b. Minimizing of asbestos in the environment

The amount of asbestos fibres in the ambient environment (air, food, water, beverages and drugs) should be reduced as much as possible. This applies in particular to the presence of crocidolite fibres. Through a thorough control on hygienic conditions at asbestos and asbestos goods processing factories and on activities relating to the industrial use of asbestos including the transport and packaging of raw asbestos and asbestos goods and the disposal of asbestos waste the concentration of asbestos in the environment can be favourably influenced. Attention should also be paid to the effects of the presence of asbestos containing products in everyday life in such a form as to give rise to a health risk to the general public through the release of asbestos fibres into the ambient and home environment.

c. Support to the usage and the development of substitutes

The usage of substitution products which technically are at least as safe as asbestos should only be encouraged after a proper evaluation has been made of the economical and technical feasibility of those products and the health risk - both occupational and environmental - attached to the use of them. The development of new substitutes complying with reasonable requirements with regard to technical and economical feasibility and health risk should be stimulated. High priority in this respect should be given to substitutes for applications where a sufficient control on hygienic conditions regarding asbestos dust emission is difficult to maintain in practice.

d. Regulations for prevention of asbestos fibre exposure

As referred to under (b) an effective control on hygienic conditions in the occupational field is of real assistance in reducing the presence of asbestos fibres in the environment. There have been issued already regulations in the former field by several EEC countries (see chapter XI). It is important to try and effect a measure of uniformity in these regulations at the Community and at National level. Codes of practice for the usage of asbestos and asbestos containing products are of great importance for an efficient dust control.

The drafting and publication of such codes should be actively pursued and they should apply to occupational situations as well as possibly widely exis-

8001 0823

PRODUCED BY FORD