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ASBESTOS INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION

MEMORANDUM

AIA/1/IR

Precis of:

"THE ASBESTOS PROBLEM AND THE EEC AUTHORITY"
by Inter-Management

Object of the Study

1. 1.1 What EEC factors affect the asbestos industry?
- 1.2 What can be done about these?

Industry's Present Situation

2. There are many conflicting EEC interests which cause disagreement among members. However, environmental protection and workplace health are two of the very few matters in which all EEC countries have a common interest and an identity of views.
3. By skilfully (and wilfully) equating environmental pollution (i.e. industrial chemicals) with cancer, the environmentalists have frightened public opinion on to their side.
4. Asbestos, a small industry with few political friends, is vulnerable to this emotional onslaught and is therefore a potentially easy victim in a popular campaign. Not many will want to change this situation and defend us.
5. The industry has been slow to deal with its problems and has therefore lost some sympathy.

Important Authorities

6. The opinions of supranational authorities (WHO, ILO, EC etc.) are of prime significance, particularly on matters such as the environment and workers' health which have international appeal. The EC Commission has a progressing series of environmental plans and has emphasised asbestos pollution.
7. The Commission has strong links with EPA, OSHA etc. It is unfortunate that US legislation is being taken more and more as a standard here because the US scene is very different from that in Europe.
8. Within the EEC two Institutions are increasing their authority:-
 - 8.1 The Council of Ministers (there is talk of a Secretary-General for COMPER)
 - 8.2 The European Parliament (note recent use of budget powers).

Influence in the EEC

9. The AIA has acquired credibility with the EEC and should continue to be used but augmented by industry members. The following are the main channels for making contacts:-
 - 9.1 The Council/COMPER (the principle of unanimity can be invoked at this level. It is clearly useful if an industry can get its country to identify with its interests).

- 9.2 Director of Commissioners (power is shifting from here to the Council).
- 9.3 The European Parliament (political parties should be lobbied)
- 9.4 Director-General (if possible nationality to nationality)
- 9.5 Industry (both EEC officials and outside technologists)
- 9.6 Head of the Asbestos Industry (should meet the Council and the Commissioners)
- 9.7 ECU (EMU)
- 9.8 ECU Subjects

Future Action for the Asbestos Industry

- 10. The paper suggests two scenarios which could govern future action by the Asbestos Industry:-
 - 10.1 Hypothesis A. EEC officials have already made up their minds to get rid of asbestos. Thus the trend will be to ban and substitute. The future for asbestos will be very limited.
 - 10.2 Hypothesis B. There will be a swing back from the public's exaggerated emotional fears of cancer. The only anti-asbestos elements will be the trade unions and certain politicians and journalists. Common sense will prevail and the future for asbestos will lie in "control".
- 11. In Mr. Nield's view 10.1 seems more realistic for the following reasons:-
 - 11.1 The industry has little influence or significance.
 - 11.2 The industry is not united enough.
 - 11.3 The industry has left matters too late.
 - 11.4 The industry lacks the confidence of the medical world.
- 12. However, in both cases it is important to fight for asbestos and this should be done by an elaborate strategy to be supported and jointly executed by all the national asbestos industries (in the EEC). This means:-
 - 12.1 Each member country to be strongly committed.
 - 12.2 National industrialists to play a bigger part in EC matters.
 - 12.3 The load to be spread more evenly between national members.

"ASBESTOS & HEALTH" in the E.E.C.

Situation as at 19 JAN. 1981

Com. Dept.	S U B J E C T	Work on COMMISSION LEVEL (Drafting of proposals for E.C. laws)			Work on COUNCIL LEVEL (Examination of proposals made by the Commission)			
		Preliminary Work	Consultation of Tripartite Committee (Luxembourg)	Approved by the Commission	Consultation of the European Parliament	Consultation of the Ec. & Social Committee	Discussion by COREPER Experts	Adopted by the Council and EEC law
DC. III	A. Directive limiting marketing and use of asbestos and ash products <i>blue for info</i>		(not required)	X	in progress	fin.	in progress	
DC. I	B. Framework directive on worker protection from harmful exposure <i>0-2. how long country blue</i>		fin.	X	fin.	fin.	fin.	X
DC. I	C. Directive on the protection of workers from the risks to health and safety arising from the use of certain agents		fin.	fin.	in progress	in progress	to start	
DC. I	D. Directive on carcinogens	in progress	to start					
SEPC	E. Control of asbestos emissions from plants and waste disposal sites ("European Convention on the quality of life")	in progress	(not required)					
SEPC	F. Environmental impact assessment		(not required)	X	in progress	in progress	to start	

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CWN/RDMS

FEBRUARY 9, 1981n

No.A.15'137

PLEASE NOTE

TO THE ATT. OF MR. J. D. FROGGATT

FURTHER TO MY LETTER DATED JANUARY 21, I HAVE TO INFORM YOU THAT THERE IS A CHANGE CONCERNING THE MEETING POINT FOR TUESDAY FEB. 24 IN BRUSSELS.

WE WILL MEET AT 12.30 AT THE SHERATON HOTEL, PLACE ROGIER 3, IN THE 'TINTORETO' LOUNGE, 2ND FLOOR. LUNCH WILL ALSO BE TAKEN AT THE SHERATON.

BEST REGARDS,

R. DORNER.
27934 AMSER CH

RDHS

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GB - Manchester M3 2NL

NYON / Suisse , January 21, 1981
Rte Morâche 18

"Tour d'horizon Meeting"

B/F.

Dear David,

This is to confirm that the "Tour d'Horizon Meeting" between T&N, SGPM and Eternit will be held in ~~Brussels~~ on Tuesday February 24th.

I believe your plane from Manchester arrives around noon and we, therefore, propose to meet at the World Trade Center at 12.30 h or shortly after as soon as you can make it from the airport. The meeting point will be the reception desk at the main entrance and we will then start with lunch. The meeting should be finished by 17.00 h which will allow you to catch the 18.10 h plane back to Manchester.

The Eternit delegates will be Messrs. J. Cuvelier, J. M. Emsens, M. Graf, P. Audebert, E. de Bruyn and myself.

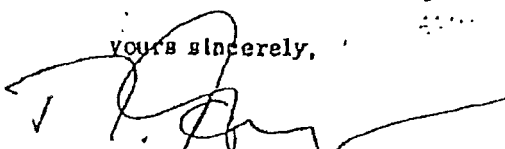
SGPM will be represented by Messrs. A. de Metz and B. Gilboin.

On the other hand, we have received your list of delegates and have been very pleased to learn that Messrs. Newton and Somerville will also assist.

I suppose that the agenda will essentially consist of the subject "Asbestos and Environment" as well as "Development and Prospects on the Asbestos and Asbestos-Cement Market". As to the asbestos production's statistics, I would like to update it including the year 1980. May I ask for your assistance in this respect, to give me any production figures you can make available for 1980? Thank you in advance.

Looking forward seeing you, I remain with best regards,

Yours sincerely,


R. Dorner