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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

U.S. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20207

TO : Don R. Clay, Act. AED for Engineering Sciences

DATE: June 2, 1977

THRU : Robert M. Hehir, Ph.D, Dep. AED for Health Science

FROM : Leo T. Duffy, M.D., Office of Dep. AED for Health Science

SUBJECT: Medical Comment on the Asbestos Problem

There is ample evidence concerning the role of asbestos fibers as the etiological agents in the production of certain respiratory and gastro-intestinal pathology, including neoplasms. This may occur in relation to occupational, non-occupational, or intermittent exposures. It has also been shown that such pathology may be induced in either chronic long-term, or short-term exposures, and in varying concentrations. Therefore, no known threshold level of exposure is known, or considered, to be safe.

The use of consumer products, which may involve the liberation of "free" asbestos fibers, cannot be presumed to be safe, although it is recognized that because of the variablity of individuals, there may also be a varying susceptibility to any adverse effects.

It is considered that any retrospective action taken to cause a major impact in the reduction of consumer asbestos products, might very well aggravate the situation. However, the prudence of preventing further manufacture, sale or distribution of "free" asbestos consumer products, is without question.

ABATE PRODUCTION

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