FILE NAME: ICI (ICI)

DATE: 1967 Jan 26

DOC#: ICI013

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: Memo

68/211-12

Rochdale

Mr. J. M. Wilkinson,
Newcastle Office.

ACM/DC
To: JMW
Copy: SHs/SM

CONFIDENTIAL

26th January 1967.

Asbestos Insulation Cloth

I.C.I. Ltd.

Various reports have reached us, as I expect you know, about I.C.I's attitude towards asbestos materials, and it has been said that the official attitude of I.C.I., largely stimulated by their medical advisers, is that they should continue to use asbestos materials but should search for alternatives and if suitable ones were found then they should be used. Newalls and ourselves have been trying to locate the man or the committee in I.C.I. who would have the last word in such a matter but we have not been successful. Mr. Edmonds, however, has just been informed by a contact in I.C.I's Purchasing Department in London that a Mr. A. W. Elmes at Billingham has a considerable amount of influence and I would like you to try to make contact with this man. I do not know his title, and it would be best if Mr. Edmonds' name was not mentioned in any discussions with him. In short, try to find some reason for approaching Mr. Elmes to see what decisions, if any, he has made with respect to the usage of asbestos materials by I.C.I. for insulation and other purposes including asbestos cloth which they buy mainly from Witty & Wyatt. You can tell him that if they are worried about the emission of dust from cloth in particular, work is going on here to produce treated cloths (these were the ones mentioned at Darlington last week) which would make them quite safe. If you are in any doubt as to what to say to Mr. Elmes on the score of the health side, would you please have a word with Dr. Holmes before you go.

A. C. Mackay.

TURNER BROTHERS ASBESTOS COMPANY LTD.

Office of Origin	To
	Mr. E. B. Gates
London	Rochdale

Ref:- EAE/PM
EBG

Your Ref:-

26th January, 1967.



I.C.I.
Asbestos Cloth

I recently promised that I would let you have the name of the gentleman at Billingham who, I believe, to be concerned with health risks associated with the use of asbestos lagging materials. It is Mr. A. W. Elms, but I would be glad if you would give him no reason to think that his name was provided by I.C.I. London.

E. A. Edmonds

Ref. below.

This is, I assume, relevant to our recent conversation about the Chairman's interest in this matter, when you intended writing to Mr. Edmonds. The problem now is how to get in touch "accidentally" with Mr. Elms, and I can suggest only that we contact around our own people (Dr. Holmes & Mr. Hillhouse?) to see if they know him or know of him, in order to arrange for Dr. Holmes to meet him.

RSJ.