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Special Materials Inc.

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U. S. NEWS and WORLD REPORT
2300 North Street, NW
Washington, DC 20037

Gentlemen:

I have just returned to the United States from a business trip overseas and read your September 20th issue of U.S. News and World Report. On page 70, I noticed your article on "the latest on causes of cancer".

As an engineer who has worked in the asbestos industry for 20 years now, I am very irritated by the fact that American newspapers and magazines (yourselves included apparently) pickup press releases by Dr. I. J. Selikoff and print Selikoff's allegations, as if the man actually knew what he was talking about.

At some point, journalists are going to have to look at this man and wonder why any doctor has to release a press release a week, each one more terrible than the last. I wonder if anyone has questioned Mr. Selikoff's motivations for these press releases. It would seem that an inquiring journalistic mind might question this.

The asbestos industry has gone a long way, very rapidly to clean up the recognized hazards associated with our product. Most of these hazards have been well under control for several years now. It's necessary to spend money and capital to make the work place safe for the worker. It's something else again for self-serving individuals to condemn an industry with allegations and scare tactics designed to serve special interest groups.

Does your lack of checking on Selikoff's news releases indicate the general quality of your investigative reporting? If you are interested, I would be glad to put you in touch with people who can give you a better picture of what our industry is doing, and what the actual hazards are. Please let me know if I can be of assistance.

Very truly yours,

SPECIAL MATERIALS, INC.

Robert Carlson

RC/dm

cc: Ian P. Gardner
Bruce C. Machin
John M. Clinton