ASBESTOS INFORMATION ASSOCIATION
NORTH AMERICA
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PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT
ATI-118

3 January 1974

Mrs. Doris M. Fagan, Executive Director
Asbestos Textile Institute
P. O. Box 471
Willow Grove, Pennsylvania 19090

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ATI

Dear Doris:

As a first order of business this new year and with some urgency, I write to you and others in executive capacity with asbestos trade and informational organizations.

The Asbestos Information Association/North America came into being just three years ago, as you may recall. Its purpose, then as now, is to fill the need for a single, encompassing organization to represent U. S. and Canadian producer and user companies and associated trade groups with government agencies, news media, and others as an authoritative, overall industry source of information and liaison on the asbestos-health issue.

Under Matt Swetonic and an active, forward-looking group of officers and directors, the Association has achieved recognition as an effective spokesman for the industry. In October of this past year, at the direction of its board of directors, the Association office was moved to the Nation's capital. Matt elected to remain in New York City to join the staff of a public relations firm, and I took over the responsibilities of executive director for the Association. At the risk of duplication, I enclose a review of the Association which outlines its purpose, problems, organization, and objectives. The paper was presented by Matt to members of the Asbestos Textile Institute in June of this past year and remains reasonably contemporary.

I know that each of us similarly associated with the asbestos industry as association executives can see extremely busy and challenging days ahead. We are fortunate to share the expertise and guidance of many of our mutual members and to maintain good lines of communication. Since its inception, the AIA/NA has enjoyed close relationships with your organization, and I assure you of my interest in continuing the fine record of

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cooperation. We have much to do together, and, as you are well aware, the time for best actions is now.

At our board of directors' meeting in December, it was recommended that the trade associations of the asbestos industry be listed as affiliated with the AIA/NA for the obvious purpose of strength and accord in representation of common interest.

In our membership listing, we propose to list your organization under the heading "affiliated associations". Through our mailings and such meetings that we have of interest to you, we shall keep you informed on information collected and actions taken by AIA/NA in connection with asbestos-health and safety issues. We, of course, shall consult with you on matters of particular concern to your organization. There will be no financial obligation to your organization for this affiliated status. We plan to re-publish our pamphlet on AIA/NA within the next two weeks -- long over-due because of the change of address and the addition of new members -- and would appreciate your early response to this proposal.

On another matter, we propose to publish a booklet which will fully address itself to the asbestos industry. In addition to general interest information concerning asbestos and a thorough discussion of the asbestos-health issue, we propose to include a chapter on mining and on each of the major product areas. It is hoped that each of the involved trade associations will prepare the material for the chapter of its particular interest, employing the by-line of its executive director. We feel very strongly that there is a need for such a public information/relations booklet to define the industry and dispel public misunderstandings about asbestos and otherwise enhance the public image of the industry. A plan for this project will be coming your way in the near future.

This has become a rather long letter. We could have had a meeting and perhaps we should sometime in the future. Meanwhile, we are pleased to serve you by 'phone or letter and welcome exchange of information and any suggestions which you may wish to offer toward attainment of our mutual objectives.

With every good wish for a happy and successful New Year,

Cordially,

Bob Mereness

R. H. Mereness
Executive Director

RHM/cg

Enclosure

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cerned with producing a complete criteria document covering occupational health and environmental control for the asbestos industry which, when adopted by ASTM, will be a consensus document for submission to OSHA for its consideration. Among the many items on the Committee's agenda are to recommend more valid threshold limit values, to determine appropriate sampling strategy, to more precisely define the type of optical microscope used for making fiber counts and to develop quantitative analytical methods for the analysis of specimens collected on filter membranes. The matter of ATI becoming an active participant in the subcommittee was discussed and it was agreed it was sufficiently involved through its affiliation with the Asbestos Information Association/North America and through its Associate Members who also were members of the Quebec Asbestos Mining Association. At least one member of each of these two associations are delegates on subcommittees of E-34.

13. The Secretary distributed copies of a letter dated January 3, 1974, from Robert H. Mereness, Executive Director of AIA/NA. It proposed to list the ATI as an Affiliated Association of AIA/NA for the "obvious purpose of strength and accord in representation of common interest." By being listed as such, AIA/NA shall keep ATI advised on information collected and actions taken by AIA/NA in connection with asbestos-health and safety issues. In addition, ATI will be consulted on matters of particular concern to asbestos textiles. There is no financial obligation for taking on this Affiliated status. Legal Counsel stated that ATI becoming an affiliate of AIA/NA does not appear to present any problems from a legal point of view. The affiliation between these two organizations has no underlying business significance, so it doesn't raise any anti-trust problems. Since AIA/NA was in somewhat of a hurry to receive our decision, prior to this meeting the Executive Secretary of ATI contacted E. A. Morris, representative of Uniroyal, Inc., the one Regular Member company of ATI that was not an AIA/NA member, and received authorization from that company for ATI to become an Affiliated Association of AIA/NA. The Executive Director of AIA/NA was officially notified via ATI letter on January 14, 1974, of our agreement to the proposal. The consent of ATI to become an Affiliated Association of AIA/NA was ratified by the unanimous vote of those present at this February 7, 1974, meeting of the ATI Board of Governors. . . . The second proposal made by AIA/NA also was accepted by ATI in that a chapter on asbestos textiles be published "under the by-line of the Executive Secretary" in a public information/relations booklet to be issued by AIA/NA to define the industry and dispel public misunderstandings about asbestos and to otherwise enhance the public image of the industry.

14. It was announced by Chairman Seowcroft that the ATI had declined the offer by the National Safety Council to participate in its study of the high injury/illness rate in the Stone, Clay & Glass Industry (SIC Code 32).

20. Chairman Seowcroft solicited suggestions from the Board at any time for future, meaningful programs for ATI General Meetings. It was agreed that effective speakers would promote interest in attending meetings but that we should not feel obliged to schedule such a

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Concerns of the General Membership

Robert H. Mereness, Executive Director
Asbestos Information Association/North America

(Presented at ATI General Meeting, February 8, 1974, The Mills House, Charleston, South Carolina)

I'm new to the Asbestos Industry and I owe much of what I have learned to Doris Fagan, who has been very kind to me. I have read ASBESTOS Magazine backwards and forwards--going back 2 or 3 years.

Most of you are acquainted with the AIA/NA. You know what we are doing and I would like to say that we are doing our job, addressing ourselves to the problems that we have with regulatory agencies in Washington, D. C. As you know, the Association was located in New York City up until October of this year. It is now in Washington and we are trying to do a job for all of you in the Industry--to recognize what's going on and what we have to do to be vigorous in our approach to doing the best that we can do for you, under some rather difficult and trying times. I won't go into the public relations or governmental aspects, but they are all there and that's why we are in Washington and trying to do the job for you.

One final note. Early this week a group of 14 of your colleagues (our Technical Committee) met in Newark, New Jersey. Headed by Edmund M. Fenner, of Johns-Manville Corporation, we parceled out the jobs that have to be done with regard to helping OSHA in the rewrite of the Asbestos Standard. For me, as a neophyte to the group, to see the enthusiasm, experience and dedication of these men doing work on this very difficult task, was most rewarding.

You all have received a copy this afternoon of the little green booklet entitled "What Every Employee Should Know About Asbestos and What You Should Tell Others". It was prepared by J-M, with some input by us, and although similar to the OSHA booklet, we believe ours is perhaps a little more helpful. More copies are available for the asking, as is any service or information that we can give you on the work of AIA/NA and what we're trying to do for all of you.

-end-

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