

Dr. de Priester's letter

THE ASSOCIATED ETHYL COMPANY LIMITED

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~~INCORPORATED IN ENGLAND~~

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OUR REF. HF/MB.

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Address all communications until further notice to

THAMES HOUSE, MILLBANK, LONDON, S.W. 1

Inland Telegrams: Ethylport, Sowest, London

Telephone: Victoria 1802 (4-lines)

11th December, 1939.

Dr. R.A. Kehoe,
Dept. of Physiology,
College of Medicine,
University of Cincinnati,
Cincinnati,
Ohio, U.S.A.

Dear Dr. Kehoe,

I am sending you herewith some copies of correspondence which I have received from Alan Tully regarding Dr. de Priester's medical supervision of the Asiatic's plant at Tandjong Priok, Java. I think you will find this correspondence to be quite self-explanatory. I am also enclosing a copy of my reply to Tully.

I would be interested to receive your observations on this matter in due course.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,


H. FOSSETT.

KE 0013376

HF/MB.

11th December, 1939.

Mr. A.C. Tully,
C/o. N/V. de Bataafsche Petroleum Mij.,
Handelszaken,
Societeitsstraat,
Soerabaya,
Dutch East Indies.

Dear Alan,

Many thanks for your letter of the 6th November, with which you sent me copies of correspondence which you have had with Dr. de Priester. To be quite frank I do not know if we, as laymen, are justified in advising our medical consultants on the purely medical aspects of their work. I know that many of our doctors quite definitely wish to make urine examinations purely for control purposes. Dr. de Priester's suggestion that he would like to carry out a complete urine analysis once a year would appear to me to be perfectly reasonable. I certainly think we should pay Dr. de Priester for this particular examination which has been carried out.

I am writing to Dr. Kehoe on this matter and I have no doubt that he will get into direct touch with Dr. de Priester as to his own wishes on the matter.

Yours sincerely,

H. FOSSETT.

KE 0013377

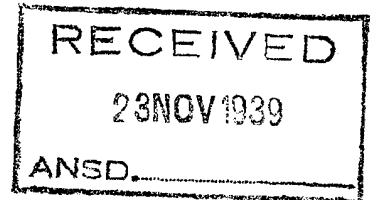
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368 COLLINS ST.,
MELBOURNE C1

ACT:GB

November 6th, 1939

Mr. H. Fossett,
The Associated Ethyl Co. Ltd.,
Thames House,
Millbank. S.W.1



Dear Hugh,

We have had certain correspondence with Dr. de Priester whom we retain in Tandjong Priok, Java, regarding certain tests which he on his own initiative had made, and regarding which he is now debiting us for the expenses attached thereto.

I am enclosing copies herewith of our correspondence on the subject and you will see that I have tried to establish the fact that urine analysis is not necessary unless it is suspected that lead poisoning actually exists.

I am just wondering whether or not in Dr. Kehoe's instructions to Dr. de Priester our attitude in certain matters such as this was clearly explained. Unfortunately, some of these doctors who do not speak English very well will sometimes misinterpret instructions and, therefore, I believe it might be well if you would refer this matter to Dr. Kehoe and leave it up to him whether he thinks further instructions to Dr. de Priester would be beneficial.

As regards the bill which Dr. de Priester has submitted, you will note that I have not accepted it, nor have I actually refused payment and this again I would like to offer for your opinion. Do you consider that it would be better for us to pay the bill and obtain the goodwill of Dr. de Priester, or would the settlement of his account establish a precedent which might bring about recurrences of this sort of thing in the future?

During my next trip to Batavia, I shall endeavor to have further discussion with Dr. de Priester and to invite his co-operation in falling in line with our ideas on medical examinations. Prior to that, I trust that I will be able to hear from you and that your suggestions will be of considerable help to me.

RE 0013373

N14871.02

368 COLLINS ST.,
MELBOURNE CI

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Mr. H. Fossett

November 6th, 1939

With reference to the proposed trip through the East, it appears quite possible, due to the normal conditions in that area, that I shall be able to get away about the middle of December, and as soon as my itinerary is complete, I shall forward such information so that you may advise the companies concerned. The short notice which I can give you is due to the fact that air lines etc. are limited in giving out definite information regarding schedules and, therefore, it may be better if as I proceed on my trip, I contact with my next stop by wire advising them of my arrival which it is quite possible might be slightly different than the date which appears on the itinerary with which I will furnish you, this of course being due to irregularities in service over which we have no control.

I trust this finds everyone safe and happy.

With best regards to all,

Frank B. Lully.

Original by ship mail
Copy by air.]

KE 0013379

368 COLLINS ST.,
MELBOURNE CI

ACT:GB

November 6th, 1939

Dr. A.F. de Priester,
Teeboulevard 13,
TANDJONG PRIOK Java.

Dear Dr. de Priester,

I wish to acknowledge your letter of October 27th,
also the receipt of four routine medical reports in favor of B.P.M.
employees at Tandjong Priok.

With further reference to our discussion regarding
the urine tests for the presence of lead, I would like to advise that
none of our doctors finds it necessary to proceed with urine tests unless
he is quite sure that the individual has other symptoms of lead poisoning.
As a result, your action in this matter is rather unique and, unfortunately,
I do not have the authority to increase your fees unless a special request
is first made by us for you to incur additional expenses.

With further reference to this matter, would you
kindly examine the form MMK which you use for routine medical reports? In
the body of the report, you will see "In Cases of Illness where lead might
be suspected, further observations are required (to include results of test
for haemoglobin %, stippling of red cells, lead in urine, etc.). From this
entry in our report forms you can well assume that extra tests need only be
made where an individual has been suffering from some illness to which you
attach the presence of lead. In cases such as this, naturally, we would
require and request you to make a more particular examination, but as long
as the men show no signs of illness, that their health appears quite normal
and that they have no obvious symptoms of lead poisoning, then complicated
tests such as lead in urine need not be resorted to. As a matter of fact,
urine analysis for lead poisoning must be carried out in a lead-free laboratory
otherwise the results are not dependable. We are aware that the average
doctor whom we engage as our consultant does not have such a laboratory, and,
therefore, it is to be assumed that providing urine tests are required by us
we should be responsible for the charges thus made necessary.

If you still feel that we are responsible for the
expenditure incurred with urine tests, will you kindly let me know and I shall
make advances to our London office for settlement?

I trust that this information will be helpful and that
everything will prove mutually satisfactory.

Very truly yours,

N14871.03

Copy by air mail
Original by ship

Representative, The Associated Ethyl Co. Ltd.

KE 0013300