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Johns-Manville Corporation

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Paul Kotin, M D.
Senior Vice President
Health Safety and Environment

May 27, 1977

H.D.S. Hardie
Turner & Newall Limited
20 St. Mary's Parsonage
Manchester M3 2NL

Dear Mr. Hardie:

A copy of your letter of April 28 was forwarded to me by our Asbestos Fiber Division

I am intrigued by your last paragraph concerning crocidolite and its role in the incidence of mesothelioma among asbestos workers. I applaud Professor Acheson's efforts to obtain the facts regarding the actual exposure experience of Selikoff's population of New York insulation workers. Certainly, accurate knowledge of the exposure history of this group will allow valid conclusions to be drawn. But I am somewhat dismayed to read that Dr. Acheson attributes the excessive incidence of mesothelioma exclusively to crocidolite exposure, when, in fact, differences may exist as to the potency of "blue" compared to chrysotile.

Fortuitously, I am a member of the Armed Forces Epidemiological Board and I shall make inquiries as to the availability of the information you seek with respect to the specifications used by the U.S. Navy. I share Professor Acheson's desire to put the Selikoff study in the proper perspective vis-a-vis crocidolite.

My present conviction is that all forms of asbestos are capable of causing mesothelioma. I would appreciate receiving progress reports on Professor Acheson's study.

All good wishes.

Cordially,

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cc: R. H. Mereness, J. H. Marsh, C. Gabrielson

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