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PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT 6

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(The following statement was issued today by medical and industry representatives of the International and U.S. Asbestos Industry Associations. More than 30 of those representatives are attending the "International Conference on Health Hazards of Asbestos Exposure" being held this week at the New York Hilton.)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEW YORK (June 24, 1978) -- Asbestos represents no health risk to the general public, an asbestos industry spokesman said today. Medical studies have failed to indicate any increased health risk that is not associated with occupational exposures, he said, and working environments of the past cannot be related to the regulated conditions of today.

Speaking for asbestos industry representatives attending the conference on "Health Hazards of Asbestos Exposure," Thomas A. Dougherty said the problems being discussed at the sessions reflect conditions that existed in the past. Dougherty is President of the Asbestos Information Association/North America.

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"Although we are seeing disease cases today that resulted from past exposures when little was known about the hazards, there is strong evidence that workplace controls instituted by the industry and as a result of Federal regulations have brought the problem under control, Dougherty said.

"Asbestos is only one of many naturally-occurring substances that in some circumstances can produce disease in humans," said Dougherty. "With all these materials, there are levels of exposure that do not produce disease -- levels at which there is no adverse effect on humans. This is the case with asbestos," he said.

Dougherty emphasized that asbestos health concerns are confined primarily to occupational and occupationally-related environments. "There has been no demonstrated risk to the public from the proper use of asbestos-containing products," Dougherty said.

"The contention that very short exposures to asbestos can result in a health hazard are misleading. Time, duration and level of exposure must be considered before any valid judgment of risk can be made," he said. "Medical research indicates that there is a dose-response relationship in the development of asbestos-related disease."

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"In other words, there is a safe level of exposure to asbestos, as there is to most other potentially toxic substances," Dougherty said. "The asbestos industry is confident that, with proper precautions, asbestos and asbestos-containing products can continue to be used in many industrial and consumer product applications without risk to the health of people making or using those products."

The industry fully cooperates with regulatory agencies in restricting the use of asbestos where it could possibly present an uncontrollable exposure, he said.

Industry delegates from many other countries supported Dougherty's statements. Dr. Richard Gaze of the Asbestos International Association in London, said: "The asbestos industry has become aware of the need for stringent precautions in protecting work people. It is now clear that where there has been a high incidence of disease, this has been directly related to the inhalation of high levels of asbestos dust in the past."

Based on medical evidence to date, the asbestos industry believes that the present Federal exposure standard of 2 fibers per cubic centimeter of workplace air is a safe level of exposure for the handling, fabrication and installation of asbestos-containing products, Dougherty said.

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