, in particular, the New York City and Washington, D.C. metropolitan areas;
- o local conditions such as an oversupply of space or a reduction in demand for real estate in the area;
- o competition from other available space;
- o whether tenants consider a property attractive;
- o the financial condition of our tenants;
- o whether we are able to pass some or all of any increased operating costs we experience through to tenants;
- o how well we manage our properties;
- o increased interest expense;
- o decreases in market rental rates;
- o the timing and costs associated with property improvements and rentals;
- o changes in taxation or zoning laws;
- o government regulations;
- o our failure to continue to qualify as a real estate investment trust;
- o availability of financing on acceptable terms or at all;
- o potential liability under environmental or other laws or regulations; and
- o general competitive factors.

The rents we receive and the occupancy levels at our properties may decline as a result of adverse changes in any of these factors. In addition, the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks that occurred in New York City and the Washington, D.C. area may increase the likelihood, or expedite the occurrence of, one or more of these important factors. If our rental revenues decline, we generally would expect to have less cash available to distribute to the holders of our common shares. In addition, some of our major expenses, including mortgage payments, real estate taxes and maintenance costs, generally do not decline when the related rents decline. If rents decline while costs remain the same, our income and funds available for distribution to our security holders would decline.

WE DEPEND ON LEASING SPACE TO TENANTS ON ECONOMICALLY FAVORABLE TERMS AND COLLECTING RENT FROM OUR TENANTS, WHO MAY NOT BE ABLE TO PAY.

Our financial results depend on leasing space in our properties to tenants on economically favorable terms. In addition, because substantially all of our

Edgar Filing: VORNADO REALTY TRUST - Form 424B5

income comes from rentals of real property, our income and funds available

S-3

for distribution to our security holders will decrease if a significant number of our tenants cannot pay their rent. If a tenant does not pay its rent, we might not be able to enforce our rights as landlord without delays and might incur substantial legal costs. For information regarding the bankruptcy of our tenants, see "-- Bankruptcy of tenants may decrease our revenues and available cash" below.

For information relating to the increased risk of bankruptcy of our tenants in connection with the events of September 11, 2001, see "Although the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 in New York City and Washington, D.C. did not physically damage our properties, those attacks may adversely affect the value of our properties and our ability to generate cash flow -- Some of our tenants may be more likely to declare bankruptcy as a result of the terrorist attacks" below.

BANKRUPTCY OF TENANTS MAY DECREASE OUR REVENUES AND AVAILABLE CASH.

A number of companies, including some of our tenants, have declared bankruptcy in recent years, and other tenants may declare bankruptcy or become insolvent in the future. If a major tenant declares bankruptcy or becomes insolvent, the rental property where it leases space may have lower revenues and operational difficulties, and, in the case of our shopping centers, we may have difficulty leasing the remainder of the affected property. Our leases generally do not contain restrictions designed to ensure the creditworthiness of our tenants. As a result, the bankruptcy or insolvency of a major tenant could result in a lower level of funds from operations available for distribution to our security holders.

SOME OF OUR POTENTIAL LOSSES MAY NOT BE COVERED BY INSURANCE.

We carry comprehensive liability, fire, extended coverage and rental loss insurance on all of our properties. We believe that our insurance coverage conforms to industry norms.

However, there are some types of losses, including lease and other contract claims, that generally are not insured. If an uninsured loss or a loss in excess of insured limits occurs, Vornado could lose all or a portion of the capital it has invested in a property, as well as the anticipated future revenue from the property. If this were to happen, Vornado might remain obligated for any mortgage debt or other financial obligations related to the property.

For information relating to the increased risk of losses not being covered by insurance as a result of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, see "Although the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 in New York City and Washington, D.C. did not physically damage our properties, those attacks may adversely affect the value of our properties and our ability to generate cash flow -- As a result of the terrorist attacks, we expect our insurance premiums to increase significantly and we may not be able to maintain our pre-September 11, 2001 coverage levels."

WE MAY ACQUIRE OR DEVELOP NEW PROPERTIES, AND THIS MAY CREATE RISKS.

We may acquire or develop properties or acquire other real estate companies when we believe that an acquisition or development is consistent with our business strategies. We may not, however, succeed in consummating desired

Edgar Filing: VORNADO REALTY TRUST - Form 424B5

acquisitions or in completing developments on time or within our budget. We also might not succeed in leasing newly developed or acquired properties at rents sufficient to cover their costs of acquisition or development and operations.

We have experienced rapid growth in recent years, increasing our total assets from approximately \$565 million at December 31, 1996 to approximately \$6,530 million at September 30, 2001. The acquisition of Charles E. Smith Commercial Realty L.P. on January 1, 2002 further increased our total assets by \$2,232 million, of which \$1,593 million is attributable to the acquisition of such assets and \$639 million is attributable to Charles E. Smith Commercial Realty L.P. becoming a wholly-owned subsidiary of Vornado Realty L.P., consolidated and no longer accounted for under the equity method. We may not, however, be able to manage any growth effectively or to maintain a similar rate of growth in the future, and the failure to do so may have a material adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations.

S-4

In addition, if persons selling properties to us wish to defer the payment of taxes on the sales proceeds, we are likely to pay them in units of Vornado Realty L.P., our operating partnership. In transactions of this kind, we may also agree not to sell the acquired properties or reduce the mortgage indebtedness on them for significant periods of time. If we borrow funds or assume indebtedness to acquire or develop properties, indebtedness of our operating partnership, as a percentage of our asset value or market capitalization, might increase. If this happens, the increased leverage may impair our ability to take actions that would otherwise be in our best interests or the best interests of our security holders. If our indebtedness increases significantly, our operating partnership may not be able to make required principal and interest payments with respect to indebtedness.

For additional information about our leverage, see "Vornado's organizational and financial structure gives rise to operational and financial risks -- We have indebtedness, and this indebtedness may increase" below.

IT MAY BE DIFFICULT TO BUY AND SELL REAL ESTATE QUICKLY, AND TRANSFER RESTRICTIONS APPLY TO SOME OF OUR MORTGAGED PROPERTIES.

Equity real estate investments are relatively difficult to buy and sell quickly. Therefore, our ability to vary our portfolio promptly in response to changes in economic or other conditions is limited. Some of our properties are mortgaged to secure payment of indebtedness. If we were unable to meet our mortgage payments, the lender could foreclose on the properties and we could incur a loss. In addition, if we wished to dispose of one or more of the mortgaged properties, we might not be able to obtain release of the lien on the mortgaged property. If a lender forecloses on a mortgaged property or if a mortgage lien prevents us from selling a property, our funds available for distribution to our security holders could decline. For information relating to the mortgages on our properties, see "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations -- Liquidity and Capital Resources" in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2000 and our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2001, and the notes to our Consolidated Financial Statements in the same reports.

A SIGNIFICANT PORTION OF OUR PROPERTIES ARE IN THE NEW YORK CITY/NEW JERSEY AND WASHINGTON, D.C. METROPOLITAN AREAS AND WILL BE AFFECTED BY THE ECONOMIC CYCLES AND RISKS INHERENT TO THOSE REGIONS.

Edgar Filing: VORNADO REALTY TRUST - Form 424B5

Based on the pro forma combined financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2000, included in our Current Report on Form 8-K dated October 19, 2001, had the merger of Vornado and Charles E. Smith Commercial Realty L.P. occurred on January 1, 2000, 68% of our earnings before interest expense, taxes, depreciation and amortization, extraordinary or non-recurring items, gains or losses on sales of real estate, the effect of straight-lining of property rentals for rent escalations and minority interest would have come from properties located in New Jersey and the New York City and Washington, D.C. metropolitan areas. We refer to earnings before interest expense, taxes, depreciation and amortization, extraordinary or non-recurring items, gains or losses on sales of real estate, the effect of straight-lining of property rentals for rent escalations and minority interest as "EBITDA." Our management considers EBITDA a supplemental measure for making decisions and assessing the performance of its segments. EBITDA may not be comparable to similarly titled measures employed by other companies. In addition, we may continue to concentrate a significant portion of our future acquisitions in New Jersey and the New York City and Washington, D.C. metropolitan areas. Like other real estate markets, the real estate markets in these areas have experienced economic downturns in the past, and we cannot predict how the current economic conditions will impact these markets in both the short and long term. Further declines in the economy or a decline in the real estate markets in these areas could hurt our financial performance and the value of our properties. The factors affecting economic conditions in these regions include:

- o business layoffs or downsizing;
- o industry slowdowns;
- o relocations of businesses;
- o changing demographics;
- o increased telecommuting and use of alternative work places;

S-5

1

- o financial performance and productivity of the publishing, advertising, financial, technology, retail, insurance and real estate industries;
- o infrastructure quality; and
- o any oversupply of or reduced demand for real estate.

It is impossible for us to assess the future effects of the current uncertain trends in the economic and investment climates of the New York City/New Jersey and Washington, D.C. regions, and more generally of the United States, on the real estate markets in these areas. If these conditions persist, they may adversely affect our businesses and future profitability.

For more information regarding the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, see "Although the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 in New York City and Washington, D.C. did not physically damage our properties, those attacks may adversely affect the value of our properties and our ability to generate cash flow" below.

ALTHOUGH THE TERRORIST ATTACKS OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2001 IN NEW YORK CITY AND WASHINGTON, D.C. DID NOT PHYSICALLY DAMAGE OUR PROPERTIES, THOSE ATTACKS MAY ADVERSELY AFFECT THE VALUE OF OUR PROPERTIES AND OUR ABILITY TO GENERATE CASH

Edgar Filing: VORNADO REALTY TRUST - Form 424B5

FLOW.

REAL ESTATE VALUES AND PROPERTY RENTS MAY DECLINE AS A RESULT OF THE IMPACT OF THE TERRORIST ATTACKS ON THE GENERAL ECONOMY.

The terrorist attacks have negatively impacted the United States economy. This impact has been particularly severe in the large metropolitan areas where our real estate properties are concentrated. We expect this negative impact to continue. An economic decline may materially reduce the value of our real estate portfolio and the amount in rents we are able to collect from our tenants.

In addition, these attacks may make the occurrence of one or more of the factors discussed in this "Risk Factors" section more likely to occur. For specific information relating to various factors that are affected by the condition of the general economy, see "Real estate investments' value and income fluctuate due to various factors -- The value of real estate fluctuates depending on conditions in the general economy and the real estate business. These conditions may also limit our revenues and available cash" above.

THERE MAY BE A DECREASE IN DEMAND FOR SPACE IN LARGE METROPOLITAN AREAS THAT ARE CONSIDERED AT RISK FOR FUTURE TERRORIST ATTACKS, AND THIS DECREASE MAY REDUCE OUR REVENUES FROM PROPERTY RENTALS.

We have significant investments in large metropolitan areas, including the New York/New Jersey, Washington, D.C. and Chicago metropolitan areas. In the aftermath of the terrorist attacks, tenants in these areas may choose to relocate their business to less populated, lower-profile areas of the United States that are not as likely to be targets of future terrorist activity. This in turn would trigger a decrease in the demand for space in these areas, which could increase vacancies in our properties and force us to lease our properties on less favorable terms. As a result, the value of our properties and the level of our revenues could decline materially.

AS A RESULT OF THE TERRORIST ATTACKS, WE EXPECT INSURANCE PREMIUMS TO INCREASE SIGNIFICANTLY AND WE MAY NOT BE ABLE TO MAINTAIN OUR PRE-SEPTEMBER 11, 2001 INSURANCE COVERAGE LEVELS.

Insurance payouts resulting from the terrorist attacks will significantly reduce the insurance industry's reserves. Moreover, the demand for higher levels of insurance coverage will likely increase because of these attacks. As a result, we expect our insurance premiums to increase significantly in the future, which will have an adverse impact on our cash flow. Furthermore, we may not be able to purchase policies in the future with coverage limits and deductibles similar to those that were available before the attacks. Because it is impossible to determine what kind of policies will be available in the future and at what prices, we are unable to determine whether we will be able to maintain our pre-September 11, 2001 insurance coverage levels.

S-6

We carry comprehensive liability, fire, flood, extended coverage and rental loss insurance with respect to our properties with policy specifications and insured limits customarily carried for similar properties. We believe that our insurance coverage conforms to industry norms. Real property insurance policies put into effect before September 11, 2001 do not expressly exclude coverage from hostile acts, except for acts of war, and our debt instruments do not specifically require such coverage. When we renew our policies in 2002 with respect to our commercial properties in the New York City metropolitan area, we

Edgar Filing: VORNADO REALTY TRUST - Form 424B5

may not be able to obtain insurance policies that provide coverage for terrorist acts. In addition, we may not be able to purchase insurance covering terrorist acts for any of the properties in our real estate portfolio.

For additional information relating to insurance coverage generally, see "Real estate investments' value and income fluctuate due to various factors -- Some of our potential losses may not be covered by insurance" above.

OUR INVESTMENT IN HOTEL PENNSYLVANIA IS DEPENDENT ON THE TRAVEL INDUSTRY AND THAT INVESTMENT HAS BEEN AND MAY CONTINUE TO BE IMPACTED SEVERELY BY THE TERRORIST ATTACKS.

Our investment in Hotel Pennsylvania is directly dependent on the travel industry generally and the willingness of people to visit New York City in particular. Since September 11, 2001, there has been a substantial decline in travel and tourism to New York City. Accordingly, there has been a significant reduction in occupancy at Hotel Pennsylvania, and we expect that revenues generated by this investment will be impacted severely by that decline.

SOME OF OUR TENANTS MAY BE MORE LIKELY TO DECLARE BANKRUPTCY AS A RESULT OF THE TERRORIST ATTACKS.

The risk that some of our tenants may declare bankruptcy is higher because of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks and the resulting decline in the economy. This is particularly true for our tenants that are dependent on the air or travel industries as a primary source of revenue.

For more information related to the risks of bankruptcy generally, see "Real estate investments' value and income fluctuate due to various factors -- Bankruptcy of tenants may decrease our revenues and available cash" above.

ON JANUARY 1, 2002, WE COMPLETED THE ACQUISITION OF THE 66% INTEREST IN CHARLES E. SMITH COMMERCIAL REALTY L.P. THAT WE DID NOT PREVIOUSLY OWN. THE TERMS OF THIS MERGER IMPOSE RESTRICTIONS ON US.

THE TERMS OF THE MERGER RESTRICT OUR ABILITY TO SELL OR OTHERWISE DISPOSE OF, OR TO FINANCE OR REFINANCE, THE PROPERTIES FORMERLY OWNED BY CHARLES E. SMITH COMMERCIAL REALTY L.P., WHICH COULD RESULT IN OUR INABILITY TO SELL THESE PROPERTIES AT AN OPPORTUNE TIME AND INCREASED COSTS TO US.

We have agreed to restrictions on our ability to sell, finance, refinance and, in some instances, pay down existing financing on the properties currently held by Charles E. Smith Commercial Realty L.P. for a period of up to 20 years, under a tax reporting and protection agreement that we entered into at the closing of the merger. This agreement prohibits us from taking these actions unless Vornado Realty L.P., our operating partnership, also pays the contributing partners based on their tax liabilities as a result of the sale. These arrangements may significantly reduce our ability to sell, finance or repay indebtedness secured by the subject properties or assets.

In addition, we are restricted from selling or otherwise transferring or disposing of certain properties located in the Crystal City area of Arlington, Virginia or an interest in the division of Vornado that manages the majority of our office properties in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area, which we refer to as the "Smith Division", without the consent of Robert H. Smith and Robert P. Kogod, each of whom was a significant unit holder of Charles E. Smith Commercial Realty L.P., for a period of 12 years with respect to certain properties located in the Crystal City area of Arlington, Virginia or six years with respect to an interest in the Smith Division, subject to certain terms and limitations. These restrictions, which currently cover approximately 12.9 million square feet of space, could result in our inability to sell these properties or an interest in the Smith Division at an opportune time and increased costs to us.

S-7

WE MAY NOT BE ABLE TO OBTAIN CAPITAL TO MAKE INVESTMENTS.

We depend primarily on external financing to fund the growth of our business. This is because one of the requirements of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, for a REIT is that it distribute 90% of its net taxable income, excluding net capital gains, to its shareholders. Our access to debt or equity financing depends on banks' willingness to lend and on conditions in the capital markets. We and other companies in the real estate industry have experienced limited availability of bank loans and capital markets financing from time to time. Although we believe that we will be able to finance any investments we wish to make in the foreseeable future, additional financing might not be available on acceptable terms, or at all.

For information about our available sources of funds, see "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations -- Liquidity and Capital Resources" in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2000 and our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2001, and the notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements in the same reports.

ALL OF OUR TEMPERATURE CONTROLLED LOGISTICS WAREHOUSES ARE LEASED TO ONE TENANT AND THAT TENANT IS EXPERIENCING OPERATING DIFFICULTIES.

We indirectly own a 60% interest in partnerships, which we refer to as the "Vornado/Crescent Partnerships", that own 89 warehouse facilities nationwide with an aggregate of approximately 445 million cubic feet of refrigerated, frozen and dry storage space. The Vornado/Crescent Partnerships sold all of the non-real estate assets encompassing the operations of the temperature controlled business to a new partnership named "AmeriCold Logistics" owned 60% by Vornado Operating Company, which we refer to hereafter as "Vornado Operating", and 40% by Crescent Operating Inc. AmeriCold Logistics leases the underlying temperature controlled warehouses used in this business from the Vornado/Crescent Partnerships which continue to own the real estate. During 2000, AmeriCold Logistics generated approximately 13% of our EBITDA. On February 22, 2001, the Vornado/Crescent Partnerships restructured the AmeriCold Logistics leases to, among other things, (a) reduce 2001's contractual rent to \$146,000,000 (the same amount recognized as rental income in our 2000 funds from operations), (b) reduce 2002's contractual rent to \$150,000,000 (plus additional contingent rent in certain circumstances), (c) increase Vornado/Crescent Partnership's share of annual maintenance capital expenditures by \$4,500,000 to \$9,500,000 effective January 1, 2000 and (d) extend the deferred rent period to December 31, 2003 from March 11, 2002.

AmeriCold Logistics has advised the Vornado/Crescent Partnerships that (a) its revenue for the quarter and nine months ended September 30, 2001 from the warehouses it leases from the Vornado/ Crescent Partnerships is lower than last year by 6.5% and 4.4%, respectively, and (b) its gross profit before rent at these warehouses for the corresponding periods is lower than last year by \$8,445,000 (an 18.5% decline) and \$18,628,000 (a 13.8% decline), respectively. These decreases are attributable to a reduction in total customer inventory stored at the warehouses and customer inventory turns. Based on our policy of recognizing rental income when earned and collection is assured or cash is received, we did not recognize \$5,311,000 and \$7,651,000 of income for the quarter and nine months, respectively, ended September 30, 2001. At September 30, 2001, our balance of AmeriCold Logistics' total deferred rent is \$21,123,000 (which does not include \$1,174,000 applicable to the receivable arising from the

Edgar Filing: VORNADO REALTY TRUST - Form 424B5

straight-lining of rents which was deferred in the year ended December 31, 2000).

To the extent that the operations of AmeriCold Logistics may affect its ability to pay rent and, consequently, the amount of percentage rent due under the leases, we will indirectly bear the risks associated with AmeriCold Logistics' cold storage business. The cold storage business is extremely competitive. Factors affecting AmeriCold Logistics' ability to be competitive include, among others, (a) warehouse locations, (b) customer mix and (c) availability, quality and price of additional services.

WE MAY INCUR COSTS TO COMPLY WITH ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS.

Our operations and properties are subject to various federal, state and local laws, ordinances and regulations concerning the protection of the environment including air and water quality, hazardous substances and health and safety. Under certain of these environmental laws a current or previous owner or operator of real estate may be required to investigate and clean up hazardous or toxic substances released at a property. The owner or operator

S-8

may also be held liable to a governmental entity or to third parties for property damage or personal injuries and for investigation and clean-up costs incurred by those parties because of the contamination. These laws often impose liability without regard to whether the owner or operator knew of the release of the substances or was responsible for the release. The presence of contamination or the failure to remediate contamination may impair our ability to sell or lease real estate or to borrow using the real estate as collateral. Other laws and regulations govern indoor and outdoor air quality including those that can require the abatement or removal of asbestos-containing materials in the event of demolition, renovations or remodeling and also govern emissions of and exposure to asbestos fibers in the air. The maintenance and removal of lead paint, and certain electrical equipment containing poly-chlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and underground storage tanks are also regulated by federal and state laws. We could incur fines for environmental compliance and be held liable for the costs of remedial action with respect to the foregoing regulated substances or tanks or related claims arising out of environmental contamination or exposure at our properties.

REAL ESTATE IS A COMPETITIVE BUSINESS.

The real estate industry is highly competitive. In each region where we operate, including the New York City and Washington, D.C. metropolitan areas, we compete for tenants with a large number of other real estate property owners. The principal means of competition are rents charged, attractiveness of location and quality of service. In addition, we expect other major real estate investors with significant capital will compete with us for attractive investment opportunities. These competitors include other REITs, investment banking firms and private institutional investors. This competition has increased prices for commercial properties and may impair our ability to make suitable property acquisitions on favorable terms in the future.

VORNADO'S OWNERSHIP STRUCTURE AND RELATED-PARTY TRANSACTIONS MAY GIVE RISE TO CONFLICTS OF INTEREST.

STEVEN ROTH AND INTERSTATE PROPERTIES MAY EXERCISE SUBSTANTIAL INFLUENCE OVER VORNADO. THEY AND SOME OF THE OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES OF VORNADO REALTY

Edgar Filing: VORNADO REALTY TRUST - Form 424B5

TRUST HAVE INTERESTS OR POSITIONS IN OTHER ENTITIES THAT MAY COMPETE WITH VORNADO.

As of December 31, 2001, Interstate Properties, a New Jersey general partnership, which we refer to as "Interstate", and its partners owned approximately 15.5% of the common shares of Vornado Realty Trust, 27.5% of Alexander's, Inc., which we refer to hereafter as "Alexander's", and had beneficial ownership of 17.6% of Vornado Operating. Steven Roth, David Mandelbaum and Russell B. Wight, Jr. are the three partners of Interstate. Mr. Roth is the Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of Vornado, the managing general partner of Interstate and the Chief Executive Officer and a director of Alexander's and Chairman of the Board and a director of Vornado Operating. Mr. Wight is a member of the board of trustees of Vornado Realty Trust and is also a director of both Alexander's and Vornado Operating. Mr. Mandelbaum is a member of the board of trustees of Vornado Realty Trust and is also a director of Alexander's.

As of December 31, 2001, Vornado owned 33.1% of the outstanding common stock of Alexander's. Alexander's is a REIT engaged in leasing, managing, developing and redeveloping properties, focusing primarily on the locations where its department stores operated before they ceased operations in 1992. Alexander's has seven properties, which are located in the New York City metropolitan area. Mr. Roth and Michael D. Fascitelli, the President and a member of the board of trustees of Vornado Realty Trust, are directors of Alexander's. Messrs. Mandelbaum, Richard R. West and Wight are members of the board of trustees of Vornado and are also directors of Alexander's.

Because of these overlapping interests, Mr. Roth and Interstate may have substantial influence over Vornado, Alexander's and Vornado Operating and on the outcome of any matters submitted to Vornado's, Alexander's or Vornado Operating's shareholders or stockholders for approval. In addition, certain decisions concerning the operations or financial structure of Vornado may present conflicts of interest among Messrs. Roth, Mandelbaum and Wight and Interstate and other shareholders of Vornado Realty Trust. In addition, Mr. Roth and Interstate may in the future engage in a wide variety of activities in the real estate business which may result in conflicts of interest with respect to certain matters affecting Vornado, Alexander's or Vornado Operating, such as a determination of which of these entities or persons, if any, may take advantage of potential business opportunities, decisions

S-9

concerning the business focus of these entities (including decisions concerning the types of properties and geographic locations in which these entities make investments), potential competition between business activities conducted, or sought to be conducted, by Vornado, Interstate, Alexander's and Vornado Operating (including competition for properties and tenants), possible corporate transactions (such as acquisitions) and other strategic decisions affecting the future of these entities.

Vornado currently manages and leases the real estate assets of Interstate under a management agreement for which Vornado receives a quarterly fee equal to 4% of base rent and percentage rent and certain other commissions. The management agreement has a term of one year and is automatically renewable unless terminated by either of the parties on 60 days' notice at the end of the term. For the nine months ended September 30, 2001, Vornado earned \$1,133,600 of management fees under the management agreement. Because Vornado and Interstate are controlled by the same persons, as described above, the terms of the management agreement and any future agreements between Vornado and Interstate

Edgar Filing: VORNADO REALTY TRUST - Form 424B5

may not be comparable to those Vornado could have negotiated with an unaffiliated third party.

VORNADO ENGAGES IN TRANSACTIONS WITH VORNADO OPERATING ON TERMS THAT MAY OR MAY NOT BE COMPARABLE TO THOSE VORNADO COULD NEGOTIATE WITH UNAFFILIATED THIRD PARTIES.

In October 1998, Vornado Operating was spun off from Vornado in order to own assets that Vornado could not itself own and conduct activities that Vornado could not itself conduct.

In addition to being members of the Board of Trustees of Vornado Realty Trust, which we refer to hereafter as the "Vornado board", Messrs. Roth, Fascitelli, West and Wight are directors of Vornado Operating. Mr. Roth is also Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of Vornado Operating, Mr. Fascitelli is also President of Vornado Operating, and certain other members of Vornado's senior management hold corresponding positions with Vornado Operating.

Vornado Operating was granted a \$75,000,000 unsecured revolving credit facility from Vornado which expires on December 31, 2004. We refer to this facility as the "Revolving Credit Agreement". Borrowings under the Revolving Credit Agreement bear interest at LIBOR plus 3%. Vornado receives a commitment fee equal to 1% per annum on the average daily unused portion of the facility. No amortization is required to be paid under the Revolving Credit Agreement during its term. The Revolving Credit Agreement prohibits Vornado Operating from incurring indebtedness to third parties (other than certain purchase money debt and certain other exceptions) and prohibits Vornado Operating from paying dividends. As of September 30, 2001, \$30,921,538 was outstanding under the Revolving Credit Agreement.

Vornado and Vornado Operating are parties to an agreement under which, among other things, (a) Vornado will offer Vornado Operating, under certain circumstances, an opportunity to become the lessee of certain real property owned now or in the future by Vornado (under mutually satisfactory lease terms) and (b) Vornado Operating will not make any real estate investment or other investments known as REIT-qualified investments unless it first offers Vornado the opportunity to make the investment and Vornado has rejected that opportunity. Under this agreement, Vornado provides Vornado Operating with administrative, corporate, accounting, financial, insurance, legal, tax, data processing, human resources and operational services. For these services, Vornado Operating compensates Vornado in an amount determined in good faith by Vornado as the amount an unaffiliated third party would charge Vornado Operating for comparable services and reimburses Vornado for certain costs incurred and paid to third parties on behalf of Vornado Operating. Under this agreement, compensation for these services was approximately \$330,000 for the years ended December 31, 2000 and 1999 and \$247,500 for the nine months ended September 30, 2001 and 2000. Vornado Operating and Vornado each have the right to terminate this agreement if the other party is in material default of the agreement or upon 90 days written notice to the other party at any time after December 31, 2003. In addition, Vornado has the right to terminate this agreement upon a change in control of Vornado Operating.

Vornado Operating's restated certificate of incorporation specifies that one of its corporate purposes is to perform this agreement and, for so long as the agreement remains in effect, prohibits Vornado Operating from

S-10

making any real estate investment or other REIT-qualified investment without

Edgar Filing: VORNADO REALTY TRUST - Form 424B5

first offering the opportunity to Vornado in the manner specified in this agreement.

Vornado and Vornado Operating may enter into additional transactions in the future. Because Vornado and Vornado Operating share common senior management and because a majority of the trustees of Vornado also constitute the majority of the directors of Vornado Operating, the terms of the foregoing agreements and any future agreements between Vornado and Vornado Operating may not be comparable to those Vornado could have negotiated with an unaffiliated third party.

THERE MAY BE CONFLICTS OF INTEREST BETWEEN VORNADO AND ALEXANDER'S, INC.

As of September 30, 2001, Vornado owned 33.1% of the outstanding shares of common stock of Alexander's. Alexander's is a REIT engaged in leasing, managing, developing and redeveloping properties, focusing primarily on the locations where its department stores operated before they ceased operations in 1992. Alexander's has seven properties, which are further described in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2000 and our Quarterly Reports on 10-Q for the periods ended March 31, 2001, June 30, 2001 and September 30, 2001. Interstate, which is further described above, owned an additional 27.5% of the outstanding common stock of Alexander's as of December 31, 2000. Mr. Roth, Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of Vornado Realty Trust, and Mr. Fascitelli, President and a member of the Vornado board, are directors of Alexander's. Messrs. Mandelbaum, West and Wight, members of the Vornado board, are also directors of Alexander's. Alexander's common stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol "ALX."

At September 30, 2001, Vornado had loans receivable from Alexander's of \$119,000,000 at an interest rate of 13.74%. These loans mature on March 15, 2002. Vornado manages, develops and leases the Alexander's properties under a management and development agreement and a leasing agreement under which Vornado receives annual fees from Alexander's. These agreements have a one-year term expiring in March of each year and are automatically renewable. Because Vornado and Alexander's share common senior management and because a majority of the trustees of Vornado also constitute the majority of the directors of Alexander's, the terms of the foregoing agreements and any future agreements between Vornado and Alexander's may not be comparable to those Vornado could have negotiated with an unaffiliated third party.

For a description of Interstate's ownership of Vornado, Vornado Operating and Alexander's, see " --Steven Roth and Interstate Properties may exercise substantial influence over Vornado. They and some of the officers and trustees of Vornado Realty Trust have interests or positions in other entities that may compete with Vornado" above.

AN AFFILIATED COMPANY PROVIDES CLEANING AND SECURITY SERVICES TO OUR OFFICE PROPERTIES IN THE NEW YORK CITY METROPOLITAN AREA AND NEW JERSEY UNDER CONTRACTS THAT WERE NOT NEGOTIATED AT ARM'S LENGTH.

David Greenbaum, the Chief Executive Officer of our Office Division, and certain other investors, which we refer to as the "Mendik Group", own an entity which provides cleaning and related services and security services to our office properties in the New York City metropolitan area and New Jersey. Vornado Realty L.P., our operating partnership, has entered into contracts with the Mendik Group to provide these services to certain office properties in which it owns a 100% interest. The contracts under which these services are provided were not negotiated at arms' length.

VORNADO'S ORGANIZATIONAL AND FINANCIAL STRUCTURE GIVES RISE TO OPERATIONAL AND FINANCIAL RISKS.

Edgar Filing: VORNADO REALTY TRUST - Form 424B5

VORNADO DEPENDS ON ITS DIRECT AND INDIRECT SUBSIDIARIES' DIVIDENDS AND DISTRIBUTIONS, AND THESE SUBSIDIARIES' CREDITORS AND PREFERRED SECURITY HOLDERS ARE ENTITLED TO PAYMENT OF AMOUNTS PAYABLE TO THEM BY THE SUBSIDIARIES BEFORE THE SUBSIDIARIES MAY PAY ANY DIVIDENDS OR DISTRIBUTIONS TO VORNADO.

Substantially all of our assets consist of our partnership interests in Vornado Realty L.P., our operating partnership. Vornado Realty L.P. holds substantially all of its properties and assets through subsidiaries. Vornado

S-11

Realty L.P., therefore, depends for substantially all of its revenue on cash distributions to it by its subsidiaries. The creditors of each subsidiary are entitled to payment of the subsidiary's obligations to them, when due and payable, before distributions may be made by the subsidiary to Vornado Realty L.P. Thus, Vornado Realty L.P.'s ability to make distributions to its unit holders depends on its subsidiaries' ability to satisfy their obligations to their creditors and make distributions to Vornado Realty L.P. In addition, the right of Vornado Realty L.P. unit holders to participate in any distribution of the assets of any of Vornado Realty L.P.'s direct or indirect subsidiaries upon the liquidation, reorganization or insolvency of the subsidiary (and any consequent right of Vornado Realty L.P. unit holders to participate in those assets) will be subject to the claims of the creditors (including trade creditors) and preferred security holders (if any) of the subsidiary.

Furthermore, the holders of preferred units of Vornado Realty L.P. are entitled to receive preferred distributions before payment of distributions to holders of Vornado Realty L.P. common units, including Vornado Realty Trust. Thus, the ability of Vornado Realty Trust to pay dividends to its holders of common shares depends on Vornado Realty L.P.'s ability first to satisfy its obligations to its creditors and make distributions payable to holders of preferred units and then to make distributions to Vornado Realty Trust. There are currently 14 series of preferred units of Vornado Realty L.P. not held by Vornado Realty Trust which have preference over the common shares of Vornado Realty Trust. The total liquidation value of these 14 series of preferred units is approximately \$1,368,200,200.

In addition, the shareholders of Vornado Realty Trust will have the right to participate in any distribution of the assets of any of Vornado's direct or indirect subsidiaries upon the liquidation, reorganization or insolvency of the subsidiary, and consequently to participate in those assets, only after the claims of the creditors, including trade creditors, and preferred security holders, if any, of the subsidiary are satisfied.

WE HAVE INDEBTEDNESS, AND THIS INDEBTEDNESS MAY INCREASE.

As of September 30, 2001, on a pro forma combined basis that assumes the merger between Vornado and Charles E. Smith Commercial Realty L.P. occurred as of January 1, 2001, we had approximately \$4.2 billion in total debt outstanding, including the debt we expect to assume in connection with the merger. In addition, as of September 30, 2001 on a pro forma combined basis, our ratio of total debt to total enterprise value was 45.8%. When we say "enterprise value" in the preceding sentence, we mean market equity value plus debt less cash. In the future, in connection with our strategy for growth, this percentage may change. We may review and modify our debt level from time to time without notice to or any vote of our shareholders.

Edgar Filing: VORNADO REALTY TRUST - Form 424B5

LOSS OF OUR KEY PERSONNEL COULD HARM OUR OPERATIONS.

We are dependent on the efforts of Steven Roth, the Chairman of the Vornado board and Chief Executive Officer of Vornado Realty Trust, and Michael D. Fascitelli, the President of Vornado Realty Trust. While we believe that we could find replacements for these key personnel, the loss of their services could have an adverse effect on our operations.

WE MIGHT FAIL TO QUALIFY OR REMAIN QUALIFIED AS A REIT.

Although we believe that we will remain organized and will continue to operate so as to qualify as a REIT for federal income tax purposes, we might fail to remain qualified in this way. Qualification as a REIT for federal income tax purposes is governed by highly technical and complex provisions of the Internal Revenue Code for which there are only limited judicial or administrative interpretations. Our qualification as a REIT also depends on various facts and circumstances that are not entirely within our control. In addition, legislation, new regulations, administrative interpretations or court decisions might significantly change the tax laws with respect to the requirements for qualification as a REIT or the federal income tax consequences of qualification as a REIT.

If, with respect to any taxable year, we fail to maintain our qualification as a REIT, we could not deduct distributions to shareholders in computing our taxable income and would have to pay federal income tax on our taxable income at regular corporate rates. The federal income tax payable would include any applicable alternative

S-12

minimum tax. If we had to pay federal income tax, the amount of money available to distribute to shareholders would be reduced for the year or years involved, and we would no longer be required to distribute money to shareholders. In addition, we would also be disqualified from treatment as a REIT for the four taxable years following the year during which qualification was lost, unless we were entitled to relief under the relevant statutory provisions. Although we currently intend to operate in a manner designed to allow us to qualify as a REIT, future economic, market, legal, tax or other considerations may cause us to revoke the REIT election.

OUR CHARTER DOCUMENTS AND APPLICABLE LAW MAY HINDER ANY ATTEMPT TO ACQUIRE US.

Generally, unless a relief provision that deems the requirement to be satisfied in certain circumstances applies, for us to maintain our qualification as a REIT under the Internal Revenue Code, not more than 50% in value of our outstanding shares of beneficial interest may be owned, directly or indirectly, by five or fewer individuals (as defined in the Internal Revenue Code to include certain entities) at any time during the last half of a taxable year. Our declaration of trust, subject to certain exceptions, provides that no person may own more than 6.7% of our outstanding common shares or 9.9% of our outstanding preferred shares of beneficial interest. These restrictions on transferability and ownership may delay, defer or prevent a change in our control or other transaction that might involve a premium price or otherwise be in the best interest of the shareholders. For more information regarding these restrictions, see "Description of Shares of Beneficial Interest -- Description of Common Shares -- Restrictions on Ownership" in the accompanying prospectus.

Our board of trustees is divided into three classes of trustees. Trustees

Edgar Filing: VORNADO REALTY TRUST - Form 424B5

of each class are chosen for three-year staggered terms. Staggered terms of trustees may reduce the possibility of a tender offer or an attempt to change control of us, even though a tender offer or change in control might be in the best interest of our shareholders.

Our declaration of trust authorizes our board of trustees, without a shareholder vote, to cause us to issue additional authorized but unissued common shares or preferred shares and to classify or reclassify, in one or more series, any unissued preferred shares and to set the preferences, rights and other terms of any classified or reclassified shares. Although our board has no such intention at the present time, it could establish a series of preferred shares that could, depending on the terms of the series, delay, defer or prevent a change in control of us or other transaction that might involve a premium price or otherwise be in the best interest of our shareholders.

Our declaration of trust and bylaws contain other provisions that may delay, deter or prevent a change in control of us or other transaction that might involve a premium price or otherwise be in the best interest of our shareholders.

Under the Maryland General Corporation Law, as amended, which we will refer to as the "MGCL", as applicable to real estate investment trusts, certain "business combinations" (including certain mergers, consolidations, share exchanges and asset transfers and certain issuances and reclassifications of equity securities) between a Maryland real estate investment trust and any person who beneficially owns ten percent or more of the voting power of the trust's shares or an affiliate or an associate, as defined in the MGCL, of the trust who, at any time within the two-year period before the date in question, was the beneficial owner of ten percent or more of the voting power of the then outstanding voting shares of beneficial interest of the trust, which we refer to hereafter as an "interested shareholder", or an affiliate of the interested shareholder are prohibited for five years after the most recent date on which the interested shareholder becomes an interested shareholder. After that five-year period, any business combination of these kinds must be recommended by the board of trustees of the trust and approved by the affirmative vote of at least (a) 80% of the votes entitled to be cast by holders of outstanding shares of beneficial interest of the trust and (b) two-thirds of the votes entitled to be cast by holders of voting shares of the trust other than shares held by the interested shareholder with whom (or with whose affiliate) the business combination is to be effected, unless, among other conditions, the trust's common shareholders receive a minimum price (as defined in the MGCL) for their shares and the consideration is received in cash or in the same form as previously paid by the interested shareholder for its common shares. The provisions of the MGCL do not apply, however, to business combinations that are approved or exempted by the board of trustees of the trust before the interested shareholder becomes an interested shareholder. The Vornado board has adopted a resolution exempting any business combination between any trustee or officer of Vornado Realty Trust (or their affiliates) and Vornado Realty Trust. As a result, the trustees and officers of Vornado Realty Trust and their affiliates may be able to enter business combinations with Vornado Realty Trust which may not be in the best interest of shareholders and, with respect to

S-13

business combinations with other persons, the business combination provisions of the MGCL may have the effect of delaying, deferring or preventing a change in the control of Vornado Realty Trust or other transaction that might involve a premium price or otherwise be in the best interest of the shareholders. The business combination statute may discourage others from trying to acquire

Edgar Filing: VORNADO REALTY TRUST - Form 424B5

control of Vornado Realty Trust and increase the difficulty of consummating any offer.

THE MARKET FOR OUR SHARES GIVES RISE TO VARIOUS RISKS.

WE HAVE MANY SHARES AVAILABLE FOR FUTURE SALE, WHICH COULD HURT THE MARKET PRICE OF OUR SHARES.

As of February 25, 2002, 21,461,831 of our common shares were reserved for issuance upon redemption of Vornado Realty L.P. units, which includes 15,612,831 million common shares issuable upon redemption of Vornado Realty L.P. units which were issued in connection with the merger between Vornado and Charles E. Smith Commercial Realty L.P. These shares may be sold in the public market after registration under the Securities Act under registration rights agreements between Vornado Realty Trust and the holders of the units of Vornado Realty L.P. These shares may also be sold in the public market under Rule 144 under the Securities Act or other available exemptions from registration. In addition, we have reserved a number of our common shares for issuance under our employee benefit plans, and these common shares will be available for sale from time to time. We have granted options to purchase additional common shares to some of our executive officers and employees. We cannot predict the effect that future sales of our common shares, or the perception that sales of our common shares could occur, will have on the market prices of our equity securities.

CHANGES IN MARKET CONDITIONS COULD HURT THE MARKET PRICE OF OUR SHARES.

The value of our common shares depends on various market conditions, which may change from time to time. Among the market conditions that may affect the value of our common shares are the extent of institutional investor interest in us; the reputation of REITs generally and the attractiveness of their equity securities in comparison to other equity securities, including securities issued by other real estate companies, and fixed income securities; our financial condition and performance; and general financial market conditions. In addition, the stock market in recent years has experienced extreme price and volume fluctuations that have often been unrelated or disproportionate to the operating performance of companies.

INCREASED MARKET RATES MAY HURT THE VALUE OF OUR SHARES.

We believe that investors consider the distribution rate on REIT shares, expressed as a percentage of the price of the shares, relative to market interest rates as an important factor in deciding whether to buy or sell the shares. If market interest rates go up, prospective purchasers of REIT shares may expect a higher distribution rate. Higher interest rates would not, however, result in more funds for us to distribute and, in fact, would likely increase our borrowing costs and might decrease our funds available for distribution. Thus, higher market interest rates could cause the market price of our common shares to decline.

S-14

VORNADO AND THE OPERATING PARTNERSHIP

Vornado is a fully-integrated real estate investment trust organized under the laws of Maryland. Vornado conducts its business through, and substantially all of its interests in properties are held by, Vornado Realty L.P., which we call the "operating partnership." Vornado is the sole general partner of, and owns an approximately 79% common limited partnership interest in, the operating

Edgar Filing: VORNADO REALTY TRUST - Form 424B5

partnership as of February 1, 2002.

The operating partnership currently owns directly or indirectly:

- o Office Properties:
 - all or portions of 73 office properties in the New York City metropolitan area (primarily Manhattan) and in the Washington, D.C. and Northern Virginia area aggregating approximately 27.2 million square feet;
- o Retail Properties:
 - 55 shopping center properties in six states and Puerto Rico aggregating approximately 11.3 million square feet, including 1.4 million square feet built by tenants on land leased from Vornado;
- o Merchandise Mart Properties:
 - the Merchandise Mart Properties portfolio containing approximately 8.6 million square feet, including the 3.4 million square foot Merchandise Mart in Chicago;
- o Temperature Controlled Logistics:
 - a 60% interest in partnerships that own 89 warehouse facilities nationwide with an aggregate of approximately 445 million cubic feet of refrigerated space leased to AmeriCold Logistics;
- o Other Real Estate Investments:
 - 33.1% of the outstanding common stock of Alexander's, Inc.;
 - the Hotel Pennsylvania in New York City consisting of a hotel portion containing 1,000,000 square feet with 1,700 rooms and a commercial portion containing 400,000 square feet of retail and office space;
 - a 21.1% interest in The Newkirk Master Limited Partnership which owns office, retail and industrial properties and various debt interests in such properties;
 - eight dry warehouse/industrial properties in New Jersey containing approximately 2.0 million square feet; and
 - other real estate investments.

On January 1, 2002, we acquired the 66% interest in Charles E. Smith Commercial Realty L.P. that we did not previously own, resulting in the issuance of 15,612,831 units of the operating partnership. On January 1, 2002, the day the merger was consummated, these units had a value of \$649 million based on the closing price of our common shares on December 31, 2001. For more information about this transaction, see our Current Reports on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on October 19, 2001 and on January 16, 2002.

Our principal executive offices are located at 888 Seventh Avenue, New York, New York 10019, and our telephone number is (212) 894-7000.

Edgar Filing: VORNADO REALTY TRUST - Form 424B5

THE OFFERING

Common shares offered by this prospectus supplement.....514,200 shares

Common shares to be outstanding after the offering.....104,207,370 shares

New York Stock Exchange symbol.....VNO

The number of common shares offered by this prospectus supplement and the number of shares to be outstanding after the offering assumes that Salomon Smith Barney Inc. does not exercise its option to purchase additional common shares. See "Underwriting" for more information about this option.

The number of common shares to be outstanding after the offering also does not contemplate an additional 884,543 that we have agreed to sell to Cohen & Steers Quality Income Realty Fund, Inc. pursuant to a purchase agreement dated February 25, 2002 by and between us, Vornado Realty L.P. and the fund. The consummation of this offering and the transaction between us and Cohen & Steers Quality Income Realty Fund, Inc. are not conditioned on each other.

In addition, the number of common shares to be outstanding after the offering does not include 15,583,000 common shares reserved for issuance upon the exercise of outstanding options, 21,461,831 common shares reserved for issuance upon the redemption of 21,461,831 outstanding Class A Units in the operating partnership issued in connection with acquisitions of properties, including those units in the operating partnership issued in connection with the purchase of the remaining 66% interest in Charles E. Smith Commercial Realty L.P., 7,934,000 common shares reserved for issuance upon the conversion of outstanding \$3.25 Series A Convertible Preferred Shares of Beneficial Interest, liquidation preference \$50.00 per share, of Vornado and 1,233,296 common shares reserved for issuance upon the redemption of the Series B-1 Convertible Preferred and Series B-2 Restricted Convertible Preferred Units, each such series with a liquidation preference of \$50 per unit, of the operating partnership, 854,938 common shares reserved for issuance upon the redemption of outstanding Series C-1 Convertible Preferred Units, liquidation preference \$50 per unit, of the operating partnership, 4,998,000 common shares reserved for issuance upon the redemption of outstanding E-1 Convertible Preferred Units, liquidation preference \$50 per unit, of the operating partnership, 400,000 common shares reserved for issuance upon the redemption of outstanding Series F-1 Preferred Units, liquidation preference \$25 per unit, of the operating partnership.

S-16

USE OF PROCEEDS

The net proceeds from the sale of the common shares are estimated to be approximately \$20,839,644, after deducting Vornado's expenses which are approximately \$150,000 (approximately \$23,988,091 if Salomon Smith Barney Inc. exercises its option to purchase additional shares).

Vornado intends to contribute the net proceeds to the operating partnership in exchange for a number of Class A units in the operating partnership equal to the number of common shares offered and sold by this prospectus supplement. The operating partnership will use the net proceeds for general working capital purposes. Pending this use, the net proceeds may be invested in short-term

Edgar Filing: VORNADO REALTY TRUST - Form 424B5

income-producing investments.

The sale of the common shares offered by this prospectus supplement is not subject to the consummation of any of the acquisitions or investments described in this prospectus supplement or in the information incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus, nor are any of those acquisitions or investments subject to the prior sale of the common shares.

S-17

SUPPLEMENTAL DESCRIPTION OF SHARES OF BENEFICIAL INTEREST

The following description of the shares of beneficial interest of Vornado Realty Trust supplements the "Description of Shares of Beneficial Interest" in the accompanying prospectus and, if the information in this section is inconsistent with the information in that section, the information in this section is controlling. This section updates information about the numbers of shares that are authorized, issued and outstanding and the series of preferred shares that Vornado has designated. The "Description of Shares of Beneficial Interest -- Description of Common Shares" in the accompanying prospectus describes the material terms of the common shares.

AUTHORIZED AND OUTSTANDING CLASSES OF SHARES OF VORNADO REALTY TRUST

The declaration of trust authorizes the issuance of up to 440,000,000 shares of beneficial interest, consisting of:

- o 150,000,000 common shares of beneficial interest, par value \$0.04 per share;
- o 70,000,000 preferred shares of beneficial interest, without par value; and
- o 220,000,000 excess shares of beneficial interest, par value \$0.04 per share.

Of the authorized 70,000,000 preferred shares, Vornado Realty Trust has designated:

- o 5,789,239 as \$3.25 Series A Convertible Preferred Shares;
- o 3,400,000 as 8.5% Series B Cumulative Redeemable Preferred Shares;
- o 4,600,000 as 8.5% Series C Cumulative Redeemable Preferred Shares;
- o 3,500,000 as 8.5% Series D-1 Cumulative Redeemable Preferred Shares;
- o 549,336 as 8.375% Series D-2 Cumulative Redeemable Preferred Shares;
- o 8,000,000 as 8.25% Series D-3 Cumulative Redeemable Preferred Shares;
- o 5,000,000 as 8.25% Series D-4 Cumulative Redeemable Preferred Shares;
- o 7,480,000 as 8.25% Series D-5 Cumulative Redeemable Preferred Shares;
- o 1,000,000 as 8.25% Series D-6 Cumulative Redeemable Preferred Shares;
- o 7,200,000 as 8.25% Series D-7 Cumulative Redeemable Preferred Shares;

Edgar Filing: VORNADO REALTY TRUST - Form 424B5

- o 360,000 as 8.25% Series D-8 Cumulative Redeemable Preferred Shares; and
- o 1,800,000 as 8.25% Series D-9 Cumulative Redeemable Preferred Shares.

As of February 22, 2002, the following shares were issued and outstanding:

- o 103,693,170 common shares;
- o 2,347,153 Series A preferred shares;
- o 3,400,000 Series B preferred shares; and
- o 4,600,000 Series C preferred shares.

No Series D-1, Series D-2, Series D-3, Series D-4, Series D-5, Series D-6, Series D-7, Series D-8 or Series D-9 preferred shares were issued and outstanding as of February 22, 2002. Shares of each of these series may be issued in the future upon redemption of preferred units of limited partnership interest of the operating partnership of a corresponding series that were issued and outstanding as of February 22, 2002. No excess shares were issued and outstanding as of February 22, 2002.

S-18

The number of common shares issued and outstanding stated above does not contemplate the 514,200 common shares offered pursuant to this prospectus supplement, the 77,130 additional common shares that Salomon Smith Barney Inc. may purchase pursuant to the option further described under "Underwriting" or the 884,543 common shares that we are offering simultaneously with the offering contemplated by this prospectus supplement pursuant to a purchase agreement dated February 25, 2002 by and between us, Vornado Realty L.P. and Cohen & Steers Quality Income Realty Fund, Inc.

S-19

PRICE RANGE OF THE COMMON SHARES AND DISTRIBUTIONS

The common shares are listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol "VNO". The following table shows, for the periods indicated, the high and low closing sale prices of the common shares as reported by the New York Stock Exchange, and the cash dividends paid per share in those periods.

	HIGH ----	LOW ---	DIVIDENDS -----
2000			
1st Quarter.....	\$35.25	\$29.88	\$0.48
2nd Quarter.....	36.50	33.69	0.48
3rd Quarter.....	40.75	35.50	0.48
4th Quarter.....	38.94	33.38	0.53
2001			
1st Quarter.....	\$38.76	\$34.57	\$0.53
2nd Quarter.....	39.75	34.56	0.53
3rd Quarter.....	41.60	37.95	0.60
4th Quarter.....	41.65	36.69	0.66

Edgar Filing: VORNADO REALTY TRUST - Form 424B5

2002

1st Quarter (through February 25, 2002).. \$43.20 \$41.89 \$ --

Future dividends by Vornado will be at the discretion of the Vornado board and will depend on the actual cash flow of Vornado, its earnings, financial condition and capital requirements, the annual distribution requirements under the REIT provisions of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, and any other factors the Vornado board deems relevant. A principal factor in the determination of dividends is the requirement of the Internal Revenue Code that a REIT distribute at least 90% of its REIT taxable income as determined under the Internal Revenue Code. See "Federal Income Tax Considerations -- Taxation of Vornado as a REIT" for more information about this requirement.

Distributions by Vornado to the extent of its current earnings and profits for federal income tax purposes are taxable to shareholders as ordinary dividend income. Distributions in excess of earnings and profits generally are treated as a non-taxable return of capital to the extent of a shareholder's basis in the common shares. A return of capital distribution generally has the effect of deferring taxation until a shareholder's sale of common shares. Vornado has determined that 100% of the dividends paid in 2000 represented ordinary dividend income to shareholders.

The registrar and transfer agent for the common shares is First Union National Bank.

The approximate number of shareholders of record at February 22, 2002 was 2393.

S-20

FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSIDERATIONS

The following discussion replaces the discussion in the accompanying prospectus under the headings "Federal Income Tax Considerations -- Taxation of the Company as a REIT", "Federal Income Tax Considerations -- Taxation of Holders of Common Shares or Preferred Shares" and "Federal Income Tax Considerations -- Other Tax Consequences."

It summarizes the taxation of Vornado and the material Federal income tax consequences to holders of the common shares for your general information only. It is not tax advice. The tax treatment of a holder of common shares will vary depending upon the holder's particular situation, and this discussion addresses only holders that hold common shares as capital assets and does not deal with all aspects of taxation that may be relevant to particular holders in light of their personal investment or tax circumstances. This section also does not deal with all aspects of taxation that may be relevant to certain types of holders to which special provisions of the Federal income tax laws apply, including:

- o dealers in securities or currencies;
- o traders in securities that elect to use a mark-to-market method of accounting for their securities holdings;
- o banks;
- o tax-exempt organizations;

Edgar Filing: VORNADO REALTY TRUST - Form 424B5

- o certain insurance companies;
- o persons liable for the alternative minimum tax;
- o persons that hold securities that are a hedge, that are hedged against currency risks or that are part of a straddle or conversion transaction; and
- o persons whose functional currency is not the U.S. dollar.

This summary is based on the Internal Revenue Code, its legislative history, existing and proposed regulations under the Internal Revenue Code, published rulings and court decisions. This summary describes the provisions of these sources of law only as they are currently in effect. All of these sources of law may change at any time, and any change in the law may apply retroactively.

WE URGE YOU TO CONSULT WITH YOUR OWN TAX ADVISORS REGARDING THE TAX CONSEQUENCES TO YOU OF ACQUIRING, OWNING AND SELLING COMMON SHARES, INCLUDING THE FEDERAL, STATE, LOCAL AND FOREIGN TAX CONSEQUENCES OF ACQUIRING, OWNING AND SELLING COMMON SHARES IN YOUR PARTICULAR CIRCUMSTANCES AND POTENTIAL CHANGES IN APPLICABLE LAWS.

TAXATION OF VORNADO AS A REIT

In the opinion of Sullivan & Cromwell, commencing with its taxable year ended December 31, 1993, Vornado has been organized and operated in conformity with the requirements for qualification and taxation as a REIT under the Internal Revenue Code, and Vornado's proposed method of operation will enable it to continue to meet the requirements for qualification and taxation as a REIT under the Internal Revenue Code. Investors should be aware, however, that opinions of counsel are not binding upon the Internal Revenue Service or any court.

In providing its opinion, Sullivan & Cromwell is relying,

- o as to certain factual matters upon the statements and representations contained in certificates provided to Sullivan & Cromwell by Vornado, Two Penn Plaza, REIT, Inc. and AmeriCold Corporation;
- o without independent investigation, as to certain factual matters upon the statements and representations contained in the certificate provided to Sullivan & Cromwell by Alexander's and Charles E. Smith Commercial Realty L.P.;

S-21

- o without independent investigation, upon the opinion of Shearman & Sterling concerning the qualification of Alexander's as a REIT for each taxable year commencing with its taxable year ending December 31, 1995; and
- o in providing its opinion regarding the qualification of Alexander's as a REIT for Federal income tax purposes, Shearman & Sterling is relying, as to certain factual matters, upon representations received from Alexander's.

Vornado's qualification as a REIT will depend upon the continuing satisfaction by Vornado and, given Vornado's current ownership interest in

Edgar Filing: VORNADO REALTY TRUST - Form 424B5

Alexander's, AmeriCold and Two Penn, by Alexander's, AmeriCold and Two Penn, of the requirements of the Internal Revenue Code relating to qualification for REIT status. Some of these requirements depend upon actual operating results, distribution levels, diversity of stock ownership, asset composition, source of income and recordkeeping. Accordingly, while Vornado intends to continue to qualify to be taxed as a REIT, the actual results of Vornado's, Two Penn's, AmeriCold's or Alexander's operations for any particular year might not satisfy these requirements. Neither Sullivan & Cromwell nor Shearman & Sterling will monitor the compliance of Vornado, Two Penn, AmeriCold or Alexander's with the requirements for REIT qualification on an ongoing basis.

The sections of the Internal Revenue Code applicable to REITs are highly technical and complex. The following discussion summarizes material aspects of these sections of the Internal Revenue Code.

As a REIT, Vornado generally will not have to pay Federal corporate income taxes on its net income that it currently distributes to shareholders. This treatment substantially eliminates the "double taxation" at the corporate and shareholder levels that generally results from investment in a regular corporation.

However, Vornado will have to pay Federal income tax as follows:

- o First, Vornado will have to pay tax at regular corporate rates on any undistributed real estate investment trust taxable income, including undistributed net capital gains.
- o Second, under certain circumstances, Vornado may have to pay the alternative minimum tax on its items of tax preference.
- o Third, if Vornado has (a) net income from the sale or other disposition of "foreclosure property", as defined in the Internal Revenue Code, which is held primarily for sale to customers in the ordinary course of business or (b) other non-qualifying income from foreclosure property, it will have to pay tax at the highest corporate rate on that income.
- o Fourth, if Vornado has net income from "prohibited transactions", as defined in the Internal Revenue Code, Vornado will have to pay a 100% tax on that income. Prohibited transactions are, in general, certain sales or other dispositions of property, other than foreclosure property, held primarily for sale to customers in the ordinary course of business.
- o Fifth, if Vornado should fail to satisfy the 75% gross income test or the 95% gross income test, as discussed below under "-- Requirements for Qualification -- Income Tests", but has nonetheless maintained its qualification as a REIT because Vornado has satisfied some other requirements, it will have to pay a 100% tax on an amount equal to (a) the gross income attributable to the greater of (i) 75% of Vornado's gross income over the amount of gross income that is qualifying income for purposes of the 75% test, and (ii) 90% of Vornado's gross income (95% for taxable years ending before January 1, 2001) over the amount of gross income that is qualifying income for purposes of the 95% test, multiplied by (b) a fraction intended to reflect Vornado's profitability.
- o Sixth, if Vornado should fail to distribute during each calendar year at least the sum of (1) 85% of its real estate investment trust ordinary income for that year, (2) 95% of its real estate investment trust capital gain net income for that year and (3) any undistributed taxable income from prior periods, Vornado would have to pay a 4%

Edgar Filing: VORNADO REALTY TRUST - Form 424B5

excise tax on the excess of that required distribution over the amounts actually distributed.

S-22

- o Seventh, if during the 10-year period beginning on the first day of the first taxable year for which Vornado qualified as a REIT, Vornado recognizes gain on the disposition of any asset held by Vornado as of the beginning of that period, then, to the extent of the excess of (a) fair market value of that asset as of the beginning of that period over (b) Vornado's adjusted basis in that asset as of the beginning of that period, Vornado will have to pay tax on that gain at the highest regular corporate rate. We refer to the excess of fair market value over adjusted basis described in the preceding sentence as "built-in gain".

Notwithstanding the taxation of built-in gain described in the preceding paragraph of this bullet point, Vornado will not have to pay tax on recognized built-in gain with respect to assets held as of the first day of the 10-year period beginning on the first day of the first taxable year for which Vornado qualified as a REIT, to the extent that the aggregate amount of that recognized built-in gain exceeds the net aggregate amount of Vornado's unrealized built-in gain as of the first day of that period.

- o Eighth, if Vornado acquires any asset from a C corporation in certain transactions in which Vornado must adopt the basis of the asset or any other property in the hands of the C corporation as the basis of the asset in the hands of Vornado, and Vornado recognizes gain on the disposition of that asset during the 10-year period beginning on the date on which Vornado acquired that asset, then Vornado will have to pay tax on the built-in gain at the highest regular corporate rate. A C corporation means generally a corporation that has to pay full corporate-level tax.
- o Ninth, for taxable years beginning after December 31, 2000, if Vornado receives non-arms length income from a taxable REIT subsidiary (as defined under "-- Requirements for Qualification -- Asset Tests"), or as a result of services provided by a taxable REIT subsidiary to tenants of Vornado, Vornado will be subject to a 100% tax on the amount of Vornado's non-arms length income.

REQUIREMENTS FOR QUALIFICATION

The Internal Revenue Code defines a REIT as a corporation, trust or association

- o which is managed by one or more trustees or directors;
- o the beneficial ownership of which is evidenced by transferable shares, or by transferable certificates of beneficial interest;
- o which would otherwise be taxable as a domestic corporation, but for Sections 856 through 859 of the Internal Revenue Code;
- o which is neither a financial institution nor an insurance company to which certain provisions of the Internal Revenue Code apply;
- o the beneficial ownership of which is held by 100 or more persons;

Edgar Filing: VORNADO REALTY TRUST - Form 424B5

- o during the last half of each taxable year, not more than 50% in value of the outstanding stock of which is owned, directly or constructively, by five or fewer individuals, as defined in the Internal Revenue Code to include certain entities; and
- o which meets certain other tests, described below, regarding the nature of its income and assets.

The Internal Revenue Code provides that the conditions described in the first through fourth bullet points above must be met during the entire taxable year and that the condition described in the fifth bullet point above must be met during at least 335 days of a taxable year of 12 months, or during a proportionate part of a taxable year of less than 12 months.

Vornado has satisfied the conditions described in the first through fifth bullet points of the preceding paragraph and believes that it has also satisfied the condition described in the sixth bullet point of the preceding paragraph. In addition, Vornado's declaration of trust provides for restrictions regarding the ownership and transfer of Vornado's shares of beneficial interest. These restrictions are intended to assist Vornado in continuing to satisfy the share ownership requirements described in the fifth and sixth bullet points of the preceding paragraph. The ownership and

S-23

transfer restrictions pertaining to the common shares are described in the accompanying prospectus under the heading "Description of Common Shares --Restrictions on Ownership."

Vornado owns a number of wholly-owned corporate subsidiaries. Internal Revenue Code Section 856(i) provides that unless a REIT makes an election to treat the corporation as a taxable REIT subsidiary, a corporation which is a "qualified REIT subsidiary", as defined in the Internal Revenue Code, will not be treated as a separate corporation, and all assets, liabilities, and items of income, deduction, and credit of a qualified REIT subsidiary will be treated as assets, liabilities and items of these kinds of the REIT. Thus, in applying the requirements described in this section, Vornado's qualified REIT subsidiaries will be ignored, and all assets, liabilities and items of income, deduction, and credit of these subsidiaries will be treated as assets, liabilities and items of these kinds of Vornado. Vornado believes that all of its wholly-owned corporate subsidiaries are qualified REIT subsidiaries.

If a REIT is a partner in a partnership, Treasury regulations provide that the REIT will be deemed to own its proportionate share of the assets of the partnership and will be deemed to be entitled to the income of the partnership attributable to that share. In addition, the character of the assets and gross income of the partnership will retain the same character in the hands of the REIT for purposes of Section 856 of the Internal Revenue Code, including satisfying the gross income tests and the asset tests. Thus, Vornado's proportionate share of the assets, liabilities and items of income of any partnership in which Vornado is a partner, including the operating partnership, will be treated as assets, liabilities and items of income of Vornado for purposes of applying the requirements described in this section. Thus, actions taken by partnerships in which Vornado owns an interest, either directly or through one or more tiers of partnerships or qualified REIT subsidiaries, can affect Vornado's ability to satisfy the REIT income and assets tests and the determination of whether Vornado has net income from prohibited transactions. See the fourth bullet point on page S-27 for a discussion of prohibited

Edgar Filing: VORNADO REALTY TRUST - Form 424B5

transactions.

INCOME TESTS. In order to maintain its qualification as a REIT, Vornado annually must satisfy three gross income requirements.

- o First, Vornado must derive at least 75% of its gross income, excluding gross income from prohibited transactions, for each taxable year directly or indirectly from investments relating to real property or mortgages on real property, including "rents from real property", as defined in the Internal Revenue Code, or from certain types of temporary investments. Rents from real property generally include expenses of Vornado that are paid or reimbursed by tenants.
- o Second, at least 95% of Vornado's gross income, excluding gross income from prohibited transactions, for each taxable year must be derived from real property investments as described in the preceding bullet point, dividends, interest and gain from the sale or disposition of stock or securities, or from any combination of these types of source.
- o Third, for its taxable years before 1998, short-term gain from the sale or other disposition of stock or securities, gain from prohibited transactions and gain on the sale or other disposition of real property held for less than four years, apart from involuntary conversions and sales of foreclosure property, was required to represent less than 30% of Vornado's gross income, including gross income from prohibited transactions, for each of these taxable years.

Rents that Vornado receives will qualify as rents from real property in satisfying the gross income requirements for a REIT described above only if the rents satisfy several conditions.

- o First, the amount of rent must not be based in whole or in part on the income or profits of any person. However, an amount received or accrued generally will not be excluded from rents from real property solely because it is based on a fixed percentage or percentages of receipts or sales.
- o Second, the Internal Revenue Code provides that rents received from a tenant will not qualify as rents from real property in satisfying the gross income tests if the REIT, directly or under the applicable attribution rules, owns a 10% or greater interest in that tenant; except that for tax years beginning after December 31, 2000, rents received from a taxable REIT subsidiary under certain circumstances, qualify as rents from real

S-24

property even if Vornado owns more than a 10% interest in the subsidiary. We refer to a tenant in which Vornado owns a 10% or greater interest as a "related party tenant."

- o Third, if rent attributable to personal property leased in connection with a lease of real property is greater than 15% of the total rent received under the lease, then the portion of rent attributable to the personal property will not qualify as rents from real property.
- o Finally, for rents received to qualify as rents from real property, the REIT generally must not operate or manage the property or furnish or render services to the tenants of the property, other than through

Edgar Filing: VORNADO REALTY TRUST - Form 424B5

an independent contractor from whom the REIT derives no revenue or through a taxable REIT subsidiary. However, Vornado may directly perform certain services that landlords usually or customarily render when renting space for occupancy only or that are not considered rendered to the occupant of the property.

Vornado does not derive significant rents from related party tenants. Vornado also does not and will not derive rental income attributable to personal property, other than personal property leased in connection with the lease of real property, the amount of which is less than 15% of the total rent received under the lease.

Vornado directly performs services for some of its tenants. Vornado does not believe that the provision of these services will cause its gross income attributable to these tenants to fail to be treated as rents from real property. If Vornado were to provide services to a tenant that are other than those landlords usually or customarily provide when renting space for occupancy only, amounts received or accrued by Vornado for any of these services will not be treated as rents from real property for purposes of the REIT gross income tests. However, the amounts received or accrued for these services will not cause other amounts received with respect to the property to fail to be treated as rents from real property unless the amounts treated as received in respect of the services, together with amounts received for certain management services, exceed 1% of all amounts received or accrued by Vornado during the taxable year with respect to the property. If the sum of the amounts received in respect of the services to tenants and management services described in the preceding sentence exceeds the 1% threshold, then all amounts received or accrued by Vornado with respect to the property will not qualify as rents from real property, even if Vornado provides the impermissible services to some, but not all, of the tenants of the property.

The term "interest" generally does not include any amount received or accrued, directly or indirectly, if the determination of that amount depends in whole or in part on the income or profits of any person. However, an amount received or accrued generally will not be excluded from the term interest solely because it is based on a fixed percentage or percentages of receipts or sales.

If Vornado fails to satisfy one or both of the 75% or 95% gross income tests for any taxable year, it may nevertheless qualify as a REIT for that year if it satisfies the requirements of other provisions of the Internal Revenue Code that allow relief from disqualification as a REIT. These relief provisions will generally be available if

- o Vornado's failure to meet the income tests was due to reasonable cause and not due to willful neglect;
- o Vornado attaches a schedule of the sources of its income to its Federal income tax return; and
- o any incorrect information on the schedule was not due to fraud with intent to evade tax.

Vornado might not be entitled to the benefit of these relief provisions, however. As discussed in the fifth bullet point on page S-27, even if these relief provisions apply, Vornado would have to pay a tax on the excess income.

ASSET TESTS. Vornado, at the close of each quarter of its taxable year, must also satisfy three tests relating to the nature of its assets.

- o First, at least 75% of the value of Vornado's total assets must be represented by real estate assets, including (a) real estate assets held by Vornado's qualified REIT subsidiaries, Vornado's allocable

Edgar Filing: VORNADO REALTY TRUST - Form 424B5

share of real estate assets held by partnerships in which Vornado owns an interest and stock issued by another REIT, (b) for a period of one year from the date of Vornado's receipt of proceeds of an offering of its shares of

S-25

beneficial interest or publicly offered debt with a term of at least five years, stock or debt instruments purchased with these proceeds and (c) cash, cash items and government securities.

- o Second, not more than 25% of Vornado's total assets may be represented by securities other than those in the 75% asset class.
- o Third, for taxable years beginning after December 31, 2000, not more than 20% of Vornado's total assets may constitute securities issued by taxable REIT subsidiaries and of the investments included in the 25% asset class, the value of any one issuer's securities, other than securities issued by another REIT or by a taxable REIT subsidiary, owned by Vornado may not exceed 5% of the value of Vornado's total assets. Moreover, Vornado may not own more than 10% of the vote or value of the outstanding securities of any one issuer, except for issuers that are REITs, qualified REIT subsidiaries or taxable REIT subsidiaries, or debt instruments that are considered straight debt under a safe harbor provision of the Internal Revenue Code. For these purposes, a taxable REIT subsidiary is any corporation in which Vornado owns an interest that joins with Vornado in making an election to be treated as a "taxable REIT subsidiary" and certain subsidiaries of a taxable REIT subsidiary, if the subsidiaries do not engage in certain activities.
- o Fourth, for taxable years beginning before January 1, 2001, of the investments included in the 25% asset class, the value of any one issuer's securities, other than securities issued by another REIT, owned by Vornado may not exceed 5% of the value of Vornado's total assets and Vornado may not own more than 10% of any one issuer's outstanding voting securities.

The test described in Fourth, above, and not that described in Third, above, will continue to apply for taxable years of Vornado that begin after December 31, 2000, with respect to stock in any corporation owned by Vornado before July 12, 1999, so long as a taxable REIT subsidiary election is not made with respect to the corporation and the corporation does not acquire substantial new assets or engage in a substantial new line of business and certain other conditions are satisfied.

Since March 2, 1995, Vornado has owned more than 10% of the voting securities of Alexander's. Since April of 1997, Vornado's ownership of Alexander's has been through the operating partnership rather than direct. Vornado's ownership interest in Alexander's will not cause Vornado to fail to satisfy the asset tests for REIT status so long as Alexander's qualified as a REIT for each of the taxable years beginning with its taxable year ending December 31, 1995 and continues to so qualify. In the opinion of Shearman & Sterling, commencing with Alexander's taxable year ended December 31, 1995, Alexander's has been organized and operated in conformity with the requirements for qualification and taxation as a REIT under the Internal Revenue Code, and its proposed method of operation will enable it to continue to meet the requirements for qualification and taxation as a REIT under the Internal Revenue Code. In providing its opinion, Shearman & Sterling is relying upon

Edgar Filing: VORNADO REALTY TRUST - Form 424B5

representations received from Alexander's.

Since April of 1997, Vornado has also owned, through the operating partnership, more than 10% of the voting securities of Two Penn. Vornado's indirect ownership interest in Two Penn will not cause Vornado to fail to satisfy the asset tests for REIT status so long as Two Penn qualifies as a REIT for its first taxable year and each subsequent taxable year. Vornado believes that Two Penn will also qualify as a REIT.

ANNUAL DISTRIBUTION REQUIREMENTS. Vornado, in order to qualify as a REIT, is required to distribute dividends, other than capital gain dividends, to its shareholders in an amount at least equal to (1) the sum of (a) 90% of Vornado's "real estate investment trust taxable income", computed without regard to the dividends paid deduction and Vornado's net capital gain, and (b) 90% of the net after-tax income, if any, from foreclosure property minus (2) the sum of certain items of non-cash income.

For taxable years beginning before January 1, 2001, the required amount of distributions described above and below was 95% of the amount of Vornado's income or gain, as the case may be.

In addition, if Vornado disposes of any asset within 10 years of acquiring it, Vornado will be required to distribute at least 90% of the after-tax built-in gain, if any, recognized on the disposition of the asset.

S-26

These distributions must be paid in the taxable year to which they relate, or in the following taxable year if declared before Vornado timely files its tax return for the year to which they relate and if paid on or before the first regular dividend payment after the declaration.

To the extent that Vornado does not distribute all of its net capital gain or distributes at least 90%, but less than 100%, of its real estate investment trust taxable income, as adjusted, it will have to pay tax on those amounts at regular ordinary and capital gain corporate tax rates. Furthermore, if Vornado fails to distribute during each calendar year at least the sum of (a) 85% of its ordinary income for that year, (b) 95% of its capital gain net income for that year, and (c) any undistributed taxable income from prior periods, Vornado would have to pay a 4% excise tax on the excess of the required distribution over the amounts actually distributed.

Vornado intends to satisfy the annual distribution requirements.

From time to time, Vornado may not have sufficient cash or other liquid assets to meet the 90% distribution requirement due to timing differences between (a) when Vornado actually receives income and when it actually pays deductible expenses and (b) when Vornado includes the income and deducts the expenses in arriving at its taxable income. If timing differences of this kind occur, in order to meet the 90% distribution requirement, Vornado may find it necessary to arrange for short-term, or possibly long-term, borrowings or to pay dividends in the form of taxable stock dividends.

Under certain circumstances, Vornado may be able to rectify a failure to meet the distribution requirement for a year by paying "deficiency dividends" to shareholders in a later year, which may be included in Vornado's deduction for dividends paid for the earlier year. Thus, Vornado may be able to avoid being taxed on amounts distributed as deficiency dividends; however, Vornado will be required to pay interest based upon the amount of any deduction taken for

Edgar Filing: VORNADO REALTY TRUST - Form 424B5

deficiency dividends.

FAILURE TO QUALIFY AS A REIT

If Vornado fails to qualify for taxation as a REIT in any taxable year, and the relief provisions do not apply, Vornado will have to pay tax, including any applicable alternative minimum tax, on its taxable income at regular corporate rates. Vornado will not be able to deduct distributions to shareholders in any year in which it fails to qualify, nor will Vornado be required to make distributions to shareholders. In this event, to the extent of current and accumulated earnings and profits, all distributions to shareholders will be taxable to the shareholders as ordinary income and corporate distributees may be eligible for the dividends received deduction if they satisfy the relevant provisions of the Internal Revenue Code. Unless entitled to relief under specific statutory provisions, Vornado will also be disqualified from taxation as a REIT for the four taxable years following the year during which qualification was lost. Vornado might not be entitled to the statutory relief described in this paragraph in all circumstances.

TAXATION OF HOLDERS OF COMMON SHARES

U.S. SHAREHOLDERS

As used in this section, the term "U.S. shareholder" means a holder of common shares who, for United States Federal income tax purposes, is

- o a citizen or resident of the United States;
- o a domestic corporation;
- o an estate whose income is subject to United States Federal income taxation regardless of its source; or
- o a trust if a United States court can exercise primary supervision over the trust's administration and one or more United States persons have authority to control all substantial decisions of the trust.

As long as Vornado qualifies as a REIT, distributions made by Vornado out of its current or accumulated earnings and profits, and not designated as capital gain dividends, will constitute dividends taxable to its taxable

S-27

U.S. shareholders as ordinary income. Distributions of this kind will not be eligible for the dividends received deduction in the case of U.S. shareholders that are corporations. Distributions made by Vornado that Vornado properly designates as capital gain dividends will be taxable to U.S. shareholders as gain from the sale of a capital asset held for more than one year, to the extent that they do not exceed Vornado's actual net capital gain for the taxable year, without regard to the period for which a U.S. shareholder has held his shares. Thus, with certain limitations, capital gain dividends received by an individual U.S. shareholder may be eligible for 20% or 25% capital gains rates of taxation. U.S. shareholders that are corporations may, however, be required to treat up to 20% of certain capital gain dividends as ordinary income.

To the extent that Vornado makes distributions, not designated as capital gain dividends, in excess of its current and accumulated earnings and profits, these distributions will be treated first as a tax-free return of capital to each U.S. shareholder. Thus, these distributions will reduce the adjusted basis

Edgar Filing: VORNADO REALTY TRUST - Form 424B5

which the U.S. shareholder has in his shares for tax purposes by the amount of the distribution, but not below zero. Distributions in excess of a U.S. shareholder's adjusted basis in his shares will be taxable as capital gains, provided that the shares have been held as a capital asset. For purposes of determining the portion of distributions on separate classes of shares that will be treated as dividends for Federal income tax purposes, current and accumulated earnings and profits will be allocated to distributions resulting from priority rights of preferred shares before being allocated to other distributions.

Dividends authorized by Vornado in October, November, or December of any year and payable to a shareholder of record on a specified date in any of these months will be treated as both paid by Vornado and received by the shareholder on December 31 of that year, provided that Vornado actually pays the dividend on or before January 31 of the following calendar year. Shareholders may not include in their own income tax returns any net operating losses or capital losses of Vornado.

U.S. shareholders holding shares at the close of Vornado's taxable year will be required to include, in computing their long-term capital gains for the taxable year in which the last day of Vornado's taxable year falls, the amount that Vornado designates in a written notice mailed to its shareholders. Vornado may not designate amounts in excess of Vornado's undistributed net capital gain for the taxable year. Each U.S. shareholder required to include the designated amount in determining the shareholder's long-term capital gains will be deemed to have paid, in the taxable year of the inclusion, the tax paid by Vornado in respect of the undistributed net capital gains. U.S. shareholders to whom these rules apply will be allowed a credit or a refund, as the case may be, for the tax they are deemed to have paid. U.S. shareholders will increase their basis in their shares by the difference between the amount of the includible gains and the tax deemed paid by the shareholder in respect of these gains.

Distributions made by Vornado and gain arising from a U.S. shareholder's sale or exchange of shares will not be treated as passive activity income. As a result, U.S. shareholders generally will not be able to apply any passive losses against that income or gain.

When a U.S. shareholder sells or otherwise disposes of shares, the shareholder will recognize gain or loss for Federal income tax purposes in an amount equal to the difference between (a) the amount of cash and the fair market value of any property received on the sale or other disposition, and (b) the holder's adjusted basis in the shares for tax purposes. This gain or loss will be capital gain or loss if the U.S. shareholder has held the shares as a capital asset. The gain or loss will be long-term gain or loss if the U.S. shareholder has held the shares for more than one year. Capital gain of an individual U.S. shareholder is generally taxed at a maximum rate of 20% where the property is held for more than one year, and 18% where the property is held for more than 5 years. In general, any loss recognized by a U.S. shareholder when the shareholder sells or otherwise disposes of shares of Vornado that the shareholder has held for six months or less, after applying certain holding period rules, will be treated as a long-term capital loss, to the extent of distributions received by the shareholder from Vornado which were required to be treated as long-term capital gains.

BACKUP WITHHOLDING. Vornado will report to its U.S. shareholders and the IRS the amount of dividends paid during each calendar year, and the amount of tax withheld, if any. Under the backup withholding rules, backup withholding may apply to a shareholder with respect to dividends paid unless the holder (a) is a corporation or comes within certain other exempt categories and, when required, demonstrates this fact, or (b) provides a taxpayer identification number, certifies as to no loss of exemption from backup withholding, and otherwise complies with

S-28

applicable requirements of the backup withholding rules. The IRS may also impose penalties on a U.S. shareholder that does not provide Vornado with his correct taxpayer identification number. A shareholder may credit any amount paid as backup withholding against the shareholder's income tax liability. In addition, Vornado may be required to withhold a portion of capital gain distributions to any shareholders who fail to certify their non-foreign status to Vornado.

TAXATION OF TAX-EXEMPT SHAREHOLDERS. The IRS has ruled that amounts distributed as dividends by a REIT generally do not constitute unrelated business taxable income when received by a tax-exempt entity. Based on that ruling, provided that a tax-exempt shareholder is not one of the types of entity described in the next paragraph and has not held its shares as "debt financed property" within the meaning of the Internal Revenue Code, and the shares are not otherwise used in a trade or business, the dividend income from shares will not be unrelated business taxable income to a tax-exempt shareholder. Similarly, income from the sale of shares will not constitute unrelated business taxable income unless the tax-exempt shareholder has held the shares as "debt financed property" within the meaning of the Internal Revenue Code or has used the shares in a trade or business.

Income from an investment in Vornado's shares will constitute unrelated business taxable income for tax-exempt shareholders that are social clubs, voluntary employee benefit associations, supplemental unemployment benefit trusts, and qualified group legal services plans exempt from Federal income taxation under the applicable subsections of Section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code, unless the organization is able to properly deduct amounts set aside or placed in reserve for certain purposes so as to offset the income generated by its shares. Prospective investors of the types described in the preceding sentence should consult their own tax advisors concerning these "set aside" and reserve requirements.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, however, a portion of the dividends paid by a "pension-held REIT" will be treated as unrelated business taxable income to any trust which

- o is described in Section 401(a) of the Internal Revenue Code;
- o is tax exempt under Section 501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code; and
- o holds more than 10% (by value) of the equity interests in the REIT.

Tax-exempt pension, profit-sharing and stock bonus funds that are described in Section 401(a) of the Internal Revenue Code are referred to below as "qualified trusts." A REIT is a "pension-held REIT" if:

- o it would not have qualified as a REIT but for the fact that Section 856(h)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code provides that stock owned by qualified trusts will be treated, for purposes of the not closely held" requirement, as owned by the beneficiaries of the trust (rather than by the trust itself); and
- o either (a) at least one qualified trust holds more than 25% by value of the interests in the REIT or (b) one or more qualified trusts, each of which owns more than 10% by value of the interests in the REIT, hold in the aggregate more than 50% by value of the interests in the REIT.

Edgar Filing: VORNADO REALTY TRUST - Form 424B5

The percentage of any REIT dividend treated as unrelated business taxable income to a qualifying trust is equal to the ratio of (a) the gross income of the REIT from unrelated trades or businesses, determined as though the REIT were a qualified trust, less direct expenses related to this gross income, to (b) the total gross income of the REIT, less direct expenses related to the total gross income. A de minimis exception applies where this percentage is less than 5% for any year. Vornado does not expect to be classified as a pension-held REIT.

The rules described above under the heading "U.S. shareholders" concerning the inclusion of Vornado's designated undistributed net capital gains in the income of its shareholders will apply to tax-exempt entities. Thus, tax-exempt entities will be allowed a credit or refund of the tax deemed paid by these entities in respect of the includible gains.

S-29

NON-U.S. SHAREHOLDERS

The rules governing U.S. Federal income taxation of nonresident alien individuals, foreign corporations, foreign partnerships and estates or trusts that in either case are not subject to United States Federal income tax on a net income basis, which we call "non-U.S. shareholders", are complex. The following discussion is only a limited summary of these rules. Prospective non-U.S. shareholders should consult with their own tax advisors to determine the impact of U.S. Federal, state and local income tax laws with regard to an investment in common shares, including any reporting requirements.

ORDINARY DIVIDENDS. Distributions, other than distributions that are treated as attributable to gain from sales or exchanges by Vornado of U.S. real property interests, as discussed below, and other than distributions designated by Vornado as capital gain dividends, will be treated as ordinary income to the extent that they are made out of current or accumulated earnings and profits of Vornado. A withholding tax equal to 30% of the gross amount of the distribution will ordinarily apply to distributions of this kind to non-U.S. shareholders, unless an applicable tax treaty reduces that tax. However, if income from the investment in the shares is treated as effectively connected with the non-U.S. shareholder's conduct of a U.S. trade or business or is attributable to a permanent establishment that the non-U.S. shareholder maintains in the U.S. if that is required by an applicable income tax treaty as a condition for subjecting the non-U.S. shareholder to U.S. taxation on a net income basis, tax at graduated rates will generally apply to the non-U.S. shareholder in the same manner as U.S. shareholders are taxed with respect to dividends, and the 30% branch profits tax may also apply if the shareholder is a foreign corporation. Vornado expects to withhold U.S. tax at the rate of 30% on the gross amount of any dividends, other than dividends treated as attributable to gain from sales or exchanges of U.S. real property interests and capital gain dividends, paid to a non-U.S. shareholder, unless (a) a lower treaty rate applies and the required form evidencing eligibility for that reduced rate is filed with Vornado or the appropriate withholding agent or (b) the non-U.S. shareholder files an IRS Form W-8 ECI or a successor form with Vornado or the appropriate withholding agent claiming that the distributions are effectively connected with the non-U.S. shareholder's conduct of a U.S. trade or business.

Distributions to a non-U.S. shareholder that are designated by Vornado at the time of distribution as capital gain dividends which are not attributable to or treated as attributable to the disposition by Vornado of a U.S. real property interest generally will not be subject to U.S. Federal income taxation, except as described below.

Edgar Filing: VORNADO REALTY TRUST - Form 424B5

RETURN OF CAPITAL. Distributions in excess of Vornado's current and accumulated earnings and profits, which are not treated as attributable to the gain from Vornado's disposition of a U.S. real property interest, will not be taxable to a non-U.S. shareholder to the extent that they do not exceed the adjusted basis of the non-U.S. shareholder's shares. Distributions of this kind will instead reduce the adjusted basis of the shares. To the extent that distributions of this kind exceed the adjusted basis of a non-U.S. shareholder's shares, they will give rise to tax liability if the non-U.S. shareholder otherwise would have to pay tax on any gain from the sale or disposition of its shares, as described below. If it cannot be determined at the time a distribution is made whether the distribution will be in excess of current and accumulated earnings and profits, withholding will apply to the distribution at the rate applicable to dividends. However, the non-U.S. shareholder may seek a refund of these amounts from the IRS if it is subsequently determined that the distribution was, in fact, in excess of current accumulated earnings and profits of Vornado.

CAPITAL GAIN DIVIDENDS. For any year in which Vornado qualifies as a REIT, distributions that are attributable to gain from sales or exchanges by Vornado of U.S. real property interests will be taxed to a non-U.S. shareholder under the provisions of the Foreign Investment in Real Property Tax Act of 1980, as amended. Under this statute, these distributions are taxed to a non-U.S. shareholder as if the gain were effectively connected with a U.S. business. Thus, non-U.S. shareholders will be taxed on the distributions at the normal capital gain rates applicable to U.S. shareholders, subject to any applicable alternative minimum tax and special alternative minimum tax in the case of individuals. Vornado is required by applicable Treasury regulations under this statute to withhold 35% of any distribution that Vornado could designate as a capital gain dividend. However, if Vornado designates as a capital gain dividend a distribution made before the day Vornado actually effects the designation, then although the distribution may be taxable to a non-U.S. shareholder, withholding does not apply to the distribution under this statute. Rather, Vornado must effect the 35% withholding from distributions made on and after the date of the

S-30

designation, until the distributions so withheld equal the amount of the prior distribution designated as a capital gain dividend. The non-U.S. shareholder may credit the amount withheld against its U.S. tax liability.

SALES OF SHARES. Gain recognized by a non-U.S. shareholder upon a sale or exchange of common shares generally will not be taxed under the Foreign Investment in Real Property Tax Act if Vornado is a "domestically controlled REIT", defined generally as a REIT, less than 50% in value of whose stock is and was held directly or indirectly by foreign persons at all times during a specified testing period. Vornado believes that it is and will continue to be a domestically controlled REIT, and, therefore, that taxation under this statute generally will not apply to the sale of Vornado shares. However, gain to which this statute does not apply will be taxable to a non-U.S. shareholder if investment in the shares is treated as effectively connected with the non-U.S. shareholder's U.S. trade or business or is attributable to a permanent establishment that the non-U.S. shareholder maintains in the U.S. if that is required by an applicable income tax treaty as a condition for subjecting the non-U.S. shareholder to U.S. taxation on a net income basis. In this case, the same treatment will apply to the non-U.S. shareholder as to U.S. shareholders with respect to the gain. In addition, gain to which the Foreign Investment in Real Property Tax Act does not apply will be taxable to a non-U.S. shareholder

Edgar Filing: VORNADO REALTY TRUST - Form 424B5

if the non-U.S. shareholder is a nonresident alien individual who was present in the United States for 183 days or more during the taxable year and has a "tax home" in the United States, or maintains an office or a fixed place of business in the United States to which the gain is attributable. In this case, a 30% tax will apply to the nonresident alien individual's capital gains. A similar rule will apply to capital gain dividends to which this statute does not apply.

If Vornado were not a domestically controlled REIT, tax under the Foreign Investment in Real Property Tax Act would apply to a non-U.S. shareholder's sale of shares only if the selling non-U.S. shareholder owned more than 5% of the class of shares sold at any time during a specified period. This period is generally the shorter of the period that the non-U.S. shareholder owned the shares sold or the five-year period ending on the date when the shareholder disposed of the shares. If tax under this statute applies to the gain on the sale of shares, the same treatment would apply to the non-U.S. shareholder as to U.S. shareholders with respect to the gain, subject to any applicable alternative minimum tax and a special alternative minimum tax in the case of nonresident alien individuals.

FEDERAL ESTATE TAXES

Common shares held by a non-U.S. shareholder at the time of death will be included in the shareholder's gross estate for United States federal estate tax purposes, unless an applicable estate tax treaty provides otherwise.

BACKUP WITHHOLDING AND INFORMATION REPORTING

If you are a non-U.S. shareholder, you are generally exempt from backup withholding and information reporting requirements with respect to:

- o dividend payments and
- o the payment of the proceeds from the sale of common shares effected at a United States office of a broker,

as long as the income associated with these payments is otherwise exempt from United States federal income tax, and:

- o the payor or broker does not have actual knowledge or reason to know that you are a United States person and you have furnished to the payor or broker:
 - o a valid Internal Revenue Service Form W-8BEN or an acceptable substitute form upon which you certify, under penalties of perjury, that you are a non-United States person, or
 - o other documentation upon which it may rely to treat the payments as made to a non-United States person in accordance with U.S. Treasury regulations, or

S-31

- o you otherwise establish an exemption.

Payment of the proceeds from the sale of common shares effected at a foreign office of a broker generally will not be subject to information reporting or backup withholding. However, a sale of common shares that is effected at a foreign office of a broker will be subject to information reporting and backup withholding if:

Edgar Filing: VORNADO REALTY TRUST - Form 424B5

- o the proceeds are transferred to an account maintained by you in the United States,
- o the payment of proceeds or the confirmation of the sale is mailed to you at a United States address, or
- o the sale has some other specified connection with the United States as provided in U.S. Treasury regulations,

unless the broker does not have actual knowledge or reason to know that you are a United States person and the documentation requirements described above are met or you otherwise establish an exemption.

In addition, a sale of common shares will be subject to information reporting if it is effected at a foreign office of a broker that is:

- o a United States person,
- o a controlled foreign corporation for United States tax purposes,
- o a foreign person 50% or more of whose gross income is effectively connected with the conduct of a United States trade or business for a specified three-year period, or
- o a foreign partnership, if at any time during its tax year:
 - o one or more of its partners are "U.S. persons", as defined in U.S. Treasury regulations, who in the aggregate hold more than 50% of the income or capital interest in the partnership, or
 - o such foreign partnership is engaged in the conduct of a United States trade or business,

unless the broker does not have actual knowledge or reason to know that you are a United States person and the documentation requirements described above are met or you otherwise establish an exemption. Backup withholding will apply if the sale is subject to information reporting and the broker has actual knowledge that you are a United States person.

You generally may obtain a refund of any amounts withheld under the backup withholding rules that exceed your income tax liability by filing a refund claim with the Internal Revenue Service.

OTHER TAX CONSEQUENCES

State or local taxation may apply to Vornado and its shareholders in various state or local jurisdictions, including those in which it or they transact business or reside. The state and local tax treatment of Vornado and its shareholders may not conform to the Federal income tax consequences discussed above. Consequently, prospective shareholders should consult their own tax advisors regarding the effect of state and local tax laws on an investment in Vornado.

Edgar Filing: VORNADO REALTY TRUST - Form 424B5

Salomon Smith Barney Inc., as underwriter, has agreed, subject to the terms and conditions of an underwriting agreement, to purchase from us, and we have agreed to sell to Salomon Smith Barney Inc. all of the common shares that are being sold in this offering. The underwriting agreement provides that the underwriter is obligated to purchase all the common shares, if it purchases any of the common shares.

Salomon Smith Barney Inc. intends to deposit the common shares offered hereby with the trustee of The Equity Focus Trusts--REIT Portfolio Series, 2002-A, which we refer to hereafter as the "Trust", a newly formed unit investment trust registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended, for which Salomon Smith Barney Inc. acts as sponsor and depositor, in exchange for units of the Trust. Salomon Smith Barney Inc. is an affiliate of the Trust.

We have granted an option to Salomon Smith Barney Inc. to purchase up to 77,130 additional shares at a price of \$40.82 per share. Salomon Smith Barney Inc. may exercise this option for 30 days from the date of this prospectus supplement. Such additional shares will be deposited with the trustee of The Equity Focus Trusts--REIT Portfolio Series, 2002-A.

We have agreed to indemnify Salomon Smith Barney Inc. against certain liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act, or to contribute to payments Salomon Smith Barney Inc. may be required to make in respect of those liabilities.

Salomon Smith Barney Inc.'s obligation to purchase the common shares is subject to approval of legal matters by its counsel and other conditions contained in the underwriting agreement, such as the receipt by Salomon Smith Barney Inc. of officer's certificates and legal opinions.

Vornado's expenses of the offering are estimated at approximately \$150,000.

PRICE STABILIZATION AND SHORT POSITIONS

Salomon Smith Barney Inc. may engage in over-allotment, stabilizing transactions, covering transactions or purchases for the purpose of pegging, fixing or maintaining the price of the common shares, in accordance with Regulation M under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

- o Over-allotment involves sales by Salomon Smith Barney Inc. of common shares in excess of the number of common shares Salomon Smith Barney Inc. is obligated to purchase, which creates a short position.
- o A covering transaction involves purchases of the common shares in the open market after the distribution has been completed in order to cover a short position. A short position is more likely to be created if Salomon Smith Barney Inc. is concerned that there could be downward pressure on the price of the common shares in the open market after pricing that could adversely affect investors who purchase in the offering.
- o Stabilizing transactions permit bids to purchase the underlying security so long as the stabilizing bids do not exceed a specific maximum.

These stabilizing transactions and covering transactions may have the effect of raising or maintaining the market price of our common shares or preventing or retarding a decline in the market price of the common shares. As a result, the price of the common shares may be higher than the price that might

Edgar Filing: VORNADO REALTY TRUST - Form 424B5

otherwise exist in the open market. These transactions may be effected on the New York Stock Exchange or otherwise and, if commenced, may be discontinued at any time.

S-33

Neither we nor Salomon Smith Barney Inc. makes any representation or prediction as to the direction or magnitude of any effect that the transactions described above may have on the price of the common shares. In addition, neither we nor Salomon Smith Barney Inc. makes any representation that Salomon Smith Barney Inc. will engage in these transactions or that these transactions, once commenced, will not be discontinued without notice.

NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE LISTING

Our common shares are listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol "VNO."

OTHER RELATIONSHIPS

Salomon Smith Barney Inc. or its affiliates have engaged in, and may in the future engage in, investment banking and other commercial transactions with Vornado and its affiliates. Salomon Smith Barney Inc. has received customary fees and commissions for these transactions.

LEGAL MATTERS

The validity of the common shares offered by this prospectus supplement will be passed upon for Vornado by Ballard Spahr Andrews & Ingersoll, LLP, Baltimore, Maryland, and by Sullivan & Cromwell, New York, New York. Certain legal matters will be passed upon for the underwriter by Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP, New York, New York. Sullivan & Cromwell will rely upon the opinion of Ballard Spahr Andrews & Ingersoll, LLP with respect to certain matters of Maryland law.

EXPERTS

The consolidated financial statements and the related consolidated financial statement schedules incorporated in the accompanying prospectus by reference from Vornado's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2000, and from the operating partnership's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2000, have been audited by Deloitte & Touche LLP, independent auditors, as stated in their reports, which are incorporated in the accompanying prospectus by reference, and have been so incorporated in reliance upon the reports of Deloitte & Touche LLP given upon their authority as experts in accounting and auditing.

The consolidated balance sheet as of December 31, 2000 and the consolidated statements of income, changes in partners' deficit, and cash flows for the year ended December 31, 2000 of Charles E. Smith Commercial Realty L.P. and subsidiaries, which are incorporated in the accompanying prospectus by reference from Vornado's Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on October 19, 2001, have been audited by Arthur Andersen LLP, independent public accountants, as indicated in their report with respect to those financial statements, and have been so incorporated in reliance upon the authority of Arthur Andersen LLP as experts in giving said report.

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

Edgar Filing: VORNADO REALTY TRUST - Form 424B5

We file annual, quarterly and special reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. You may read and copy any document we file at the SEC's public reference rooms in Washington, D.C. and Chicago, Illinois. Please call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information on the public reference room. Our SEC filings are also available to the public at the SEC's web site at <http://www.sec.gov>. The address of the SEC's web site is provided for the information of prospective investors and not as an active link. You can also inspect reports, proxy statements and other information about us at the offices of the New York Stock Exchange, 20 Broad Street, New York, New York.

The SEC allows us to "incorporate by reference" into this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus the information in documents we file with the SEC, which means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to those documents. The information incorporated by reference is considered to be a part of this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, and should be read with the same care. When we update the information contained in documents that have been incorporated by reference, by making

S-34

future filings with the SEC, the information incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus is considered to be automatically updated and superseded. In other words, in all cases, if you are considering whether to rely on information contained in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus or information incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, you should rely on the information contained in the document that was filed later. We incorporate by reference the following documents listed below and any additional documents we file with the SEC in the future under Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 until the offering of the common shares is completed:

- (1) Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2000 filed on March 1, 2001;
- (2) Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the periods ended March 31, 2001 filed on May 3, 2001, June 30, 2001 filed on August 2, 2001 and September 30, 2001 filed on November 1, 2001; and
- (3) Current Reports on Form 8-K filed on February 22, 2001, February 23, 2001, March 22, 2001, October 12, 2001, October 19, 2001, November 21, 2001 and January 16, 2002.

You may request a copy of these filings, at no cost, by writing or telephoning us at the following address:

210 Route 4 East
Paramus, New Jersey 07652
(201) 587-1000
Attention: Corporate Secretary

S-35

PROSPECTUS

Edgar Filing: VORNADO REALTY TRUST - Form 424B5

\$2,000,000,000

VORNADO REALTY TRUST
PREFERRED SHARES, DEPOSITARY SHARES AND
COMMON SHARES

\$1,000,000,000

VORNADO REALTY L.P.
DEBT SECURITIES

Vornado Realty Trust ("Vornado") may offer from time to time, together or separately, in one or more series (i) preferred shares of beneficial interest of Vornado, no par value ("Preferred Shares"), (ii) depositary shares representing entitlement to all rights and preferences of a fraction of a Preferred Share of a specified series and represented by depositary receipts ("Depositary Shares") and (iii) common shares of beneficial interest of Vornado, par value \$0.04 per share ("Common Shares"), having an aggregate initial offering price not to exceed U.S. \$2,000,000,000. Vornado Realty L.P. (the "Operating Partnership") may offer from time to time, together or separately, in one or more series debt securities ("Debt Securities"), which may be either (i) senior debt securities (the "Senior Debt Securities") or (ii) subordinated debt securities (the "Subordinated Debt Securities"), having an aggregate initial offering price not to exceed U.S. \$1,000,000,000. The Preferred Shares, Depositary Shares, Common Shares and Debt Securities offered hereby (collectively, the "Securities") may be offered separately or together, in separate series, in amounts, at prices and on terms to be set forth in a supplement to this Prospectus (a "Prospectus Supplement").

The accompanying Prospectus Supplement will set forth with regard to the particular Securities in respect of which this Prospectus is being delivered (i) in the case of Debt Securities, the title, aggregate principal amount, denominations (which may be in United States dollars, or in any other currency, currencies or currency unit, including the European Currency Unit), maturity, rate, if any (which may be fixed or variable), or method of calculation thereof, time of payment of any interest, any terms for redemption at the option of the Operating Partnership or the holder, any terms for sinking fund payments, rank, any exchange rights, any listing on a securities exchange, and the initial public offering price and any other terms in connection with the offering and sale of such Debt Securities, (ii) in the case of Preferred Shares, the specific title, the aggregate amount and the stated value, any dividend (including the method of calculating the payment of dividend), liquidation, redemption, conversion, voting or other rights and the initial offering price and (iii) in the case of Common Shares, the number of Common Shares, the initial offering price and the terms of the offering thereof. The Prospectus Supplement will also contain, as applicable, a discussion of the material United States Federal income tax considerations relating to the Securities in respect of which this Prospectus is being delivered to the extent not contained herein.

Vornado's Common Shares are listed on the New York Stock Exchange ("NYSE") under the symbol "VNO". Vornado's \$3.25 Series A Convertible Preferred Shares of Beneficial Interest, liquidation preference \$50.00 per share (the "Series A Preferred Shares"), are listed on the NYSE under the symbol "VNO Pr A". The Prospectus Supplement will also contain information, where applicable, as to any listing on a securities exchange of the Securities covered by such Prospectus Supplement.

SEE "RISK FACTORS" BEGINNING ON PAGE 5 FOR CERTAIN FACTORS RELEVANT TO AN
INVESTMENT IN THE SECURITIES.

Edgar Filing: VORNADO REALTY TRUST - Form 424B5

THESE SECURITIES HAVE NOT BEEN APPROVED OR DISAPPROVED BY THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION OR ANY STATE SECURITIES COMMISSION NOR HAS THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION OR ANY STATE SECURITIES COMMISSION PASSED UPON THE ACCURACY OR ADEQUACY OF THIS PROSPECTUS. ANY REPRESENTATION TO THE CONTRARY IS A CRIMINAL OFFENSE.

Vornado and the Operating Partnership may sell Securities to or through underwriters, and also may sell Securities directly to other purchasers or through agents. The accompanying Prospectus Supplement will set forth the names of any underwriters or agents involved in the sale of the Securities in respect of which this Prospectus is being delivered, the amounts of Securities, if any, to be purchased by underwriters and the compensation, if any, of such underwriters or agents. See "Plan of Distribution" herein.

The date of this Prospectus is February 11, 1998.

NO PERSON HAS BEEN AUTHORIZED TO GIVE ANY INFORMATION OR TO MAKE ANY REPRESENTATIONS OTHER THAN THOSE CONTAINED OR INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE IN THIS PROSPECTUS IN CONNECTION WITH THE OFFER CONTAINED IN THIS PROSPECTUS AND, IF GIVEN OR MADE, SUCH INFORMATION OR REPRESENTATIONS MUST NOT BE RELIED UPON AS HAVING BEEN AUTHORIZED BY THE COMPANY, THE OPERATING PARTNERSHIP OR ANY UNDERWRITERS, AGENTS OR DEALERS. THIS PROSPECTUS DOES NOT CONSTITUTE AN OFFER TO SELL OR SOLICITATION OF AN OFFER TO BUY SECURITIES IN ANY JURISDICTION TO ANY PERSON TO WHOM IT IS UNLAWFUL TO MAKE SUCH OFFER OR SOLICITATION. NEITHER THE DELIVERY OF THIS PROSPECTUS NOR ANY SALE MADE HEREUNDER SHALL, UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES, CREATE AN IMPLICATION THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO CHANGE IN THE AFFAIRS OF THE COMPANY AND ITS SUBSIDIARIES OR THE OPERATING PARTNERSHIP SINCE THE DATE HEREOF OR THE INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS CORRECT AT ANY TIME SUBSEQUENT TO THE DATE HEREOF.

All references to "Vornado" in this prospectus shall be deemed to refer to Vornado Realty Trust; all references to the "Operating Partnership" in this prospectus shall be deemed to refer to Vornado Realty L.P.; and all references to the "Company" in this prospectus shall be deemed to include Vornado and its consolidated subsidiaries, including the Operating Partnership.

AVAILABLE INFORMATION

Vornado and the Operating Partnership are subject to the informational requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act"), and in accordance therewith Vornado and the Operating Partnership file reports, proxy statements and other information with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "Commission"). Such reports, proxy statements and other information filed by Vornado and the Operating Partnership with the Commission can be inspected and copied at the Commission at Room 1024, Judiciary Plaza, 450 Fifth Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20549, and at the following regional offices of the Commission: 7 World Trade Center, 13th Floor, New York, New York 10048 and Citicorp Center, 500 West Madison Street, Suite 1400, Chicago, Illinois 60661-2511. Copies of such information can be obtained from the Public Reference Section of the Commission, 450 Fifth Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20549, at prescribed rates and from a web site maintained by the Commission on the World Wide Web that contains reports, proxy and information statements and other information on registrants, such as Vornado and the Operating Partnership, that must file such material with the Commission electronically. The Commission's address on the world wide web is "<http://www.sec.gov>". Vornado's Common Shares and Series A Preferred Shares are listed on the NYSE and similar information can be inspected and copied at the NYSE, 20 Broad Street, 17th Floor, New York, New York 10005.

Edgar Filing: VORNADO REALTY TRUST - Form 424B5

This Prospectus constitutes a part of a registration statement on Form S-3 (the "Registration Statement") filed by Vornado and the Operating Partnership with the Commission under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Securities Act"). As permitted by the rules and regulations of the Commission, this Prospectus omits certain of the information contained in the Registration Statement and reference is hereby made to the Registration Statement and related exhibits for further information with respect to Vornado, the Operating Partnership and the Securities offered hereby. Statements contained herein concerning the provisions of any documents filed as an exhibit to the Registration Statement or otherwise filed with the Commission are not necessarily complete, and in each instance reference is made to the copy of such document so filed. Each such statement is qualified in its entirety by such reference.

2

INCORPORATION OF CERTAIN DOCUMENTS BY REFERENCE

The following documents filed by the Company and the Operating Partnership with the Commission pursuant to the Exchange Act are hereby incorporated by reference into this Prospectus:

(1) Vornado's Annual Report on Form 10-K (File No. 001-11954) for the fiscal year ended December 31, 1996, as amended by the Form 10-K/A Amendment No. 1, Form 10-K/A Amendment No. 2 and Form 10K/A Amendment No. 3 for the fiscal year ended December 31, 1996 filed with the Commission on July 18, 1997, August 7, 1997 and September 10, 1997, respectively;

(2) Vornado's Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q (File No. 001-11954) for the periods ended March 31, 1997, June 30, 1997 and September 30, 1997;

(3) Vornado's Current Report on Form 8-K (File No. 001-11954), dated March 12, 1997, as amended by Form 8-K/A, dated March 12, 1997 and filed with the Commission on April 1, 1997, Vornado's Current Reports on Form 8-K (File No. 001-11954), dated April 3, 1997, April 15, 1997, May 7, 1997 and June 27, 1997, Vornado's Current Report on Form 8-K (File No. 001-11954), dated August 21, 1997, as amended by Form 8-K/A, dated August 21, 1997 and filed with the Commission on September 11, 1997, Vornado's Current Report on Form 8-K (File No. 001-11954), dated September 22, 1997 and filed with the Commission on October 8, 1997, Vornado's Current Report on Form 8-K (File No. 001-11954), dated October 14, 1997 and filed with the Commission on October 24, 1997, Vornado's Current Report on Form 8-K (File No. 001-11954), dated October 21, 1997 and filed with the Commission on October 24, 1997, Vornado's Current Report on Form 8-K (File No. 001-11954), dated November 18, 1997 and filed with the Commission on December 2, 1997 and Vornado's Current Report on Form 8-K (File No. 001-11954), dated December 16, 1997, as amended by Form 8-K/A, dated November 18, 1997 and filed with the Commission on February 3, 1998, Vornado's Current Report on Form 8-K (File No. 001-11954), dated January 26, 1998, as amended by Form 8-K/A, dated January 26, 1998 and filed with the Commission on February 9, 1998 and Vornado's Current Report on Form 8-K (File No. 001-11954), dated January 29, 1998 and filed with the Commission on January 30, 1998;

(4) the description of Vornado's Series A Preferred Shares contained in Vornado's Registration Statement on Form 8-A (File No. 001-11954), filed with the Commission on April 3, 1997;

(5) the Operating Partnership's Registration Statement on Form 10 (File No. 000-22685), filed with the Commission on June 12, 1997, as amended by the Form 10/A Amendment No. 1, Form 10/A Amendment No. 2 and Form 10/A Amendment No. 3 filed with the Commission on July 18, 1997,

Edgar Filing: VORNADO REALTY TRUST - Form 424B5

August 7, 1997 and September 10, 1997, respectively;

(6) the Operating Partnership's Current Report on Form 8-K (File No. 000-22685), dated June 27, 1997, the Operating Partnership's Current Report on Form 8-K (File No. 000-22685), dated August 21, 1997, as amended by Form 8-K/A, dated August 21, 1997 and filed with the Commission on September 11, 1997, the Operating Partnership's Current Report on Form 8-K (File No. 000-22685), dated September 22, 1997 and filed with the Commission on October 8, 1997, the Operating Partnership's Current Report on Form 8-K (File No. 000-22685), dated November 18, 1997 and filed with the Commission on December 2, 1997 and the Operating Partnership's Current Report on Form 8-K (File No. 000-22685), dated December 16, 1997, as amended by Form 8-K/A, dated November 18, 1997 and filed with the Commission on February 3, 1998, the Operating Partnership's Current Report on Form 8-K (File No. 000-22685), dated January 26, 1998, as amended by Form 8-K/A, dated January 26, 1998 and filed with the Commission on February 9, 1998 and the Operating Partnership's Current Report on Form 8-K (File No. 000-22685), dated January 29, 1998 and filed with the Commission on January 30, 1998; and

(7) the Operating Partnership's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q (File No. 000-22685) for the periods ended June 30, 1997 and September 30, 1997.

3

All other documents and reports filed with the Commission by Vornado or the Operating Partnership pursuant to Section 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act from the date of this Prospectus and prior to the termination of the offering of the Securities shall be deemed to be incorporated by reference herein and shall be deemed to be a part hereof from the date of the filing of such reports and documents (provided, however, that the information referred to in item 402(a)(8) of Regulation S-K of the Commission shall not be deemed specifically incorporated by reference herein).

Any statement contained in a document incorporated or deemed to be incorporated by reference herein shall be deemed to be modified or superseded for purposes of this Prospectus to the extent that a statement contained herein or in any subsequently filed document which also is or is deemed to be incorporated by reference herein modifies or supersedes such statement. Any such statement so modified or superseded shall not be deemed, except as so modified or superseded, to constitute a part of this Prospectus.

Vornado and the Operating Partnership will provide without charge to each person to whom a copy of this Prospectus is delivered, on written or oral request of such person, a copy of any or all documents which are incorporated herein by reference (not including the exhibits to such documents, unless such exhibits are specifically incorporated by reference in the document which this Prospectus incorporates). Requests should be directed to the Secretary of Vornado, Park 80 West, Plaza II, Saddle Brook, New Jersey 07663, telephone number (201) 587-1000.

4

RISK FACTORS

Prospective investors should carefully consider, among other factors, the matters described below.

REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT CONSIDERATIONS

Edgar Filing: VORNADO REALTY TRUST - Form 424B5

GENERAL

Real property investments are subject to varying degrees of risk. Real estate values are affected by changes in the general economic climate, local conditions such as an oversupply of or a reduction in demand for real estate in the area, the attractiveness of the Company's properties to tenants, the quality, philosophy and performance of management, competition from comparable properties, inability to collect rent from tenants, the effects of any bankruptcies of major tenants, changes in market rental rates, the need to periodically repair, renovate and rent space and to pay the costs thereof (including, without limitation, substantial tenant improvement and leasing costs of re-leasing office space), and increases in operating costs due to inflation and other factors (including increased real estate taxes), which increases may not necessarily be passed through fully to tenants. Real estate values are also affected by such factors as government regulations and changes in zoning or tax laws, interest rate levels, the availability of financing and potential liability under environmental and other laws. Changes in any of the foregoing factors could result in a decline in rents obtained and/or occupancy levels at the Company's properties. A decline in rental revenues could result in a lower level of funds available for distribution to Vornado's shareholders.

DEPENDENCE ON TENANTS

The Company's results of operations will depend on its ability to continue to lease space in its real estate properties on economically favorable terms. In addition, as substantially all of the Company's income is derived from rentals of real property, the Company's income and funds available for distribution to Vornado's shareholders would be adversely affected if a significant number of the Company's lessees were unable to meet their obligations to the Company. In the event of default by a lessee, the Company may experience delays in enforcing its rights as lessor and may incur substantial costs in protecting its investment. Currently only one of the Company's tenants, Bradlees, Inc. ("Bradlees"), represents more than 3% of the Company's pro forma revenues. Bradlees accounted for approximately 10.5% of pro forma property rentals for the year ended December 31, 1996.

BANKRUPTCY OF TENANTS

There have been a number of recent bankruptcies in the retail industry, including certain tenants of the Company. The bankruptcy or insolvency of a major tenant may have a material adverse effect on the shopping centers affected and the income produced by such properties and may make it substantially more difficult to lease the remainder of the affected shopping center. The Company's leases generally do not contain restrictions designed to ensure the creditworthiness of the tenant. As a result, the bankruptcy or insolvency of a major tenant could result in a lower level of funds from operations available for distribution to Vornado's shareholders.

In June 1995, Bradlees filed for protection under Chapter 11 of the U.S. Bankruptcy Code. The Company currently leases 16 locations in shopping centers to Bradlees. Of these locations, 14 are fully guaranteed by Stop & Shop Companies, Inc. ("Stop & Shop"), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Royal Ahold NV, a leading international food retailer, and one is guaranteed as to 70% of the rent. During 1996, Bradlees rejected three leases and assigned one lease to Kohl's Department Stores, Inc. These four leases are fully guaranteed by Stop & Shop. Each of the three locations rejected by Bradlees are currently vacant. The balance of the space in two of the affected shopping centers is substantially leased and occupied. The remaining shopping center was previously 100% occupied by Bradlees and such space remains vacant. The bankruptcy of Bradlees may have a negative effect on the Company's ability to lease the shopping centers affected. Montgomery Ward & Co., Inc. (a previous lessee currently operating under Chapter 11 of the U.S. Bankruptcy Code) remains liable on eight of the leases guaranteed

by Stop &

5

Shop, including the rent it was obligated to pay -- approximately 70% of current rent. The failure of Stop & Shop to perform its obligations with respect to these leases could result in a decline in the level of the Company's rental revenues and, as a result, in a lower level of funds from operations being available for distribution to Vornado's shareholders.

ACQUISITION AND DEVELOPMENT RISKS

The Company may acquire or develop properties or acquire other real estate companies when it believes that an acquisition or development is consistent with its business strategies. In addition, the Company anticipates that, in certain circumstances, it may use Operating Partnership units ("Units") as consideration for acquisitions from tax-sensitive sellers and, in connection with such acquisitions, it may agree to certain restrictions on the Company's ability to sell, or reduce the mortgage indebtedness on, such acquired assets, including agreeing not to sell properties for significant periods of time. These transactions also may increase the Operating Partnership's indebtedness as a percentage of the Company's asset value or market capitalization, which may impair the ability of the Company to take actions that would otherwise be in the best interests of Vornado and its shareholders. A significant increase in the level of the Company's indebtedness could affect the Operating Partnership's ability to make required principal and interest payments with respect to indebtedness, including the Debt Securities. See also "-- Leverage."

ILLIQUIDITY OF ASSETS; RESTRICTIONS ON DISPOSITIONS OF MORTGAGED PROPERTIES

Equity real estate investments are relatively illiquid and therefore tend to limit the ability of the Company to vary its portfolio promptly in response to changes in economic or other conditions. In addition, certain significant expenditures associated with each equity investment (such as mortgage payments, real estate taxes and maintenance costs) are generally not reduced when circumstances cause a reduction in income from the investment. Should such events occur, the Company's income and funds available for distribution to Vornado's shareholders would be adversely affected. A portion of the Company's properties are mortgaged to secure payment of indebtedness, and if the Company were unable to meet its mortgage payments, a loss could be sustained as a result of foreclosure on the properties by the mortgagee. In addition, if it becomes necessary or desirable for the Company to dispose of one or more of the mortgaged properties, the Company might not be able to obtain release of the lien on such mortgaged property. The foreclosure of a mortgage on a property or inability to sell a property could affect the level of funds available for distribution to Vornado shareholders. See "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations -- Liquidity and Capital Resources" and the Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements contained in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K, as amended, for the fiscal year ended December 31, 1996, incorporated in this Prospectus by reference for information regarding the terms of the mortgages encumbering the Company's properties.

SUBSTANTIAL INFLUENCE OF CONTROLLING SHAREHOLDER; POSSIBLE CONFLICTS OF INTEREST; RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

As of November 15, 1997, Interstate Properties, a New Jersey general partnership ("Interstate"), owns 17.3% of the outstanding Common Shares of the Company (assuming conversion of all Operating Partnership Units) and Units of the Operating Partnership. Steven Roth, Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of the Company, is the managing general partner of Interstate. Mr. Roth, David Mandelbaum and Russell B. Wight, Jr. are the three partners of

Edgar Filing: VORNADO REALTY TRUST - Form 424B5

Interstate. Messrs. Roth, Mandelbaum and Wight and Interstate owned, in the aggregate, 20.6% of the outstanding Common Shares of the Company and Units of the Operating Partnership as of November 15, 1997.

As of November 15, 1997, the Company owned 29.3% of the outstanding common stock of Alexander's Inc. ("Alexander's"), a Delaware corporation. Alexander's is a real estate investment trust engaged in leasing, managing, developing and redeveloping properties, focusing primarily on the locations where its department stores (which ceased operations in 1992) formerly operated. Alexander's has nine properties which are located in the New York City region. Interstate owns an additional 27.1% of the outstanding common stock of Alexander's as of such date. Mr. Roth, the Company's Chief Executive

6

Officer, and Michael D. Fascitelli, the Company's President, are directors of Alexander's. Messrs. Mandelbaum, Richard R. West and Wight, members of the Company's Board of Trustees, are also members of the Board of Directors of Alexander's.

The Company is contemplating the establishment of a new taxable operating company to be known as Vornado Operating Company ("Vornado Operating") to conduct certain activities that would not be permitted to be conducted by the Company as a REIT and has filed a registration statement with the Commission with respect thereto. If such action takes place, the Operating Partnership would spin off pro rata to its partners, including Vornado, the shares of Vornado Operating, and Vornado would distribute pro rata to holders of its Common Shares the shares it receives. In addition, the Company expects to enter into an Intercompany Agreement with Vornado Operating pursuant to which, among other things, (a) the Company will agree under certain circumstances to offer Vornado Operating an opportunity to become the lessee of certain real property owned now or in the future by Vornado (under mutually satisfactory lease terms) and (b) Vornado Operating will agree not to make any real estate investment or other REIT-qualified investments unless it first offers the Company the opportunity to make such investment and the Company has rejected that opportunity. The Company expects that four members of the Company's Board of Trustees (including Messrs. Roth and Fascitelli) will be members of Vornado Operating's Board of Directors, and each member of senior management of Vornado Operating will hold a corresponding position with the Company. Members of the Company's Board of Trustees and Vornado Operating's Board of Directors and senior management may have different percentage equity interests in the Company and Vornado Operating. No assurance can be given concerning the timing of any such transactions, or whether such transactions will occur.

Because of the foregoing, Mr. Roth and Interstate may have substantial influence on the Company, Alexander's and Vornado Operating and on the outcome of any matters submitted to the Company's, Alexander's or Vornado Operating's stockholders for approval. In addition, certain decisions concerning the operations or financial structure of the Company may present conflicts of interest among Messrs. Roth, Mandelbaum and Wight and Interstate and the Company's other shareholders. In addition, Mr. Roth and Interstate engage in a wide variety of activities in the real estate business which may result in conflicts of interest with respect to certain matters affecting the Company, Alexander's or Vornado Operating, such as determination of which of such entities or persons, if any, may take advantage of potential business opportunities, decisions concerning the business focus of such entities (including decisions concerning the types of properties and geographic locations in which such entities make investments) demands on the time of Mr. Roth and certain of the executive officers of the Company and changes of existing arrangements between Mr. Roth, the Company, Interstate and Vornado Operating, potential competition between business activities conducted, or sought to be conducted, by the Company, Interstate, Alexander's and Vornado Operating

Edgar Filing: VORNADO REALTY TRUST - Form 424B5

(including competition for properties and tenants), possible corporate transactions (such as acquisitions) and other strategic decisions affecting the future of such parties.

Bernard Mendik, the Company's co-chairman, owns direct and indirect managing general partner interests in two properties (Two Park Avenue and 330 Madison Avenue) in which the Company owns a partial interest, direct and indirect interests in numerous additional office properties and other real estate assets, and interests in certain property services businesses, including in businesses which provide cleaning and related services, security services and facilities management services, which interests may give rise to certain conflicts of interest concerning the fulfillment of Mr. Mendik's responsibility as a trustee of the Company.

The Mendik Group (the "Mendik Group", as used herein, Bernard H. Mendik, David R. Greenbaum and certain entities controlled by them) owns an entity which provides cleaning and related services and security services to office properties. The Company has entered into contracts with the Mendik Group to provide such services to the certain office properties in which the Company owns a 100% interest. Although the terms and conditions of the contracts pursuant to which these services will be provided were not negotiated at arms' length, the Company believes based upon comparable fees charged to other real estate companies, that the terms and conditions of such contracts are fair to the Company, although there can be no assurance to this effect.

7

ALEXANDER'S MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT

Pursuant to a Management and Development Agreement (the "Management Agreement") between the Company and Alexander's, the Company has agreed to manage Alexander's business affairs and manage and develop Alexander's properties for an annual fee. The Management Agreement was assigned by the Company to Vornado Management Corp. ("VMC"), a New Jersey corporation. The Company owns 100% of the outstanding shares of non-voting preferred stock of VMC (which entitles the Company to 95% of the economic benefits of VMC through distributions), and Messrs. Roth and West own 100% of the outstanding shares of common stock of VMC. The Company also acts as a leasing agent for Alexander's properties on a fee basis under a leasing agreement. In addition, the Company lent Alexander's \$45 million, the subordinated tranche of a \$75 million secured financing, the balance of which was funded by a bank. None of Mr. Roth, Interstate or Vornado is obligated to present to Alexander's any particular investment opportunity which comes to his or its attention, even if such opportunity is of a character which might be suitable for investment by Alexander's.

LEASING SERVICES PROVIDED TO OTHER PROPERTIES

The Mendik Management Company Inc. (the "Management Corporation") (which is controlled by Messrs. Mendik, Greenbaum and Fascitelli and not by the Company) provides management and leasing services to properties in which the Company owns less than a 100% interest as well as to other office properties (including several properties in which the Mendik Group has an interest). Certain conflicts of interest may result from the Management Corporation providing leasing services both to properties in which the Company has an interest and other properties in which the Mendik Group has an interest.

DEPENDENCE ON DIVIDENDS AND DISTRIBUTIONS OF SUBSIDIARIES

Vornado is a real estate investment trust formed under Title 8 of the Corporations and Associations Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland ("Title 8"). Substantially all of Vornado's assets consist of its partnership interests

Edgar Filing: VORNADO REALTY TRUST - Form 424B5

in the Operating Partnership, of which Vornado is the general partner. Substantially all of the Operating Partnership's properties and assets are held through subsidiaries. Any right of Vornado's shareholders to participate in any distribution of the assets of any of the Company's indirect subsidiaries upon the liquidation, reorganization or insolvency of such subsidiary (and any consequent right of the Company's securityholders to participate in those assets) will be subject to the claims of the creditors (including trade creditors) and preferred stockholders, if any, of the Operating Partnership and such subsidiary, except to the extent the Company has a claim against such subsidiary as a creditor of such subsidiary. In addition, in the event that claims of the Company as a creditor of a subsidiary are recognized, such claims would be subordinate to any security interest in the assets of such subsidiary and any indebtedness of such subsidiary senior to that held by the Company. See also "-- Potential Anti-takeover Effects of Charter Documents and Applicable Law" and "-- Leverage".

LEVERAGE

As of November 15, 1997, the Company had aggregate indebtedness outstanding of approximately \$463 million, all of which is secured by Company properties. The Operating Partnership's ability to make required principal and interest payments with respect to indebtedness, including any Debt Securities, depends on the earnings of its subsidiaries and on its ability to receive funds from such subsidiaries through dividends or other payments since the Debt Securities are obligations of the Operating Partnership only and its subsidiaries are not obligated or required to pay any amounts due pursuant to the Debt Securities or to make funds available therefor in the form of dividends or advances to the Operating Partnership. Of the approximately \$463 million of outstanding indebtedness, Vornado Finance L.P., a Delaware limited partnership and subsidiary of the Operating Partnership ("Vornado Finance"), has outstanding an aggregate of \$227,000,000 of 6.36% Collateralized Notes Due December 1, 2000 (the "Collateralized Notes"), secured by a mortgage note, mortgage and various other instruments, documents and agreements executed in connection therewith by other subsidiaries of the Operating Partnership owning, in the aggregate, the interests in 44 of the Company's properties.

8

The indenture relating to the Collateralized Notes of Vornado Finance provides that all cash flows from the 44 Company properties which are collateral for the Collateralized Notes will be deposited in a segregated trust account. So long as no event of default under the indenture has occurred and is continuing, Vornado Finance may withdraw funds from such trust account to the extent that the amounts in such account exceed a certain minimum reserve level. Such minimum reserve level equals the sum of (i) the amount of current or past due operating expenses of Vornado Finance and its subsidiaries, (ii) indebtedness of Vornado Finance and its subsidiaries due prior to such withdrawal and (iii) accrued and unpaid interest on the Collateralized Notes; provided that (a) if the debt service coverage ratio (as defined in the indenture relating to the Collateralized Notes) is less than 2.0 and greater than or equal to 1.8, the amount in (iii) above is increased by an amount equal to six months interest on the Collateralized Notes and (b) if the debt service coverage ratio is less than 1.8, the amount in (iii) above is increased by an amount equal to 18 months interest on the Collateralized Notes. As a result of these limitations on cash flows relating to such properties, which cash flows represented approximately 83% of cash flows from properties of the Operating Partnership and its consolidated subsidiaries in 1996, the Operating Partnership's ability to pay interest and principal on its Debt Securities may be adversely affected.

The Indentures do not contain provisions that limit the Operating Partnership's ability to incur indebtedness. Vornado has historically maintained a relatively low level of debt to market capitalization of between 15% and 35%.

Edgar Filing: VORNADO REALTY TRUST - Form 424B5

As of November 15, 1997, the level of debt to market capitalization was 13%. In the future, in connection with its strategy for growth, this percentage may increase. This policy may be reviewed and modified from time to time by the Company without the vote of shareholders.

GEOGRAPHIC CONCENTRATION

For the year ended December 31, 1996, 78% of the Company's revenues were derived from properties located in New York City and New Jersey. In addition, the Company may concentrate a significant portion of its future acquisitions in New York City and New Jersey. Like other real estate markets, the real estate market in New York City and New Jersey experienced economic downturns in the past, including most recently in the late 1980s and early 1990s. Future declines in the economy or the real estate markets in New York City and New Jersey could adversely affect the Company's financial performance. The Operating Partnership's financial performance and its ability to make distributions to its partners, including Vornado, are dependent on conditions in the economy and the real estate markets in New York City and New Jersey, which may be affected by a number of factors, including the economic climate in New York City and New Jersey (which may be adversely affected by business layoffs or downsizing, industry slowdowns, relocations of businesses, changing demographics, increased telecommuting, infrastructure quality in New York City and New Jersey and other factors) and conditions in the real estate markets in New York City and New Jersey (such as oversupply of or reduced demand for real estate). There can be no assurance as to the continued strength of the economy, or the continued strength of the real estate markets, in New York City and New Jersey.

POTENTIAL COSTS OF COMPLIANCE WITH ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS

Under various Federal, state and local laws, ordinances and regulations, a current or previous owner or operator of real estate may be required to investigate and clean up certain hazardous substances released at a property, and may be held liable to a governmental entity or to third parties for property damage or personal injuries and for investigation and clean-up costs incurred by the parties in connection with the contamination. Such laws often impose liability without regard to whether the owner or operator knew of, or was responsible for, the release of such hazardous substances. The presence of contamination or the failure to remediate contamination may adversely affect the owner's ability to sell or lease real estate or to borrow using the real estate as collateral. Other Federal, state and local laws, ordinances and regulations require abatement or removal of certain asbestos-containing materials in the event of demolition or certain renovations or remodeling and also govern emissions of and exposure to asbestos fibers in the air. The operation and subsequent removal of certain underground storage tanks are also regulated by Federal and state laws. In connection with the ownership, operation and management of its properties, the Company

9

could be held liable for the costs of remedial action with respect to such regulated substances or tanks or related claims.

Each of the Company's properties has been subjected to varying degrees of environmental assessment, which generally did not include soil sampling or subsurface investigations, at various times. The environmental assessments did not reveal any environmental condition or liability that the Company believes will have a material adverse effect on the Company's business, assets or results of operations. However, there can be no assurance that the identification of new areas of contamination, change in the extent or known scope of contamination, the discovery of additional sites or changes in cleanup requirements would not result in significant costs to the Company.

Edgar Filing: VORNADO REALTY TRUST - Form 424B5

COMPETITION

The leasing of real estate is highly competitive. The principal means of competition are rent charged, location, services provided and the nature and condition of the facility to be leased. The Company directly competes with all lessors and developers of similar space in the areas in which its properties are located. Demand for retail space has been impacted by the recent bankruptcy of a number of retail companies and a general trend toward consolidation in the retail industry which could adversely affect the ability of the Company to attract and retain tenants.

The Company's shopping center properties are generally located on major regional highways in mature, densely populated areas. These shopping center properties compete with, among others, free standing stores, neighborhood centers and stores leased on the periphery of regional malls. Further, the general economic climate (such as household disposable income) and the conditions of shopping center markets (such as oversupply of or reduced demand for retail space) in the places where the shopping center properties are located could adversely affect the Company's financial condition.

The Company's office building properties are concentrated in highly developed areas of midtown Manhattan. Manhattan is the largest office market in the United States. The number of competitive office properties in Manhattan could have a material adverse effect on the Company's ability to lease office space at its properties, and on the effective rents the Company is able to charge. These competing properties may be newer or better located. In addition, the Company may compete with other property owners (including other REITs that currently invest in markets other than Manhattan) that are willing to acquire properties in transactions which are more highly leveraged than the Company is willing to undertake.

DEPENDENCE ON KEY PERSONNEL

The Company is dependent on the efforts of Steven Roth, the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Vornado, and Michael D. Fascitelli, the President of Vornado. While the Company believes that it could find replacements for these key personnel, the loss of their services could have an adverse effect on the operations of the Company.

CONSEQUENCES OF THE FAILURE TO QUALIFY OR REMAIN QUALIFIED AS A REIT

Although Vornado's management believes that Vornado will remain organized and will continue to operate so as to qualify as a real estate investment trust ("REIT") for Federal income tax purposes, no assurance can be given that it will remain so qualified. Qualification as a REIT for Federal income tax purposes involves the application of highly technical and complex provisions of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code"), for which there are only limited judicial or administrative interpretations, and the determination of various factual matters and circumstances not entirely within the control of Vornado may impact its ability to maintain its qualification as a REIT. In addition, no assurance can be given that legislation, new regulations, administrative interpretations or court decisions will not significantly change the tax laws with respect to the requirements for qualification as a REIT or the Federal income tax consequences of such qualification. Vornado, however, is not aware of any proposal to amend the tax laws that would significantly and adversely affect its ability to operate in such a manner as to maintain its qualification as a REIT.

Edgar Filing: VORNADO REALTY TRUST - Form 424B5

qualification as a REIT, it would not be allowed a deduction for distributions to shareholders in computing its taxable income and would be subject to Federal income tax (including any applicable alternative minimum tax) on its taxable income at regular corporate rates. As a result, the amount available for distribution to shareholders would be reduced for the year or years involved, and distributions would no longer be required to be made. In addition, unless entitled to relief under certain statutory provisions, Vornado would also be disqualified from treatment as a REIT for the four taxable years following the year during which qualification was lost. Notwithstanding that Vornado currently intends to operate in a manner designed to allow it to qualify as a REIT, future economic, market, legal, tax or other considerations may cause it to determine that it is in the best interest of Vornado and its shareholders to revoke the REIT election.

POTENTIAL ANTI-TAKEOVER EFFECTS OF CHARTER DOCUMENTS AND APPLICABLE LAW

Generally, for Vornado to maintain its qualification as a REIT under the Code, not more than 50% in value of the outstanding shares of beneficial interest of Vornado may be owned, directly or indirectly, by five or fewer individuals (as defined in the Code to include certain entities) at any time during the last half of Vornado's taxable year (other than the first taxable year for which the election to be treated as a REIT has been made). The Declaration of Trust, subject to certain exceptions, provides that no person may own more than 6.7% of the outstanding Common Shares or 9.9% of the outstanding Preferred Shares. These restrictions on transferability and ownership may delay, defer or prevent a transaction or a change in control of Vornado that might involve a premium price or otherwise be in the best interest of the shareholders. See "Description of Shares of Beneficial Interest -- Description of Preferred Shares -- Restrictions on Ownership" and "Description of Shares of Beneficial Interest -- Description of Common Shares -- Restrictions on Ownership".

Vornado's Board of Trustees is divided into three classes of trustees. Trustees of each class are chosen for three-year staggered terms. Staggered terms of trustees may reduce the possibility of a tender offer or an attempt to change control of Vornado, even though a tender offer or change in control might be in the best interest of the shareholders. Vornado's Declaration of Trust authorizes the Board of Trustees to cause Vornado to issue additional authorized but unissued shares of Common Shares or Preferred Shares and to classify or reclassify, in one or more series, any unissued Preferred Shares and to set the preferences, rights and other terms of such classified or unclassified shares. Although the Board of Trustees has no such intention at the present time, it could establish a series of Preferred Shares that could, depending on the terms of such series, delay, defer or prevent a transaction or a change in control of Vornado that might involve a premium price or otherwise be in the best interest of the shareholders. The Declaration of Trust and Vornado's Bylaws contain other provisions that may delay, deter or prevent a change in control of Vornado or other transaction that might involve a premium price or otherwise be in the best interest of the shareholders.

Under the Maryland General Corporation Law, as amended ("MGCL"), as applicable to real estate investment trusts, certain "business combinations" (including certain mergers, consolidations, share exchanges and asset transfers and certain issuances and reclassifications of equity securities) between a Maryland real estate investment trust and any person who beneficially owns ten percent or more of the voting power of the trust's shares or an affiliate of the trust who, at any time within the two-year period prior to the date in question, was the beneficial owner of ten percent or more of the voting power of the then outstanding voting shares of beneficial interest of the trust (an "Interested Shareholder") or an affiliate of the Interested Shareholder are prohibited for five years after the most recent date on which the Interested Shareholder becomes an Interested Shareholder. Thereafter, any such business combination

Edgar Filing: VORNADO REALTY TRUST - Form 424B5

must be recommended by the board of trustees of such trust and approved by the affirmative vote of at least (a) 80% of the votes entitled to be cast by holders of outstanding shares of beneficial interest of the trust and (b) two-thirds of the votes entitled to be cast by holders of voting shares of the trust other than shares held by the Interested Shareholder with whom (or with whose affiliate) the business combination is to be effected, unless, among other conditions, the trust's common shareholders receive a minimum price (as defined in the MGCL) for their shares and the consideration is received in cash or in the same form

11

as previously paid by the Interested Shareholder for its common shares. The provisions of the MGCL do not apply, however, to business combinations that are approved or exempted by the board of trustees of the trust prior to the time that the Interested Shareholder becomes an Interested Shareholder. The Board of Trustees has adopted a resolution exempting any business combination between any trustee or officer of Vornado (or their affiliates) and Vornado. As a result, the trustees and officers of Vornado and their affiliates may be able to enter business combinations with Vornado which may not be in the best interest of shareholders and, with respect to business combinations with other persons, the business combination provisions of the MGCL may have the effect of delaying, deferring or preventing a transaction or a change in the control of Vornado that might involve a premium price or otherwise be in the best interest of the shareholders.

VORNADO AND THE OPERATING PARTNERSHIP

Vornado is a fully-integrated real estate investment trust organized under the laws of the state of Maryland. In April 1997, Vornado transferred substantially all of its assets to the Operating Partnership, a Delaware limited partnership. As a result, Vornado now conducts its business through, and substantially all of its interests in properties are held by, the Operating Partnership, in which it is the sole general partner and in which it owns an approximately 90% limited partnership interest as of November 15, 1997. The Operating Partnership currently owns: (i) 58 shopping center properties in seven states and Puerto Rico containing 10.5 million square feet, including 1.2 million square feet built by tenants on land leased from the Company; (ii) all or portions of 10 office building properties in the New York City metropolitan area (primarily Manhattan) containing 5.0 million square feet; (iii) eight warehouse/industrial properties in New Jersey containing 2.0 million square feet; (iv) approximately 29.3% of the outstanding common stock of Alexander's, Inc., which has nine properties in the New York City metropolitan area; (v) a 40% interest in a hotel containing 800,000 square feet of space with 1,700 rooms and 400,000 square feet of retail and office space; (vi) mortgages on various office, restaurant and other retail properties; (vii) a 60% interest in a partnership that owns Americold Corporation and URS Logistics, Inc., which collectively own and operate 80 warehouse facilities with an aggregate of approximately 367 million cubic feet of refrigerated, frozen and dry storage space; (viii) a 15% limited partnership interest in Charles E. Smith Commercial Realty, which owns interests in and manages approximately 7.2 million square feet of office properties in Crystal City, Arlington, Virginia, a suburb of Washington D.C., and manages an additional 14 million square feet of office and other commercial properties in the Washington, D.C. area; and (ix) other owned retail properties.

As of November 15, 1997, the Company's total consolidated outstanding debt was approximately \$463 million all of which is secured by Company properties, and its total consolidated debt plus its proportionate share of total unconsolidated debt were approximately \$992 million which is secured by Company properties.

Edgar Filing: VORNADO REALTY TRUST - Form 424B5

The executive offices of Vornado and the Operating Partnership are located at Park 80 West, Plaza II, Saddle Brook, N.J. 07663; telephone (201) 587-1000.

USE OF PROCEEDS

Vornado is required by the terms of the partnership agreement of the Operating Partnership to invest the net proceeds of any sale of Common Shares, Preferred Shares or Depositary Shares in the Operating Partnership in exchange for additional Units or preferred Units, as the case may be. As will be more fully described in the applicable Prospectus Supplement, Vornado and the Operating Partnership intend to use the net proceeds from the sale of Securities for general corporate purposes or such other uses as may be set forth in a Prospectus Supplement. Such other uses may include, among others, the funding of an acquisition or the repayment of indebtedness.

12

CONSOLIDATED RATIOS OF EARNINGS TO COMBINED FIXED CHARGES AND PREFERRED SHARE DIVIDEND REQUIREMENTS

For purposes of calculating the following ratios, (i) earnings represent income from continuing operations before income taxes, plus fixed charges, and (ii) fixed charges represent interest expense on all indebtedness (including amortization of deferred debt issuance costs) and the portion of operating lease rental expense that is representative of the interest factor (deemed to be one-third of operating lease rentals).

	NINE MONTHS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 1997	YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31,				
	-----	1996	1995	1994	1993	1992
	-----	----	----	----	----	----
Ratio of Earnings to Combined Fixed Charges and Preferred Share Dividend Requirements.....	1.70	4.56	4.06	3.54	1.80	1.07

13

DESCRIPTION OF DEBT SECURITIES

The Debt Securities may be issued from time to time in one or more series. The particular terms of each series of Debt Securities offered by any Prospectus Supplement or Prospectus Supplements will be described therein. The Senior Debt Securities are to be issued under an Indenture (the "Senior Indenture") between the Operating Partnership and The Bank of New York, as trustee (the "Senior Trustee"), a copy of the form of which Senior Indenture is filed as an exhibit to the Registration Statement. The Subordinated Debt Securities are to be issued under a separate Indenture (the "Subordinated Indenture") between the Operating Partnership and The Bank of New York, as trustee (the "Subordinated Trustee"), a copy of the form of which Subordinated Indenture is filed as an exhibit to the Registration Statement. The Senior Indenture and the Subordinated Indenture are sometimes referred to collectively as the "Indentures" and the Senior Trustee and Subordinated Trustee are sometimes referred to collectively as the "Trustees."

The following summaries of the material provisions of the Senior Debt

Edgar Filing: VORNADO REALTY TRUST - Form 424B5

Securities, the Subordinated Debt Securities, the Senior Indenture and the Subordinated Indenture are brief summaries thereof, do not purport to be complete and are subject to, and are qualified in their entirety by reference to, all the provisions of the Indenture applicable to a particular series of Debt Securities. Wherever particular Sections, Articles or defined terms of the Indentures are referred to herein or in a Prospectus Supplement, such Sections, Articles or defined terms are incorporated herein or therein by reference.

GENERAL

Unless otherwise specified in the applicable Prospectus Supplement, the Debt Securities will be general unsecured obligations of the Operating Partnership. The Indentures do not limit the aggregate amount of Debt Securities which may be issued thereunder, and Debt Securities may be issued thereunder from time to time in separate series up to the aggregate amount from time to time authorized by the Operating Partnership for each series. Unless otherwise specified in the Prospectus Supplement, the Senior Debt Securities when issued will be unsubordinated obligations of the Operating Partnership and will rank equally and ratably with all other unsecured and unsubordinated indebtedness of the Operating Partnership. The Subordinated Debt Securities when issued will be subordinated in right of payment to the prior payment in full of all Senior Debt (as defined in the Subordinated Indenture) of the Operating Partnership as described below under "-- Subordination of Subordinated Debt Securities" and in the Prospectus Supplement applicable to an offering of Subordinated Debt Securities.

The applicable Prospectus Supplement or Prospectus Supplements will describe the following terms of the series of Debt Securities in respect of which this Prospectus is being delivered: (1) the title of such Debt Securities; (2) any limit on the aggregate principal amount of such Debt Securities; (3) the person to whom any interest on any Debt Security of the series shall be payable if other than the person in whose name the Debt Security is registered on the regular record date; (4) the date or dates on which such Debt Securities will mature; (5) the rate or rates of interest, if any, or the method of calculation thereof, which such Debt Securities will bear, the date or dates from which any such interest will accrue, the interest payment dates on which any such interest on such Debt Securities will be payable and the regular record date for any interest payable on any interest payment date; (6) the place or places where the principal of, premium, if any, and interest on such Debt Securities will be payable; (7) the period or periods within which, the events upon the occurrence of which, and the price or prices at which, such Debt Securities may, pursuant to any optional or mandatory provisions, be redeemed or purchased, in whole or in part, by the Operating Partnership and any terms and conditions relevant thereto; (8) the obligations of the Operating Partnership, if any, to redeem or repurchase such Debt Securities at the option of the Holders; (9) the denominations in which any such Debt Securities will be issuable, if other than denominations of \$1,000 and any integral multiple thereof; (10) any index or formula used to determine the amount of payments of principal of and any premium and interest on such Debt Securities; (11) the currency, currencies or currency unit or units of payment of principal of and any premium and interest on such Debt Securities if other than U.S. dollars; (12) if the principal of, or premium, if any, or interest, if any, on such Debt Securities is to be payable, at the election of the Operating Partnership or a holder thereof, in

14

one or more currencies or currency units other than that or those in which such Debt Securities are stated to be payable, the currency, currencies or currency units in which payment of the principal of and any premium and interest on Debt Securities of such series as to which such election is made shall be payable, and the periods within which and the terms and conditions upon which such election is to be made; (13) if other than the principal amount thereof, the

Edgar Filing: VORNADO REALTY TRUST - Form 424B5

portion of the principal amount of such Debt Securities of the series which will be payable upon acceleration of the maturity thereof; (14) if the principal amount of any Debt Securities which will be payable at the maturity thereof will not be determinable as of any date prior to such maturity, the amount which will be deemed to be the outstanding principal amount of such Debt Securities; (15) the applicability of any provisions described under "-- Defeasance"; (16) whether any of such Debt Securities are to be issuable in permanent global form ("Global Security") and, if so, the terms and conditions, if any, upon which interests in such Debt Securities in global form may be exchanged, in whole or in part, for the individual Debt Securities represented thereby; (17) the applicability of any provisions described under "-- Events of Default" and any additional Event of Default applicable thereto; (18) any covenants applicable to such Debt Securities; (19) the terms and conditions, if any, pursuant to which the Debt Securities are exchangeable into Common Shares of the Company; and (20) any other terms of such Debt Securities not inconsistent with the provisions of the Indentures. (Section 301)

Debt Securities may be issued at a discount from their principal amount. United States Federal income tax considerations and other special considerations applicable to any such original issue discount Securities will be described in the applicable Prospectus Supplement.

If the purchase price of any of the Debt Securities is denominated in a foreign currency or currencies or a foreign currency unit or units or if the principal of and any premium and interest on any series of Debt Securities is payable in a foreign currency or currencies or a foreign currency unit or units, the restrictions, elections, general Federal income tax considerations, specific terms and other information with respect to such issue of Debt Securities will be set forth in the applicable Prospectus Supplement.

The Indentures do not contain any provisions that limit the Operating Partnership's ability to incur indebtedness. Except as may be indicated in the applicable Prospectus Supplement with respect to a particular series of Debt Securities, Holders of Debt Securities will not have the benefit of any specific covenants or provisions in the applicable Indenture or Debt Securities that would protect them in the event the Operating Partnership engages in or becomes the subject of a highly leveraged transaction and the limitations on mergers, consolidations and transfers of substantially all of the Operating Partnership's properties and assets as an entirety to any person as described below under "-- Consolidation, Merger and Sale of Assets." Such covenants may not be waived or modified by the Operating Partnership, although Holders of Debt Securities could waive or modify such covenants as more fully described below under "-- Modification and Waiver."

The applicable Prospectus Supplement with respect to any particular series of Debt Securities that provide for the optional redemption or prepayment of such Debt Securities upon the occurrence of certain events (i.e., a change of control) will describe the following: (1) the effects that such provisions may have in deterring certain mergers, tender offers or other takeover attempts, as well as that there may be possible adverse effects on the market price of the Operating Partnership's securities or ability to obtain financing; (2) that the Operating Partnership will comply with the requirements of applicable securities laws, including Rules 14e-1 and 13e-4 under the Exchange Act, in connection with such provisions and any related offers by the Operating Partnership; (3) whether the occurrence of the specified events may give rise to cross-defaults on other indebtedness such that payment on the offered Debt Securities may be effectively subordinated; (4) limitations on the Operating Partnership's financial or legal ability to repurchase the offered Debt Securities upon the triggering of an event risk provision requiring such a repurchase or offer to repurchase; (5) the impact, if any, under the governing instrument of the failure to repurchase, including whether such failure to make any required repurchases in the event of a change of control will create an event of default with respect to the offered

Edgar Filing: VORNADO REALTY TRUST - Form 424B5

Debt Securities or will become an event of default only after the continuation of such failure for a specified period of time after written notice is given to the Operating Partnership by the Trustee or to the Operating Partnership and the Trustee by the

15

holders of a specified percentage in aggregate principal amount of the debt outstanding; (6) that there can be no assurance that sufficient funds will be available at the time of the triggering of an event risk provision to make any required repurchases; (7) if such offered Debt Securities are to be subordinated to other obligations of the Operating Partnership or its subsidiaries that would be accelerated upon the triggering of a change in control or similar event, the material effect thereof on such acceleration provision and such offered Debt Securities; and (8) to the extent that there is a definition of "change of control" in a supplemental indenture relating to such offered Debt Securities that includes the concept of "all or substantially all," the established meaning of such phrase under New York law.

EXCHANGE OF DEBT SECURITIES

If so indicated in the applicable Prospectus Supplement with respect to a particular series of Debt Securities, such series will be exchangeable into Common Shares of Vornado on the terms and conditions set forth therein. Such terms may include provisions pursuant to which the number of Common Shares of Vornado to be received by the holders of Debt Securities would be calculated according to the market price of Common Shares of Vornado as of a time stated in the Prospectus Supplement. The applicable Prospectus Supplement will indicate certain restrictions on ownership which may apply in the event of an exchange. See "Description of Preferred Shares -- Restrictions on Ownership" and "Description of Common Shares -- Restrictions on Ownership."

FORM, REGISTRATION, TRANSFER AND PAYMENT

Unless otherwise indicated in the applicable Prospectus Supplement, the Debt Securities will be issued only in fully registered form in denominations of \$1,000 or integral multiples thereof. (Section 302) Unless otherwise indicated in the applicable Prospectus Supplement, payment of principal, premium, if any, and interest on the Debt Securities will be payable, and the exchange and transfer of Debt Securities will be registerable, at the office or agency of the Operating Partnership maintained for such purposes and at any other office or agency maintained for such purpose. (Sections 301, 305 and 1002) No service charge will be made for any registration of transfer or exchange of the Debt Securities, but the Operating Partnership may require payment of a sum sufficient to cover any tax or other governmental charge imposed in connection therewith. (Section 305)

All monies paid by the Operating Partnership to a Paying Agent for the payment of principal of and any premium or interest on any Debt Security which remain unclaimed for two years after such principal, premium or interest has become due and payable may be repaid to the Operating Partnership and thereafter the Holder of such Debt Security may look only to the Operating Partnership for payment thereof. (Section 1003)

BOOK-ENTRY DEBT SECURITIES

The Debt Securities of a series may be issued in whole or in part in the form of one or more Global Securities that will be deposited with, or on behalf of, a depository (the "Global Depository") or its nominee identified in the applicable Prospectus Supplement. In such a case, one or more Global Securities will be issued in a denomination or aggregate denomination equal to the portion of the aggregate principal amount of Outstanding Debt Securities of the series

Edgar Filing: VORNADO REALTY TRUST - Form 424B5

to be represented by such Global Security or Securities. Unless and until it is exchanged in whole or in part for Debt Securities in registered form, a Global Security may not be registered for transfer except as a whole by the Global Depositary for such Global Security to a nominee of such Global Depositary or by a nominee of such Global Depositary to such Global Depositary or another nominee of such Global Depositary or by such Global Depositary or any nominee to a successor Global Depositary or a nominee of such successor Global Depositary and except in the circumstances described in the applicable Prospectus Supplement. (Sections 204 and 305)

The specific terms of the depositary arrangement with respect to any portion of a series of Debt Securities to be represented by a Global Security will be described in the applicable Prospectus

16

Supplement. The Operating Partnership expects that the following provisions will apply to depositary arrangements although no assurance can be given that such will be the case.

Unless otherwise specified in the applicable Prospectus Supplement, Debt Securities which are to be represented by a Global Security to be deposited with or on behalf of a Global Depositary will be represented by a Global Security registered in the name of such Global Depositary or its nominee. Upon the issuance of such Global Security, and the deposit of such Global Security with or on behalf of the Global Depositary for such Global Security, the Global Depositary will credit, on its book-entry registration and transfer system, the respective principal amounts of the Debt Securities represented by such Global Security to the accounts of institutions that have accounts with such Global Depositary or its nominee ("participants"). The accounts to be credited will be designated by the underwriters or agents of such Debt Securities or by the Operating Partnership, if such Debt Securities are offered and sold directly by the Operating Partnership. Ownership of beneficial interest in such Global Security will be limited to participants or Persons that may hold interests through participants. Ownership of beneficial interests by participants in such Global Security will be shown on, and the transfer of that ownership interest will be effected only through, records maintained by the Global Depositary or its nominee for such Global Security. Ownership of beneficial interests in such Global Security by Persons that hold through participants will be shown on, and the transfer of such ownership interests within such participant will be effected only through, records maintained by such participant. The laws of some jurisdictions require that certain purchasers of securities take physical delivery of such securities in certificated form. The foregoing limitations and such laws may impair the ability to transfer beneficial interests in such Global Securities.

So long as the Global Depositary for a Global Security, or its nominee, is the registered owner of such Global Security, such Global Depositary or such nominee, as the case may be, will be considered the sole owner or holder of the Securities represented by such Global Security for all purposes under the applicable Indenture. Except as set forth below, unless otherwise specified in the applicable Prospectus Supplement, owners of beneficial interests in such Global Security will not be entitled to have Debt Securities of the series represented by such Global Security registered in their names, will not receive or be entitled to receive physical delivery of Debt Securities of such series in certificated form and will not be considered the holders thereof for any purposes under the applicable Indenture. (Sections 204 and 305) Accordingly, each Person owning a beneficial interest in such Global Security must rely on the procedures of the Global Depositary and, if such Person is not a participant, on the procedures of the participant through which such Person owns its interest, to exercise any rights of a holder under the applicable Indenture.

Edgar Filing: VORNADO REALTY TRUST - Form 424B5

The Operating Partnership understands that under existing industry practices, if the Operating Partnership requests any action of holders or an owner of a beneficial interest in such Global Security desires to give any notice or take any action a holder is entitled to give or take under the applicable Indenture, the Global Depositary would authorize the participants to give such notice or take such action, and participants would authorize beneficial owners owning through such participants to give such notice or take such action or would otherwise act upon the instructions of beneficial owners owning through them.

If the Global Depositary for Debt Securities of a series is at any time unwilling, unable or ineligible to continue as Global Depositary and a successor Global Depositary is not appointed by the Operating Partnership within 90 days or an Event of Default under the applicable Indenture has occurred and is continuing, the Operating Partnership will issue Debt Securities of such series in definitive form in exchange for the Global Security or Securities representing the Debt Securities of such series. In addition, the Operating Partnership may at any time and in its sole discretion, subject to any limitations described in the applicable Prospectus Supplement, determine not to have any Debt Securities of a series represented by one or more Global Securities and, in such event, will issue Debt Securities of such series in definitive form in exchange for the Global Security or Securities representing such Debt Securities. Further, if the Operating Partnership so specifies with respect to the Debt Securities of a series, an owner of a beneficial interest in a Global Security representing Debt Securities of such series may, on terms acceptable to the Operating Partnership and the Global Depositary for such Global Security, receive Debt Securities of such series in definitive form in exchange for such beneficial interests, subject to any limitations described in the applicable Prospectus Supplement relating to such Debt Securities. In any such instance, an owner of a

17

beneficial interest in a Global Security will be entitled to physical delivery in definitive form of Debt Securities of the series represented by such Global Security equal in principal amount to such beneficial interest and to have such Debt Securities registered in its name (if the Debt Securities of such series are issuable as registered securities).

Principal of and any premium and interest on a Global Security will be payable in the manner described in the applicable Prospectus Supplement.

CERTAIN COVENANTS OF THE OPERATING PARTNERSHIP

If so indicated in the applicable Prospectus Supplement with respect to a particular series of Debt Securities, the Operating Partnership will be subject to the covenants described therein. In addition, the Operating Partnership will be subject to the following covenants.

EXISTENCE

Except as permitted under "-- Consolidation, Merger and Sale of Assets," the Operating Partnership will be required to do or cause to be done all things necessary to preserve and keep in full force and effect its existence, rights and franchises; provided, however, that the Operating Partnership shall not be required to preserve any right or franchise if it determines that the preservation thereof is no longer desirable in the conduct of its business and that the loss thereof is not disadvantageous in any material respect to the Holders of the Debt Securities. (Section 1005)

MAINTENANCE OF PROPERTIES

Edgar Filing: VORNADO REALTY TRUST - Form 424B5

The Operating Partnership will be required to cause all properties used or useful in the conduct of its business or the business of any subsidiary to be maintained and kept in good condition, repair and working order and supplied with all necessary equipment and to cause to be made all necessary repairs, renewals, replacements, betterments and improvements thereof, all as in the judgment of the Operating Partnership may be necessary so that the business carried on in connection therewith may be properly and advantageously conducted at all times; provided, however, that the Operating Partnership shall not be prevented from discontinuing the operation or maintenance of any of its properties if such discontinuance is, in the judgment of the Operating Partnership, desirable in the conduct of its business or the business of any subsidiary and not disadvantageous in any material respect to the Holders. (Section 1006)

PAYMENT OF TAXES AND OTHER CLAIMS

The Operating Partnership will be required to pay or discharge or cause to be paid or discharged, before the same shall become delinquent, (i) all taxes, assessments and governmental charges levied or imposed upon the Operating Partnership or any subsidiary or upon the income, profits or property of the Operating Partnership or any subsidiary, and (ii) all lawful claims for labor, materials and supplies which, if unpaid, might by law become a lien upon the property of the Operating Partnership or any subsidiary; provided, however, that the Operating Partnership shall not be required to pay or discharge or cause to be paid or discharged any such tax, assessment, charge or claim whose amount, applicability or validity is being contested in good faith by appropriate proceedings. (Section 1007)

INSURANCE

The Operating Partnership will be required to, and to cause each of its subsidiaries to, keep all of its insurable properties insured against loss or damage with insurers of recognized responsibility in commercially reasonable amounts and types. (Section 1008)

PROVISION OF FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Whether or not the Operating Partnership is subject to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act and for so long as any Debt Securities are outstanding, the Operating Partnership will, to the extent

18

permitted under the Exchange Act, file with the Commission the annual reports, quarterly reports and other documents which the Operating Partnership would have been required to file with the Commission pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) (the "Financial Statements") if the Operating Partnership were so subject, such documents to be filed with the Commission on or prior to the respective dates (the "Required Filing Dates") by which the Operating Partnership would have been required so to file such documents if the Operating Partnership were so subject.

The Operating Partnership will also in any event (x) within 15 days of each Required Filing Date (i) transmit by mail to all Holders of Debt Securities whose names appear in the security register for such Debt Securities, as their names and addresses appear in the security register for such Debt Securities, without cost to such Holders, copies of the annual reports and quarterly reports which the Operating Partnership would have been required to file with the Commission pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act if the Operating Partnership were subject to such Sections and (ii) file with any Trustee copies of the annual reports, quarterly reports and other documents

Edgar Filing: VORNADO REALTY TRUST - Form 424B5

which the Operating Partnership would have been required to file with the Commission pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act if the Operating Partnership were subject to such Sections and (y) if filing such documents by the Operating Partnership with the Commission is not permitted under the Exchange Act, promptly upon written request and payment of the reasonable cost of duplication and delivery, supply copies of such documents to any prospective Holder. (Section 1009)

EVENTS OF DEFAULT

The following are Events of Default under the Indentures with respect to Debt Securities of any series: (a) failure to pay principal of or premium, if any, on any Debt Security of that series when due; (b) failure to pay any interest on any Debt Security of that series when due, continued for 30 days; (c) failure in the deposit of any sinking fund payment in respect of any Debt Security of that series; (d) failure to perform any other covenant of the Operating Partnership in the Indentures (other than a covenant included in the applicable Indenture solely for the benefit of a series of Debt Securities other than that series), continued for 60 days after written notice to the Operating Partnership as provided in the applicable Indenture; (e) the acceleration of, or failure to pay at maturity (including any applicable grace period), any indebtedness for money borrowed by the Operating Partnership with at least \$50,000,000 in principal amount outstanding, which acceleration or failure to pay is not rescinded or annulled or such indebtedness paid, in each case within 10 days after the date on which written notice thereof shall have first been given to the Operating Partnership as provided in the applicable Indenture; (f) certain events of bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization; and (g) any other Event of Default provided with respect to Debt Securities of that series. (Section 501)

If an Event of Default with respect to Outstanding Debt Securities of any series shall occur and be continuing, either the applicable Trustee or the Holders of not less than 25% in principal amount of the Outstanding Debt Securities of that series by notice as provided in the Indentures may declare the principal amount (or, if the Debt Securities of that series are Original Issue Discount Securities, such portion of the principal amount as may be specified in the terms of that series) of all Debt Securities of that series to be due and payable immediately. However, at any time after a declaration of acceleration with respect to Debt Securities of any series has been made, but before a judgment or decree based on such acceleration has been obtained, the Holders of a majority in principal amount of the Outstanding Debt Securities of that series may, under certain circumstances, rescind and annul such acceleration. (Section 502) For information as to waiver or defaults, see "-- Modification and Waiver" below.

The Indentures provide that, subject to the duty of the Trustees thereunder during an Event of Default to act with the required standard of care, such Trustees will be under no obligation to exercise any of its rights or powers under the Indentures at the request or direction of any of the Holders, unless such Holders shall have offered to such Trustees reasonable security or indemnity. (Sections 601 and 603) Subject to certain provisions, including those requiring security or indemnification of the Trustees, the Holders of a majority in principal amount of the Outstanding Debt Securities of any series will have the right to direct the time, method and place of conducting any proceeding for any remedy available to the

19

Trustees, or exercising any trust or power conferred on such Trustees, with respect to the Debt Securities of that series. (Section 512)

No Holder of a Debt Security of any series will have any right to institute

Edgar Filing: VORNADO REALTY TRUST - Form 424B5

any proceeding with respect to the Indentures or for any remedy thereunder, unless (i) such Holder shall have previously given to the applicable Trustee written notice of a continuing Event of Default (as defined) with respect to Debt Securities of that series; (ii) the Holders of not less than 25% in aggregate principal amount of the Outstanding Debt Securities of the same series shall have made written request, and offered reasonable indemnity, to the applicable Trustee to institute proceedings in respect of such Event of Default in its own name as trustee under the Indenture; (iii) the Trustee shall have failed to institute such proceedings within 60 days; and (iv) the Trustee shall not have received from the Holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding Debt Securities of the same series a direction inconsistent with such request (Section 507); provided, however, that such limitations do not apply to a suit instituted by a Holder of a Debt Security for enforcement of payment of the principal of and any premium and interest on such Debt Security on or after the respective due dates expressed in such Debt Security. (Section 508)

The Operating Partnership will be required to furnish to the Trustees annually a statement as to the performance by the Operating Partnership of its obligations under the Indentures and as to any default in such performance. (Section 1004)

MODIFICATION AND WAIVER

Without the consent of any Holder of Outstanding Debt Securities, the Operating Partnership and the applicable Trustee may amend or supplement the applicable Indenture or the Debt Securities to cure any ambiguity, defect or inconsistency, or to make any change that does not materially adversely affect the rights of any Holder of Debt Securities. (Section 901) Other modifications and amendments of the Indentures may be made by the Operating Partnership and the applicable Trustee only with the consent of the Holders of not less than a majority in aggregate principal amount of the Outstanding Debt Securities of each series affected thereby; provided, however, that no such modification or amendment may, without the consent of the Holder of each Outstanding Debt Security affected thereby: (a) change the Stated Maturity of the principal of, or any installment of principal of, or interest on, any Debt Security; (b) reduce the principal amount of, the rate of interest on, or the premium, if any, payable upon the redemption of, any Debt Security; (c) reduce the amount of principal of an Original Issue Discount Security payable upon acceleration of the Maturity thereof; (d) change the place or currency of payment of principal of, or premium, if any, or interest on any Debt Security; (e) impair the right to institute suit for the enforcement of any payment on or with respect to any Debt Security on or after the Stated Maturity or Redemption Date thereof; (f) modify the subordination provisions applicable to any series of Debt Securities in a manner adverse to the holders thereof; or (g) reduce the percentage in principal amount of Outstanding Debt Securities of any series, the consent of the Holders of which is required for modification or amendment of the Indentures or for waiver of compliance with certain provisions of the applicable Indenture or for waiver of certain defaults. (Section 902)

Unless otherwise indicated in the applicable Prospectus Supplement, the Holders of at least a majority in aggregate principal amount of the Outstanding Debt Securities of any series may on behalf of the Holders of all Debt Securities of that series waive, insofar as that series is concerned, compliance by the Operating Partnership with certain covenants of the Indentures. (Section 1008) Unless otherwise indicated in the applicable Prospectus Supplement, the Holders of not less than a majority in principal amount of the Outstanding Debt Securities of any series may, on behalf of the Holders of all Debt Securities of that series, waive any past default under the applicable Indenture with respect to that series, except a default in the payment of the principal of, or premium, if any, or interest on, any Debt Security of that series or in respect of a provision which under such applicable Indenture cannot be modified or amended

Edgar Filing: VORNADO REALTY TRUST - Form 424B5

without the consent of the Holder of each Outstanding Debt Security of that series affected. (Section 513)

20

CONSOLIDATION, MERGER AND SALE OF ASSETS

Unless otherwise indicated in the applicable Prospectus Supplement, the Operating Partnership, without the consent of any Holders of outstanding Debt Securities, may consolidate with or merge into, or transfer or lease its assets substantially as an entirety to, any Person, and any other Person may consolidate with or merge into, or transfer or lease its assets substantially as an entirety to, the Operating Partnership, provided that (a) the Person (if other than the Operating Partnership) formed by such consolidation or into which the Operating Partnership is merged or which acquires or leases the assets of the Operating Partnership substantially as an entirety assumes the Operating Partnership's obligations on the Debt Securities and under the Indenture relating thereto and (b) after giving effect to such transaction no Event of Default, and no event which, after notice or lapse of time or both, would become an Event of Default, shall have happened and be continuing. (Article Eight) A Prospectus Supplement may set forth any additional provisions regarding a consolidation with, merger into, or transfer or lease of its assets substantially as an entirety to, any Person (or of such Person with, into or to the Operating Partnership).

DEFEASANCE

If so indicated in the applicable Prospectus Supplement with respect to the Debt Securities of a series, the Operating Partnership, at its option (i) will be discharged from any and all obligations in respect of the Debt Securities of such series (except for certain obligations to register the transfer or exchange of Debt Securities of such series, to replace destroyed, stolen, lost or mutilated Debt Securities of such series, and to maintain an office or agency in respect of the Debt Securities and hold monies for payment in trust) or (ii) will be released from its obligations to comply with any covenants that may be specified in the applicable Prospectus Supplement with respect to the Debt Securities of such series, and the occurrence of an event described in clause (d) under "-- Events of Default" above with respect to any defeased covenants shall no longer be an Event of Default, if in either case the Operating Partnership irrevocably deposits with the applicable Trustee, in trust, money or U.S. Government Obligations that through the payment of interest thereon and principal thereof in accordance with their terms will provide money in an amount sufficient to pay all of the principal of and premium, if any, and any interest on the Debt Securities of such series on the dates such payments are due (which may include one or more redemption dates designated by the Operating Partnership) in accordance with the terms of such Debt Securities. Such a trust may only be established if, among other things, (a) no Event of Default or event which with the giving of notice or lapse of time, or both, would become an Event of Default under the applicable Indenture shall have occurred and be continuing on the date of such deposit, (b) no Event of Default described under clause (e) under "-- Events of Default" above or event which with the giving of notice or lapse of time, or both, would become an Event of Default described under such clause (e) shall have occurred and be continuing at any time during the period ending on the 91st day following such date of deposit and (c) the Operating Partnership shall have delivered an Opinion of Counsel to the effect that the Holders of the Debt Securities will not recognize gain or loss for United States Federal income tax purposes as a result of such deposit or defeasance and will be subject to United States Federal income tax in the same manner as if such deposit and defeasance had not occurred, which Opinion of Counsel, in the case of a deposit and defeasance of such Indenture with respect to the Debt Securities of any series as described under clause (i) above, shall be based on

Edgar Filing: VORNADO REALTY TRUST - Form 424B5

either (A) a ruling to such effect that the Operating Partnership has received from, or that has been published by, the Internal Revenue Service or (B) a change in the applicable Federal income tax law, occurring after the date of the applicable Indenture, to such effect. In the event the Operating Partnership omits to comply with its remaining obligations under such Indenture after a defeasance of such Indenture with respect to the Debt Securities of any series as described under clause (ii) above and the Debt Securities of such series are declared due and payable because of the occurrence of any undefeased Event of Default, the amount of money and U.S. Government Obligations on deposit with the applicable Trustee may be insufficient to pay amounts due on the Debt Securities of such series at the time of the acceleration resulting from such Event of Default. However, the Operating Partnership will remain liable in respect to such payments. (Article Thirteen)

21

SUBORDINATION OF SUBORDINATED DEBT SECURITIES

Unless otherwise indicated in the Prospectus Supplement, the following provisions will apply to the Subordinated Debt Securities.

The Subordinated Debt Securities will, to the extent set forth in the Subordinated Indenture, be subordinate in right of payment to the prior payment in full of all Senior Debt, including the Senior Debt Securities. Upon any payment or distribution of assets to creditors upon any liquidation, dissolution, winding up, reorganization, assignment for the benefit of creditors, marshalling of assets or any bankruptcy, insolvency, debt restructuring or similar proceedings in connection with any insolvency or bankruptcy proceeding of the Operating Partnership, the holders of Senior Debt will first be entitled to receive payment in full of principal of (and premium, if any) and interest, if any, on such Senior Debt before the holders of the Subordinated Debt Securities will be entitled to receive or retain any payment in respect of the principal of (and premium, if any) or interest, if any, on the Subordinated Debt Securities. (Article Fifteen of the Subordinated Indenture)

By reason of such subordination, in the event of liquidation or insolvency, creditors of the Operating Partnership who are not holders of Senior Debt or Subordinated Debt Securities may recover less, ratably, than holders of Senior Debt and may recover more, ratably, than the holders of the Subordinated Debt Securities.

In the event of the acceleration of the maturity of any Subordinated Debt Securities, the holders of all Senior Debt outstanding at the time of such acceleration will first be entitled to receive payment in full of all amounts due thereon before the Holders of the Subordinated Debt Securities will be entitled to receive any payment upon the principal of (or premium, if any) or interest, if any, on the Subordinated Debt Securities.

No payments on account of principal (or premium, if any) or interest, if any, in respect of the Subordinated Debt Securities may be made if there shall have occurred and be continuing a default in any payment with respect to Senior Debt, or an event of default with respect to any Senior Debt resulting in the acceleration of the maturity thereof, or if any judicial proceeding shall be pending with respect to any such default.

Unless otherwise indicated in the applicable Prospectus Supplement, "Senior Debt" means the principal of (and premium, if any) and interest (including interest accruing on or after the filing of any petition in bankruptcy or for reorganization relating to the Operating Partnership to the extent such claim for post-petition interest is allowed in such proceeding) on all indebtedness of the Operating Partnership (including indebtedness of others guaranteed by the

Edgar Filing: VORNADO REALTY TRUST - Form 424B5

Operating Partnership), other than the Subordinated Debt Securities whether outstanding on the date of the Subordinated Indenture or thereafter created, incurred or assumed, which is: (i) for money borrowed, (ii) evidenced by a note or similar instrument given in connection with the acquisition of any businesses, properties or assets of any kind or (iii) obligations of the Operating Partnership as lessee under leases required to be capitalized on the balance sheet of the lessee under generally accepted accounting principles or leases of property or assets made as part of any sale and lease-back transaction to which the Operating Partnership is a party, including amendments, renewals, extensions, modifications and refundings of any such indebtedness or obligation, unless in any case in the instrument creating or evidencing any such indebtedness or obligation or pursuant to which the same is outstanding it is provided that such indebtedness or obligation is not superior in right of payment to the Subordinated Debt Securities.

The Subordinated Indenture does not limit or prohibit the incurrence of additional Senior Debt, which may include indebtedness that is senior to the Subordinated Debt Securities, but subordinate to other obligations of the Operating Partnership. The Senior Debt Securities, when issued, will constitute Senior Debt.

The Prospectus Supplement will set forth the aggregate amount of outstanding indebtedness as of the most recent practicable date that by the terms of such indebtedness and the terms of the offered Subordinated Debt Securities would rank senior to or pari passu with such Subordinated Debt Securities

22

and any limitation on the issuance of additional senior or pari passu indebtedness. The Prospectus Supplement may further describe the provisions, if any, applicable to the subordination of the Subordinated Debt Securities of a particular series.

GOVERNING LAW

The Indentures and the Debt Securities will be governed by, and construed in accordance with, the laws of the State of New York. (Section 112)

REGARDING THE TRUSTEES

The Operating Partnership and certain of its subsidiaries in the ordinary course of business maintain general banking relations with The Bank of New York. Pursuant to the provisions of the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, upon a default under either the Senior Indenture or the Subordinated Indenture, The Bank of New York may be deemed to have a conflicting interest by virtue of its acting as both the Senior Trustee and the Subordinated Trustee requiring it to resign and be replaced by a successor trustee in one of such positions.

DESCRIPTION OF SHARES OF BENEFICIAL INTEREST

The following descriptions of the material terms of the shares of beneficial interest of Vornado do not purport to be complete and are subject to, and qualified in their entirety by reference to, the more complete descriptions thereof set forth in the following documents: (i) Vornado's Amended and Restated Declaration of Trust, as amended, including the articles supplementary for the Series A Preferred Shares (the "Declaration of Trust"), and (ii) its Bylaws, copies of which are exhibits to the Registration Statement of which this Prospectus is a part.

For Vornado to maintain its qualification as a REIT under the Code, not more than 50% of the value of its outstanding shares of beneficial interest may

Edgar Filing: VORNADO REALTY TRUST - Form 424B5

be owned, directly or indirectly, by five or fewer individuals (as defined in the Code to include certain entities) at any time during the last half of a taxable year and the shares of beneficial interest must be beneficially owned by 100 or more persons during at least 335 days of a taxable year of 12 months (or during a proportionate part of a shorter taxable year). Accordingly, the Declaration of Trust contains provisions that restrict the ownership and transfer of shares of beneficial interest.

The Declaration of Trust authorizes the issuance of up to 240,000,000 shares, consisting of 100,000,000 Common Shares, 20,000,000 preferred shares of beneficial interest, no par value per share ("Preferred Shares"), and 120,000,000 excess shares of beneficial interest, \$.04 par value per share ("Excess Shares"). See "-- Description of Preferred Shares -- Restrictions on Ownership" and "-- Description of Common Shares -- Restrictions on Ownership" for a discussion of the possible issuance of Excess Shares.

DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED SHARES

The following is a description of the material terms and provisions of the Preferred Shares. The particular terms of any series of Preferred Shares will be described in the applicable Prospectus Supplement, which will supplement the information set forth below.

The summary of the material terms of Vornado's Preferred Shares contained in this Prospectus does not purport to be complete and is subject to, and qualified in its entirety by, the provisions of the Declaration of Trust, which includes the articles supplementary relating to each series of the Preferred Shares (the "Articles Supplementary"), which will be filed as an exhibit to or incorporated by reference in the Registration Statement of which this Prospectus is a part at or prior to the time of issuance of such series of the Preferred Shares.

23

As of the date hereof, the Declaration of Trust authorizes the issuance of 20,000,000 Preferred Shares. As of November 15, 1997, 5,750,000 Series A Preferred Shares were outstanding. The Series A Preferred Shares are listed on the NYSE under the symbol "VNO Pr A". A description of Vornado's Series A Preferred Shares is set forth in Vornado's Registration Statement on Form 8-A, filed with the Commission on April 3, 1997, and incorporated herein by reference. The Preferred Shares authorized by the Declaration of Trust may be issued from time to time in one or more series in such amounts and with such designations, preferences, conversion or other rights, voting powers, restrictions, limitations as to dividends, qualifications and terms and conditions of redemption as may be fixed by the Board of Trustees. Under certain circumstances, the issuance of Preferred Shares could have the effect of delaying, deferring or preventing a change of control of Vornado and may adversely affect the voting and other rights of the holders of Common Shares. The Declaration of Trust authorizes the Board of Trustees to classify or reclassify, in one or more series, any unissued Preferred Shares and to reclassify any unissued shares of any series of Preferred Shares of any series by setting or changing the number of Preferred Shares constituting such series and the designations, preferences, conversion or other rights, voting powers, restrictions, limitations as to distributions, qualifications and terms and conditions of redemption of such Preferred Shares.

The Preferred Shares shall have the dividend, liquidation, redemption and voting rights described below as such description may be supplemented in a Prospectus Supplement relating to a particular series of the Preferred Shares. The applicable Prospectus Supplement will describe the following terms of the series of Preferred Shares in respect of which this Prospectus is being

Edgar Filing: VORNADO REALTY TRUST - Form 424B5

delivered: (1) the title of such Preferred Shares and the number of shares offered; (2) the amount of liquidation preference per share; (3) the initial public offering price at which such Preferred Shares will be issued; (4) the dividend rate (or method of calculation), the dates on which dividends shall be payable and the dates from which dividends shall commence to cumulate, if any; (5) any redemption or sinking fund provisions; (6) any conversion or exchange rights; (7) any additional voting, dividend, liquidation, redemption, sinking fund and other rights, preferences, limitations and restrictions; (8) any listing of such Preferred Shares on any securities exchange; (9) the relative ranking and preferences of such Preferred Shares as to dividend rights and rights upon liquidation, dissolution or winding up of the affairs of Vornado; (10) any limitations on issuance of any series of Preferred Shares ranking senior to or on a parity with such series of Preferred Shares as to dividend rights and rights upon liquidation, dissolution or winding up of the affairs of Vornado; and (11) any limitations on direct, beneficial or constructive ownership and restrictions on transfer, in each case as may be appropriate to preserve the status of Vornado as a REIT. The applicable Prospectus Supplement will also include a discussion of Federal income tax considerations applicable to such Preferred Shares.

GENERAL

The Preferred Shares offered hereby will be issued in one or more series. The Preferred Shares, upon issuance against full payment of the purchase price therefor, will be fully paid and nonassessable. The liquidation preference is not indicative of the price at which the Preferred Shares will actually trade on or after the date of issuance.

RANK

The Preferred Shares shall, with respect to dividend rights and rights upon liquidation, dissolution and winding up of Vornado, rank prior to the Common Shares and Excess Shares (other than certain Excess Shares resulting from the conversion of Preferred Shares) and to all other classes and series of equity securities of Vornado now or hereafter authorized, issued or outstanding (the Common Shares and such other classes and series of equity securities collectively may be referred to herein as the "Junior Stock"), other than any classes or series of equity securities of Vornado which by their terms specifically provide for a ranking on a parity with (the "Parity Stock") or senior to (the "Senior Stock") the Preferred Shares as to dividend rights and rights upon liquidation, dissolution or winding up of Vornado. The Preferred Shares shall be junior to all outstanding debt of Vornado. The Preferred Shares shall be subject to creation of

24

Senior Stock, Parity Stock and Junior Stock to the extent not expressly prohibited by the Declaration of Trust.

DIVIDENDS

Holders of Preferred Shares shall be entitled to receive, when, as and if authorized by the Board of Trustees out of assets of Vornado legally available for payment, dividends, or distributions in cash, property or other assets of Vornado or in Securities of Vornado or from any other source as the Board of Trustees in its discretion shall determine and at such dates and at such rates per share per annum as described in the applicable Prospectus Supplement. Such rate may be fixed or variable or both. Each authorized dividend shall be payable to holders of record as they appear at the close of business on the books of Vornado on such record dates, not more than 90 calendar days preceding the payment dates therefor, as are determined by the Board of Trustees (each of such

Edgar Filing: VORNADO REALTY TRUST - Form 424B5

dates, a "Record Date").

Such dividends may be cumulative or noncumulative, as described in the applicable Prospectus Supplement. If dividends on a series of Preferred Shares are noncumulative and if the Board of Trustees fails to authorize a dividend in respect of a dividend period with respect to such series, then holders of such Preferred Shares will have no right to receive a dividend in respect of such dividend period, and Vornado will have no obligation to pay the dividend for such period, whether or not dividends are authorized payable on any future dividend payment dates. If dividends of a series of Preferred Shares are cumulative, the dividends on such shares will accrue from and after the date set forth in the applicable Prospectus Supplement.

No full dividends shall be authorized or paid or set apart for payment on Preferred Shares of any series ranking, as to dividends, on a parity with or junior to the series of Preferred Shares offered by the applicable Prospectus Supplement for any period unless full dividends for the immediately preceding dividend period on such Preferred Shares (including any accumulation in respect of unpaid dividends for prior dividend periods, if dividends on such Preferred Shares are cumulative) have been or contemporaneously are authorized and paid or authorized and a sum sufficient for the payment thereof is set apart for such payment. When dividends are not so paid in full (or a sum sufficient for such full payment is not so set apart) upon such Preferred Shares and any other Preferred Shares of Vornado ranking on a parity as to dividends with the Preferred Shares, dividends upon such Preferred Shares and dividends on such other Preferred Shares ranking on a parity with the Preferred Shares shall be authorized pro rata so that the amount of dividends authorized per share on such Preferred Shares and such other Preferred Shares ranking on a parity with the Preferred Shares shall in all cases bear to each other the same ratio that accrued dividends for the then-current dividend period per share on such Preferred Shares (including any accumulation in respect of unpaid dividends for prior dividend periods, if dividends on such Preferred Shares are cumulative) and accrued dividends, including required or permitted accumulations, if any, on shares of such other Preferred Shares, bear to each other. No interest, or sum of money in lieu of interest, shall be payable in respect of any dividend payment(s) on Preferred Shares which may be in arrears. Unless full dividends on the series of Preferred Shares offered by the applicable Prospectus Supplement have been authorized and paid or set apart for payment for the immediately preceding dividend period (including any accumulation in respect of unpaid dividends for prior dividend periods, if dividends on such Preferred Shares are cumulative), (a) no cash dividend or distribution (other than in shares of Junior Stock) may be authorized, set aside or paid on the Junior Stock, (b) Vornado may not, directly or indirectly, repurchase, redeem or otherwise acquire any shares of its Junior Stock (or pay any monies into a sinking fund for the redemption of any shares) except by conversion into or exchange for Junior Stock, and (c) Vornado may not, directly or indirectly, repurchase, redeem or otherwise acquire any Preferred Shares or Parity Stock (or pay any monies into a sinking fund for the redemption of any shares of any such stock) otherwise than pursuant to pro rata offers to purchase or a concurrent redemption of all, or a pro rata portion, of the outstanding Preferred Shares and shares of Parity Stock (except by conversion into or exchange for Junior Stock).

Any dividend payment made on a series of Preferred Shares shall first be credited against the earliest accrued but unpaid dividend due with respect to shares of such series.

25

REDEMPTION

The terms, if any, on which Preferred Shares of any series may be redeemed will be set forth in the applicable Prospectus Supplement.

LIQUIDATION

In the event of a voluntary or involuntary liquidation, dissolution or winding up of the affairs of Vornado, the holders of a series of Preferred Shares will be entitled, subject to the rights of creditors, but before any distribution or payment to the holders of Common Shares, Excess Shares (other than certain Excess Shares resulting from the conversion of Preferred Shares) or any Junior Stock on liquidation, dissolution or winding up of Vornado, to receive a liquidating distribution in the amount of the liquidation preference per share as set forth in the applicable Prospectus Supplement plus accrued and unpaid dividends for the then-current dividend period (including any accumulation in respect of unpaid dividends for prior dividend periods, if dividends on such series of Preferred Shares are cumulative). If the amounts available for distribution with respect to the Preferred Shares and all other outstanding Parity Stock are not sufficient to satisfy the full liquidation rights of all the outstanding Preferred Shares and Parity Stock, then the holders of each series of such stock will share ratably in any such distribution of assets in proportion to the full respective preferential amount (which in the case of Preferred Shares may include accumulated dividends) to which they are entitled. After payment of the full amount of the liquidation distribution, the holders of Preferred Shares will not be entitled to any further participation in any distribution of assets by Vornado.

Title 8 does not contain any specific provisions on the power of a Maryland real estate investment trust, such as the Company, to make distributions, including dividends, to its shareholders. It is possible that a Maryland court may look to the Maryland General Corporation Law ("MGCL") for guidance on matters, such as the making of distributions to shareholders, not covered by Title 8. The MGCL requires that, after giving effect to a distribution, (1) the corporation must be able to pay its debts as they become due in the usual course of business and (2) the corporation's total assets must at least equal the sum of its total liabilities plus the preferential rights on dissolution of stockholders whose rights on dissolution are superior to those stockholders receiving the distribution. However, the MGCL also provides that the charter of the corporation may provide that senior dissolution preferences shall not be included with liabilities for purposes of determining amounts available for distribution. The applicable articles supplementary may include such a provision.

VOTING

The Preferred Shares of a series will not be entitled to vote, except as described below or in the applicable Prospectus Supplement. Without the affirmative vote of a majority of the Preferred Shares then outstanding (voting separately as a class together with any Parity Stock), Vornado may not (i) increase or decrease the aggregate number of authorized shares of such class or any security ranking prior to the Preferred Shares, (ii) increase or decrease the par value of the shares of holders of such class or (iii) alter or change the voting or other powers, preferences or special rights of such class so as to affect them adversely. An amendment which increases the number of authorized shares of or authorizes the creation or issuance of other classes or series of Junior Stock or Parity Stock, or substitutes the surviving entity in a merger, consolidation, reorganization or other business combination for Vornado, shall not be considered to be such an adverse change.

NO OTHER RIGHTS

The shares of a series of Preferred Shares will not have any preferences, conversion or other rights, voting powers, restrictions, limitations as to dividends and other distributions, qualifications, and terms and conditions of redemption except as set forth above or in the applicable Prospectus Supplement,

Edgar Filing: VORNADO REALTY TRUST - Form 424B5

the Declaration of Trust and in the applicable Articles Supplementary or as otherwise required by law.

26

TRANSFER AGENT AND REGISTRAR

The transfer agent for each series of Preferred Shares will be described in the related Prospectus Supplement.

RESTRICTIONS ON OWNERSHIP

As discussed below, for Vornado to maintain its qualification as a REIT under the Code, not more than 50% in value of its outstanding shares of beneficial interest may be owned, directly or constructively, by five or fewer individuals (as defined in the Code to include certain entities) at any time during the last half of a taxable year, and the shares of beneficial interest must be beneficially owned by 100 or more persons during at least 335 days of a taxable year of 12 months (or during a proportionate part of a shorter taxable year). Therefore, the Declaration of Trust contains, and the Articles Supplementary for each series of Preferred Shares may contain, provisions restricting the ownership and transfer of the Preferred Shares.

The Declaration of Trust contains a limitation that restricts shareholders from owning, under the applicable attribution rules of the Code, more than 9.9% of the outstanding Preferred Shares of any series (the "Preferred Shares Beneficial Ownership Limit"). The attribution rules which apply for purposes of the Common Shares Beneficial Ownership Limit (as defined below) also apply for purposes of the Preferred Shares Beneficial Ownership Limit. See "-- Description of Common Shares -- Restrictions on Ownership". Shareholders should be aware that events other than a purchase or other transfer of Preferred Shares may result in ownership, under the applicable attribution rules of the Code, of Preferred Shares in excess of the Preferred Shares Beneficial Ownership Limit. Shareholders are urged to consult their own tax advisors concerning the application of the attribution rules of the Code in their particular circumstances.

Holders of Preferred Shares are also subject to the Constructive Ownership Limit (as defined below in "-- Description of Common Shares -- Restrictions on Ownership"), which restricts them from owning, under the applicable attribution rules of the Code, more than 9.9% of the outstanding Preferred Shares of any series. The attribution rules which apply for purposes of the Constructive Ownership Limit differ from those that apply for purposes of the Preferred Shares Beneficial Ownership Limit. See "-- Description of Common Shares -- Restrictions on Ownership". Shareholders should be aware that events other than a purchase or other transfer of Preferred Shares may result in ownership, under the applicable attribution rules of the Code, of Preferred Shares in excess of the Constructive Ownership Limit. Shareholders are urged to consult their own tax advisors concerning the application of the attribution rules of the Code in their particular circumstances.

The Declaration of Trust provides that a transfer of Preferred Shares that would otherwise result in ownership, under the applicable attribution rules of the Code, of Preferred Shares in excess of the Preferred Shares Beneficial Ownership Limit or the Constructive Ownership Limit, or which would cause the shares of beneficial interest of Vornado to be beneficially owned by fewer than 100 persons, will be null and void and the purported transferee will acquire no rights or economic interest in such Preferred Shares. In addition, Preferred Shares that would otherwise be owned, under the applicable attribution rules of the Code, in excess of the Preferred Shares Beneficial Ownership Limit or the Constructive Ownership Limit will be automatically exchanged for Excess Shares

Edgar Filing: VORNADO REALTY TRUST - Form 424B5

that will be transferred, by operation of law, to Vornado as trustee of a trust for the exclusive benefit of a beneficiary designated by the purported transferee or purported holder. While so held in trust, Excess Shares are not entitled to vote and are not entitled to participate in any dividends or distributions made by Vornado. Any dividends or distributions received by the purported transferee or other purported holder of such Excess Shares prior to the discovery by Vornado of the automatic exchange for Excess Shares shall be repaid to Vornado upon demand.

If the purported transferee or purported holder elects to designate a beneficiary of an interest in the trust with respect to such Excess Shares, only a person whose ownership of the shares will not violate the Preferred Shares Beneficial Ownership Limit or the Constructive Ownership Limit may be designated, at which time the Excess Shares will be automatically exchanged for Preferred Shares of the same class as the Preferred Shares which were originally exchanged for such Excess Shares. The Declaration of Trust

27

contains provisions designed to ensure that the purported transferee or other purported holder of the Excess Shares may not receive in return for such a transfer an amount that reflects any appreciation in the Preferred Shares for which such Excess Shares were exchanged during the period that such Excess Shares were outstanding but will bear the burden of any decline in value during such period. Any amount received by a purported transferee or other purported holder for designating a beneficiary in excess of the amount permitted to be received must be turned over to Vornado. The Declaration of Trust provides that Vornado may purchase any Excess Shares that have been automatically exchanged for Preferred Shares as a result of a purported transfer or other event. The price at which Vornado may purchase such Excess Shares shall be equal to the lesser of (i) in the case of Excess Shares resulting from a purported transfer for value, the price per share in the purported transfer that resulted in the automatic exchange for Excess Shares or, in the case of Excess Shares resulting from some other event, the market price of the Preferred Shares exchanged on the date of the automatic exchange for Excess Shares and (ii) the market price of the Preferred Shares exchanged for such Excess Shares on the date that the Company accepts the deemed offer to sell such Excess Shares. Vornado's purchase right with respect to Excess Shares shall exist for 90 days, beginning on the date that the automatic exchange for Excess Shares occurred or, if Vornado did not receive a notice concerning the purported transfer that resulted in the automatic exchange for Excess Shares, the date that the Board of Trustees determines in good faith that an exchange for Excess Shares has occurred.

The Board of Trustees may exempt certain persons from the Preferred Shares Beneficial Ownership Limit or the Constructive Ownership Limit if evidence satisfactory to the trustees is presented showing that such exemption will not jeopardize Vornado's status as a REIT under the Code. As a condition of such exemption, the Board of Trustees may require a ruling from the Internal Revenue Service (the "IRS") and/or an opinion of counsel satisfactory to it and/or representations and undertakings from the applicant with respect to preserving the REIT status of Vornado.

The foregoing restrictions on transferability and ownership will not apply if the Board of Trustees determines that it is no longer in the best interests of Vornado to attempt to qualify, or to continue to qualify, as a REIT.

All certificates evidencing Preferred Shares will bear a legend referring to the restrictions described above.

All persons who own, directly or by virtue of the applicable attribution rules of the Code, more than 2% of the outstanding Preferred Shares of any series must give a written notice to Vornado containing the information

Edgar Filing: VORNADO REALTY TRUST - Form 424B5

specified in the Declaration of Trust by January 31 of each year. In addition, each shareholder shall upon demand be required to disclose to Vornado such information as Vornado may request, in good faith, in order to determine Vornado's status as a REIT or to comply with Treasury Regulations promulgated under the REIT provisions of the Code.

DEPOSITARY SHARES

Vornado may, at its option, elect to offer receipts for fractional interests ("Depositary Shares") in Preferred Shares, rather than full Preferred Shares. In such event, receipts ("Depositary Receipts") for Depositary Shares, each of which will represent a fraction (to be set forth in the Prospectus Supplement relating to a particular series of Preferred Shares) of a share of a particular series of Preferred Shares, will be issued as described below.

The description set forth below of the material provisions of the Deposit Agreement and of the Depositary Shares and Depositary Receipts (each as defined below) does not purport to be complete and is subject to and qualified in its entirety by reference to the forms of Deposit Agreement and Depositary Receipts relating to each series of the Preferred Shares which have been or will be filed with the Commission at or prior to the time of the offering of such series of the Preferred Shares. The particular terms of Depositary Shares representing fractional interests in any particular series of Preferred Shares will be described in the applicable Prospectus Supplement, which will supplement the information set forth herein.

28

GENERAL

The shares of any series of Preferred Shares represented by Depositary Shares will be deposited under a Deposit Agreement (the "Deposit Agreement") between Vornado and the depositary (the "Depositary"). Subject to the terms of the Deposit Agreement, each owner of a Depositary Share will be entitled, in proportion to the applicable fraction of a Preferred Share represented by such Depositary Share, to all the preferences, conversion or other rights, voting powers, restrictions, limitations as to dividends and other distributions, qualifications and terms and conditions of redemption of the Preferred Shares represented thereby.

DIVIDENDS AND OTHER DISTRIBUTIONS

The Depositary will distribute all cash dividends or other cash distributions received in respect of the Preferred Shares to the record holders of Depositary Shares relating to such Preferred Shares in proportion to the numbers of such Depositary Shares owned by such holders.

In the event of a distribution other than in cash, the Depositary will distribute property received by it to the record holders of Depositary Shares in an equitable manner, unless the Depositary determines that it is not feasible to make such distribution, in which case the Depositary may sell such property and distribute the net proceeds from such sale to such holders.

WITHDRAWAL OF PREFERRED SHARES

Upon surrender of Depositary Receipts at the corporate trust office of the Depositary (unless the related Depositary Shares have previously been called for redemption or converted into Excess Shares or otherwise), the holders thereof will be entitled to delivery at such office, to or upon such holder's order, of the number of whole or fractional shares of the class or series of Preferred Shares and any money or other property represented by the Depositary Shares evidenced by such Depositary Receipts. Holders of Depositary Receipts will be

Edgar Filing: VORNADO REALTY TRUST - Form 424B5

entitled to receive whole or fractional shares of the related class or series of Preferred Shares on the basis of the proportion of Preferred Shares represented by each Depositary Share as specified in the applicable Prospectus Supplement, but holders of such Preferred Shares will not thereafter be entitled to receive Depositary Shares thereof. If the Depositary Receipts delivered by the holder evidence a number of Depositary Shares in excess of the number of Depositary Shares representing the number of shares of Preferred Shares to be withdrawn, the Depositary will deliver to such holder at the same time a new Depositary Receipt evidencing such excess number of Depositary Shares.

REDEMPTION OF DEPOSITARY SHARES

If a series of Preferred Shares represented by Depositary Shares is subject to redemption, the Depositary Shares will be redeemed from the proceeds received by the Depositary resulting from the redemption, in whole or in part, of such series of Preferred Shares held by the Depositary. The redemption price per Depositary Share will be equal to the applicable fraction of the redemption price per share payable with respect to such series of the Preferred Shares. Whenever Vornado redeems Preferred Shares held by the Depositary, the Depositary will redeem as of the same redemption date the number of Depositary Shares representing Preferred Shares so redeemed. If fewer than all the Depositary Shares are to be redeemed, the Depositary Shares to be redeemed will be selected by lot, pro rata or by any other equitable method as may be determined by the Depositary.

VOTING THE PREFERRED SHARES

Upon receipt of notice of any meeting at which the holders of the Preferred Shares are entitled to vote, the Depositary will mail the information contained in such notices of meeting to the record holders of the Depositary Shares relating to such Preferred Shares. Each record holder of such Depositary Shares on the record date (which will be the same date as the record date for the Preferred Shares) will be entitled to instruct the Depositary as to the exercise of the voting rights pertaining to the amount of the Preferred Shares represented by such holder's Depositary Shares. The Depositary will endeavor, insofar as

29

practicable, to vote the amount of the Preferred Shares represented by such Depositary Shares in accordance with such instructions, and Vornado will agree to take all reasonable action which may be deemed necessary by the Depositary in order to enable the Depositary to do so. The Depositary will abstain from voting the Preferred Shares to the extent it does not receive specific instructions from the holder of Depositary Shares representing such Preferred Shares.

AMENDMENT AND TERMINATION OF THE DEPOSIT AGREEMENT

The form of Depositary Receipt evidencing the Depositary Shares and any provision of the Deposit Agreement may at any time be amended by agreement between Vornado and the Depositary. However, any amendment which materially and adversely alters the rights of the holders of Depositary Shares will not be effective unless such amendment has been approved by the holders of at least a majority of the Depositary Shares then outstanding. The Deposit Agreement will only terminate if (i) all outstanding Depositary Shares have been redeemed or (ii) there has been a final distribution in respect of the Preferred Shares in connection with any liquidation, dissolution or winding up of Vornado and such distribution has been distributed to the holders of the related Depositary Shares.

CHARGES OF DEPOSITARY

Edgar Filing: VORNADO REALTY TRUST - Form 424B5

Vornado will pay all transfer and other taxes and governmental charges arising solely from the existence of the depositary arrangements. Vornado will pay charges of the Depositary in connection with the initial deposit of the Preferred Shares and issuance of Depositary Receipts, all withdrawals of Preferred Shares by owners of Depositary Shares and any redemption of the Preferred Shares. Holders of Depositary Receipts will pay other transfer and other taxes and governmental charges and such other charges as are expressly provided in the Deposit Agreement to be for their accounts.

RESIGNATION AND REMOVAL OF DEPOSITARY

The Depositary may resign at any time by delivering to Vornado notice of its election to do so, and Vornado may at any time remove the Depositary, any such resignation or removal to take effect upon the appointment of a successor Depositary and its acceptance of such appointment. Such successor Depositary must be appointed within 60 days after delivery of the notice of resignation or removal and must be a bank or trust company having its principal office in the United States and having a combined capital and surplus of at least \$50,000,000.

RESTRICTIONS ON OWNERSHIP

In order to safeguard Vornado against an inadvertent loss of REIT status, the Deposit Agreement or the Declaration of Trust will contain provisions restricting the ownership and transfer of Depositary Shares. Such restrictions will be described in the applicable Prospectus Supplement.

MISCELLANEOUS

The Depositary will forward all reports and communications from Vornado which are delivered to the Depositary and which Vornado is required or otherwise determines to furnish to the holders of the Preferred Shares.

Neither the Depositary nor Vornado will be liable if it is prevented or delayed by law or any circumstance beyond its control in performing its obligations under the Deposit Agreement. The obligations of Vornado and the Depositary under the Deposit Agreement will be limited to performance in good faith of their duties thereunder and they will not be obligated to prosecute or defend any legal proceeding in respect of any Depositary Shares or Preferred Shares unless satisfactory indemnity is furnished. They may rely upon written advice of counsel or accountants, or information provided by persons presenting Preferred Shares for deposit, holders of Depositary Shares or other persons believed to be competent and on documents believed to be genuine.

30

DESCRIPTION OF COMMON SHARES

As of November 15, 1997, 69,229,079 Common Shares were issued and outstanding and no Excess Shares were issued and outstanding. The Common Shares of Vornado are listed on the NYSE under the symbol "VNO".

The holders of Common Shares are entitled to receive dividends when, if and as authorized by the Board of Trustees of Vornado out of assets legally available therefor, provided that if any Preferred Shares are at the time outstanding, the payment of dividends on Common Shares or other distributions (including purchases of Common Shares) may be subject to the declaration and payment of full cumulative dividends, and the absence of arrearages in any mandatory sinking fund, on outstanding Preferred Shares.

The holders of Common Shares are entitled to one vote for each share on all matters voted on by shareholders, including elections of trustees. There is no

Edgar Filing: VORNADO REALTY TRUST - Form 424B5

cumulative voting in the election of trustees, which means that the holders of a majority of the outstanding Common Shares can elect all of the trustees then standing for election. The holders of Common Shares do not have any conversion, redemption or preemptive rights to subscribe to any securities of the Company. In the event of the dissolution, liquidation or winding up of Vornado, holders of Common Shares are entitled to share ratably in any assets remaining after the satisfaction in full of the prior rights of creditors, including holders of the Company's indebtedness, and the aggregate liquidation preference of any Preferred Shares then outstanding.

The Common Shares have equal dividend, distribution, liquidation and other rights, and shall have no preference, appraisal or exchange rights. All outstanding shares of Common Shares are, and any Common Shares offered by a Prospectus Supplement, upon issuance, will be, fully paid and non-assessable.

The transfer agent for the Common Shares is First Union National Bank, Charlotte, North Carolina.

RESTRICTIONS ON OWNERSHIP

The Declaration of Trust contains a number of provisions which restrict the ownership and transfer of shares and which are designed to safeguard Vornado against an inadvertent loss of its REIT status. The Declaration of Trust contains a limitation that restricts, with certain exceptions, shareholders from owning, under the applicable attribution rules of the Code, more than a specified percentage of the outstanding Common Shares (the "Common Shares Beneficial Ownership Limit"). The Common Shares Beneficial Ownership Limit was initially set at 2.0% of the outstanding Common Shares. The Board of Trustees subsequently adopted a resolution raising the Common Shares Beneficial Ownership Limit from 2.0% to 6.7% of the outstanding Common Shares. The shareholders who owned, under the applicable attribution rules of the Code, more than 6.7% of the Common Shares immediately after the merger of Vornado, Inc. into Vornado in May 1993 (the "Merger") may continue to do so and may acquire additional Common Shares through stock option and similar plans or from other shareholders who owned, under the applicable attribution rules of the Code, more than 6.7% of the Common Shares immediately after the Merger, subject to the restriction that Common Shares cannot be transferred if, as a result, more than 50% in value of the outstanding shares of Vornado would be owned by five or fewer individuals. While such shareholders are not generally permitted to acquire additional Common Shares from any other source, such shareholders may acquire additional Common Shares from any source in the event that additional Common Shares are issued by Vornado, up to the percentage held by them immediately prior to such issuance.

Shareholders should be aware that events other than a purchase or other transfer of Common Shares can result in ownership, under the applicable attribution rules of the Code, of Common Shares in excess of the Common Shares Beneficial Ownership Limit. For instance, if two shareholders, each of whom owns, under the applicable attribution rules of the Code, 3.5% of the outstanding Common Shares, were to marry, then after their marriage both shareholders would own, under the applicable attribution rules of the Code, 7.0% of the outstanding Common Shares, which is in excess of the Common Shares Beneficial Ownership Limit. Similarly, if a shareholder who owns, under the applicable attribution rules of the Code, 4.9% of the outstanding Common Shares were to purchase a 50% interest in a corporation which owns

4.8% of the outstanding Common Shares, then the shareholder would own, under the applicable attribution rules of the Code, 7.3% of the outstanding Common Shares. Shareholders are urged to consult their own tax advisors concerning the application of the attribution rules of the Code in their particular

circumstances.

Under the Code, rental income received by a REIT from persons in which the REIT is treated, under the applicable attribution rules of the Code, as owning a 10% or greater interest does not constitute qualifying income for purposes of the income requirements that REITs must satisfy. For these purposes, a REIT is treated as owning any stock owned, under the applicable attribution rules of the Code, by a person that owns 10% or more of the value of the outstanding shares of the REIT. Therefore, in order to ensure that rental income of the Company will not be treated as nonqualifying income under the rule described above, and thus to ensure that there will not be an inadvertent loss of REIT status as a result of the ownership of shares of a tenant, or a person that holds an interest in a tenant, the Declaration of Trust also contains an ownership limit that restricts, with certain exceptions, shareholders from owning, under the applicable attribution rules of the Code (which are different from those applicable with respect to the Common Shares Beneficial Ownership Limit), more than 9.9% of the outstanding shares of any class (the "Constructive Ownership Limit"). The shareholders who owned, under the applicable attribution rules of the Code, shares in excess of the Constructive Ownership Limit immediately after the Merger generally are not subject to the Constructive Ownership Limit. Subject to an exception for tenants and subtenants from whom the REIT receives, directly or indirectly, rental income that is not in excess of a specified threshold, the Declaration of Trust also contains restrictions that are designed to ensure that the shareholders who owned, under the applicable attribution rules of the Code, shares in excess of the Constructive Ownership Limit immediately after the Merger will not, in the aggregate, own an interest in a tenant or subtenant of the REIT of sufficient magnitude to cause rental income received, directly or indirectly, by the REIT from such tenant or subtenant to be treated as nonqualifying income for purposes of the income requirements that REITs must satisfy.

Shareholders should be aware that events other than a purchase or other transfer of shares can result in ownership, under the applicable attribution rules of the Code, of shares in excess of the Constructive Ownership Limit. As the attribution rules that apply with respect to the Constructive Ownership Limit differ from those that apply with respect to the Common Shares Beneficial Ownership Limit, the events other than a purchase or other transfer of shares which can result in share ownership in excess of the Constructive Ownership Limit can differ from those which can result in share ownership in excess of the Common Shares Beneficial Ownership Limit. Shareholders are urged to consult their own tax advisors concerning the application of the attribution rules of the Code in their particular circumstances.

The Declaration of Trust provides that a transfer of Common Shares that would otherwise result in ownership, under the applicable attribution rules of the Code, of Common Shares in excess of the Common Shares Beneficial Ownership Limit or the Constructive Ownership Limit, or which would cause the shares of beneficial interest of the Company to be beneficially owned by fewer than 100 persons, will be null and void and the purported transferee will acquire no rights or economic interest in such Common Shares. In addition, the Declaration of Trust provides that Common Shares that would otherwise be owned, under the applicable attribution rules of the Code, in excess of the Common Shares Beneficial Ownership Limit or the Constructive Ownership Limit will be automatically exchanged for Excess Shares that will be transferred, by operation of law, to Vornado as trustee of a trust for the exclusive benefit of a beneficiary designated by the purported transferee or purported holder. While so held in trust, Excess Shares are not entitled to vote and are not entitled to participate in any dividends or distributions made by Vornado. Any dividends or distributions received by the purported transferee or other purported holder of such Excess Shares prior to the discovery by Vornado of the automatic exchange for Excess Shares shall be repaid to Vornado upon demand.

Edgar Filing: VORNADO REALTY TRUST - Form 424B5

If the purported transferee or purported holder elects to designate a beneficiary of an interest in the trust with respect to such Excess Shares, only a person whose ownership of the shares will not violate the Common Shares Beneficial Ownership Limit or the Constructive Ownership Limit may be designated, at which time the Excess Shares will be automatically exchanged for Common Shares. The Declaration of

32

Trust contains provisions designed to ensure that the purported transferee or other purported holder of the Excess Shares may not receive in return for such a transfer an amount that reflects any appreciation in the Common Shares for which such Excess Shares were exchanged during the period that such Excess Shares were outstanding but will bear the burden of any decline in value during such period. Any amount received by a purported transferee or other purported holder for designating a beneficiary in excess of the amount permitted to be received must be turned over to Vornado. The Declaration of Trust provides that Vornado, or its designee, may purchase any Excess Shares that have been automatically exchanged for Common Shares as a result of a purported transfer or other event. The price at which Vornado, or its designee, may purchase such Excess Shares shall be equal to the lesser of (i) in the case of Excess Shares resulting from a purported transfer for value, the price per share in the purported transfer that resulted in the automatic exchange for Excess Shares or, in the case of Excess Shares resulting from some other event, the market price of the Common Shares exchanged on the date of the automatic exchange for Excess Shares and (ii) the market price of the Common Shares exchanged for such Excess Shares on the date that Vornado accepts the deemed offer to sell such Excess Shares. Vornado's purchase right with respect to Excess Shares shall exist for 90 days, beginning on the date that the automatic exchange for Excess Shares occurred or, if Vornado did not receive a notice concerning the purported transfer that resulted in the automatic exchange for Excess Shares, the date that the Board of Trustees determines in good faith that an exchange for Excess Shares has occurred.

The Board of Trustees of Vornado may exempt certain persons from the Common Shares Beneficial Ownership Limit or the Constructive Ownership Limit, including the limitations applicable to holders who owned in excess of 6.7% of the Common Shares immediately after the Merger, if evidence satisfactory to the Board of Trustees is presented showing that such exemption will not jeopardize Vornado's status as a REIT under the Code. As a condition of such exemption, the Board of Trustees may require a ruling from the IRS and/or an opinion of counsel satisfactory to it and/or representations and undertakings from the applicant with respect to preserving the REIT status of Vornado.

The foregoing restrictions on transferability and ownership will not apply if the Board of Trustees determines that it is no longer in the best interests of Vornado to attempt to qualify, or to continue to qualify, as a REIT.

All persons who own, directly or by virtue of the applicable attribution rules of the Code, more than 2.0% of the outstanding Common Shares must give a written notice to Vornado containing the information specified in the Declaration of Trust by January 31 of each year. In addition, each shareholder shall upon demand be required to disclose to the Company such information as Vornado may request, in good faith, in order to determine Vornado's status as a REIT or to comply with Treasury Regulations promulgated under the REIT provisions of the Code.

The ownership restrictions described above may have the effect of precluding acquisition of control of Vornado unless the Board of Trustees determines that maintenance of REIT status is no longer in the best interests of Vornado.

Edgar Filing: VORNADO REALTY TRUST - Form 424B5

FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSIDERATIONS

The following summary of the taxation of Vornado and the material Federal income tax consequences to holders of the Securities is for general information only, and is not tax advice. The tax treatment of a holder of Securities will vary depending upon the holder's particular situation, and this discussion addresses only holders that hold Securities as capital assets and does not purport to deal with all aspects of taxation that may be relevant to particular holders in light of their personal investment or tax circumstances, or to certain types of holders (including dealers in securities or currencies, traders in securities that elect to mark-to-market, banks, tax-exempt organizations, life insurance companies, persons that hold Securities that are a hedge or that are hedged against currency risks or that are part of a straddle or conversion transaction, or persons whose functional currency is not the U.S. dollar) subject to special treatment under the Federal income tax laws. This summary is based on the Code, its legislative history, existing and

33

proposed regulations thereunder, published rulings and court decisions, all as currently in effect and all subject to change at any time, perhaps with retroactive effect.

INVESTORS ARE URGED TO CONSULT WITH THEIR OWN TAX ADVISORS REGARDING THE TAX CONSEQUENCES TO THEM OF THE ACQUISITION, OWNERSHIP AND SALE OF SECURITIES, INCLUDING THE FEDERAL, STATE, LOCAL AND FOREIGN TAX CONSEQUENCES OF SUCH ACQUISITION, OWNERSHIP AND SALE IN THEIR PARTICULAR CIRCUMSTANCES AND POTENTIAL CHANGES IN APPLICABLE LAWS.

TAXATION OF THE COMPANY AS A REIT

GENERAL

In the opinion of Sullivan & Cromwell, commencing with its taxable year ended December 31, 1993, Vornado has been organized and operated in conformity with the requirements for qualification and taxation as a REIT under the Code, and Vornado's proposed method of operation will enable it to continue to meet the requirements for qualification and taxation as a REIT under the Code. Investors should be aware, however, that opinions of counsel are not binding upon the Internal Revenue Service or any court. In providing its opinion, Sullivan & Cromwell is relying upon (i) representations received from Vornado and (ii) an opinion of Shearman & Sterling as to the qualification of Alexander's as a REIT. In providing its opinion to the effect that, commencing with Alexander's taxable year ending December 31, 1995, Alexander's has been organized and operated in conformity with the requirements for qualification and taxation as a REIT under the Code, and Alexander's proposed method of operation will enable it to continue to meet the requirements for qualification and taxation as a REIT under the Code, Shearman & Sterling is in turn relying upon representations received from Alexander's. The qualification and taxation of Vornado and Alexander's as REITs depends upon their ability to meet, through actual annual operating results, distribution levels, stock ownership requirements and the various qualification tests imposed under the Code. Accordingly, while Vornado intends to continue to qualify to be taxed as a REIT, no assurance can be given that the actual results of Vornado's or Alexander's operations for any particular year will satisfy such requirements. Neither Sullivan & Cromwell nor Shearman & Sterling will monitor the compliance of the Company or Alexander's with the requirements for REIT qualification on an ongoing basis.

The sections of the Code applicable to REITs are highly technical and complex. The material aspects thereof are summarized below.

Edgar Filing: VORNADO REALTY TRUST - Form 424B5

As a REIT, Vornado generally will not be subject to Federal corporate income taxes on its net income that is currently distributed to shareholders. This treatment substantially eliminates the "double taxation" (at the corporate and shareholder levels) that generally results from investment in a regular corporation. However, Vornado will be subject to federal income tax as follows. First, Vornado will be taxed at regular corporate rates on any undistributed real estate investment trust taxable income, including undistributed net capital gains. Second, under certain circumstances, Vornado may be subject to the "alternative minimum tax" on its items of tax preference. Third, if Vornado has (i) net income from the sale or other disposition of "foreclosure property" which is held primarily for sale to customers in the ordinary course of business or (ii) other non-qualifying income from foreclosure property, it will be subject to tax at the highest corporate rate on such income. Fourth, if Vornado has net income from "prohibited transactions" (which are, in general, certain sales or other dispositions of property, other than foreclosure property, held primarily for sale to customers in the ordinary course of business), such income will be subject to a 100% tax. Fifth, if Vornado should fail to satisfy the 75% gross income test or the 95% gross income test (as discussed below), but has nonetheless maintained its qualification as a REIT because certain other requirements have been met, it will be subject to a 100% tax on an amount equal to (a) the gross income attributable to the greater of the amount by which Vornado fails the 75% or 95% test, multiplied by (b) a fraction intended to reflect Vornado's profitability. Sixth, if Vornado should fail to distribute during each calendar year at least the sum of (i) 85% of its real estate investment trust ordinary income for such year, (ii) 95% of its real estate investment trust capital gain net income for such year,

34

and (iii) any undistributed taxable income from prior periods, Vornado would be subject to a 4% excise tax on the excess of such required distribution over the amounts actually distributed. Seventh, if during the 10-year period (the "Recognition Period") beginning on the first day of the first taxable year for which Vornado qualified as a REIT, Vornado recognizes gain on the disposition of any asset held by Vornado as of the beginning of the Recognition Period, then, to the extent of the excess of (a) fair market value of such asset as of the beginning of the Recognition Period over (b) Vornado's adjusted basis in such asset as of the beginning of the Recognition Period (the "Built-in Gain"), such gain will be subject to tax at the highest regular corporate rate pursuant to Treasury regulations that have not been promulgated; provided, however, that Vornado shall not be subject to tax on recognized Built-in Gain with respect to assets held as of the first day of the Recognition Period to the extent that the aggregate amount of such recognized Built-in Gain exceeds the net aggregate amount of Vornado's unrealized Built-in Gain as of the first day of the Recognition Period. Eighth, if Vornado acquires any asset from a C corporation (i.e., generally a corporation subject to full corporate-level tax) in certain transactions in which the basis of the asset in the hands of Vornado is determined by reference to the basis of the asset (or any other property) in the hands of the C corporation, and Vornado recognizes gain on the disposition of such asset during the Recognition Period beginning on the date on which such asset was acquired by Vornado, then, pursuant to the Treasury regulations that have not yet been issued and to the extent of the Built-in Gain, such gain will be subject to tax at the highest regular corporate rate.

REQUIREMENTS FOR QUALIFICATION

The Code defines a REIT as a corporation, trust or association (1) which is managed by one or more trustees or directors, (2) the beneficial ownership of which is evidenced by transferable shares, or by transferable certificates of beneficial interest, (3) which would otherwise be taxable as a domestic

Edgar Filing: VORNADO REALTY TRUST - Form 424B5

corporation, but for Sections 856 through 859 of the Code, (4) which is neither a financial institution nor an insurance company subject to certain provisions of the Code, (5) the beneficial ownership of which is held by 100 or more persons, (6) during the last half of each taxable year, not more than 50% in value of the outstanding stock of which is owned, directly or constructively, by five or fewer individuals (as defined in the Code to include certain entities) and (7) which meets certain other tests, described below, regarding the nature of its income and assets. The Code provides that conditions (1) to (4) must be met during the entire taxable year and that condition (5) must be met during at least 335 days of a taxable year of 12 months, or during a proportionate part of a taxable year of less than 12 months.

Vornado has satisfied conditions (1) through (5) and believes that it has also satisfied condition (6). In addition, Vornado's Declaration of Trust provides for restrictions regarding the ownership and transfer of Vornado's shares of beneficial interest, which restrictions are intended to assist Vornado in continuing to satisfy the share ownership requirements described in (5) and (6) above. The ownership and transfer restrictions pertaining to the Preferred Shares and the Common Shares are described above under the headings "Description of Shares of Beneficial Interest -- Description of Preferred Shares -- Restrictions on Ownership" and "Description of Shares of Beneficial Interest -- Description of Common Shares -- Restrictions on Ownership."

Vornado owns a number of wholly-owned subsidiaries. Code Section 856(i) provides that a corporation which is a "qualified REIT subsidiary" shall not be treated as a separate corporation, and all assets, liabilities, and items of income, deduction, and credit of a "qualified REIT subsidiary" shall be treated as assets, liabilities and such items (as the case may be) of the REIT. Thus, in applying the requirements described herein, Vornado's "qualified REIT subsidiaries" will be ignored, and all assets, liabilities and items of income, deduction, and credit of such subsidiaries will be treated as assets, liabilities and such items (as the case may be) of Vornado. Vornado believes that all of its wholly-owned subsidiaries are "qualified REIT subsidiaries."

In the case of a REIT that is a partner in a partnership, Treasury regulations provide that the REIT will be deemed to own its proportionate share of the assets of the partnership and will be deemed to be entitled to the income of the partnership attributable to such share. In addition, the character of the assets and gross income of the partnership will retain the same character in the hands of the REIT for purposes

35

of Section 856 of the Code, including satisfying the gross income tests and the asset tests. Thus, Vornado's proportionate share of the assets, liabilities and items of income of any partnership in which Vornado is a partner, including the Operating Partnership, will be treated as assets, liabilities and items of income of Vornado for purposes of applying the requirements described herein. Thus, actions taken by partnerships in which Vornado owns an interest either directly or through one or more tiers of partnerships or qualified REIT subsidiaries, can affect Vornado's ability to satisfy the REIT income and assets tests and the determination of whether Vornado has net income from "prohibited transactions".

INCOME TESTS. In order to maintain its qualification as a REIT, Vornado annually must satisfy three gross income requirements. First, at least 75% of Vornado's gross income (excluding gross income from prohibited transactions) for each taxable year must be derived directly or indirectly from investments relating to real property or mortgages on real property (including "rents from real property" -- which term generally includes expenses of Vornado that are paid or reimbursed by tenants) or from certain types of temporary investments. Second, at least 95% of Vornado's gross income (excluding gross income from

Edgar Filing: VORNADO REALTY TRUST - Form 424B5

prohibited transactions) for each taxable year must be derived from such real property investments, dividends, interest and gain from the sale or disposition of stock or securities (or from any combination of the foregoing). Third, for its taxable years before 1998, short-term gain from the sale or other disposition of stock or securities, gain from prohibited transactions and gain on the sale or other disposition of real property held for less than four years (apart from involuntary conversions and sales of foreclosure property) must represent less than 30% of Vornado's gross income (including gross income from prohibited transactions) for each such taxable year.

Rents received by Vornado will qualify as "rents from real property" in satisfying the gross income requirements for a REIT described above only if several conditions are met. First, the amount of rent must not be based in whole or in part on the income or profits of any person. However, an amount received or accrued generally will not be excluded from the term "rents from real property" solely by reason of being based on a fixed percentage or percentages of receipts or sales. Second, the Code provides that rents received from a tenant will not qualify as "rents from real property" in satisfying the gross income tests if the REIT, directly or under the applicable attribution rules, owns a 10% or greater interest in such tenant (a "Related Party Tenant"). Third, if rent attributable to personal property leased in connection with a lease of real property is greater than 15% of the total rent received under the lease, then the portion of rent attributable to such personal property will not qualify as "rents from real property". Finally, for rents received to qualify as "rents from real property," the REIT generally must not operate or manage the property or furnish or render services to the tenants of such property, other than through an independent contractor from whom the REIT derives no revenue; provided, however, that Vornado may directly perform certain services that are "usually or customarily rendered" in connection with the rental of space for occupancy only or are not considered "rendered to the occupant" of the property. Vornado does not derive significant rents from Related Party Tenants, and Vornado does not and will not derive rental income attributable to personal property (other than personal property leased in connection with the lease of real property, the amount of which is less than 15% of the total rent received under the lease). Vornado directly performs services for certain of its tenants. Vornado does not believe that the provision of such services will cause its gross income attributable to such tenants to fail to be treated as "rents from real property." For taxable years of Vornado beginning after August 5, 1997, if Vornado provides services to a tenant that are other than those usually or customarily provided in connection with the rental of space for occupancy only, amounts received or accrued by Vornado for any such services will not be treated as "rents from real property" for purposes of the REIT gross income tests but will not cause other amounts received with respect to the property to fail to be treated as "rents from real property" unless the amounts received in respect of such services, together with amounts received for certain management services, exceeds 1% of all amounts received or accrued by Vornado during the taxable year with respect to such property. Under the literal wording of Section 856 of the Code, if the 1% threshold is exceeded, then all amounts received or accrued by Vornado with respect to the property will not qualify as "rents from real property", even if the impermissible services are provided to some, but not all, of the tenants of the property.

The term "interest" generally does not include any amount received or accrued (directly or indirectly) if the determination of such amount depends in whole or in part on the income or profits of any person. However, an amount received or accrued generally will not be excluded from the term "interest" solely by reason of being based on a fixed percentage or percentages of receipts or sales.

Edgar Filing: VORNADO REALTY TRUST - Form 424B5

If Vornado fails to satisfy one or both of the 75% or 95% gross income tests for any taxable year, it may nevertheless qualify as a REIT for such year if it is entitled to relief under certain provisions of the Code. These relief provisions will generally be available if Vornado's failure to meet such tests was due to reasonable cause and not due to willful neglect, Vornado attaches a schedule of the sources of its income to its Federal income tax return, and any incorrect information on the schedule was not due to fraud with intent to evade tax. It is not possible, however, to state whether in all circumstances Vornado would be entitled to the benefit of these relief provisions. As discussed above under "-- General," even if these relief provisions apply, a tax would be imposed with respect to the excess income.

ASSET TESTS. Vornado, at the close of each quarter of its taxable year, must also satisfy three tests relating to the nature of its assets. First, at least 75% of the value of Vornado's total assets must be represented by real estate assets (including (i) real estate assets held by Vornado's qualified REIT subsidiaries and Vornado's allocable share of real estate assets held by partnerships in which Vornado owns an interest, (ii) for a period of one year from the date of Vornado's receipt of proceeds of an offering of its shares of beneficial interest or long-term (at least five years) debt, stock or debt instruments purchased with such proceeds and (iii) stock issued by another REIT), cash, cash items and government securities. Second, not more than 25% of Vornado's total assets may be represented by securities other than those in the 75% asset class. Third, of the investments included in the 25% asset class, the value of any one issuer's securities (other than securities issued by another REIT) owned by Vornado may not exceed 5% of the value of Vornado's total assets and Vornado may not own more than 10% of any one issuer's outstanding voting securities.

Since March 2, 1995, Vornado has owned more than 10% of the voting securities of Alexander's. Since April of 1997, Vornado's ownership of Alexander's has been through the Operating Partnership rather than direct. Vornado's ownership interest in Alexander's will not cause Vornado to fail to satisfy the asset tests for REIT status so long as Alexander's qualified as a REIT for each of taxable years beginning with its taxable year ending December 31, 1995 and continues to so qualify. In the opinion of Shearman & Sterling, commencing with Alexander's taxable year ended December 31, 1995, Alexander's has been organized and operated in conformity with the requirements for qualification and taxation as a REIT under the Code, and its proposed method of operation will enable it to continue to meet the requirements for qualification and taxation as a REIT under the Code. In providing its opinion, Shearman & Sterling is relying upon representations received from Alexander's.

Since April of 1997 Vornado has also owned, through the Operating Partnership, more than 10% of the voting securities of Two Penn Plaza REIT, Inc. ("Two Penn REIT"). Vornado's indirect ownership interest in Two Penn REIT will not cause Vornado to fail to satisfy the asset tests for REIT status so long as Two Penn REIT qualifies as a REIT for its first taxable year and each taxable year thereafter. Vornado believes that Two Penn REIT will also qualify.

In order to ensure compliance with the 95% gross income test described above, Vornado transferred certain contract rights and obligations to VMC, a New Jersey corporation, in return for all of VMC's nonvoting preferred stock (the "Nonvoting Stock"). Since April of 1997, the Nonvoting Stock has been held by the Operating Partnership. The Nonvoting Stock entitles the holder thereof to 95% of the dividends paid by VMC. Vornado does not believe that its indirect ownership of the Nonvoting Stock will adversely affect its ability to satisfy the asset tests described above.

Vornado also owns, through the Operating Partnership, nonvoting shares in a number of corporations. Vornado does not believe that the characteristics or value of such shares will cause Vornado to fail to satisfy the REIT asset tests

described above.

37

ANNUAL DISTRIBUTION REQUIREMENTS. Vornado, in order to qualify as a REIT, is required to distribute dividends (other than capital gain dividends) to its shareholders in an amount at least equal to (A) the sum of (i) 95% of Vornado's "real estate investment trust taxable income" (computed without regard to the dividends paid deduction and Vornado's net capital gain) and (ii) 95% of the net income (after tax), if any, from foreclosure property minus (B) the sum of certain items of non-cash income. In addition, if Vornado disposes of any asset during its Recognition Period, Vornado will be required, pursuant to Treasury regulations which have not yet been promulgated, to distribute at least 95% of the Built-in Gain (after tax), if any, recognized on the disposition of such asset. Such distributions must be paid in the taxable year to which they relate, or in the following taxable year if declared before Vornado timely files its tax return for such year and if paid on or before the first regular dividend payment after such declaration. To the extent that Vornado does not distribute all of its net capital gain or distributes at least 95%, but less than 100%, of its "real estate investment trust taxable income," as adjusted, it will be subject to tax thereon at regular ordinary and capital gain corporate tax rates. Furthermore, if Vornado should fail to distribute during each calendar year at least the sum of (i) 85% of its ordinary income for such year, (ii) 95% of its capital gain net income for such year, and (iii) any undistributed taxable income from prior periods, Vornado would be subject to a 4% excise tax on the excess of such required distribution over the amounts actually distributed. Vornado intends to satisfy the annual distribution requirements.

It is possible that Vornado, from time to time, may not have sufficient cash or other liquid assets to meet the 95% distribution requirement due to timing differences between (i) the actual receipt of income and actual payment of deductible expenses and (ii) the inclusion of such income and deduction of such expenses in arriving at taxable income of Vornado. In the event that such timing differences occur, in order to meet the 95% distribution requirement, Vornado may find it necessary to arrange for short-term, or possibly long-term, borrowings or to pay dividends in the form of taxable stock dividends.

Under certain circumstances, Vornado may be able to rectify a failure to meet the distribution requirement for a year by paying "deficiency dividends" to shareholders in a later year, which may be included in Vornado's deduction for dividends paid for the earlier year. Thus, Vornado may be able to avoid being taxed on amounts distributed as deficiency dividends; however, Vornado will be required to pay interest based upon the amount of any deduction taken for deficiency dividends.

Failure to Qualify

If Vornado fails to qualify for taxation as a REIT in any taxable year, and the relief provisions do not apply, Vornado will be subject to tax (including any applicable alternative minimum tax) on its taxable income at regular corporate rates. Distributions to shareholders in any year in which Vornado fails to qualify will not be deductible by Vornado nor will they be required to be made. In such event, to the extent of current and accumulated earnings and profits, all distributions to shareholders will be taxable as ordinary income and, subject to certain limitations of the Code, corporate distributees may be eligible for the dividends received deduction. Unless entitled to relief under specific statutory provisions, Vornado will also be disqualified from taxation as a REIT for the four taxable years following the year during which qualification was lost. It is not possible to state whether in all circumstances Vornado would be entitled to such statutory relief.

Edgar Filing: VORNADO REALTY TRUST - Form 424B5

TAXATION OF HOLDERS OF DEBT SECURITIES

As used herein, the term "U.S. Holder" means a holder of a Debt Security who (for United States Federal income tax purposes) is (i) a citizen or resident of the United States, (ii) a domestic corporation, (iii) an estate, the income of which is subject to United States federal income tax without regard to its source or (iv) a Trust if a court within the United States is able to exercise primary supervision over the administration of the Trust and one or more United States persons have the authority to control all substantial decisions of the Trust and "U.S. Alien Holder" means a holder of a Debt Security who (for United States Federal income tax purposes) is (i) a nonresident alien individual or (ii) a foreign corporation, partnership or estate or trust, in either case not subject to United States Federal income tax on a net income basis in respect of income or gain from the Debt Security.

38

U.S. HOLDERS

PAYMENTS OF INTEREST. Interest on a Debt Security will be taxable to a U.S. Holder as ordinary income at the time it is received or accrued, depending on the U.S. Holder's method of accounting for tax purposes.

PURCHASE, SALE AND RETIREMENT OF THE DEBT SECURITIES. A U.S. Holder's tax basis in a Debt Security will generally be its U.S. dollar cost.

A U.S. Holder will generally recognize gain or loss on the sale or retirement of a Debt Security equal to the difference between the amount realized on the sale or retirement and the U.S. Holder's tax basis in the Debt Security. Except to the extent attributable to accrued but unpaid interest, gain or loss recognized on the sale or retirement of a Debt Security will be capital gain or loss, will be long-term capital gain or loss if the Debt Security was held for more than one year and may be eligible for a reduced rate of tax if the Debt Security was held for more than 18 months and in certain other circumstances.

U.S. ALIEN HOLDERS

This discussion assumes that the Debt Security is not subject to the rules of Section 871(h)(4)(A) of the Code (relating to interest payments that are determined by reference to the income, profits, changes in the value of property or other attributes of the debtor or a related party).

Under present United States Federal income and estate tax law, and subject to the discussion of backup withholding below:

(i) payments of principal, premium (if any) and interest by the Operating Partnership or any of its paying agents to any holder of a Debt Security that is a U.S. Alien Holder will not be subject to United States Federal withholding tax if, in the case of interest (a) the beneficial owner of the Debt Security does not actually or constructively own 10% or more of the capital or profits interest in the Operating Partnership, (b) the beneficial owner of the Debt Security is not a controlled foreign corporation that is related to the Operating Partnership through stock ownership, and (c) either (A) the beneficial owner of the Debt Security certifies to the Operating Partnership or its agent, under penalties of perjury, that it is not a U.S. person and provides its name and address or (B) a securities clearing organization, bank or other financial institution that holds customers' securities in the ordinary course of its trade or business (a "financial institution") and holds the Debt Security certifies to the Operating Partnership or its agent under penalties of perjury that such statement has been received from the beneficial owner by it or by a

Edgar Filing: VORNADO REALTY TRUST - Form 424B5

financial institution between it and the beneficial owner and furnishes the payor with a copy thereof;

(ii) a U.S. Alien Holder of a Debt Security will not be subject to United States Federal withholding tax on any gain realized on the sale or exchange of a Debt Security; and

(iii) a Debt Security held by an individual who at death is not a citizen or resident of the United States will not be includible in the individual's gross estate for purposes of the United States Federal estate tax as a result of the individual's death if (a) the individual did not actually or constructively own 10% or more of the capital or profits interest in the Operating Partnerships and (b) the income on the Debt Security would not have been effectively connected with a United States trade or business of the individual at the time of the individual's death.

The Internal Revenue Service has adopted regulations (the "Withholding Regulations") that provide alternative methods for satisfying the certification requirement described in clause (i)(c) above. The Withholding Regulations also require, in the case of Debt Securities held by a foreign partnership, that (x) the certification described in clause (i)(c) above be provided by the partners rather than the partnership and (y) the partnership provide certain information, including a United States taxpayer identification number. A look-through rule applies in the case of tiered partnerships. The Withholding Regulations are effective for payments made after December 31, 1998.

39

INFORMATION REPORTING AND BACKUP WITHHOLDING

U.S. HOLDERS. In general, information reporting requirements will apply to payments of principal, any premium and interest on a Debt Security and the proceeds of the sale of a Debt Security before maturity within the United States to non-corporate U.S. Holders, and "backup withholding" at a rate of 31% will apply to such payments if the U.S. Holder fails to provide an accurate taxpayer identification number or is notified by the Internal Revenue Service that it has failed to report all interest and dividends required to be shown on its federal income tax returns.

U.S. ALIEN HOLDERS. Information reporting and backup withholding will not apply to payments of principal, premium (if any) and interest made by the Operating Partnership or a paying agent to a U.S. Alien Holder on a Debt Security if the certification described in clause (i)(c) under "U.S. Alien Holders" above is received, provided that the payor does not have actual knowledge that the holder is a U.S. person. See the discussion of Withholding Regulations under "U.S. Alien Holders" above. The Operating Partnership or a paying agent, however, may report (on Internal Revenue Form 1042-S) payments of interest on the Debt Securities.

Payments of the proceeds from the sale by a U.S. Alien Holder of a Debt Security made to or through a foreign office of a broker will not be subject to information reporting or backup withholding, except that if the broker is a U.S. person, a controlled foreign corporation for United States Federal income tax purposes or a foreign person 50% or more of whose gross income is effectively connected with a United States trade or business for a specified three-year period, information reporting may apply to such payments. Payments of the proceeds from the sale of a Debt Security to or through the United States office of a broker is subject to information reporting and backup withholding unless the holder or beneficial owner certifies as to its non-United States status or otherwise establishes an exemption from information reporting and backup withholding.

Edgar Filing: VORNADO REALTY TRUST - Form 424B5

The applicable Prospectus Supplement will contain a discussion of any special United States Federal income tax rules with respect to Debt Securities that are issued at a discount or premium or as a unit with other Securities, have a maturity of one year or less, provide for conversion rights, contingent payments, early redemption or payments that are denominated in or determined by reference to a currency other than the U.S. dollar or otherwise subject to special United States Federal income tax rules.

TAXATION OF HOLDERS OF COMMON SHARES OR PREFERRED SHARES

U.S. SHAREHOLDERS

As used herein, the term "U.S. Shareholder" means a holder of Common Shares or Preferred Shares ("Shares") who (for United States Federal income tax purposes) is (i) a citizen or resident of the United States, (ii) a corporation organized under the laws of the United States or any State, or (iii) an estate the income of which is subject to United States Federal income taxation regardless of its source or (iv) a trust if a United States court is able to exercise primary supervision over administration of the trust and one or more United States persons have authority to control all substantial decisions of the trust.

As long as Vornado qualifies as a REIT, distributions made by Vornado out of its current or accumulated earnings and profits (and not designated as capital gain dividends) will constitute dividends taxable to its taxable U.S. Shareholders as ordinary income. Such distributions will not be eligible for the dividends-received deduction in the case of U.S. Shareholders that are corporations. Distributions made by Vornado that are properly designated by Vornado as capital gain dividends will be taxable to U.S. Shareholders as gain from the sale of a capital asset held for more than one year (to the extent that they do not exceed Vornado's actual net capital gain for the taxable year) without regard to the period for which a U.S. Shareholder has held his shares. Thus, subject to certain limitations, capital gains dividends received by an individual U.S. Shareholder may be eligible for 20%, 25%, or 28% capital gains rates of taxation. U.S. Shareholders that are corporations may, however, be required to treat up to 20% of certain capital gain dividends as ordinary income.

40

To the extent that Vornado makes distributions (not designated as capital gain dividends) in excess of its current and accumulated earnings and profits, such distributions will be treated first as a tax-free return of capital to each U.S. Shareholder, reducing the adjusted basis which such U.S. Shareholder has in his Shares for tax purposes by the amount of such distribution (but not below zero), with distributions in excess of a U.S. Shareholder's adjusted basis in his shares taxable as capital gains (provided that the Shares have been held as a capital asset). For purposes of determining the portion of distributions on separate classes of Shares that will be treated as dividends for Federal income tax purposes, current and accumulated earnings and profits will be allocated to distributions resulting from priority rights of Preferred Shares before being allocated to other distributions. Dividends authorized by Vornado in October, November, or December of any year and payable to a shareholder of record on a specified date in any such month shall be treated as both paid by Vornado and received by the shareholder on December 31 of such year, provided that the dividend is actually paid by Vornado on or before January 31 of the following calendar year. Shareholders may not include in their own income tax returns any net operating losses or capital losses of Vornado.

For taxable years of the Company beginning after August 5, 1997, U.S.

Edgar Filing: VORNADO REALTY TRUST - Form 424B5

Shareholders holding Shares at the close of Vornado's taxable year will be required to include, in computing their long-term capital gains for the taxable year in which the last day of Vornado's taxable year falls, such amount as Vornado may designate in a written notice mailed to its shareholders. Vornado may not designate amounts in excess of Vornado's undistributed net capital gain for the taxable year. Each U.S. Shareholder required to include such a designated amount in determining such shareholder's long-term capital gains will be deemed to have paid, in the taxable year of the inclusion, the tax paid by Vornado in respect of such undistributed net capital gains. U.S. Shareholders subject to these rules will be allowed a credit or a refund, as the case may be, for the tax deemed to have paid by such shareholders. U.S. Shareholders will increase their basis in their Shares by the difference between the amount of such includible gains and the tax deemed paid by the shareholder in respect of such gains.

Distributions made by Vornado and gain arising from the sale or exchange by a U.S. Shareholder of Shares will not be treated as passive activity income, and, as a result, U.S. Shareholders generally will not be able to apply any "passive losses" against such income or gain.

Upon any sale or other disposition of Shares, a U.S. Shareholder will recognize gain or loss for Federal income tax purposes in an amount equal to the difference between (i) the amount of cash and the fair market value of any property received on such sale or other disposition, and (ii) the holder's adjusted basis in the Shares for tax purposes. Such gain or loss will be capital gain or loss if the Shares have been held by the U.S. Shareholder as a capital asset, will be long-term gain or loss if such Shares have been held for more than one year. Long-term capital gain of an individual U.S. Shareholder is generally subject to a maximum tax rate of 28% in respect of property held for more than one year and a maximum tax rate of 20% in respect of property held in excess of 18 months. In general, any loss recognized by a U.S. Shareholder upon the sale or other disposition of shares of Vornado that have been held for six months or less (after applying certain holding period rules) will be treated as a long-term capital loss, to the extent of distributions received by such U.S. Shareholder from Vornado which were required to be treated as long-term capital gains.

BACKUP WITHHOLDING. Vornado will report to its U.S. Shareholders and the IRS the amount of dividends paid during each calendar year, and the amount of tax withheld, if any. Under the backup withholding rules, a shareholder may be subject to backup withholding at the rate of 31% with respect to dividends paid unless such holder (a) is a corporation or comes within certain other exempt categories and, when required, demonstrates this fact, or (b) provides a taxpayer identification number, certifies as to no loss of exemption from backup withholding, and otherwise complies with applicable requirements of the backup withholding rules. A U.S. Shareholder that does not provide Vornado with his correct taxpayer identification number may also be subject to penalties imposed by the IRS. Any amount paid as backup withholding will be creditable against the shareholder's income tax liability. In addition, Vornado may be required to withhold a portion of capital gain distributions to any shareholders who fail to certify their non-foreign status to Vornado.

41

TAXATION OF TAX-EXEMPT SHAREHOLDERS. The IRS has ruled that amounts distributed as dividends by a REIT generally do not constitute unrelated business taxable income ("UBTI") when received by a tax-exempt entity. Based on that ruling, provided that a tax-exempt shareholder (except certain tax-exempt shareholders described below) has not held its Shares as "debt financed property" within the meaning of the Code and such Shares are not otherwise used in a trade or business, the dividend income from Shares will not be UBTI to a tax-exempt shareholder. Similarly, income from the sale of Shares will not

Edgar Filing: VORNADO REALTY TRUST - Form 424B5

constitute UBTI unless such tax-exempt shareholder has held such Shares as "debt financed property" within the meaning of the Code or has used the Shares in a trade or business.

For tax-exempt shareholders that are social clubs, voluntary employee benefit associations, supplemental unemployment benefit trusts, and qualified group legal services plans exempt from Federal income taxation under Sections 501(c)(7), (c)(9), (c)(17), and (c)(20) of the Code, respectively, income from an investment in Vornado's Shares will constitute UBTI unless the organization is able to properly deduct amounts set aside or placed in reserve for certain purposes so as to offset the income generated by its Shares. Such prospective investors should consult their own tax advisors concerning these "set aside" and reserve requirements.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, however, a portion of the dividends paid by a "pension-held REIT" will be treated as UBTI to any trust which (i) is described in Section 401(a) of the Code, (ii) is tax exempt under Section 501(a) of the Code, and (iii) holds more than 10% (by value) of the equity interests in the REIT. Tax-exempt pension, profit-sharing and stock bonus funds that are described in Section 401(a) of the Code are referred to below as "qualified trusts".

A REIT is a "pension-held REIT" if (i) it would not have qualified as a REIT but for the fact that Section 856(h)(3) of the Code provides that stock owned by qualified trusts shall be treated, for purposes of the "not closely held" requirement, as owned by the beneficiaries of the trust (rather than by the trust itself) and (ii) either (A) at least one qualified trust holds more than 25% (by value) of the interests in the REIT or (B) one or more qualified trusts, each of which owns more than 10% (by value) of the interests in the REIT, hold in the aggregate more than 50% (by value) of the interests in the REIT. The percentage of any REIT dividend treated as UBTI is equal to the ratio of (i) the gross income (less direct expenses related thereto) of the REIT from unrelated trades or businesses (determined as though the REIT were a qualified trust) to (ii) the total gross income (less direct expenses related thereto) of the REIT. A de minimis exception applies where this percentage is less than 5% for any year. Vornado does not expect to be classified as a "pension-held REIT".

Tax-exempt entities will be subject to the rules described above, under the heading "-- U.S. Shareholders" concerning the inclusion of Vornado's designated undistributed net capital gains in the income of its shareholders. Thus, such entities will be allowed a credit or refund of the tax deemed paid by such entities in respect of such includible gains.

NON-U.S. SHAREHOLDERS

The rules governing U.S. Federal income taxation of nonresident alien individuals, foreign corporations, foreign partnerships and other foreign shareholders (collectively, "Non-U.S. Shareholders") are complex and no attempt will be made herein to provide more than a limited summary of such rules. Prospective Non-U.S. Shareholders should consult with their own tax advisors to determine the impact of U.S. Federal, state and local income tax laws with regard to an investment in Shares, including any reporting requirements.

ORDINARY DIVIDENDS. Distributions, other than distributions that are treated as attributable to gain from sales or exchanges by Vornado of U.S. real property interests (discussed below) and other than distributions designated by Vornado as capital gain dividends, will be treated as ordinary income to the extent that they are made out of current or accumulated earnings and profits of Vornado. Such distributions to Non-U.S. Shareholders will ordinarily be subject to a withholding tax equal to 30% of the gross amount of the distribution, unless an applicable tax treaty reduces that tax. However, if income from the investment in the Shares is treated as effectively connected with the Non-U.S.

Shareholder's conduct

42

of a U.S. trade or business, the Non-U.S. Shareholder generally will be subject to tax at graduated rates in the same manner as U.S. shareholders are taxed with respect to such dividends (and may also be subject to the 30% branch profits tax if the shareholder is a foreign corporation). Vornado expects to withhold U.S. tax at the rate of 30% on the gross amount of any dividends, other than dividends treated as attributable to gain from sales or exchanges of U.S. real property interests and capital gain dividends, paid to a Non-U.S. Shareholder, unless (i) a lower treaty rate applies and the required form evidencing eligibility for that reduced rate is filed with Vornado or the appropriate withholding agent or (ii) the Non-U.S. Shareholder files an IRS Form 4224 (or a successor form) with Vornado or the appropriate withholding agent claiming that the distributions are "effectively connected" income.

Distributions to a Non-U.S. Shareholder that are designated by Vornado at the time of distribution as capital gain dividends which are not attributable to or treated as attributable to the disposition by Vornado of a U.S. real property interest generally will not be subject to U.S. Federal income taxation, except as described below.

RETURN OF CAPITAL. Distributions in excess of current and accumulated earnings and profits of Vornado, which are not treated as attributable to the gain from disposition by Vornado of a U.S. real property interest, will not be taxable to a Non-U.S. Shareholder to the extent that they do not exceed the adjusted basis of the Non-U.S. Shareholder's Shares, but rather will reduce the adjusted basis of such Shares. To the extent that such distributions exceed the adjusted basis of a Non-U.S. Shareholder's Shares, they will give rise to tax liability if the Non-U.S. Shareholder otherwise would be subject to tax on any gain from the sale or disposition of its Shares, as described below. If it cannot be determined at the time a distribution is made whether such distribution will be in excess of current and accumulated earnings and profits, the distribution will be subject to withholding at the rate applicable to dividends. However, the Non-U.S. Shareholder may seek a refund of such amounts from the IRS if it is subsequently determined that such distribution was, in fact, in excess of current accumulated earnings and profits of Vornado.

CAPITAL GAIN DIVIDENDS. For any year in which Vornado qualifies as a REIT, distributions that are attributable to gain from sales or exchanges by Vornado of U.S. real property interests will be taxed to a Non-U.S. Shareholder under the provisions of the Foreign Investment in Real Property Tax Act of 1980, as amended ("FIRPTA"). Under FIRPTA, these distributions are taxed to a Non-U.S. Shareholder as if such gain were effectively connected with a U.S. business. Thus, Non-U.S. Shareholders will be taxed on such distributions at the normal capital gain rates applicable to U.S. Shareholders (subject to any applicable alternative minimum tax and special alternative minimum tax in the case of nonresident alien individuals). Vornado is required by applicable Treasury Regulations under FIRPTA to withhold 35% of any distribution that could be designated by Vornado as a capital gain dividend. However, if Vornado designates as a capital gain dividend a distribution made prior to the day Vornado actually effects such designation, then (although such distribution may be taxable to a Non-U.S. Shareholder) such distribution is not subject to withholding under FIRPTA; rather, Vornado must effect the 35% FIRPTA withholding from distributions made on and after the date of such designation, until the distributions so withheld equal the amount of the prior distribution designated as a capital gain dividend. The amount withheld is creditable against the Non-U.S. Shareholder's U.S. tax liability.

SALES OF SHARES. Gain recognized by a Non-U.S. Shareholder upon a sale or exchange of Common Shares generally will not be taxed under FIRPTA if Vornado is

Edgar Filing: VORNADO REALTY TRUST - Form 424B5

a "domestically controlled REIT," defined generally as a REIT in respect of which at all times during a specified testing period less than 50% in value of the stock is and was held directly or indirectly by foreign persons. It is currently anticipated that Vornado will continue to be a "domestically controlled REIT," and, therefore, that the sale of Shares will not be subject to taxation under FIRPTA. However, gain not subject to FIRPTA will be taxable to a Non-U.S. Shareholder if (i) investment in the Shares is treated as "effectively connected" with the Non-U.S. Shareholder's U.S. trade or business, in which case the Non-U.S. Shareholder will be subject to the same treatment as U.S. Shareholders with respect to such gain, or (ii) the Non-U.S. Shareholder is a nonresident alien individual who was present in the United States for 183 days or more during the taxable year and has a "tax home" in the United States, or maintains an office or a fixed place of business in the

43

United States to which the gain is attributable, in which case the nonresident alien individual will be subject to a 30% tax on the individual's capital gains. A similar rule will apply to capital gain dividends not subject to FIRPTA.

If Vornado were not a domestically-controlled REIT, a Non-U.S. Shareholder's sale of Shares would be subject to tax under FIRPTA only if the selling Non-U.S. Shareholder owned more than 5% of the class of Shares sold at any time during a specified period (generally the shorter of the period that the Non-U.S. Shareholder owned the Shares sold or the five-year period ending on the date of disposition). If the gain on the sale of Shares were to be subject to tax under FIRPTA, the Non-U.S. Shareholder would be subject to the same treatment as U.S. Shareholders with respect to such gain (subject to any applicable alternative minimum tax and a special alternative minimum tax in the case of nonresident alien individuals) and the purchaser of such Shares would be required to withhold 10% of the gross purchase price.

TREATY BENEFITS. Pursuant to current Treasury Regulations, dividends paid to an address in a country outside the United States are generally presumed to be paid to a resident of such country for purposes of determining the applicability of withholding discussed above and the applicability of a tax treaty rate. Shareholders that are partnerships or entities that are similarly fiscally transparent for Federal income tax purposes, and persons holding Shares through such entities, may be subject to restrictions on their ability to claim benefits under U.S. tax treaties and should consult a tax advisor.

Under the Withholding Regulations, however, a Non-U.S. Shareholder who wishes to claim the benefit of an applicable treaty rate would be required to satisfy applicable certification requirements. In addition, under the Withholding Regulations, in the case of Shares held by a foreign partnership, (x) the certification requirement would generally be applied to the partners in the partnership and (y) the partnership would be required to provide certain information, including a United States taxpayer identification number. The Withholding Regulations provide look-through rules in the case of tiered partnerships. The Withholding Regulations are effective for payments made after December 31, 1998.

OTHER TAX CONSEQUENCES

Vornado and its shareholders may be subject to state or local taxation in various state or local jurisdictions, including those in which it or they transact business or reside. The state and local tax treatment of Vornado and its shareholders may not conform to the Federal income tax consequences discussed above. Consequently, prospective shareholders are urged to consult their own tax advisors regarding the effect of state and local tax laws on an investment in Vornado.

Edgar Filing: VORNADO REALTY TRUST - Form 424B5

PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

Vornado and the Operating Partnership may sell the Securities to one or more underwriters for public offering and sale by them or may sell the Securities to investors directly or through agents. Vornado's Common Shares being registered hereby may be issued in connection with the exchange of the Debt Securities of the Operating Partnership. Any such underwriter or agent involved in the offer and sale of the Securities will be named in the related Prospectus Supplement. Such underwriters may include Goldman, Sachs & Co., or a group of underwriters represented by firms including Goldman, Sachs & Co. Goldman, Sachs & Co. may also act as agents. Vornado and the Operating Partnership have reserved the right to sell the Securities directly to investors on their own behalf in those jurisdictions where it is authorized to do so.

Underwriters may offer and sell the Securities at a fixed price or prices that may be changed or at negotiated prices. Vornado and the Operating Partnership also may, from time to time, authorize dealers, acting as Vornado's or the Operating Partnership's agents, to offer and sell the Securities upon such terms and conditions as set forth in the related Prospectus Supplement. In connection with the sale of the Securities, underwriters may receive compensation from Vornado or the Operating Partnership in the form of underwriting discounts or commissions and may also receive commissions from purchasers of the

44

Securities for whom they may act as agent. Underwriters may sell the Securities to or through dealers, and such dealers may receive compensation in the form of discounts, concessions or commissions from the underwriters and/or commissions (which may be changed from time to time) from the purchasers for whom they may act as agents.

Any underwriting compensation paid by Vornado or the Operating Partnership to underwriters or agents in connection with the offering of the Securities, and any discounts, concessions or commissions allowed by underwriters to participating dealers, will be set forth in the related Prospectus Supplement. Dealers and agents participating in the distribution of the Securities may be deemed to be underwriters, and any discounts and commissions received by them and any profit realized by them on resale of the Securities may be deemed to be underwriting discounts and commissions under the Securities Act. Underwriters, dealers and agents may be entitled, under agreements entered into with Vornado or the Operating Partnership, to indemnification against and contribution towards certain civil liabilities, including any liabilities under the Securities Act.

Any Securities issued hereunder (other than Common Shares and Series A Preferred Shares) will be new issues of securities with no established trading market. Any underwriters or agents to or through whom such Securities are sold by Vornado or the Operating Partnership for public offering and sale may make a market in such Securities, but such underwriters or agents will not be obligated to do so and may discontinue any market making at any time without notice. No assurance can be given as to the liquidity of the trading market for any such Securities.

Certain of the underwriters, dealers or agents and their associates may engage in transactions with, and perform services for, Vornado, the Operating Partnership and certain of their affiliates in the ordinary course of business.

EXPERTS

The consolidated financial statements and the related consolidated

Edgar Filing: VORNADO REALTY TRUST - Form 424B5

financial statement schedules incorporated in this Prospectus by reference from Vornado's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 1996, as amended, the Balance Sheet of Vornado Realty L.P. as at April 14, 1997 incorporated by reference in this Prospectus from Vornado Realty L.P.'s Registration Statement on Form 10 filed with the Commission on June 12, 1997, as amended, the combined statement of revenues and certain expenses of Ninety Park Avenue incorporated by reference in this Prospectus from Vornado Realty Trust's Current Report on Form 8K/A, dated August 21, 1997 and filed with the Commission on September 11, 1997 and from Vornado Realty L.P.'s Current Report on Form 8K/A, dated August 21, 1997 and filed with the Commission on September 11, 1997, the consolidated financial statements of URS Logistics, Inc. for the year ended December 31, 1996, the statement and revenues and certain expenses of the Montehiedra Town Center for the year ended December 31, 1996, and the statement of revenues and certain expenses of the Riese Properties for the year ended April 30, 1997, all incorporated by reference in this Prospectus from Vornado Realty Trust's Current Report on Form 8-K, dated September 22, 1997 and filed with the Commission on October 8, 1997 and from Vornado Realty L.P.'s Current Report on Form 8-K, dated September 22, 1997 and filed with the Commission on October 8, 1997, and the statement of revenues and certain expenses of One Penn Plaza for the year ended December 31, 1996, the statement of revenues and certain expenses of 150 East 58th Street for the year ended December 31, 1996, and the statement of revenues and certain expenses of 640 Fifth Avenue for the year ended December 31, 1996, all incorporated by reference in this Prospectus from Vornado Realty Trust's Current Report on Form 8-K/A, dated November 18, 1997 and filed with the Commission on February 3, 1998 and from Vornado Realty L.P.'s Current Report on Form 8-K/A, dated November 18, 1997 and filed with the Commission on February 3, 1998, have been audited by Deloitte & Touche LLP, independent auditors, as stated in their reports which are incorporated herein by reference, and have been so incorporated in reliance upon the reports of such firm given upon their authority as experts in accounting and auditing.

The financial statements of 866 U.N. Plaza Associates LLC; the combined financial statements of M Eleven Associates, M393 Associates and Eleven Penn Plaza Company; the financial statements of Two

45

Penn Plaza Associates L.P.; the financial statements of 1740 Broadway Associates, L.P.; and the financial statements of B&B Park Avenue L.P., all incorporated herein by reference from Vornado's Current Report on Form 8-K, dated March 12, 1997, as amended by Vornado's Current Report on Form 8-K/A, dated March 12, 1997, and the combined financial statements of the Mendik Predecessors incorporated by reference herein from the Vornado Realty L.P. Registration Statement on Form 10 filed with the Commission on June 12, 1997, as amended, have been audited by Friedman Alpren & Green LLP, independent auditors, as stated in their reports which are incorporated herein by reference, and have been so incorporated in reliance upon the report of such firm given upon their authority as experts in accounting and auditing.

The financial statements of Two Park Company, a New York general partnership, as of December 31, 1996 and 1995, and for each of the years in the three year period ended December 31, 1996, incorporated herein by reference from Vornado's Current Report on Form 8-K, dated March 12, 1997, as amended by Vornado's Current Report on Form 8-K/A, dated March 12, 1997 and filed with the Commission on April 1, 1997 and the consolidated balance sheets of Americold Corporation as of the last day of February 1996 and 1997, and the related consolidated statements of operations, common stockholders' deficit and cash flows for each of the years in the three-year period ended the last day of February 1997, incorporated by reference in this Prospectus from Vornado Realty Trust's Current Report on Form 8-K, dated September 22, 1997 and filed with the Commission on October 8, 1997, and from Vornado Realty L.P.'s Current Report on Form 8-K, dated September 22, 1997 and filed with the Commission on October 8,

Edgar Filing: VORNADO REALTY TRUST - Form 424B5

1997, have been audited by KPMG Peat Marwick LLP, independent auditors, as stated in their reports which are incorporated herein by reference, and have been so incorporated in reliance upon the reports of such firm given upon their authority as experts in accounting and auditing.

The statement of Revenue and Certain Expenses of Green Acres Mall and the Plaza at Green Acres for the year ended December 31, 1996 incorporated by reference in this Prospectus and elsewhere in the Registration Statement from Vornado Realty Trust's Current Report on Form 8-K/A, dated August 21, 1997 and filed with the Commission on September 11, 1997 and from Vornado Realty L.P.'s Current Report on Form 8-K/A, dated August 21, 1997 and filed with the Commission on September 11, 1997, have been audited by Arthur Andersen LLP, independent public accountants, as indicated in their report with respect thereto, and are included herein in reliance upon the authority of said firm as experts in giving said reports.

The combined statement of revenue and certain operating expenses of The Merchandise Mart Group of Properties for the year ended December 31, 1996 incorporated by reference in this Prospectus and elsewhere in the Registration Statement from Vornado Realty Trust's Current Report on Form 8-K/A, dated January 26, 1998 and filed with the Commission on February 9, 1998 and from Vornado Realty L.P.'s Current Report on Form 8-K/A, dated January 26, 1998 and filed with the Commission on February 9, 1998, have been audited by Arthur Andersen LLP, independent public accountants, as indicated in their report with respect thereto, and are included herein in reliance upon the authority of said firm as experts in giving said reports.

VALIDITY OF THE SECURITIES

The validity of any Debt Securities issued hereunder will be passed upon for the Operating Partnership and the validity of any Depositary Shares issued hereunder will be passed upon for Vornado by Sullivan & Cromwell, New York, New York, counsel to Vornado and the Operating Partnership, and the validity of any Preferred Shares or Common Shares issued hereunder will be passed upon for Vornado by Ballard Spahr Andrews & Ingersoll, Baltimore, Maryland, counsel to Vornado. The validity of any Securities issued hereunder will be passed upon for any underwriters by the counsel named in the applicable Prospectus Supplement.

46

=====

514,200 SHARES

[VORNADO REALTY TRUST LOGO]

Edgar Filing: VORNADO REALTY TRUST - Form 424B5

COMMON SHARES OF BENEFICIAL INTEREST
(PAR VALUE \$0.04 PER SHARE)

PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT

FEBRUARY 25, 2002

SALOMON SMITH BARNEY

=====