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GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
June 28, 1966

K.W. Smith, M.D.

Ken -

As you know, in the meetings of our Public Health Task Force, there have been numerous verbal references to the fact that the incidence of lung cancer and other forms of cancer among employees at J-M's asbestos mines, mills and asbestos-processing plants has been as low or lower than would be expected among the general population. To date, however, the Task Force has not seen any written or printed reports documenting this claim.

In our reporting session yesterday morning, Clint Burnett repeated his request that the information about the medical history of J-M employees and former employees, vis-a-vis exposure to asbestos be examined and documented.

Accordingly, it will be appreciated if, by July 15th, you will assemble, prepare and give me the following:

1) Copies of any existing printed or written reports, covering the incidence of lung cancer or other forms of cancer, among employees at the Jeffrey Mine and Mill or at the J-M plants where asbestos is processed.

2) A brief description of the nature, scope and age of medical and personnel records (i.e. employment physical exams, periodic X-rays, cause of death, degree/length of exposure to asbestos dust, etc.) that are available with regard to J-M employees and pensioners at J-M locations appropriate to the problem.

3) Any other data you consider pertinent along this line.

4) A plan and timetable for the analysis of this information (including interpretation of the data, reading of X-rays, etc., by an outside medical authority if, in your opinion, that is necessary) so as to document the correlation, if any, among J-M employees and pensioners, of lung cancer and other cancers with:

- more -

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(a) Number of years of exposure to working with asbestos fiber or dust.

(b) Degree of exposure to asbestos fiber or dust during that time.

Obviously, this sort of information, if it proves to be favorable from our standpoint, would be a potential counter-balance to Dr. Selikoff's findings that seem to indicate a direct long-term correlation between on-the-job exposure to asbestos dust and a higher-than-normal incidence of lung and other cancers.

You'll note from recent material distributed by Owens-Corning to their sales personnel (copy sent to you) that the study of 1400 employees at their Newark, Ohio plant stands out as a strong and convincing piece of evidence in their favor.

F. J. SOLON, JR.

cc: C.B. Burnett
H.M. Jackson
W.P. Raines

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