



MURERSVENDENES FAGFORENING AF 1919
FOR KØBENHAVN OG OMEGN

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Shareholders of St Gobain

I visited Brazil in the winter of 1999 as a part of an international labour-delegation. We visited the asbestos mine in Minaçu, SAMA, an Isdralit-factory and met with several union leaders (mainly in São Paulo), visited "Fundacentro" (the state Institute for research in work-health and safety issues), and more.

From the 17th to the 20th of September 2000 I was a delegate in an international asbestos-conference, held in Osasco, Brazil.

I represented the construction workers of Copenhagen, Denmark. A country that banned the use of asbestos in 1986.

I now hear how St. Gobain will only provide very small compensations to the victims of asbestos-related diseases – with very strange explanations, such as:
"Because, as they were poor all their life, they wouldn't know what to do with big money, and then it would become another problem for them..." (Jean Claude Befford, TV 2, France).

Befford also stated: "...money isn't the problem...".

From Denmark we will strongly recommend you to treat these asbestos-victims decently. They have already suffered enough. Compensations around 1,300 Euros for asbestos-related diseases is neither serious nor decent towards these people who lost their health to make you, the shareholders, wealthy.

What is a good health worth according to your own standards? You will have to do better than that to avoid publicity around this matter.

Best regards

Flemming Hansen
Health and Safety Coordinator
Construction Workers of Copenhagen, Denmark