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**TURNER BROTHERS ASBESTOS COMPANY LTD.**

| Office of Origin | To |
|---|---|
| London | A. C. Mann, Esq.<br>Rochdale |

Ref:- EAE/PM
EBG
Copy: ACM

Your Ref:-

Confidential

2nd February, 1966.

Admiralty Cloth

Thank you for your letter of January 28th, and whilst I was at Rochdale yesterday Mr. Mann did have a word with me regarding the position at the Admiralty.

I have submitted suggestions regarding the course which Dr. Knox may take but, in the mean time, I want to be sure that there is no misunderstanding about the position existing at the Admiralty or in the dockyards. To the best of my knowledge there is no question that the Admiralty now feel that they have to make a choice between asbestos and some other material for insulation work and, as far as I am concerned, this problem is precisely as it was before, namely that glass will be tested on the "Sirius" and this will be the deciding factor as to whether asbestos or glass is used.

I have heard no reference to any other material being under consideration for insulation work, but obviously if a suitable one should appear which did not have the health risks, which they consider exist with the use of asbestos, then the Admiralty would examine it most closely.

At the moment I am encouraging Mr. Humphreys to press the claims of our latest type of aluminised cloth at Portsmouth Dockyard as, if the Admiralty

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Copy Dr. Holmes.

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were really in trouble, it is possible that a case could be made for the use of aluminised cloth because it would be cleaner. As I have already told you, I am not keeping Mr. Empson too well informed on what we are doing at the dockyards, for obvious reasons.

As for suggesting that "Fortex" may be available at some future date, I feel that the first step should be to mention this to Mr. Empson and he will recommend a course of action. As it is a matter of some security, I hesitate to say too much about it to people in the dockyards as it might well become public knowledge all too quickly.

E. A. Edmonds