Asbestos Information Association/North America

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EXHIBIT DJM-4

PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT AIA-44

October 26, 1971

Mr. Eugene Patterson
Managing Editor
THE WASHINGTON POST
1515 L Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Mr. Patterson:

The WASHINGTON POST story on the National Research Council's recommendations on the control of asbestos dust, which ran October 8, 1971, on page A30, erred in its statement that asbestos poses a hazard to the general public.

The lead on the POST story reads:

> "The National Research Council declared yesterday that asbestos dust poses a health hazard for the general public and called for new stringent controls to keep it out of the atmosphere."

In contrast, the National Research Council's press release which apparently served as the basis for this story carried the following lead:

> "Controls of asbestos emissions into the atmosphere are needed to safeguard the general public against possible health hazards from further contamination, as well as to protect the small number of people who are currently exposed to unusually high concentrations." (Underlining is ours.)

The Council's point is that the possibility exists that further addition of asbestos to the air might pose a health hazard; not that "asbestos poses a health hazard for the general public", as your story states. In its study the National Research Council stated that:

> "At present, there is no evidence that the small number of fibers found in most members of the general population affect health or longevity."

The asbestos industry agrees with the facts presented by the National Research Council and with the Council's recommendations. We do not believe that the general public faces any

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hazard from the minute amounts of asbestos that now exist in the ambient air. We do believe it is prudent to establish reasonable regulations to insure that hazardous levels of asbestos do not develop in the community air in the future.

Sincerely,

W. P. Raines
Secretary

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