

ASBESTOS INFORMATION COMMITTEESecretary's Report on period May-June 1971
-----AIC PublicitySR 345 Film (677)

Requests are still being received to buy copies of the English version and a further dupemaster and one dozen copies have been ordered.

Orders for German-language copies (17) and a French language version are expected shortly.

SR 346 New Scientist (679)

The Assistant Editor is prepared to accept an article under the joint signatures of Dr Muir, Dr Smither and Dr Holmes. The Secretary is discussing with them an approach which might be acceptable to all three.

SR 347 Nature (681)

Mr D W Hills' approach to accelerate publication of the ARC Secretary's preliminary findings on the asbestos content of the urban atmosphere has not yet resulted in a letter being published.

SR 348 Press Advertising (682)

Taylor and Wishart are preparing a new range of visuals for the campaign "Asbestos - It's a Natural".

SR 349 Daily Telegraph (680)

Dr Michaelis, Science Correspondent, has been invited to attend the Louvain Conference on Asbestos. It is not yet certain whether he will be able to attend the conference which at present clashes with his plans to attend a symposium on atomic energy.

SR 350 ARC Foundation in Edinburgh

A press release, agreed with the National Coal Board by the ARC Secretary, has been issued to medical and health correspondents of national daily, evening and provincial newspapers and specialist journals.

UK, TV, Radio, Press and Similar ReportsSR 351 The Doomsday Book (684)

The publication of the book in the USA appears to have passed virtually unnoticed by the general press. Apparently the book is not highly regarded and the magazine "Environment" was quite critical on its 'inconsistency', 'exaggerating details' and 'one-sided

A German edition has also been published recently but no general press reaction has yet been seen. The Sub-Committee are still pressing for a meeting with the author, Mr Rattray Taylor.

SR 352 Talcum Powder (324)

Further investigations are being carried out into the possibility that talc may be a contributory factor in the findings of ferruginous bodies in the general population.

In particular, enquiries have been carried out in London to try to ascertain whether the figures quoted in the paper by Mr Chang-Hyun Um, "Study of the Second Trend in Asbestos Bodies in Lungs in London 1936-66" could be associated with the manufacture of talcum powder. The London postal district N19 had a particularly high proportion of cases and the names of talcum merchants in this area have been obtained and the information is being studied. The paper was based on the pathological records at the Central Histological Laboratory of the Archway Hospital, London, which is also in the N19 postal area.

The possibility of a meeting with Johnson & Johnson is also being considered.

SR 353 World in Action, Granada TV (685)

This programme is due for screening on Monday, 21st June.

SR 354 TV Training

Training was arranged in May for Messrs Hill (TBA), Whittell (BBA), and Williams (Cape) at a cost of £500.

SR 355 Stand-by Statement on Spray

The Sub-Committee is preparing a statement for possible use should a ban on spray in American cities evoke press question in the U.K.

SR 356 Steam and Heating Engineer

Mr Cross has written a letter drawing the editor's attention to the omission in an article on the new Asbestos Regulations to any reference to the TLVs set out in TDN13.

SR 357 Royal Society of Health Journal

A leading article in the March/April issue entitled "Asbestos and Health 1971" presented the facts in a very balanced way.

SR 358 HM Dockyards

Surgeon Commander Harries, HM Dockyard, Devonport, has prepared a paper for publication on the problems

has had sight of this paper and reports that the buildings investigated are not comparable with those covered by the ARC in "A Dust Survey Carried out in Buildings Incorporating Asbestos-based Materials in their Construction".

SR 359 Swan Hunter. Teesside

The ARC Secretary is dealing with a request from the Safety Officer of the Swan Hunter Shipbuilding Group for assistance in the publication of a report dealing with a survey of joiners employed by the firm. Twenty joiners involved in working with asbestos-containing material for a number of years have been examined by the Pneumoconiosis Panel and given a clean bill of health. It is understood that the Safety Officer is looking for assistance in compiling an article for the trade press.

Literature

SR 360 ARC Achievements (SR 329)

Ready for distribution. Waiting for publication of AIC press release announcing ARC Foundation at Edinburgh.

SR 361 Asbestos - Safety and Control (3rd edition) (SR 330)

Final proofs have been cleared and returned to the printer.

Government

SR 362 House of Lords (639)

Dates have been suggested for the visit of Lords Crook and Kennet and Baroness Summerskill to either the Uxbridge factory or Park Street offices of Cape Asbestos on 19th, 20th or 22nd July, as guests of the ARC.

Mr Hills has been asked to send a formal invitation to the Peers concerned.

SR 363 HM Factory Inspectorate (690)

Consideration has been given to publishing the Inspectorate's list of asbestos products outside the scope of the Asbestos Regulations. The Sub-Committee, since the list could not be fully comprehensive and would therefore be misleading, do not recommend any wider publicity at present.

The ARC has been approached to formulate advice on the stripping, maintenance and replacement problems associated with sprayed asbestos.

Mr Brian Harvey, HM Chief Inspector of Factories, in opening the National Industrial Safety Study Conference at Scarborough in May, said "In our own particular field we are moving into areas of risk and

probably many times the danger to those who work with it than in any other process in the whole of industry. By modern standards this is an old risk; yet its insidious nature has only really been revealed in the last two or three years. Now materials and new processes need unremitting vigilance if the economic advantages they bring are not to be bought by ill health and injury" and this statement had been reported in the press.

TDN14, "Health: Dust in Industry", has been reprinted virtually without amendment, so that it does not include any reference to TDN13. Fortunately the publication is not generally available to the public.

SR 364 Home Office (SR 337)

The results of tests on asbestos door seals on cookers, which were passed to the Home Office, have been acknowledged. Further information on tests by TBA on asbestos millboard in domestic electrical appliances - toasters and heating rings - is awaited.

SR 365 HM Customs

There will be no further examination of consignments of asbestos in the docks. In future these will take place in consignees' warehouses. The AFIC has circulated details to firms affected.

Contacts with Customers and Other Bodies

SR 366 Enquiries (SR 338)

Since the last meeting T&N has dealt with 20 enquiries.

SR 367 Filters for Home Winemakers

Southern Vinyards Ltd are now marketing a closed process filter for home wine makers using disposable resin-bonded filter pads, which the AIC is now recommending in response to enquiries from home wine and beer makers.

SR 368 Speakers Panel (SR 342)

Enquiries for speakers for next winter are now being received.

SR 369 Highgate School Swimming Pool

Dust counts have been taken for the architects, following criticism by parents and concern expressed by the school governors at the use of sprayed asbestos. None were higher than 0.24 f/ml.

Exhibitions and Conferences

SR 370 International Safety Exhibition and Conference (SR 341)

SR 371

International Symposium on Safety and Health in
Shipbuilding and Ship Repairing - Helsinki,
30th August - 2nd September 1971

A considerable portion of this symposium is concerned with asbestos, and the whole of the first afternoon is devoted to a review of asbestos disease and dust dangers arising in shipyards, particularly in the USA. The ARC's offer to present a paper has been accepted and this is in preparation under the title, "An investigation into Practical Methods for the Protection from Dust Inhalation of Men Working with Asbestos Materials in Confined Spaces". It will emphasise (1) that reported cases of asbestos-related disease in the shipbuilding and ship repairing industries are related mainly to certain types of products and methods of use and should not be assumed to relate to all asbestos-containing materials which may now be used in the area of activity. (2) there is evidence of the effectiveness of controls which, as far as the UK is concerned, conform to the requirements of the Asbestos Regulations and under which it is believed there should be no health risk.