December 10, 1971

F. J. Solon

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF ASBESTOS INFORMATION BODIES
NOVEMBER 24-25, 1971
LONDON

I. INTRODUCTION

Three documents accompanied this report, and are vital to its content:

A. A copy of the program of the Conference, which identifies individual speakers.

B. A list of delegates present at the Conference and the specific name of the Information Body to which each belongs.

C. The summaries of papers presented at the Conference, as they were available at the end of the Conference.

This report, therefore, will not repeat information that is in attachment C and will identify individuals only by their last name and the country from which they come.

Thirty-five delegates represented eleven Asbestos Information Bodies at this Conference. A complete summary of the Conferenc will be mailed to each delegate by the AIC-UK [illegible] future.

II. Medical Aspects - Doctor W. J. Smither

Cape Asbestos



01-0217958

Dr. Smither gave an excellent one-hour presentation on the Asbestos Health subject. He used slides and presented the information in such a way that it was both understandable and not at all boring to laymen. Dr. Smither is a good speaker and, in my opinion, would make an excellent witness at Public Hearings, etc. His ability to sum up this complex subject in a reasonably short time is unusual.

Among the highlights of his presentation were the fact that he agrees that Dr. Newhouse's study of the factory near London confirms the Selikoff Study of the Patterson, New Jersey Plant in that there can be a high death rate from very high levels of exposure over a short period of time (two years or less) among occupationally exposed individuals.

Dr. Smither believes that Mesothelioma has a long latent period which he places at in excess of twenty years. He feels, however, that the actual exposure to dust may be for a relatively short time and possibly small doses (still far greater than the exposures to which the general public might be subjected). He holds to the theory that Crocidolite is much more likely to produce Mesothelioma than other types of asbestos. He believes that most MEsothelioma cases are contracted while the victim is in his youth, because the lungs are more susceptible then to being penetrated deeply by the thin, straight fibers of Crocidolite and this enables the fibers to get into the pleura. He also believes that there is some other cause, in addition to asbestos for Mesothelioma.

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Dr. Smither quoted from Dr. Gilson (Cardiff, Wales) to the effect that the likelihood of death from occupational exposure to asbestos, even in the past, has been far less

less likely than among coal miners and among the general public who smoke twenty or more cigarettes a day.

Dr. Smither believes and is willing to state flatly that the amount of asbestos in the ambient air has no effect whatsoever on health. He has the same feelings regarding asbestos in water, beer, etc.

III. Current and Prospective Regulations

A. United Kingdon - Alec Cross

Reviewed the factory regulations which have been in effect since May 1970. Among other things they provides that employees must not frustrate measures to protect them. Employees must wear work clothes that are provided by the company and these must be left at the work place. The regulations on Crocidolite are ten times as severe as on other types.

The Royal Navy has not banned asbestos (as we had heard) but has listed a number of non-dusty products in which asbestos may be used.

Steve Holmes

Reviewed the details of the British Factory Regulations, with which we are familiar.

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Significantly, the member companies of the AIC-UK give free dust counts and engineering advice to their customers as a part of the cost of doing business. They do not charge for these services!

B. Holland - A. R. Kolff van Oosterwijk

A semi-government research committee has been set up to study the epidemiological relationship between asbestos and Nesothelioma. This is the result of Dr. Stumphius' work and publicity. The study will include asbestos dust in the ambient air, emissions from auto brake linings and the development of reliable measurement devices for asbestos in the ambient air.

Some unions are seeking to ban all asbestos insulation in Holland and are trying to include this ban in their union contracts. Asbestos cement products are not under fire, as yet.

C. Belgium - Dr. J. Lepoutre

There are no regulations specifically covering asbestos but there are general factory regulations in Belgium which may apply. The Common Market is studying the possibility of regulations that would affect all of its members. They may well adopt the UK Regulations, in view of the impending entry of Britain into the Common Market.

D. Germany - G. C. Schmidt

There are no regulations on asbestos, per se, but the factory inspectorate has jurisdiction and will have regulations on asbestos by 1972. There are heavy insurance penalties on asbestos factories (equivalent to our Workmen's Compensation).

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The Germans use a different measurement technique for occupational exposure to asbestos than we do. It is the old particle technique that was abandoned by the U. S. in favor of fibers. There is quite a problem of lack of standardization of measurement techniques between the various countries in Europe.

There are two German Asbestos Information Bodies, one representing the Asbestos Cement Industry and one representing the rest of the industry. Until recently they have not gotten along too well. The Conference seemed to draw them together; For instance, Mr. Schmidt spoke for both groups. The Asbestos Cement people seem to be more inclined towards the "let sleeping dogs lie" philosophy while the others know that they are already under fire.

E. France - RobertJoin

The French use yet a third system of air sampling (neither like UK or US). Mr. Join has been quite active in collecting clippings and information about this subject but his information association, thus far, has tended to remain on the defensive.

At one point, in answer to a question, Mr. Join said that some measurements of total dust (not just asbestos) in French Asbestos-Processing Plants ran as high as 300,000 particles per liter!

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F. Scandinavia - A. Palomaki (Finland)

Mr. Palomaki reported for the four small, separate Asbestos Information Groups representing Finland, Sweden, Norway and Denmark. Primarily they are Asbestos Cement people although Insulation people are included also. He gave an interesting slide talk and is quite conversant with the situation in the United States. Interestingly, Finland, alone of the European countries, has chosen to adopt U. S. standards rather than copy the British.

The Finnish Government has not been agressive of late, but unions have been pushing for controls.

G. Italy - A. Calamandrei

Mr. Calamandrei represents an individual company, rather than an Asbestos Information Body, although they are in the process of forming the latter. Asbestos is considered officially as a hazardous occupational substance. However, the Government pays very little attention to it and industry is in no hurry to call it to their attention.

Union pressure are handled very simply. The union contracts provide that every worker in an asbestos plant (not just those who handle asbestos) gets premium "hazard" pay of about $22.50 per month. Employers also have to pay for special health insurance for asbestos workers. This averages about 4% of their wages.

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Mr. Calamandrei indicated that dust counts in Italy are at least as high as those reported in France. He stated that between 15 and 20% of the employees in his plant had contracted some degree of asbestosis!

Incidentally, Mr. Calamandrei is the one who made the cloth that was imported into the United States for the "infamous" coats. He greatly regrets having lost this business!

H. - United States - W. P. Raines

I followed the outline in attachment C, so I will not add to that. During the question and answer period, however, great interest was shown in the pending ban on brake linings in Illinois; on the Water Pollution Act and the effect it might have on pipe; and, most intensely, upon the proposed reduction of our occupational PLV from 12 fibers to 5 fibers. The British, in particular, were absolutely horrified at this development and at the fact that we were not going to put up a desperate, all out fight against it. This will be commented upon at the end of this report. Part of the problem is a difference in interpretation and measurement of numerical standards between our two countries.

(-- Tea Break --)

IV. Attacks and Defenses

A. United States - W. P. Raines

Again, I stuck to the outline. At the very conclusion of my talk, a Telex from Matt Swetonic was delivered, informing me of our victory in Illinois. I read it to the audience and it was a great ending to the speech! There was considerable

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relief that this first attempt to impose a ban on asbestos-containing brake linings had been defeated.

During the question and answer period, there was expressed by the British, in particular, the fact that we need in the United States a medical spokesman to counter Dr. Selikoff at Press Conferences, Medical Meetings, etc. I restrained my reply to the understatement that we at Johns-Manville and, subsequently the AIA, have recognized this need for at least six years but have thus far been unable to find the qualified individual who is willing to do the job.

The question arose as to what the AIA and AIC-UK are spending on their information programs. The British gave their figures so I also gave our 1971 figures, in round numbers, specifying which part of it was advertising and pointing out that it represented only part of the cost since J-M personnel contributed the overwhelming bulk of the time and their salaries were not included.

B. - Scandinavia - W. Johnsen - Denmark

The International Labor Organization (ILO) is preparing for a conference nextyear at which they will demand strict controls on asbestos throughout the world! This very much needs follow-up! I have asked Hill and Knowlton, before they leave our payroll, to [illegible]er what information they can.

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The Finnish Government is investigating Union charges that there are hazardous conditions in a mine in that country. There maybe a "messy" television debate on this subject.

(That concluded the first day of the conference.)

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At the beginning of the second day of the conference, we showed the Channel 13 film, with appropriate introduction as to its background, as a way of getting across to the European delegates the climate, particularly the press climate, in which we operate on this subject. The film was to have been the introduction of my talk, but the projector did not work. The soundtrack unfortunately was very poor and difficult to hear.

C. France - RobertJoin

There has been considerable publicity in the French press regarding hazard to the general public, most of this has been picked up from overseas reports, particularly from the United States. The French press tends to be quite volitile, also, although they have not yet reached the point of the U.S. media.

D. Germany G. C. Schmidt

There have been very few attacks in the press thusfar and, it was clear from Mr. Schmidt's remarks, the Germans are rather complacent on this subject, as compared to the U.S. and Britian. They are very reluctant to spend money on information activities until they are attacked. The rest of the delegates urged them, however, to at

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least start to build up the material they will need when they are attacked.

E. Holland J. Van Haagan

The Dutch are afraid to contact the press for fear of stirring up more trouble. They have already had a good deal of unfavorable publicity as a result of Dr. Stumphius and the attempts by Asbestos Corporation to locate a mill in Holland.

Dutch authorities are investigating the question of a health hazard from drinking water passed through Asbestos Cement Pipes!

F. Italy - A. Calamandrei

There has been no publicity, except for a few articles in Communist publications. The government does not appear to be interested in this problem.

G. United Kingdom - Wilfred Howard

Wilfred Howard gave an excellent slide presentation and showed some T.V. clips.

The British are in the fourth year of their advertising campaign. They are also preparing a new movie called "Fire At Work", to show how Asbestos saves lives. It will be sponsored jointly by the AIC, a British Fire Extinguisher Company and a Ventilation Equipment Company. They will be happy to sell copies of this to the AIA if we should want one.

01-0217966

The Financial Times will do a four page editorial section on Asbestos (not a paid ad this time).

Their policy on television is to agree to live interviews but to go on tape only if they have advance assurance that it will not be edited.

They have some good material on environmental control at some of their plants, and recently interested a TV program in running pictures of a clean operation.

They do divide up the public relations work among their members, in that one company does the displays; another does movies, and another does the literature and the ads. In each case, however, they are public relations people who devote a great deal of time to the subject. Of course, Turner Bros. and Wilfred Howard devote by far the largest amount of PR time and effort, in addition to Hill and Knowlton.

V. Private Discussion with Turner Bros. Chairman

Following the conference, I was invited by the British delegates to meet with their chairman, Mr. Bateman, to give him some of the highlights of the information from my presentation. Messrs. Hardie, Hills and Howe were present at the meeting, which lasted for about an hour.

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Mr. Bateman obviously has a very constructive and conscientious viewpoint towards the Asbestos problems and is willing to give up areas of business in order to save the entire structure. For example, he is considering the possibility of dropping the Asbestos Fiber Spray Business. (Both Turner and Cape are actually in this business as contractors, as opposed to our position in the United States as a raw material supplier.)

Mr. Bateman has the long range view that future growth in sale of Asbestos Fiber and of Asbestos products, particularly things such as Asbestos Cement Building Materials and Pipe, may have to be concentrated in the lesser developed countries. He is speaking, of course, over a rather long range view. His point is that in many of these countries the life expectancy is so low, as a result of deaths from diseases from impure drinking water, for example, as well as starvation, and inadequate housing, that the question of the very, very, small risk of mesothelioma that may exist in exposure to Asbestos in some situations, is totally out-weighed by the contribution that Asbestos Pipe and other products can make to improving the living standards and, indeed, the life expectancy of people in these countries. This is an interesting philosophy, although it has to be expressed rather carefully.

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Most of all, the British were, as mentioned above, greatly disturbed over the prospective lowering of the USTLB to five fibers. I was more candid with them at this private interview than from the podium. I pointed out that they should not be surprised at this development since the ACGIH had made this recommendation three years ago and a blue ribbon panel of doctors assembled by Marcus Key had come up with the same recommendation two years ago. (They were told of these facts.) I pointed out that we would have absolutely no medical support if we attempted to fight the lowering to five fibers. Our real concern, I told them, was that it would be lowered to two fibers! Thus, the five fiber question is a rather pragmatic one and we could lose far more than we would gain by attempting to oppose it.

The British did not entirely agree with this, so I gently reminded them of the situation which we had fallen into by opposing bans on Asbestos Fireproof Spray in this country (largely at their instigation!). Bateman seemed less concerned than the others, although they are really worried that they could not meet this type of a level in textile operations. There is, of course, a difference in the way of our TLV is interpreted and enforced from the way the British enforce their two fiber TLV which, as w[illegible]ow, is a "floor" rather than a "ceiling".

W. P. Raines

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A

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF ASBESTOS INFORMATION BODIES
24TH AND 25TH NOVEMBER 1971

PROGRAMME

CONFERENCE CHAIRMAN - MR. M. F. HOWE

PART I
WEDNESDAY, 24TH NOVEMBER

		Speaker
09.50	Welcome to Delegates and Introduction by Chairman	
10.00 - 11.00	The Medical Background	Dr. W. J. Smither, Medical Consultant, Asbestosis Research Council
11.00 - 11.15	Coffee	

PART II
WEDNESDAY, 24TH NOVEMBER

11.15 - 11.50	Brief Review of Current and/or Prospective Regulations in United Kingdom	Mr. A. A. Cross, Chairman, Environmental Control Committee, Asbestosis Research Council and Dr. S. Holmes, Secretary, Asbestosis Research Council
11.50 - 12.05	Brief Review of Current and/or Prospective Regulations in Holland	Mr. A. R. Kolff van Oosterwijk, Member of Commissie Voorlichting Asbest, Holland
12.05 - 12.20	Brief Review of Current and/or Prospective Regulations in Belgium	Dr. J. Lepoutre, Secretary, Comité d'Information de l'Amiante, Belgium

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PART II
WEDNESDAY, 24TH NOVEMBER

		Speaker
12.20 - 12.40	Brief Review of Current and/or Prospective Regulations in Germany	Mr. G. C. Schmidt, Secretary, Wirtschaftsverband Asbest e.V., Germany and Delegate from Wirtschaftsverband Asbestzement e.V., Germany
12.40 - 13.55	Buffet Luncheon	
14.00 - 14.15	Brief Review of Current and/or Prospective Regulations in France	Mr. R. Join, Délégué Général of Chambre Syndicale de l'Amiante, France
14.15 - 14.30	Brief Review of Current and/or Prospective Regulations in Scandinavia	Mr. A. Palomäki, Finnish Asbestos Information Group
14.30 - 14.45	Brief Review of Current and/or Prospective Regulations in Italy	Mr. A. Calamandrei, President, Associazione Nasionale degli Industriali Amiantieri, Italy
14.45 - 15.15	Brief Review of Current and/or Prospective Regulations in U.S.A.	Mr. W. P. Raines, Secretary, Asbestos Information Association/North America
15.15 - 15.25	Summary of Reviews	
15.25 - 15.55	Tea and Showing of Asbestos Information Committee Film "Why Asbestos?"	

PART III
WEDNESDAY, 24TH NOVEMBER

16.00 - 17.10 (This will include the film of a recent American Television programme)	Attacks on Asbestos and our Defences - U.S.A. [redacted]	Mr. W. P. Raines, Secretary, Asbestos Information Association/North America

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THURSDAY, 25TH NOVEMBER

12.05 - 12.20	Final Comment and Summary	Mr. M. F. Howe, Deputy Chairman, Asbestos Information Committee
12.30 onwards	Refreshments and Buffet Luncheon	

Close of Conference

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PART III
WEDNESDAY, 24TH NOVEMBER

		Speaker
17.10 - 17.10	Attacks on Asbestos and our Defences - Scandinavian Countries.	Mr. W. Johnsen, Danish Asbestos Information Group

End of First Day of Conference

		Chairman
19.30 for 20.15	DINNER FOR ALL CONFERENCE DELEGATES AT HYDE PARK HOTEL	Mr. H.D.S. Hardie, Chairman, Asbestos Information Committee

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THURSDAY, 25TH NOVEMBER

		Speaker
09.00 - 09.30	Attacks on Asbestos and our Defences - France	Mr. R. Join, Délégué Général of Chambre Syndicale de l'Amiante
09.30 - 10.00	Attacks on Asbestos and our Defences - Germany	Mr. G. C. Schmidt, Secretary, Wirtschaftsverband Asbest e.V.
10.00 - 10.30	Attacks on Asbestos and our Defences - Benelux	Mr. J. van Haagen, President, Comité d'Informati de l'Amiante/Commissie Voorlichting Asbest
10.30 - 10.45	Coffee	
10.45 - 11.05	Attacks on Asbestos and our Defences - Italy	Mr. A. Calamandrei, President, Associazione Nazionale degli Industriali Amiantieri
11.05 - 12.05	Attacks on Asbestos and our Defences - United Kingdom	Mr. W. P. Howard, Secretary, Asbestos Information Committee

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[B]

International Conference of
Asbestos Information Bodies
24th and 25th November 1971

List of Delegates

BENELUX
Commissie Voorlichting Asbest/Comité d'Information de l'Amiante

Mr. J. van Haagen - Holland
Mr. A. R. Kolff van Oosterwijk - Holland

Dr. J. Lepoutre - Belgium
Mr. A. Eyben - Belgium

DENMARK
Danish Asbestos Information Group

Mr. W. Johnsen

FINLAND
Finnish Asbestos Information Group

Mr. A. Palomäki

FRANCE
Chambre Syndicale de l'Amiante

Mr. C. X. Latty
Mr. P. Conas
Mr. G. Flquest
Mr. R. Join
Mr. G. Mahut
Dr. J. Avril

GERMANY
Wirtschaftsverband Asbest e.V.

Dr. C. Fernbach
Mr. H. Mehling
Mr. H. Meyer
Mr. G. C. Schmidt
Mr. H. Askevold
Mr. D. Merkel

Wirtschaftsverband Asbestzement e.V.

Mr. H. Schaefter
Mr. G. Engelmann
Mr. R. Skrczypczek

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ITALY
Associazione Nazionale degli Industriali Amiantieri

Mr. A. Calamandrei
~~Mr. Angeletti~~
Mr. Marchioli

NORWAY
Norwegian Asbestos Information Group

Mr. L. Knutsen

SWEDEN
Swedish Asbestos Information Group

Mr. A. Jönsson

UNITED KINGDOM

Mr. M. F. Howe
Dr. S. Holmes
Dr. W. J. Smither
Mr. A. A. Cross
Mr. W. P. Howard
Mr. D. Wright
Mr. J. D. Grieve
Mr. A. Masterton-Smith
Mr. D. F. Brady

U.S.A.
Asbestos Information Association/ North America

Mr. W. P. Raines

01-0217975

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF ASBESTOS INFORMATION BODIES

London, 24/25 November 1971

C1

SUMMARIES OF PAPERS

A. REGULATIONS

1. United Kingdon

A. A. Cross, Chairman, Environmental Control Committee, Asbestosis Research Council

Review of principles behind the U.K. legislation

Statutory controls applicable only to protection of work people exposed to harmful quantities of asbestos dust in the course of their employment.

Protection of general public from any risks which might exist are considered so far to be adequately covered by existing powers of local authorities.

The U.K. Asbestos Regulations are based on these principles:

1. They only apply to processes where dust above a certain level can be produced
2. They apply wherever and whenever employed persons are exposed to such levels of asbestos dust
3. They discriminate against blue asbestos in that they call for additional measures of control and a lower standard of dust concentration
4. They envisage the application of control measures related to the extent of the hazard
5. They do not spell out standards of dust levels or degrees of hazard. They rely for the detailed application of the law on the publication of explanatory documents known as Technical Data Notes which can be varied as experience or fresh knowledge dictates

The measures to be adopted under these Regulations are reviewed, and the manner in which HMFI has been applying them since they came into effect in May 1970 is discussed.

Cont'd

01-0217976

Dr S. Holmes, Secretary, Asbestosis Research Council

The work leading up to the establishment by the British Occupational Hygiene Society of Hygiene Standards for chrysotile asbestos will be discussed. The way in which these standards have been adopted by the Factory Inspectorate for the purposes of the 1969 Asbestos Regulations will be explained, including the reason for the difference in recommended dust levels between crocidolite asbestos and the other types. The way in which different degrees of respiratory protection are to be used for different dust levels will be described.

2. France

1. There is no French national regulation concerning the asbestos industry, except a prohibition of employment of young workers under 18 in certain dusty occupations. The asbestos industry, however, is under strict control by the Factory Inspectorate.

2. "Recommendations" drafted by the Factory Inspectorate and the Social Security Office of Normandy, in co-operation with Chambre Syndicale de l'Amiante, apply to the industry's units situated in this province.

3. Asbestosis is recognised as an occupational disease. There are a relatively small number of compensated cases, at varying rates.

4. The asbestos industry is represented on the Social Security National Technical Committee concerned.

5. The present situation is not expected to change in the near future.

6. The French asbestos industry, through Chambre Syndicale de l'Amiante, follows closely all questions related to asbestos and health, prevention and legislation.

3. Germany

1. Safety Regulations for protection against health hazards caused by mineral dust are expected to come into effect in autumn 1972. The experts working on the Regulations have included some from the asbestos industry. The Regulations will apply to all factories handling asbestos-containing materials, stipulate acceptable dust levels, and lay down measures for dust suppression and control. They require periodic medical examinations every three years.

2. At present conditions are governed by precautionary measures agreed between the asbestos manufacturing companies, employers' liability insurance companies and local Factory Inspection Authorities.

01-0217977

4. Denmark

Regulations are valid from 5th May 1970.

1. Threshold limit values of airborne asbestos dust are in principle the same as those valid in United Kingdom in 1970, although these have not been issued in the regulations of safety precautions.

2. Inspection is carried out by local Factory Inspectors in co-operation with the State Institute for Industrial Hygiene, which lays down norms for dust control.

3. Medical examinations are combined with tuberculosis x-rays for all works employees once a year. X-ray findings indicating asbestosis lead to thorough clinical examination and full scale x-ray. Suspect cases are followed up once a year or once every three years.

4. Prospective regulations: The Danish Factory Inspectorate is discussing dust hazards when working with asbestos material in insulation work.

5. Finland

A Safety and Health Act includes regulations for effective dust control in work places where asbestos (mineral) dust is emitted. The act has been valid since 1958 and the asbestos regulations revised in 1971.

1. Threshold limit values of airborne asbestos dust are in principle similar to those valid in the USA in 1970. These values are not issued in the act or regulations.

2. Inspection is carried out by the local Factory Inspectors of the state at least once a year.

3. The rules for handling asbestos and materials containing asbestos are made by the Factory Inspectors. Concentrations of airborne dust are measured by the Institute of Occupational Health in Finland by the order of the employer or the inspector.

4. Regulations for medical examinations are established by the Safety and Health Act. The preliminary medical examination takes place before employment or one month after commencing work in an asbestos mill or in a factory producing asbestos-containing materials. X-ray and lung function are included. Periodical examinations are obligatory once a year in asbestos mills and once in three years in other works producing materials containing asbestos. Minimum x-ray size: 100 x 100 mm.

5. Prospective regulations: The new national standards are very similar to the USA latest figures for airborne asbestos dust and will be confirmed very soon.

01-0217978

6. Norway

Regulations for the prevention of asbestosis were issued in a circular by the authorities and have been valid from 1962.

1. Threshold limit values of airborne asbestos dust have not been fixed. In the Norwegian general rules established by the above mentioned regulations there is reference to 200 particles/cm³ as the hygienic threshold limit value in the USA at that time.

2. Inspection is carried out by the Factory Inspectorate once a year. Dust controls are the responsibility of the Institute of Occupational Health.

3. The Factory Inspector will ensure that the rules and directions of the circular are observed.

4. Medical examinations: Preliminary examination before employment includes x-ray. Periodical examinations are done once a year with x-ray of suspected and exposed persons every third year.

5. Prospective regulations: The authorities are working for new national standards on airborne asbestos dust.

7. Sweden:

A Worker's Protection Act, passed in 1949, declares that the employer has to take every reasonable precaution to protect his employees from illness and accidents caused by the conditions in the work places. More details are given in the proclamation attached to the act.

1. Threshold limit values: The safety regulations do not mention any figure for the amount of asbestos dust in the air regarded as a potential risk for giving asbestosis.

2. The Labour Inspector ensures that the safety regulations are observed.

3. Safety regulations from 1964 regulate work with asbestos and products containing asbestos. This regulation gives directions about steps that have to be taken to reduce the amount of dust in places where asbestos is handled.

4. Medical examinations: The workers who are employed in places with potential risk for asbestosis have to be examined by medical inspectors annually.

5. Prospective regulations: The 1949 Act has been amended several times. In the present situation, however, a full reconstruction has been found necessary. This work is still going on and the results will appear successively as from 1972. The new regulations are under preparation and they might be ready 1972/1973. It is quite certain that this new Act will give figures

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health risk. Probably they will follow the figures given in the U.K. Regulations from 1970.

B. ATTACKS ON ASBESTOS AND DEFENCES

1. Benelux

The Asbestos Information Committee Benelux

In the Netherlands the first symptom of adverse publicity was the publication in 1968 of a thesis of Dr. Stumphius, who drew attention to the risks to health involved with asbestos. The author pays special attention to mesothelioma, symptoms of which he found amongst a number of patients in the surroundings of Flushing, where large shipyards have been established and many workers are occupied with the insulation of conduits.

There has been frequent adverse press coverage - e.g. "asbestos ought to be forbidden", "the use of asbestos dangerous to life" and "asbestos causes cancer".

The Belgian press has paid attention to this problem too, although far less than in Holland. The request of "Asbestos Corporation" to set up a mill in Ghent, after failing to get a licence to do so in Flushing (the Netherlands), resulted in publicity in Belgium, which induced a refusal from the Belgian authorities.

The result was that after a conference arranged by the Asbestos Information Committee in London in November 1969, the Belgian and Dutch industries decided to found an Asbestos Information Committee in Benelux for the purpose of:

1. Providing information regarding the advantages and disadvantages attached to the use of products containing asbestos

2. Coordinating medical and technical research in order to promote the best possible occupational hygiene in factories belonging to Asbestos Information Committee members

The Committee is assisted by a medical advisory council, consisting of four professors of universities in Belgium and the Netherlands and Dr. Lepoutre, industrial medical officer of Eternit, Belgium. This Council is working as a body, independent of the Committee. Dr Lepoutre will explain further its activities.

In order to give you a view of the working method of the Committee, I think it desirable to divide the subject into four items:

A. The public, which is brought into contact with the problem of asbestos and health through the newspapers, broadcasting and television.

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B. The authorities, whose decisions on the problem are influenced by the media mentioned under A.

Here we must distinguish between industrial hygiene (the domain of the Factory Inspectorate) and general environmental hygiene.

C. The workers, who are made afraid to work with asbestos, influenced by the media mentioned under A or by their trade unions.

D. The consumers of our products, who are looking for substitutes, also under the influence of item A, either because they do not want to apply our products any more, or because they perceive that their customers do not want to buy products containing asbestos any more.

To elaborate these four items:

ad A The Committee collects the most important press reports and circulates them to members and a number of interested bodies. The Committee has only once contacted the press. In view of the very doubtful result achieved herewith we are somewhat afraid to repeat the experiment. Unfortunately the independent press prefers alarming reports to objectivity.

ad B An official study of asbestos workers has shown 64 asbestosis and 1 mesothelioma cases among 2,400 workers.

The Factory Inspectorate has published a booklet - "Working with Asbestos". In the Netherlands the subject is being studied by T.N.O., a semi-governmental research establishment .

Crocidolite may be banned.

ad C Workers' anxiety is increased by the trade unions in the metallurgical industry, and has led to questions put to the Minister in Parliament. The trade unions, to which the employees of Eternit are affiliated, have not supported this action till now.

The relatively favourable result of all researches of the Factory Inspectorate and the measures taken by many factories to control dust have helped the morale of employees.

ad D Consumers of products made from asbestos - even asbestos cement materials - hesitate to apply this material.

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We think, that action must be specially aimed at increasing knowledge of the consequences for health of using asbestos and less at explaining the great benefit of products containing asbestos. For, if the benefit is emphasized without removing fears of the risk, then we encourage all those who are looking for substitutes for asbestos products.

2. Germany

We are in the fortunate position to state that in Germany there has not yet been a public discussion concerning the possible consequences of exposure to asbestos dust. Isolated articles in some newspapers such as Bild-Zeitung, Hamburger Abendpost, Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung and the Welt, concerning the danger to dockyard workers and a meeting of lung specialists, have been ignored by us. According to our motto: "Let a sleeping dog lie", we did not reply to a radio comment on the subject of "The Polluted Creation" which cited the asbestos chapter from the well-known book by Taylor. In the same way we treated the news brought by the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung in October stating that according to Japanese presumptions talcous rice would create stomach cancer. The same applies to a number of articles by dust experts and experts on industrial medicine published in relevant industrial magazines.

Nevertheless, by taking advantage of the experience of the AIC we have begun to develop together with a public relations agency a plan of compaign which will give us the possibility of countering an attack by the press in its early stages. Our efforts in this direction are, however, not yet very developed.

3. France

There have been in recent years, in France, many press reports concerning asbestos, but less than in some other countries.

Most of these reports bear on the possible carcinogenic effects of asbestos, and leave aside the very large contribution of this material to safety. Many of them come from the same sources.

The French asbestos industry - one of the most important with a yearly consumption of some 150.000 M.T. of raw asbestos - concerns itself with the effect of such press articles on the users and on the public at large.

In order not to draw undue attention from the public to a problem which has apparently not aroused much interest, and in order to avoid useless controversy, it has adopted the policy of not replying systematically to every attack from the press - general or medical - and of building up a complete and up-to-date file on the case.

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Chambre Syndicale de l'Amiante works in two main directions:

Documentation and liaison with other bodies, participation in international medical conferences, etc. Full and unbiased information of its members, and release of brochures addressing to manufacturers ("l'amiante polluant ou materiau de securite") or to the public ("amiante et population generale").

Studies and research to ascertain the accuracy or inaccuracy of certain theories ("asbestos bodies" in the lungs of city dwellers, asbestos exposure and mesotheliomae, dust from brake linings, etc.) and original research (for instance on the nature of the core of "ferruginous bodies").

The asbestos industry expects that such a policy will serve to put things straight and at the same time will contribute to improve the knowledge of the asbestos and health problem.

4. Scandinavia

Scandinavia in general

The four Scandinavian AC-industries are cooperating closely over questions relating to asbestos as a hazard. A four-member working group meets at intervals to discuss problems and exchange information. The group has no contact with the public. Each country is contemplating some sort of national contact bodies representing interested firms.

Public attention to asbestos hazards in the four countries must in general be characterized as rather limited. Newspaper publicity is scarce, and TV and radio have not paid very much attention to the question.

In the AC-field there has been little or no reaction from customers, but special ships boards containing asbestos raise increasing animosity. This stiffening attitude in the shipyards, which tends to be aggravated in the direction of a wish to abandon completely asbestos and asbestos-containing materials, gives rise to some anxiety.

The Factory Inspectorates and health authorities in general appear to have a non-aggressive attitude, but newer regulations and others we expect to be issued in the near future tend to increase demands on those consuming or handling asbestos. The tendency is towards regulations and codes of practice like the British.

Cont'd

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The Scandinavian AC-companies have agreed upon an information policy to be executed inside their works, i.e., adapted to different levels of staff as well as to those with direct contact with customers.

All companies are spending heavily on dust precautions and also on instrumentation for dust measurement.

Each of the Scandinavian firms are likely to take appropriate defence actions only if public attention demands it.

Denmark

"Doomsday" by G. R. Taylor created some newspaper reactions. A TV feature has given rise to some public discussion. There has been a labour interpellation in the Danish Parliament which may result in a ban on asbestos in insulation work.

Finland

There has recently been a critical development around the Paakkila Asbestos Mine. The local union has started an offensive against the mine.

Norway

Only minor public interest has been observed.

The Factory Inspectorate urges the ship building industry to work for elimination of asbestos in ship building.

An insulation firm in eastern Norway is working on the same lines. New Norwegian regulations are due very soon.

Sweden

There has been some reference in Swedish papers to asbestos hazards. One Swedish shipyard has taken the lead in a drive to abandon asbestos in ship building.

There have been several public meetings discussing health hazards in connection with the utilization of asbestos.

5. Great Britain

Positive Work

Advertising campaigns
Films
Editorial articles in newspapers and magazines

Defensive Work

Specialised literature
Addresses to meetings of industrial safety officers
Educational posters for factories
Television training of senior executives
Processing of enquiries
Rebutting press criticism

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Lessons to be learned

1. This work takes up time and staff

2. Responsibility for particular sectors of work has been allocated to particular officers of member companies

3. The value of asbestos has to be positively propagated

4. The information problem is becoming progressively more international hence the need for a consistent approach

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OUTLINE OF PRESENTATION

WILLIAM P. RAINES

BRIEF REVIEW OF CURRENT AND
PROSPECTIVE REGULATIONS - U.S.A.

I. Brief comment on overlapping jurisdictions of federal, state and municipal governments.

II. Protecting the Worker

A) Federal Government

1) Occupational Safety and Health Act

a) General provisions vis a vis abestos

b) Present threshold limit value of 12 fibers per cubic centimeter

c) Labor union/Selikoff pressures to lower TLV to 2 fibers

d) Prospective move to 5 fibers level

e) Union/Selikoff pressures for "emergency standard" of 2 fibers

2) National Institutes for Occupational Safety & Health (NIOSH)

a) Emergency studies on asbestos and fiber glass

b) Investigation of "epidemic" of mesothelioma among workers in Manville, New Jersey area.

B) State Governments

1) Enforcement of standards

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III. Protecting the General Public

A) Federal Government

1) Clean Air Act

a) Asbestos declared "hazardous" substance" by Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

b) Asbestos emissions standards

i) Development

ii) General Content

iii) Next Steps

c) Studies of asbestos in brake linings and in asbestos/asphalt paving

d) Studies to develop ambient air measurement techniques

e) Probable future revision of asbestos emissions standards based on numerical limits

2) Water Pollution Control Act

a) In Congress sponsored by Muskie and backed by Nixon.

b) Possible effects on asbestos

c) Present action under 1899 law.

3) Toxic Substances Control Act

a) In Congress - probably stalled until 1972

b) Possible effects on asbestos

c) Crocidolite "rumor"

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B) State Governments

1) Ban on spraying asbestos fireproofing
   Illinois
   New York

2) Illinois Proposed Regulations

   a) Illinois Pollution Control Board

   b) General content of proposed regulations - especially ban on asbestos in brake linings

   c) Hearings and testimony

   d) Outlook

   e) Other states watching closely

C) Municipal Governments

1) Ban on asbestos Spraying:
   New York City
   Boston
   Philadelphia
   Chicago

2) Control of Asbestos Spraying:
   San Francisco

3) Interest in banning asbestos in brake linings:
   New York City

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OUTLINE OF PRESENTATION

WILLIAM P. RAINES

BRIEF REVIEW OF ATTACKS ON
ASBESTOS AND OUR DEFENSES

I. Attacks

A) Labor Unions - Selikoff - OSHA

1) Pressure for "emergency standard"

B) Labor Unions - Selikoff - American Cancer Society

1) Major epidemiological study

2) Large funding

3) A.C.S. ability to gain attention

C) Labor Unions - Selikoff - and Local Agitation

1) Manville, New Jersey

2) Waukegan, Ill.

3) Toronto, Canada

D) Gastrointestinal Cancer

1) "Natures" article and Canadian scientists

2) Selikoff's position

E) Selikoff and Predictions of "Epidemics"

1) World War II Shipyard Workers and Mesothelioma

2) Patterson, New Jersey Amosite Plant and "Neighborhood" dangers.

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F) Selikoff and Other "Threats" to General Public

1) Women's Coats from Italy

2) Anti-freeze

3) Talc

4) School children and modeling compounds

G) Press - Radio - Television Interest

1) CBC-TV (Canada)

2) New York City Channel 13

3) NEW YORKER Magazine and Paul Brodeur

4) BUSINESS WEEK Magazine

5) Newspapers

6) Radio

H) Customer Alarm

I) Ralph Nader

J) Further Government Action

(Previously Discussed)

II. DEFENSES

A) Work with Federal, State and Municipal Government Officials

1) Federal EPA

2) Federal Department of Labor

3) NIOSH

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4) Congress

5) State Governments

B) Present Testimony at Important Hearings

1) Federal EPA

2) Key States

C) Strengthen AIA/NA

1) Add new members

2) Internal seminars

D) Prepare Literature

1) Supervisors

2) Salesmen

3) Customers

4) Others

E) Seek More Effective Ways to Get Objective Treatment by Press, TV

1) Spokesmen

2) Prepared TV Clips

3) Rebuttal

F) Publicize Favorable Information

1) McDonald Study, etc.

2) Results of Industry Tests on Product Wear, Emissions.

3) Essential uses of asbestos

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AGENDA

ASBESTOS INFORMATION ASSOCIATION/NORTH AMERICA

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

DECEMBER 29, 1971

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS	AL FAY
ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES	AL FAY
REPORT OF EXECUTIVE SECRETARY SELECTION COMMITTEE	AL FAY
1972 DUES PAYMENT	MARTIN NEVILLE
MEMBERSHIP DRIVE	MATT SWETONIC
EPA	ED FENNER
OSHA	ED FENNER

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