FILE NAME: ICI (ICI)

DATE: 0000

DOC#: ICI001

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: BC Notes

ICI -- Dr. M.W. Goldblatt of Imperial Chemical Industries

I have just received the articles from Stephen Berger by MWG in 1950-1958. These are very good scientific writings on industrial carcinogens, including asbestos, and they also have words of caution in the interpretation and use of so-called "maximum allowable concentrations" (also called threshold limit values, or TLVs, in the USA). These writings are in addition to MWG's excellent chapter in the book edited by ERA Merewether, Industrial Hygiene and Medicine (1956).

It appears from these papers that MWG left full-time employment at ICI in 1957 or 1958, and it remains to be learned if he was retained on a consulting or part-time basis after that. In any case, his 1958 article published in 1958 in Br. Med. Bull., is immediately followed by one by two ICI authors writing about carcinogens in the dye industry, so it's safe to say ICI read that one.

We are indebted to UK industrial hygienist Robin Howie, who tracked down someone who noted that MWG had worked at ICI and written the chapter in Merewether's book. Steve Berger was then able to scan the Index Medicus for other works by this author. R. Howie is continuing to locate names and addresses of former ICI industrial hygienists and physicians, at least one of whom retired just two years ago and is still practicing medicine in Britain.

In addition to this, I am expecting to receive additional documents this week on ICI's early efforts to avoid using asbestos in the 1960s in Britain. There were major media reports there starting in November 1965, on the results of Newhouse & Thompson's epidemiology report demonstrating mesothelioma from occupational, household, and neighborhood exposure to asbestos. Publicized dockers' strikes over handling asbestos followed in 1967 in the UK. ICI's move away from asbestos is recorded in the files of Turner & Newall, which have been thoroughly examined by business professor Geoffrey Tweedale who mailed the documents to me.