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June 30, 1978

Mr. S. S. Conway, Jr.  
Troy Office

RE: Asbestos Information Association

The quarterly meeting of the Board of Directors of AIA was called for June 28, 1978, in New York City. The meeting was scheduled to coincide with the "International Conference on Health Hazards of Asbestos Exposure", being held at the same place and time.

The purpose of this memo is simply to inform you of the rather disastrous outcome of the conference and the implications and conclusions of the various presentations.

Although I did not personally attend the conference, it was summarized during AIA's Board meeting. Apparently, the first two days of the conference were the only days when any scientific information was aired and exchanged. The third and final day was apparently a carefully orchestrated performance by Drs. Bingham and Selikoff, and others, for a very self-serving purpose. The world-wide scientific community in attendance at this meeting held the final result in a very low esteem, and since I had an opportunity to discuss the results with various physicians from Australia, U.K., and South America I know that most of the foreign physicians felt that they had been used for a domestic, political purpose and some of them described the meeting as a typical North American Science Conference where politics and science is mixed at will and without sufficient attention to the facts.

The conclusions of the meeting were as follows:

Positive:

It was proven that mesothelioma can be caused by other substances than asbestos, such as in the well-known Turkish mesothelioma case where the disease apparently is caused by Zeolite.

File: AIA

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