MINUTES
MEETING TO DISCUSS FORMATION OF
ASBESTOS INFORMATION ASSOCIATION/NORTH AMERICA*
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 1970

SUMMATION OF PROCEEDINGS

The meeting was opened at 10:00 A.M. by Malcolm Meyer, Chairman of Certain-Teed serving as Chairman pro-tem. He stressed the need for an organization of this type to inform the public concerning the facts about the asbestos/health problem. He stressed that this organization is not intended to replace existing industry groups, such as the Asbestos Cement Products Association, Asbestos Textile Institute, etc., or to supplant the efforts of individual companies in the asbestos/health area.

F. J. Solon, Jr., of Johns-Manville gave an illustrated presentation (script attached)** on the background and need for an AIA/NA.

Mr. Raines briefly described some of the working materials used by Johns-Manville in its public relations efforts on behalf of the asbestos industry.

* This name (vs preliminary suggestion of "Asbestos Information Committee/North America) will avoid confusion between this group and the British organization called "Asbestos Information Committee."

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** Attached only to file copy.

General discussion followed:

James Moran of Flintkote asked why the proposed group should not be a sub-committee of the Quebec Asbestos Mining Association. Mr. Meyer replied that this did not appear to be advisable, based upon the experience in the United Kingdom.

Mr. Moran asked about the make up of the proposed organization; specifically why it did not include manufacturers of flooring tile. Mr. Meyer replied that he and Mr. Burnett had started with a list of 125 companies and had sought to pick out eight that were representative of the industry, in order to get this new-association started. There is no intention to limit it, ultimately, to this number.

Al Fay of National Gypsum asked whether the plan was to broaden the base of membership in the future, admitting additional companies. Mr. Meyer replied that this was, indeed, the plan.

Referring back to the previous question concerning the QAMA, Mr. Solon pointed out that the chief area of press volatility is in the United States, not in Canada. It would be difficult to carry out an effective information program in the name of an organization based in Canada.

Mr. Moran asked how the organization would be funded in 1972. Just what would be the basis for assessments. Mr. Meyer replied

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that this has yet to be worked out.

Mr. Fay again emphasized the desirability of building up the organization to include many more than eight members, before 1972, so that the amount of money to be raised from each member would be lower.

In answer to a question of where the proposed organization would get its input of scientific information, Dr. Wright stated this was a most important matter. He said it is vital that scientific information from many sources flow into the AIA/NA before it is published. He hopes that this will be accomplished, in part, through his travels around the world and contacts with various medical and governmental groups. He offered to attend the meetings of the AIA/NA voting members and share with them the information he has gained. This was enthusiastically received.

Dr. Wright further underlined the disadvantages of there being any visible link between the QAMA and the AIA/NA. He pointed out that the Institute of Occupational and Environmental Health, while funded by the QAMA, has successfully maintained its "arm's length" distance from the QAMA, and that it should maintain the same type of distance from the AIA/NA in order to keep its credibility in government and medical circles.

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Messrs. Fay and Moran asked whether the organization should

Mr. Moran asked whether each company's in-plant industrial hygiene program would remain the same and Mr. Meyer replied that they would.

Davis Weaver asked whether questions from municipalities, concerning the safety of asbestos products, should be fed into the administrative committee of the new organization. The consensus was that this was indeed one of the services that the new group could render its members.

Mr. Moran then moved and Mr. Fay seconded, the nomination of Harold McNabb, Executive Vice President of Certain-Teeed as Chairman of the Asbestos Information Association/North America. There being no further nominations, a unanimous ballot was cast for Mr. McNabb.

Mr. Meyer then moved and Mr. Zimmerman seconded, the nomination of W. P. Raines, Director of Public Relations for Johns-Manville, as Secretary of the AIA/NA. There being no further nominations a unanimous ballot was cast for Mr. Raines.

The question of legal counsel was discussed and it was decided to have the member companies provide this service, at least initially. At the beginning it will be provided by Herbert Morton Ball, Vice President, Secretary and General Counsel of J-M.

It was unanimously agreed by the group that Hill & Knowlton

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be selected as the public relations counsel for the AIA/NA. It was also agreed that the mailing address of Hill & Knowlton (201 East 42nd Street) be used as the mailing address for the AIA/NA.

There was then discussion of a list of proposed functions of the Administrative Sub-Committee (see attachment). All were tentatively approved with the proviso that considerable additional detail should be added as the organization gets into operation.

Mr. Meyer requested each company present to let him know, by Friday, November 13, who its voting member will be. Mr. Solon informed Mr. Meyer that he will be the voting member for Johns-Manville.

Mr. Ball suggested that we consider having the AIA/NA set up as a non-profit corporation. It was agreed that this should be done and that papers should be drawn up before the next meeting.

Each company present was requested to furnish to Mr. Meyer, also by November 13, the name of its Public Relations Director or its Public Relations Counsel.

It was decided that the formal organizational meeting of the AIA/NA would be held on Friday, December 4, 1970, at 10:00 a.m., in the fourth floor conference room of the Johns-Manville headquarters, 22 East 40th Street, New York City, followed by luncheon in the Johns-Manville Board Room.

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There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:00 noon.

Respectfully submitted,

W. P. Raines
Secretary

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