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Union Carbide Corporation
Metals Division
Niagara Falls, New York
September 29, 1975

MEMORANDUM

To: R. E. Byrne, Jr.
B. L. Ingalls
J. L. Myers
W. C. Thurber

From: H. B. Rhodes

Copies: File

Subject: Visit to the 18th International Congress on Occupational Health - Brighton, England, September 14-19, 1975

The writer attended the above noted conference in Brighton. There were 22 papers directly relating to asbestos presented and about another 15 on occupational lung cancer generally attributed to various particular matter such as silica. Talc was covered in several of these. Abstracts of all papers are available and a complete set of papers will be published in some months.

The conference was attended by over 2000 delegates, including most of the big names in the asbestos controversy. I had the opportunity to talk informally with a number of them and their current views on the toxicology situation will be summarized.

In general, the conference produced only one bombshell in the asbestos area, a paper by Dr. M. Wasserman of Israel. It was in a different session on Geography and Occupational Health. He took a detailed look at about 40 mesothelioma deaths that have been recorded in Israel. There were several among small children, they were about equally distributed between men and women, a substantial proportion had no significant traceable occupational exposure, and the highest rates were not in the two regions of Israel where the plants which handle asbestos are located. He drew the conclusion that the cause was non-occupational exposure to asbestos.

The London Times reported this prominately. Both the AIC and Dr. Muriel Newhouse wrote letters of rebuttal which we assume will be published. Bob Mereness will report details via AIA/NA.

Overall, the mesothelioma situation for occupational exposure contin. to look discouraging. The McDonalds opened the asbestos session with a survey of the available information on the incidence of this disease in various parts of the world. They found the incidence extremely high in three situations:

1. Among insulators.

2. Among those who work or live in cities with ship yards.

3. Among those who work or live in certain cities with large asbestos plants.

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