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WORLD SYMPOSIUM ON ASBESTOS TO BE HELD IN MAY 1982

Sponsored by the Government of Canada, the Government
of Québec and the Commission of the European Communities

A World Symposium on Asbestos is to be held in Montréal on May 25, 26 and 27, 1982.

Organized around the theme: "**Asbestos, Health and Society**", the Symposium will take place under the auspices of the Government of Canada, the Government of Québec and the Commission of the European Communities who took this initiative jointly, with a view to drawing up as objective and complete an analysis as possible of the asbestos situation within the context of the many controversies revolving around this mineral.

International experts in various disciplines will be called on to discuss the major issues which form the core preoccupation of those who, each in their own right, have an interest in asbestos.

Objectives

Whether the state of scientific and medical research, technological progress, the health and safety of the workers and the public, product safety, environmental protection or the socio-economic impact, no aspect of the asbestos issue will be ignored at this unprecedented international gathering.

Introducing the latest data, the Symposium is intended as both a forum for the free expression of the differing views currently held on the asbestos

issue and an opportunity for dialogue and the exchange of information among the representatives of government, labour, scientific and medical circles and industry.

The Symposium organizers are hoping that this meeting will yield an exhaustive evaluation of the negative and positive aspects of asbestos, so that the international community will be better equipped to determine, with full knowledge of the facts, the limits and possibilities of reconciling, as regards asbestos, economic and commercial interests with social preoccupations, including the quality of life. In short, the Symposium is an attempt to provide as full and objective an answer as possible for those who are wondering whether society can live with asbestos and, especially, whether it needs do without it.

Participation

The participants in the Symposium will be representing each of the groups which, in their own sphere of operation, are directly concerned with the asbestos issue: the heads of government regulatory agencies on the environment and on occupational health and safety, the heads of consumer protection organizations, senior public servants in the health, labour and social affairs sectors, international organizations in the fields of science,

health and labour, scientists, doctors and researchers renowned for their work and their knowledge on asbestos, delegations of national and international labour federations and delegates of the mining and manufacturing industry.

Balanced representation

To ensure adequate and balanced representation of all interest groups and all viewpoints, as well as an appropriate distribution according to the geographical regions of the world, participation in the Symposium will be by invitation. The guest list will be drawn up by the Steering Committee which is itself made up of representatives of the principal sectors in question, namely the governments, the scientific community, the labour movement and the industry.

The Steering Committee estimates that the number of invited guests will have to be limited to approximately 600, given the space available at the site of the Symposium.

The Symposium is, in fact, to be held in the General Assembly hall of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), a United Nations agency having its headquarters in Montréal and whose facilities are particularly suited to an international conference of this nature.

THE SYMPOSIUM: Structure and Organization

Managing, coordinating and supervising the organization of the World Symposium on Asbestos is the responsibility of a Steering Committee, made up of one representative of each of the sponsoring bodies, the Government of Canada, the Government of Québec and the Commission of European Communities, a representative of the labour movement, a delegate of the international asbestos industry and a delegate of the Canadian asbestos mining industry.

The representatives of the three sponsoring bodies are co-chairing the Steering Committee and alternately preside at each meeting, where Committee members may be accompanied by observers.

Organization

The planning, material organization and communications for the conference have been entrusted to the Institut de Recherche et de Développement sur l'Amiante (IRDA) whose Director is acting as Secretary General for the Symposium. In this capacity, he sits on the Steering Committee, the

Program Committee and the Budget Committee.

Finally, the Steering Committee has assigned the Program Committee, whose members it appointed, the task of planning the entire program for the Symposium, of defining the themes and topics for discussion and suggesting possible candidates for session chairmen, speakers and panelists.

The Steering Committee

Georges Dahmen, of the Ministère de l'Énergie et des Ressources du Québec, Co-Chairman.

Gary Nash, of Industry, Trade and Commerce, Government of Canada, Co-Chairman.

Dr. Heinrich Ott, of General Directorate XII of the Commission of the European Communities, Co-Chairman.

Jean Gérin-Lajoie, of the United Steelworkers of America;

Sir Neville Stack, of the Asbestos International Association (AIA);

J.R.M. Hutcheson, Chairman of the Board of Johns-Manville Canada,

representing the Institut de Médecine du Travail et de l'Environnement and the AMAQ.

Dr. Jacques Dunnigan, of the Institut de Recherche et de Développement sur l'Amiante and Secretary General of the Committee.

The Program Committee

Dr. Gabriel Plaa, Professor, Faculté des Études Supérieures de l'Université de Montréal, Chairman.

Dr. Heinrich Ott, of General Directorate XII of the Commission of European Communities;

Mr. Clément Godbout, of the United Steelworkers of America.

Dr. David C.F. Muir, of the Ontario Occupational Health and Safety Centre,

Mr. Dennis Browne, of Industry, Trade and Commerce, Government of Canada;

Dr. Richard Gaze, of the Asbestos International Association,

Mr. Jean-Charles Méranier, of National Health and Welfare, Government of Canada,

Dr. George Wright, of l'Institut de Médecine du Travail et de l'Environnement,

Mr. Lionel Pluze, of l'Association des mines d'amiante du Québec.

The Secretariat General

Dr. Jacques Dunnigan, of l'Institut de Recherche et de Développement sur l'Amiante, Secretary General.

Mr. Aleksander Ignatow, of Industry, Trade and Commerce, Government of Canada,

Dr. Gilles Lagacé of the Centre Hospitalier Ste-Marie of Trois-Rivières, representing the Government of Québec,

Mr. Marcel Valtat, of l'Association Française de l'Amiante,

Mr. Yvon Turcot, of Intercommunications Consultant.

THE SYMPOSIUM: Preliminary Program

Although certain details still have to be reviewed and the formulation of certain themes, topics or issues is still subject to change, the program for the World Symposium on Asbestos has, on the whole, been drawn up for the entire three days.

The Symposium has been organized into seven sessions, all of them plenary, with approximately 29 presentations, each scheduled to last 20 to 30 minutes. The Program Committee decided to restrict the length of the presentations in order to allow as much time as possible for the seven panel discussions, which will be open to all participants.

Asbestos in the Workplace

Day I of the Symposium will principally be devoted to the issue of exposure to asbestos in the workplace and to an evaluation of the risk of this exposure to the workers' health.

The first session, entitled "Asbestos: The Medical Data", will notably include a review of the diseases habitually related to asbestos, a comparison of past and present epidemiological evidence taking into account changes in workplace exposure levels, and a definition of the term "threshold" as applied to carcinogens in general, and to asbestos in particular. Based on the presentations in this session, a panel will discuss the question "Is there a practicable no-effect level for asbestos?"

In the afternoon, a session of a technical order will examine protection methods in the workplace. The presentations will attempt to define the progress made in primary and secondary industry and the problems yet to be solved in this field.

In the course of the third session of the day, three speakers, representing industry, labour and government, will

state their viewpoints on the rights and responsibilities attendant on the use of asbestos in the workplace. A panel made up of the speakers of the second and third sessions will debate the question "Are the workers exposed to excessive risk?"

The Major Controversies

The fourth session, on the morning of Day II, will consider the full socio-economic impact of the use of asbestos products and asbestos substitutes. Following the presentations, a panel will be invited to debate a particularly thorny question, deliberately phrased in a provocative manner: "Should we replace asbestos?"

In the afternoon, the fifth session will broach another equally crucial aspect, probably the one which has aroused the most emotion in recent years.

This session is devoted to the risks associated with non-occupational exposure, in other words the effects of exposure to asbestos on the health of the general population.

The panel discussion which will follow promises therefore to be particularly lively, all the more so since the question posed, "Is the general population at risk from cancer due to

asbestos exposure?" introduces the notion of a disease which is the "bête noire" of humanity.

The Future

Day III of the Symposium will attempt to look into the future of asbestos, from the scientific and legislative standpoints.

In the course of session six, the scientific community will take the floor. The speakers will be invited to discuss the current state of research into asbestos, as well as the direction of future research, in light of existing data.

The seventh and final session will deal with regulations and legislation. It will notably include a review of regulations presently in force in various parts of the world and an analysis of the different philosophies underlying the regulatory approaches.

This session will also attempt to define the rationale for regulations on the use of asbestos.

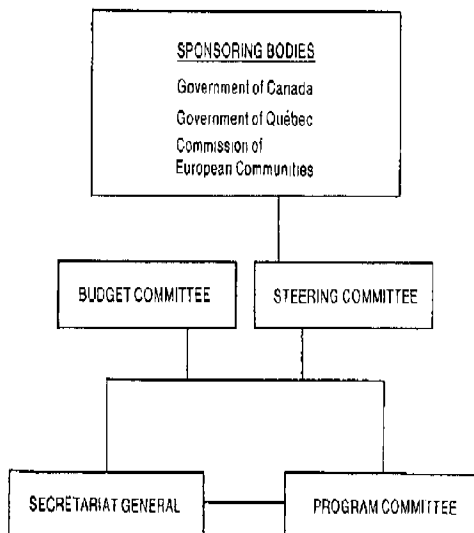
Finally, two questions will be put to a panel of experts from different countries: "To what extent are regulations and legislation in accord with present scientific knowledge?" and "What should be the pattern for future legislation and regulations?"

The Symposium and the Press

All sessions of the World Symposium on Asbestos will be open to the press.

However, given the limited space which will necessarily restrict attendance at the plenary sessions of the Symposium, the media or journalists wishing to cover this international event will, in due time, be asked to apply in advance for a pass.

To this end, the Secretary will be sending out application forms simultaneously to all news media in the fall.



Asbestos Chemically Modified During Processing

Data on the biological effects of asbestos may be inapplicable to finished products

"When pure, virgin asbestos fibres are incorporated in a mixture with other compounds (cement, organic substances, etc.) and processed into a new final product, the resulting product may very well be one in which the individual ingredients have been modified chemically."

Such are the findings currently subscribed to by several scientists which Dr Jacques Dunningan, Director General of l'Institut de Recherche et de Développement sur l'Amiante (IRDA), discussed at the Third Biennial Conference of the AIA, held in London at the end of May.

With the support of laboratory test results of several research teams, including that of Dr Denuytère of Belgium, of Dr Spurny of the Federal Republic of Germany, of a group of scientists at l'Université de Sherbrooke, and of IRDA itself, Dr Dunningan demonstrated that all the results lead to believe that the physico-chemical properties of asbestos, in its raw state, undergo substantial alterations when the fibre is incorporated in other material or substances, as is generally the case with asbestos-containing products.

Results of a French Study on Detection and Prevention

A team of French doctors and scientists recently completed a detailed study of the X-ray films of more than 6 000 asbestos workers and employees, which represents, spread over more than three years, the interpretation of upwards of 35 000 lung and pleural X-ray films of patients exposed to asbestos in an industrial environment.

The results of this mammoth undertaking, which is part of an ongoing epidemiological study, have been compiled into a document which constitutes a veritable treatise on the interpretation of X-rays of workers in the asbestos industry. This publication is available to specialists in industrial medicine, radiologists, lung specialists and other experts.

The publication as well as the study itself were commissioned by l'Association Française de l'Amiante and supervised by Dr Pierre Zivy, a pneumophthisiologist.

Although exclusively a study in radiological semiology — semiology being that field of medicine which concerns itself with the study of symptoms — it is nonetheless invaluable in that it covers all the asbestos workers in all the asbestos-cement and asbestos textile plants in France.

As the President of l'Association Française de l'Amiante, Cyril Latty, stated in the preface to the new publication: "Thanks to this mammoth study undertaken by Drs Zivy and Gerber, evidence of the appearance of early pleural symptoms is a clear testament to the timeliness and the value of this paper as regards detection and prevention, which are the focus of industrial medicine."

"The conditions for pathological symptoms," went on Mr Latty, "which are in many ways still obscure and which have been difficult to identify in view of their latency (20 to 40 years), have thus been more clearly established, through a rational statement rather than hazy conjectures. Specialists in industrial medicine are better armed to detect early symptoms of asbestosis and, consequently, to take measures which will prevent the workers under their supervision from increasing the risk to their health."

Michael J. Messel Retires

The man who many knew as "Mr Asbestos", Michael J. Messel, who devoted more than 43 years of his career to the industry and who, from the start, shaped the development of Lac d'Amiante du Québec, where he served as General Manager for over 25 years and as President since 1964, officially retired early this summer. He will however carry on, until the end of 1981, as Chairman of the Board of IRDA and will continue to sit on the Board of Directors of AMAQ.

experience and his intimate knowledge of its evolution.

After recalling the extraordinary growth of mining activity after the second World War, and more specifically in the late sixties and early seventies, a growth characterized by a demand which far exceeded supply, Mr. Messel reviewed the various problems confronting the industry today, particularly in terms of regulation, legislation and adverse publicity, the negative effects of which are complicated by an unfavourable economic climate.

Surmountable Problems

All this, in the view of the former President of LAQ, in no way means that asbestos is doomed: "There is no such

adopting a more balanced approach to asbestos, Mr. Messel is also convinced that, as time goes by, and with the appearance of new scientific and medical data, other substances may well replace asbestos as a focus for those who have fostered the present climate of hysteria.

This does not mean that the asbestos industry will ever relive the golden era of the last two decades. "Those times are over for good. The profile of the asbestos industry is changing, but so is society and it's not the end of the world."

Foreseeable Changes

"We have to face the fact," observed Mr. Messel, "that asbestos mining and manufacturing will not provide, in the foreseeable future, the kind of returns it used to. The industry will have to live with that reality and take the necessary steps to cope with it: redirecting production, rationalizing costs and, perhaps, even reducing production capacity to adjust to the demand level and to lower the breakeven point. In the not too distant future, economic imperatives might lead to certain mergers or regrouping of mines."

Marketing of asbestos has also undergone some profound changes, according to Mr. Messel. "Today you have to step up your marketing, practically beat the sidewalks, and it is not sufficient to go to the purchasing agent or department, you need to call on the chief executive officer or chief operating officer to find out about the company's policy on asbestos products. You even have to try and influence the policy makers within the companies."

Future Prospects

While acknowledging that producing and marketing asbestos does present a challenge today, Mr. Messel nevertheless concluded that, all things considered, and in view of the irreplaceable properties of asbestos in certain applications and the high cost of energy, which will make this mineral increasingly more competitive, "the asbestos marketing picture over the long haul may be brighter than the current situation leads to believe."



Jean Dupéré (at left) and Michael J. Messel

His successor as President and Chief Executive Officer of LAQ is Jean Dupéré who, at the time of his appointment, held the position of Executive Vice President.

Mr. Messel's retirement was honoured with several social events, during which the world of asbestos, as well as the communities of Thedford Mines and Black Lake and the employees of LAQ, paid him tribute.

Guest Speaker at the AIA

Mr. Messel himself took the opportunity at the AIA Third Biennial Conference in London, just before retiring, to discuss the state of the asbestos industry as he sees it, in light of his long

thing as an endless downturn or an endless upturn. The swing of the pendulum is universal, and if we manage to hold the fort through the difficult period we are confronted with, I am convinced that, in the long run, asbestos will outlive its attackers."

"At the moment," went on Mr. Messel, "we have the environmental problems and the misinformation to cope with, but the industry shall overcome this, for it possesses the brains, the energy and the advanced technology to do so."

Noting that there has already been a change in the attitude of the scientific community and that recent studies, such as the one conducted by Dr McDonald's team, have greatly contributed to scientists the world over

Pilot Project a Success at Carey Canada

The rationalizing of production costs is a concern shared by all industries seeking to remain competitive while maintaining an acceptable level of profitability. The asbestos mining companies are no exception. Each is working to develop systems and programs aimed at improving productivity and performance and reducing production costs, without affecting the quality of products or services.

At Carey Canada, among the measures introduced to optimize production and minimize costs, one stands out for its originality and for the results achieved.

A Special Committee

The management of Carey Canada has set up a committee of five foremen and a coordinator who, based on their experience and daily observation of the various activities at the mine and mill, have been entrusted with the mission of recommending improvements or changes likely to reduce costs, increase production and, generally speaking, improve performance.

The foremen, who are directly involved in the operations and are open to the observations and comments of the employees under them, are therefore in an ideal position to carry out such an assignment.

As a result of the creation of this committee, which dates back to May 1980, a dozen detailed proposals have been submitted to the management of Carey Canada, five of which have already been successfully carried out, while three others are nearing completion.

Substantial Savings

The savings achieved thanks to the application of the committee's recommendations already total several thousand dollars.

Thus, owing to the initiative and cooperation of this committee, a sort of production improvement committee, the management of the East Broughton company was induced to have the design for the grating supports of certain types of screens altered. The new supports are simpler to build and have fewer compartments, hence increasing the sifting surface. It follows that time and money are saved in the manufacturing of the screens.

Similarly, the metal bearings on certain types of machines have been replaced with rubber bearings; the result is a substantial saving on maintenance costs, as the rubber bearings last three times longer and require no lubrication. They are furthermore cheaper to purchase and install.

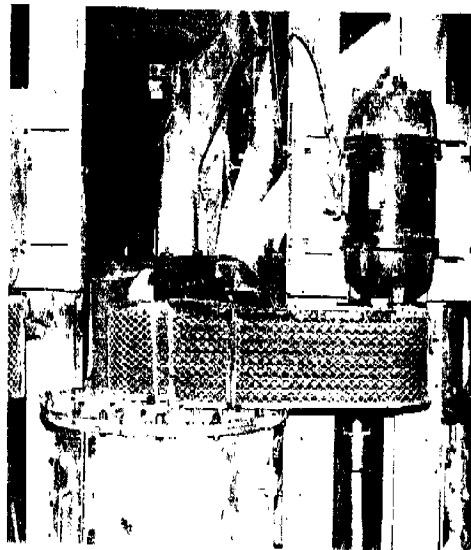
A Conclusive Experience

Among the projects carried out as a result of the creation of this committee for the promotion of a more rational use of the company's human resources,

With the modification of the grating supports, this screen now has a larger sifting surface.

from the standpoint of innovation and initiative, worth noting is the replacement of the lubrication pumps on the fiberizers with manually lubricated bearings, thus solving the problem of oil contaminated fibre and, moreover, eliminating an entire system of pumps and pipes that are costly both to purchase and maintain.

Other projects are under study, notably one which concerns the shaft pump system. The management of Carey Canada considers that its experience with this committee has been particularly positive and intends to carry on with it by ensuring the continual renewal of the committee members.



Manually lubricated bearings have been installed on this fiberizer to replace the lubrication pumps, following a suggestion from the committee.

Streamlined New Lounge Facilities for LAQ Mine Employees

At once a lounge, dining area, locker-room/dryer and administrative centre for those in charge of mining activities, the new building, which Lac d'Amiante du Québec erected near its mine, is the most modern of its type in the Canadian asbestos industry.

The building, which was officially inaugurated at a ceremony to which all the employees and their families were invited, exhibits certain special features in terms of concept and design. The external façade is made out of prefabricated panels of corrug-

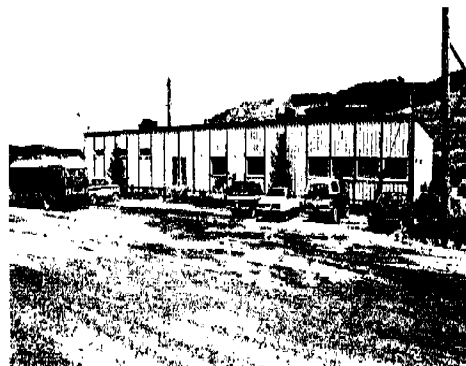
ated asbestos-cement which serve as supporting walls, while the interior is covered in sheets of enamelled metal, also prefabricated. The floor tiles are of asbestos-vinyl and match the structure's grey and blue colour scheme.

Two Different Sections

The building, which measures 44 x 24.5 meters, is divided into two main sections, one of which is reserved for management personnel and the other, for mine employees. The latter section contains three bright, spacious dining areas, equipped with warming ovens, hot-plates, refrigerators and vending machines. The facilities also include lounges, showers and locker rooms. The locker-room/dryers are equipped with mobile bins that automatically carry the work clothes to the drying room in the basement.

A thermal pump which uses ground heat as a source of energy for most of the ventilation, air-conditioning and heating in the building substantially cuts down on energy consumption.

Spacious and comfortable, this new multipurpose building more than meets the regulatory requirements in terms of health and safety at work.



The new all-purpose building at LAQ.

A New Air Purification System at Bell

A new air purification system, with a filtering capacity allowing optimal ventilation of underground work areas, has been installed at the Bell mine at a cost of \$750,000.

200 000 Cubic Feet

With a total filtering capacity of 200 000 cu. ft. per minute, the system, which operates by means of bag filtration, conforms in every way with the air purification government standards stipulated in the federal legislation and enforced by the Québec authorities. As is well known, the national standards with regard to dust levels in asbestos mines and processing plants have been set at 0.20/mg of asbestos per cubic meter of inhalable dust.



The new air purification system connected to the Bell mine shaft.

Made in Québec

Designed entirely in Québec and manufactured by AAF Limitée, the system selected by Les Mines d'Amiante Bell is made up of five modules, each of which is fitted with 352 bags measuring 14 ft. in length and 6 in. in diameter, and includes two ventilators, each with a capacity of 100 000 cu. ft. per minute.

Completely autonomous and operating continuously, the system makes use of a mechanical shaking device to clean the bags. Connected to the shaft where the system has been installed is an 8-foot-in-diameter by-pass which allows air to escape in the event of an emergency or a mechanical breakdown.

A Code of Good Practice for the International Asbestos Industry

The Governing Council of the Asbestos International Association (AIA) has approved a draft code of good practice prepared by the Fibre Producers Advisory Panel, headed by J.R.M. Hutcheson, Chairman of the Board of Johns-Manville Canada.

The new code, which establishes rules of good practice for both producers and users, was the subject of a formal presentation by Mr. Hutcheson at the Asbestos International Association Third Biennial Conference in London at the end of May.

All the asbestos producers belonging to the AIA have undertaken to observe this code which is reprinted in full below.

CODE OF GOOD PRACTICE

The responsible use of asbestos fibre is the individual and collective commitment of asbestos fibre producers.

Each producer subscribing to this code undertakes to inform its purchasers that, by careful application of the Asbestos International Association's recommended work practices and control procedures together with appropriate engineering controls wherever necessary, reasonable regulatory limits on airborne asbestos fibre can be met.

Each producer undertakes the responsibility of packing and shipping asbestos fibre in such condition as will permit safe handling; it is then the purchaser's responsibility to ensure equally safe handling upon receipt of the fibre.

Products, which in manufacture, handling or use, do not enable these standards to be maintained are not considered to be a responsible use of asbestos fibre.

If regulations do not exist in a particular country, purchasers will be apprised of generally accepted world standards as a criterion to be applied.

If, after being apprised by the fibre producer of the above policies a purchaser fails to comply or take serious and planned efforts to achieve compliance, each producer shall take such further action as deemed appropriate to affectuate its commitment to this code. Among the action to be considered is the refusal to supply asbestos fibre to such purchaser.

Bulletin

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