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DRAFT MEDIA INQUIRY STATEMENT

At Union Carbide's Texas City plant, we are committed to the highest standards of safety and health to protect our employees and the community. We will continue to cooperate fully with the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health to determine if there is any employee health problem we should be concerned about. If any problem at our plant is identified, we will move quickly to solve it. Meanwhile, Union Carbide will be continuing with its own extensive medical surveillance, epidemiological studies, physical examinations, safety training and other ongoing employee health and safety programs.

Union Carbide's recently completed cohort study of 12 employee brain tumor deaths from 1941 to 1977 among 6,588 employees found a higher than expected incidence of the disease. A simultaneous case control study of 21 primary brain tumor deaths among 450 overall employee deaths through June, 1979 could find no work relationship for these cases. Both studies used Union Carbide employee work histories which were compiled by NIOSH with other data. Union Carbide is hopeful that NIOSH's own two-year epidemiological studies of Texas City plant employees will be completed shortly.



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