

Statement by:  
ELIENNE VAN DER REST

1.

Gentlemen,

On the 16th of June, AIA wrote you a letter to give you her points of view on the EPA proposal concerning asbestos.

It is in my quality of Chairman of the Governing Council of the AIA that I have the pleasure and the honour to address me to you.

The first questions you would certainly like to raise are :

- What is AIA
- Who do they represent
- Which are its targets
- How are they organized to meet these targets ?

A few slides will, I hope, clarify this :

- . Slide 1) : Geographic map
- . Slide 2) : List of member countries
- . Slide 3) : Organization chart
- . Slide 4) : Publications
- . Slide 5) : List of publications

A representative of the member countries of the AIA and having had the privilege to visit most of them and many others, where the company I am working for has sister-companies, I would like to insist on one key point : Most people in the world - and I am happy to be one of them - admire the tremendous efforts you made throughout the world in order to help the countries not having the same standard of life that you have in the U.S.A.

But one should pay attention not to take back with the left hand what one has given with the right hand.

This should be really the case if your proposal should be adopted as such. Needless to say how important the influence of your country is in the rest of the world. If a decision of banning asbestos neither medically nor scientifically justified (and this will be demonstrated during this public hearing by medical doctors and scientists) is taken by USA, you can be assured that many countries will follow your example.

And this would be terribly detrimental to many of them especially to developping countries.

Which are, in fact, the main problems that those populations have to face?

- lack of water for
  - . domestic use
  - . irrigation
- housing.

With your permission and in order not to take too much of your time, I shall limit myself trying to demonstrate why asbestos-cement products are today the best solution to those two essential problems. This means that my presentation will not involve comments on other uses of asbestos such as brake linings, etc.

W A T E R ( Slide 6 )

- S l i d e 7 - Unesco
- S l i d e 8 - River Cameroun

The asbestos-cement pipe is the perfect answer to this tragic problem. First of all because energy consumption is in many countries and in the world in general, a real concern. Due to the price of oil going down, energy may be today not a problem as acute as it was yesterday, but the future of other energy sources is questioned actually. After Chernobyl, Nuclear Energy is again under discussion in some European countries. Just remembrer that Austria has built a large Nuclear Power Station, paid for it, but after a referendum never used it. So, economy of energy is and will always be necessary.

AC pipes as shown in the next slides are answering positively to this "energy challenge"

S l i d e      9

But the key reason of using AC pipes apart from their technical and economical advantages is the fact that, as you know, most of developping countries have a tremendous lack of foreign currency. AC pipes are in most cases locally produced. The only raw material to be imported is asbestos.

In her presentation "Socio-Economic impact of AC pipe manufacturing" in Cannes from 4th to 7th May 1986, during the First International Conference on Asbestos-Cement, Miss FIELDS, Master of Science of London School of Economic and Political Science, demonstrated that the need of foreign exchange for importing PVC resin was 4,2 times greater than AC.

For Ductile Iron, the need of foreign currency is in fact 100 % of the total value of the pipes because they are normally not locally produced.

Let me show you some slides demonstrating the uses of AC pipes in different countries, as well as for

- drinking water
- sewerage
- irrigation

S l i d e s      10      à      17

(1) DRINKING WATER

Bengladesh	Slides	10	-	11	-	12
Zimbabwe	Slide	13				
Liban	Slides	14	-	15	-	16
Philippines (Maharlica)	Slide	17				

(2) SEWERAGE

Unknown - slide 18  
Chili - slide 19

(3) IRRIGATION

Brésil - slide 20  
Israel Kibutz - slide 21

You must know that if, instead of promoting strict regulations as regards eventual environment pollution by asbestos (such as the proposed regulation by the EEC), you should decide to ban asbestos and asbestos-cement pipes, many countries as stated before will follow your example.

You should realise that the responsibility is in your hands, and that for most of these countries there is no choice:

or AC pipes locally produced, or nothing...

The second key problem for many countries is housing.

S l i d e 22

Just to show you how acute the problem is, I would like to show you some figures taken from reports from the United Nations and from the World Bank. These reports were produced around the years 70-75 but in the meantime the situation is even worse.

S l i d e	23	-	Delhi
S l i d e	24	-	Housing need
S l i d e	25	-	Indes
S l i d e	26	-	% of people without house
S l i d e	27	-	Calcutta
S l i d e	28	-	Number of persons per room
S l i d e	29	-	Karachi

Here again, the same arguments as for pipes have to be used as regards energy consumption and the need of foreign exchange.

As regards Energy Consumption, a study made by "Schape Associates" concluded in a report dated 24th September 1979 as follows:

S l i d e    30    (Energy)

Certainly, these figures are interesting and useful but once more the main reason why asbestos-cement sheets are "the answer" is to be found in the possibility of local production with minimal use of foreign currency and of course, the low cost price and excellent technical characteristics of these products.

I would like to illustrate the use of AC sheets in low cost housing not with a theoretical approach but with a very practical one, taken within my own family.

My older brother is a Jesuit and has lived now more than 25 years in South America. He dedicated all his life to the problem of producing extremely low cost housing (from 100 \$ the cheapest to 1.000 \$ the most expensive) for people without a decent place to live. To him, one cent is one cent and to prove it to you, I would like to tell you the story of how he manages to book his first contract of asbestos sheets.

(story Pizarreño

In fact, he tried all kinds of products but always revert to AC because it is durable and cheap.

Let me show you now some slides illustrating his activities and achievements.

Slides 31 to 40

final choice:

Slide 41 - Chilean slums  
Slide 42 - " THE " solution

Gentlemen, I could go on and on on the matter, because when you have seen once in your live the slums existing around the big towns in many developping countries, having seen on the contrary what can be done with practical solutions using the right products, you are tempted to pass on your conviction to other people for hours and hours.

I do believe that the world today, more and more, has to act as a big family. Today, one should by no means adopt in a country an attitude which could be detrimental to other friend countries.

Taking into consideration all the recent studies showing that asbestos in the environment is classified as "an extremely low risk" 150 times lower than the cancer risk for a light drinker taking only one beer per day, 35 times lower than somebody living in a brick building, 3 times less than dying from a lightening, etc... I am not ashamed to beg you - I never did it before - to take into consideration the tremendous negative impact of the EPA proposal as such outside the USA and to replace in your regulations the banning concept by the strict control use of asbestos.

AIA is always in favour of controlled use, with strict regulations, such as decided for instance by ILO a few weeks ago, but not of banning regulations whi should be a tremendous obstacle for solving the problems faced today by one third of the world population: Water and Housing.

F1-0200(001)2802

Slides Submitted by Etienne Van der Rest

Slides

Slide 1



**ASBESTOS INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION**

**35 MEMBER COUNTRIES**

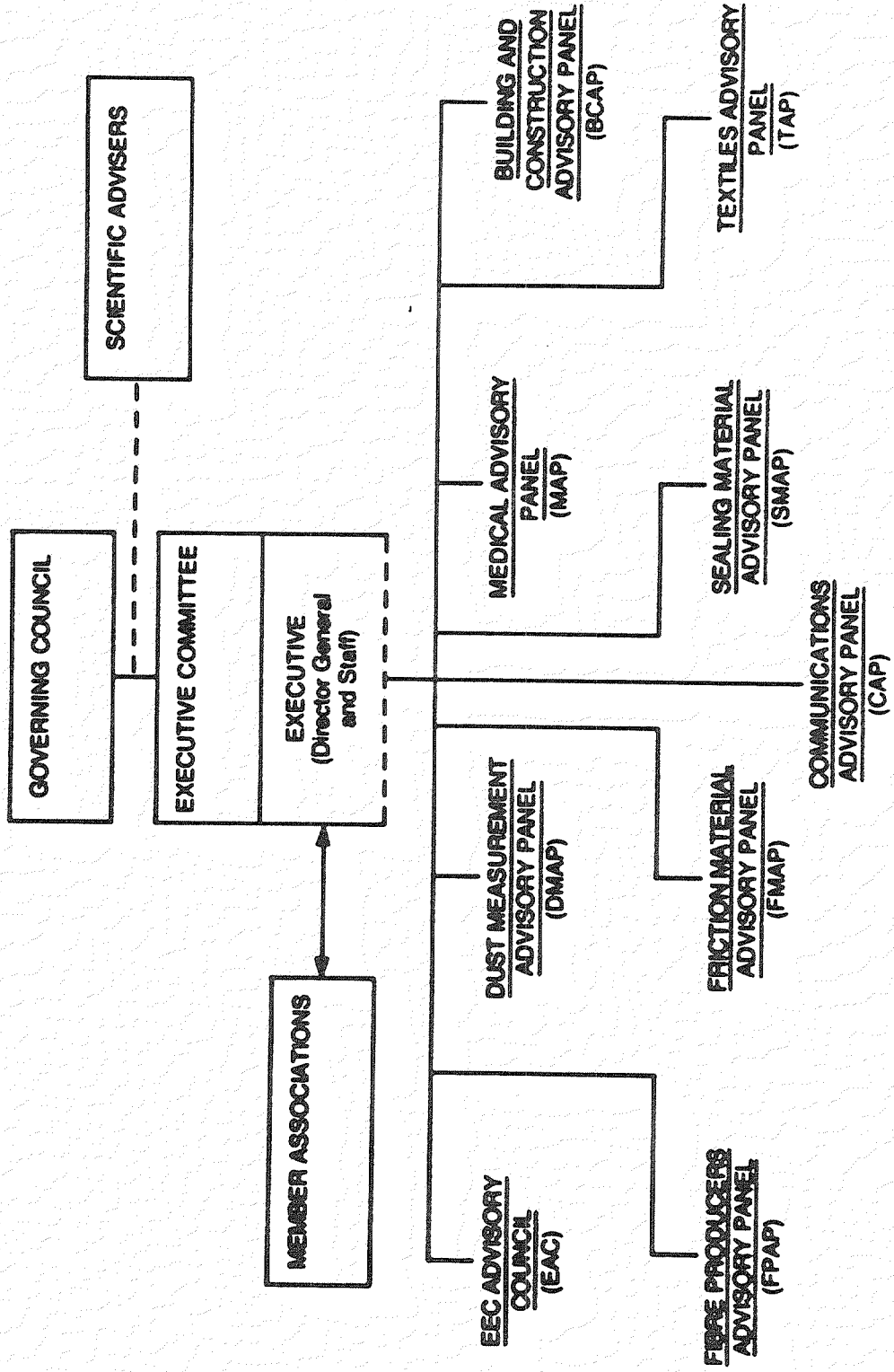
Argentina  
Australia  
Austria  
Belgium  
Brazil  
Canada  
Chile  
Cyprus  
Denmark  
Dubai  
Finland  
France  
Germany  
Greece  
India  
Ireland  
Israel  
Italy

Japan  
Kenya  
Malaysia  
Mexico  
Netherlands  
New Zealand  
Nigeria  
Norway  
Paraguay  
South Africa  
Singapore  
Spain  
Sweden  
Switzerland  
United Kingdom  
Uruguay  
U.S.A.



# ASBESTOS INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION

## ORGANISATION CHART



A.I.A. - Documents Published.

Recommended Control Procedures

RCP 1	The control of asbestos dust
RCP 2	Asbestos Cement Products
RCP 2a	Catalogue of Tools
RCP 3	Asbestos Waste Materials
RCP 4	Packaging, Handling and Transportation
RCP 5	Asbestos Fibres - Bag opening
RCP 6	Asbestos Textile Products - Manufacture
RCP 7	Asbestos Textile Products - Fabrication and Use
RCP 8	Repair and Removal of Asbestos Insulation
RCP 9	Protective Equipment
RCP 10	Asbestos containing Friction Materials

Recommended Technical Methods

RTM 1	Reference Method for the determination of Airborne Asbestos Fibre Concentrations at workplaces by light microscopy
RTM 2	Method for the determination of Airborne Asbestos Fibres and Other Inorganic Fibres by Scanning Electron Microscopy

AIA Information Memoranda

AIM's (38)

Slide 6

WATER SUPPLY