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TONY WORTHINGTON, M.P.
Member of Parliament for Clydebank and Milngavie



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Laurie Kazan-Allen
British Asbestos Newsletter
9 Tintagel Drive
Stanmore
Middlesex
HA7 4SR

11th January 1999

Dear Laurie

We recently met in Clydebank over the issue of asbestos and I agreed I would write to take up the Brazilian issue. I wrote to Saint Gobain and I have now received the enclosed reply. I do hope that the litigation can be avoided.

I hope the information in the letter is helpful to you.

Yours sincerely

TONY WORTHINGTON, MP
Clydebank and Milngavie

Local Office: 24 Cleddans Crescent, Hardgate, Clydebank, G81 5NW

Telephone: (01389) 873195

SAINT-GOBAIN
MATERIAUX DE CONSTRUCTION

Mr Tony Worthington, MP
Clydebank and Milngavie
HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA
Grande-Bretagne

17th December 1998

Dear Mr Worthington,

Thank you for your recent letter to Jean-Louis Beffa.

For the sake of accuracy, let me point out that the Saint-Gobain group only holds a minority stake in Eternit do Brazil, a company with its shares listed on the stock exchange in Brazil and having many shareholders, both within and outside that country.

The management of Eternit do Brazil have informed us that the litigation to which you refer stemmed from statements which management considered to be both incorrect and unacceptable. However, there seems to be a good prospect of the matter being resolved, as we understand that the parties to the litigation have engaged discussions to that end.

More generally, I should like to assure you that our group, which has operations in many countries, pursues a clear policy of respecting the law wherever it may be. And as far as Eternit do Brazil is concerned, it is my understanding that that company's operations surpass the relevant Brazilian health and safety standards. I also believe you are aware that asbestos-related illnesses typically have a long hidden development period, which is a major source of difficulty.

In conclusion, I can only emphasise that this area is one of great concern to Saint-Gobain. If I can be of any further assistance to you please let me know.

Yours sincerely



Gilles COLAS
Chief Executive Officer
Building Materials Division

SOCIÉTÉ MATERIAUX DE CONSTRUCTION INTERNATIONAL
Un des établissements de la Saint-Gobain au capital de 342 585 000 F - 691 820 013 RCS NANTERRE
Siège social : Les Mirrors - 18, avenue d'Alicia - 92400 Courbevoie - France
Tél : 01 47 62 44 00 - Fax : 01 47 62 31 53
Boîte postale : Les Mirrors - 92096 La Défense Cedex - France