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COMBINED RAW MATERIALS BOARD

SOCIAL SECURITY BLDG.

WASHINGTON, D. C.

July 12, 1943

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mr. A. B. Tatistcheff

FROM: J. J. Chetwynd

SUBJECT: ASBESTOS - Substitution of Other Rhodesian Chrysotile Grades for Grades C & G

I am in receipt of your memorandum on this subject of July 2nd. My recollection and Mr. McDougall's is that Mr. Utley Smith stated at the Operating Committee that full manufacturing tests of VRA and RVL grades, with the exception of RVL 2, were carried out last fall and that the results of these tests were taken to London by Mr. Wasserman and Mr. Sherriff when they went there to negotiate the agreement with the U.K.

Dealing specifically with your memorandum under C & G3 and C & G4, in the first paragraph you state 'the War Production Board arranged last fall to have ten tons each of VRA 3 and VRA 4 sent to the United States for experimental purposes'. On examination of the quarterly exchange of statistics I observe that this material arrived in the first quarter of this year and not in the last quarter of last year, which would have been necessary for these tests to have been carried out before Mr. Sherriff and Mr. Wasserman went to London

Dealing with C & G2 I observe you state 'In the spring of 1943 the War Production Board arranged for a sample of RHA 2. This fiber was very carefully examined by the principal user of C & G2 in this country'. Is this a typographical error for 1942? From the quarterly statistics for the first quarter of this year I observe that the year opened with a stock of ten tons and that none was received.

As regards RVL 2 I would be obliged if you would let me know the date of letter to War Production Board, copy of which you included, and by whom it was addressed to W.P.B. My recollection of what Mr. Utley Smith said

PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT
JM-1238

was that the letter was addressed by Keesby Mattison.

In view of Mr. Utley Smith's statements at the Operating Committee I am at a loss to understand why the Branch did not take exception to the paragraph in the Asbestos Report saying "the matter of running the manufacturing tests..... is being considered by the appropriate agencies of the U.S. Government", as I presume this paragraph was cleared with them before insertion.

From the foregoing it would appear that your memorandum does not refer to the manufacturing tests which weresspoken of by Mr. Utley Smith, and details of which he stated were taken to London. I would be obliged if you could explain these discrepancies, and to clear this matter up the simplest thing would be for Mr. Utley Smith to make available to us for forwarding to London, as was agreed at the meeting, copies of the papers which were sent to London with your Mission.

JJC/ms

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