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REMARKS AT NIOSH NEWS BRIEFING
April 17, 1980

Thank you Dr. Robbins, and good afternoon to all of you. For quite some time, a number of us in the public health community, both in and out of government, have expressed concern about the health effects of exposure to asbestos. In recent years, the substance has become the focus of public attention as well. Asbestos is now perhaps the foremost symbol of this country's concern about toxic substances in the environment and in the workplace. Considerations of asbestos health effects and regulatory protection have always been complex and controversial. In this light, the current data and solid recommendations to come out of this NIOSH/OSHA project are especially welcome and important.

The report released today is certainly a cause for concern--concern for the numbers of workers still exposed to dangerous levels of asbestos. But this report and OSHA's response to it, should also be a cause for hope among American workers everywhere.

It should be a cause for hope because it confirms that occupational health research is not a static

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