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(The following statement was issued today by medical and industry representatives of the International and U.S. Asbestos Industry Associations. More than 30 of those representatives are attending the "International Conference on Health Hazards of Asbestos Exposure" being held this week at the New York Hilton.)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEW YORK (June 24, 1978) -- Asbestos represents no health risk to the general public, an asbestos industry spokesman said today. Medical studies have failed to indicate any increased health risk that is not associated with occupational exposures, he said, and working environments of the past cannot be related to the regulated conditions of today.

Speaking for asbestos industry representatives attending the conference on "Health Hazards of Asbestos Exposure," Thomas A. Dougherty said the problems being discussed at the sessions reflect conditions that existed in the past. Dougherty is President of the Asbestos Information Association/North America.

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"Although we are seeing disease cases today that resulted from past exposures when little was known about the hazards, there is strong evidence that workplace controls instituted by the industry and as a result of Federal regulations have brought the problem under control, Dougherty said.

"Asbestos is only one of many naturally-occurring substances that in some circumstances can produce disease in humans," said Dougherty. "With all these materials, there are levels of exposure that do not produce disease -- levels at which there is no adverse effect on humans. This is the case with asbestos," he said.

Dougherty emphasized that asbestos health concerns are confined primarily to occupational and occupationally-related environments. "There has been no demonstrated risk to the public from the proper use of asbestos-containing products," Dougherty said.

"The contention that very short exposures to asbestos can result in a health hazard are misleading. Time, duration and level of exposure must be considered before any valid judgment of risk can be made," he said. "Medical research indicates that there is a dose-response relationship in the development of asbestos-related disease."

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The following companies and trade associations have endorsed this statement:

A-Best Products Company	Lipe-Clutch Products Corp.
Abex Corporation	Lukens Chemical Corp.
Aeroquip Corp/Gustin-Bacon Div.	Mannington Mills, Inc.
Alsop Engineering	Maremont Corp.
Amatex Corp.	Markham Corp.
American Biltrite Inc. (AMTICO)	Milchem, Inc.
American Public Transit Asn.	Molded Materials Company
American Trucking Asn.	Monsey Products Co.
Asbestos/Cement Pipe Producers Asn.	Munters Corp.
Asbestos Textile Institute	National Asn. of Cement Board
Atlas Asbestos Co. (California)	Fabricators
Auto-Friction Corp.	National Asn. Friction Materials
Automotive Parts Rebuilders Asn.	National Asn. Plastics Distributors
Baltimore Air Coil Co.	National Electrical Manufacturers
Beaver Industries, Inc.	Asn. (Laminating Division)
Bird & Son, Inc.	National Friction Products Corp.
Borg-Warner Corp. (Borg & Beck Div.)	National Gypsum Company
Breiner Co.	National Insulation Contractors Asn.
Brown Insulating Systems	Nicolet, Inc.
Brunswick Fabricators, Inc.	Norplex Div. (U.O.P.)
Cellulo Co.	North American Asbestos Corp.
Cement Asbestos Products Corp.	PPG Industries (Chemical Div.)
Certain-tyed Products Corp.	Palmer Asphalt Co.
Chemical Sealing Corp.	Plastics Engineering Co.
Congoleum Industries, Inc.	Quality Gasket & Mfg. Co.
David Fabricators of N. Y., Inc.	Raybestos-Manhattan, Inc.
Fluid Sealing Asn.	Resilient Floor Covering Institute
Foseco-Minsep, Inc.	Resinoid Corp.
Friction Materials Standards Institute	Rostone Engineering Corp.
GAF Corp.	Royal Industries
Garlock, Inc.	Shipbuilders Council of America
Gatke Corp.	Southern Asbestos Co.
General Dynamics Corp.	Stanhope Products Co.
Gibson-Homans Inc.	Supradur Manufacturing Corp.
Grant Wilson, Inc.	Synthane-Taylor Corp.
Gulf States Asphalt Co.	Thiokol Corp.
Gypsum Drywall Contractors Intern'l	Tremco, Inc.
Haveg Industries, Inc.	Trumbull Asphalt Co.
Hollingsworth & Vose Co.	Union Carbide Corp.
Industrial Safety Equipment Asn.	Uvalde Rock Asphalt Co.
International Fiber Inc.	Vermont Asbestos Group
Jim-Walter Research Corp.	Wagner Electric Corp.
Johns-Manville Corp.	Western Slate Co.
Karnak Chemical Corp.	Wisconsin Gasket & Manufacturing Co.
Kentile Floors Inc.	
Lamons Metal Gasket Co.	
Latex Fiber Industries	

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