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JOHN H. MARSH
DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

May 8, 1978

TO: Environmental Affairs Coordinators
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G. Ferrucci
R. M. Gordon
D. L. Juhl
Dr. H. C. Lewinsohn
J. F. Maclachlan
R. R. Moalli
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R. B. Sims
I. H. Weaver

SUBJECT: Report of Meetings of Asbestos International Association
Executive Committee and Governing Council
London - April 19, 20 & 21, 1978

The Asbestos International Association is taking an increasingly active role in lobbying on behalf of the international asbestos industry. The program for the future outlined by the Director-General Designate will insure this activity will accelerate and be increasingly effective in the future.

The activities relating to medical research and dust measurement methods are of particular relevance for members of the U.S. industry.

Dr. Robert Murray, Medical Advisor to the AIA, is reviewing published and unpublished scientific data for the purpose of preparing a scientific paper to support the industry position that asbestos can be handled safely.

Dr. Klaus Robock, Chairman of the Dust Measurement and Monitoring Panel is working toward the establishment of an internationally accepted standardized measurement method and, in cooperation with Dr. Murray, to relate past exposures to incidence of disease.

For members who export to Common Market countries or who have manufacturing operations in those countries, AIA representations to committees of the European Economic Commission and the European Parliament concerned with asbestos regulations, will be of great value.

A more detailed report is attached.

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Attachment

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ASBESTOS INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND GOVERNING COUNCIL MEETINGS
LONDON - APRIL 19, 20, & 21, 1978

AIA ORGANIZATION

An updated statement of organizational structure including Participation, Objects of the Association, Composition and Organization of the Governing Council and Financial structure is attached as Exhibit I.

Membership

In addition to the current membership of 20 countries, the following nine have shown interest in joining:

Brazil	Kuwait
Cyprus	Mexico
Greece	Nigeria
Iraq	Yugoslavia
Israel	

The Australian Association plans to expand its membership to include Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore and New Zealand. The new organization would be called the South Pacific Asbestos Association.

The Spanish Association initially representing only the asbestos cement and textile industry will be expanded to include friction materials.

The Swiss organization has been expanded to include 15 asbestos processing firms in Switzerland covering all types of asbestos manufacturing.

Financial Report

It was reported that the present dues structure will be adequate to support Association activities during the present year. A financial statement as of 31 March 1978 is attached as Exhibit II.

Proposed Program of Director General Designate

Sir Neville Stack will take over as Director General upon retirement of Mr. Cross in July. Proposed guidelines for the future operation of the Asbestos International Association are attached as Exhibit III.

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RECENT ACTIVITIES

Proposed Guides for Control of Asbestos Dust and Manufacture in Use

The final version of the proposed guides, for use in countries where no statutory regulations exist, is attached as Exhibit IV.

EEC Advisory Council

The EEC Advisory Council of the Asbestos International Association under the Chairmanship of Mr. Thiele of Denmark has been actively at work in Brussels and Luxembourg representing industry interests before various bodies of the European Community. Because of the complexity of the EEC organizational structure and the many committees and groups concerned with asbestos regulations, a separate report will be prepared on this subject.

Medical

Dr. Murray gave a summary of his activities on behalf of the Association. He has received responses to the questionnaire sent out last year to industry physicians, has reviewed the literature and is preparing a report which is scheduled to be finished in 4 to 6 weeks. He plans to form a Senior Advisory Panel to consider the data he has compiled and make recommendations. The panel would be composed of internationally recognized experts from the United States, France, Germany, South Africa, Australia, United Kingdom and Sweden. Dr. Gilson may be asked to chair the panel with Dr. Murray serving as secretary.

Dr. Murray felt it would also be useful and probably necessary to form an informal industry panel of physicians which he could consult, probably by telephone.

Measurement and Monitoring

Dr. Robock reviewed the results of the conference in Germany last summer. He was particularly concerned about the very great differences in measuring methods. The differences range from a factor of 1 to a factor of 10. He noted that the next task was for a small working group to establish guidelines for a standard reference method. He called for a meeting of representatives from Australia, the United States, Canada and Europe to meet in Germany on the first and second of June.

Dr. Robock and other members of the Executive Committee were very appreciative of the offer of the Asbestos Information Association/North America to host an International Measurement Conference near Washington in October of this year.

Dr. Robock hopes the June meeting will result in a well developed draft to be presented at the October meeting and form the basis for an internationally accepted method.

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Dr. Robock noted 3 very important points to be resolved in the June and October meetings.

1. Resolution of the differences in measuring methods.

2. Resolution of the extreme variances in reported past exposure. For example, Dr. Selikoff estimates past exposures in the range of 10 to 15 fibers/cc whereas U.K. experts estimate past exposures in the range of 500 to 2000 fibers/cc.

3. The results of the investigations of the measurement groups with respect to differences in measuring methods and past exposures would then be provided to the medical panel for their consideration concerning dose response relationships.

Other Advisory Panels

Because of the relative newness of Sir Neville to the asbestos scene, it was felt essential that he have ready access to experts or those who could put him in touch with experts on various segments of the asbestos industry.

The following individuals were designated as primary information sources:

Friction Materials - Current President of the French Friction Materials Association

Textiles - Mr. Marsh

Packings, Jointings, Expansion Seals - Mr. Latty

Fibers - Mr. Hutcheson

Building and Construction - Mr. Alexandre

Labeling

Mr. Latty submitted a report in which he gave his opinion that it was extremely important that European asbestos products manufacturers establish a labeling scheme as promptly as possible in order to preempt the imposition of extremely negative labeling requirements, i.e., skull and crossbones, by the EEC. He pointed out that the U.K. industry had so far been successful with its labeling scheme which was implemented about a year ago.

1978 AIA BIANNUAL CONFERENCE

The conference is scheduled to be held at the Park Lane Hotel, London the 25, 26, 27 of October.

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Following routine formalities, Dr. Ahlmark of Sweden will give the Key Note address of approximately 20 to 30 minutes. This will be followed by a medical panel consisting of Dr. Ahlmark, Dr. Murray and possibly one or two others. Sufficient time will be allowed to review the medical situation in considerable detail and permit considerable audience participation.

On the following morning, the schedule will be devoted to a report on the situations in the United States, United Kingdom and the European Community. It is hoped that Mr. Dougherty will speak for the United States, Mr. Hardie for the U.K., as he is a member of the Parliamentary Advisory Committee on Asbestos, and Mr. Thiele for the EEC. It is suggested that formal presentations be limited to 15 to 20 minutes in order to permit sufficient time for questions and answers. Mr. Simpson, Chairman of the U.K. Parliamentary Advisory Committee, will be asked to be the luncheon speaker. A question and answer period will follow.

The afternoon speaker will be Mr. Perlestein presently Deputy Minister of National Resources, Quebec and Director Designate of the Bureau de L'Amiante.

Mr. Van der Rest will conclude the formal portion of the conference by reviewing AIA activities to date and prospects for the coming two years.

THE PRESENT SITUATION IN QUEBEC

Mr. Hutcheson expressed the opinion that legislation presently in the Quebec National Assembly (Bill 70) would pass its third reading and become law without substantial change.

Bill 70 includes the following provisions:

1. A Bureau de L'Amiante would be established. The Director, Mr. Perlestein, has already been chosen. A $250 million fund would be provided, with $200 million marked for the purchase of stock of Asbestos Corporation. The government would offer stock to the public in order to gain at least 90% at which time the company would become a non-taxable corporation. Part of the $50 million would be used to create 2,000 jobs. It is not clear just how this would be done.

2. Research into medical aspects of asbestos containing products.

3. Exploration for additional reserves in Quebec.

The Quebec government is very happy with the thought of getting Asbestos Corporation's plant in West Germany as it will give the "New Nation" a foot in the door of the EEC.

Within two years asbestos companies operating in Quebec must reach a mutually agreed upon program with the Quebec government concerning participation in the government's program to exploit asbestos.

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The present standard for occupational exposure to asbestos which has recently become law in Quebec is 5 fibers/cc never to be exceeded.

NEW YORK ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

It is felt that the June meeting will be very significant for the international asbestos industry. Great concern was expressed about the apparent lack of organization on the part of the sponsors and the failure to consult with and include on the program many knowledgeable and objective scientists.

On behalf of the Asbestos International Association, Dr. Gaze will consult with Dr. Kotin and arrange a meeting of industry participants in New York prior to the Academy meeting. The AIA/NA will provide a meeting place.

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