FILE NAME: ! ăōŜăűƨă LyűŝℕyƖ·ű⅄ƨyƖ·f ! ăăƨŎ⅄I·ű⅄ƨy′ó ! Lb¢ú

DATE: нллл bƨØ н

DOC#: ! Lb¢лмт

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: a ŜY′ƨ w9 5ŜŎfI·ℕJI·ű⅄ƨy′ƨŦ ±I·yŎƨdzØŜℕ ώ ! ăōŜăűƨă π 5ŜŎℕŜŜ űƨ . I·y′űKŜ ¦ ăŜ I·yŘ LYLJƨℕώ ƨŦ ! ăōŜăűƨă ⅄y′ / K⅄fŜ6

ώbƨűŜ π a I·yȅ ƨℕ⅄∃⅄ƳI·fă I·ℕŜ ƨy′fŜ∃I·f ă⅄ÎŜ LJI·LJŜℕ ăƨ űŜÈű fƨƨ⅂ă ăY′I·ff ØKŜy′ ℕŜLJℕ⅄yűŜŘ ƨy′y¢pÈмм LJI·LJŜℕ6

The Asbestos International Association for environmental and occupational health

November 2nd, 2000

To : All AIA Member Associations
All AIA Governing Council Members
AIA Executive Committee Members
ACPPA Members
Others

De/From : Clement Godbout

Subject : Declaration of Vancouver

Greetings:

Attached for your information is a copy of the Declaration of Vancouver, signed by the Ministers and Heads of Delegation, of the participating countries at the Fifth Annual conference of the Mining Ministries of the Americas, last October, 2000.

This is a very important document, as it reaffirms the commitment of these countries to the controlled-use approach to minerals and metals.

Also enclosed for your information is a briefing note on the situation in Chile, which we are monitoring very closely.

Best regards.

Clement Godbout

PMB 114, 1235 Jefferson Davis Hwy, Arlington, VA 22202 USA Tel. (514) 861-1153 Fax (514) 861-1152 aia@chrysotile.com

NGO in consultative status (Roster) with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations

Asbestos - Decree to ban the use and import of asbestos in Chile

Issue

The Minister of Health of Chile has decided to issue a decree that would totally ban the import and use of asbestos in Chile. The Decree is now before President Lagos for his consideration and approval.

Background

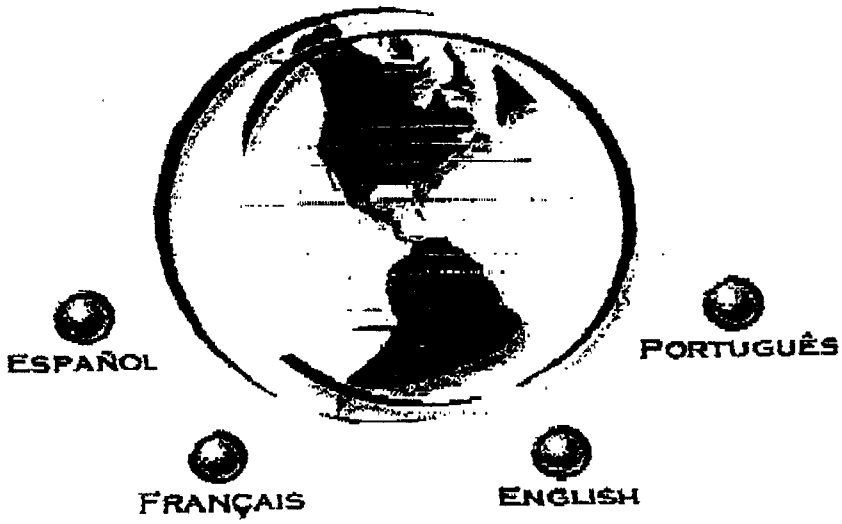
In the last couple of years, the Chilean Government has been under pressure to implement an asbestos ban. The Minister of Environment indicated a few times its intent to follow the European Union example in that matter. In June 2000, the Chilean Ministry of Housing and Urban Development decided to ban asbestos-cement products from its social housing programs, covering approximately 20,000 housing units a year.

Given the importance of its natural resources sector, Chile, like Canada, has always been a strong supporter of the safe use principle in various fora such as the Annual Mines Ministries of the Americas Conference. This principle calls for the controlled use of minerals and metals like chrysotile asbestos or Copper.

The Canadian mission in Santiago facilitated two missions from the Asbestos institute in May and August 2000 to discuss the application of the safe use principle to chrysotile asbestos. On July 31st, the Canadian Ambassador to Chile sent a letter to the Minister of Health conveying the Canadian position on asbestos and requesting meetings with Asbestos Institute officials before any final decision is made on Chile's policy regarding asbestos. Senator Raymond Setlakwe raised our concerns on asbestos with the Chilean Government during his mission to Chile from October 8 to 15

The Canadian chrysotile asbestos industry sends 19 % of its exports to Latin American countries. Brazil, Colombia, and Mexico are the main importers of Canadian chrysotile. While Chile is not an important export market for Canadian chrysotile (350,000 $ of exports in 1999, down from 2 million $ in 1998), if it proceeds with banning asbestos it could influence other countries in Latin America to follow suit.

MINISTERIOS DE MINERIA DE LAS AMERICAS
MINES MINISTERS OF THE AMERICAS
MINISTÉRIOS DE MINAS DAS AMÉRICAS
MINISTÈRES DES MINES DES AMÉRIQUES



Talking points

- We understand that, under pressure from the international asbestos ban movement, the Chilean government is reassessing its position concerning the safe use of chrysotile asbestos. In Canada, we are confident of consumers' ability to use chrysotile safely and we are concerned that an outright ban of asbestos, a natural substance, will set a precedent for the banning of other commodities such as aluminum, copper or nickel.

- Could we have an update on the status of the Decree that would implement such a ban?

- As a member of the Annual Mines Ministries of the Americas Conference Chile has always been a strong supporter of the safe use principle, as it applies to all minerals and metals. Chile's mining minister first endorsed this principle in 1998 when he signed the Buenos Aires Declaration. This commitment was re-affirmed by Chile's Subsecretaria de Mineria, Jacqueline Saintard, at this year's conference in Vancouver, October 4-6, 2000.

- Scientific evidence does not support a ban on chrysotile asbestos. Modern chrysotile and copper products can be used safely when the safe use principle is respected. We would be pleased to provide you with relevant documentation or to arrange for a Canadian delegation to travel to Chile to discuss the issue with Chilean officials.

- We urge the Chilean Government to continue its policy of advocating the safe use of all minerals and metals, including chrysotile asbestos.