ASBESTOS INFORMATION ASSOCIATION
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EXHIBIT
P-676

Statement in Response to Inquiries Concerning
HEW Announcement of April 26, 1978, on Asbestos Warning Program

The Asbestos Information Association/North America, a non-profit, incorporated organization of more than 50 manufacturers or processers of asbestos containing products and miners and millers in the United States and Canada, has made the following statement in response to inquiries with regard to the statement issued by Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare, Joseph Califano:

The Secretary has spoken to uninhibited exposure levels of asbestos fiber during the World War II years and before medical information generally was available concerning asbestos-related disease, particularly lung cancer and the extremely rare disease mesothelioma which has been associated with exposure to asbestos dust. Worker exposure levels of the past and particularly those during wartime conditions are simply not relatable to present working conditions. The efforts of the industry to eliminate asbestos dust in the workplace may be seen throughout the industry. Millions of dollars have been spent in dust control equipment by asbestos miners, millers and the manufacturing or processing companies using asbestos fiber for its unique properties in the fabrication of some three thousand products essential to our economic society. Government regulations, to which the industry gave its fullest cooperation in developing, today provide safeguard to the worker who in times past might have been subject to excessive asbestos dust level exposure.

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