FILE NAME: Asbestos Sacks and Bags (ASB)

DATE: мфcp Wdzfȅ мc

DOC#: ASB0тн

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: 9ȄűNJl·Ǒű ₹NJ2Y aλyȡzűŜă 2₹ 9YˆŜNJƎSyǑȅ aŜŜűλyƎ 2₹ űKŜ hǑŜl·yˇ{KλLJ2øyŜNJăч DNJ2dzLJ W2λyű /2YˆYˆλűűŜŜ w9 aŜŘλǑl·f 9Ȅl·Yˆă 2₹ ² 2NJ⌊ŜNJă

An Emergency

EXTRACT FROM MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE OCEAN SHIPOWNERS' GROUP JOINT COMMITTEE HELD ON 16th July 1965

ASBESTOS - "CROCIDOLITE" - DISCHARGING - Purness Wharf, Surrey Docks

The Secretary reported that this Emergency meeting had been convened as Mr. Hegarty had intimated that he had further medical evidence for consideration.

Mr. Hegarty explained that after visiting the ship, Dr. Donald Hunter had requested that three men be sent to the Middlesex Hospital for chest x-rays. Three volunteers had been found but one of them had been admitted to the Hospital that morning as a shadow appeared on his lung and further tests were necessary. The other two men were now attending as Out-patients to take special breathing exercises.

With regard to Dr. Hunter's recommendation that suction units should be provided in the ship's hold, nothing had been done by the Employers to this effect. The men in the Surrey Docks were now in a state of fear following the x-ray disclosures and furthermore, Dr. Hunter, after confirring with his Superior at the Middlesex Hospital, was now suggesting mass x-ray of all men who had handled this commodity.

Since the last meeting of this Committee he had made every endeavour to prevail upon the men to work in a reasonable manner, but they were maintaining that they would not work to a piecework payment but would work at a fair speed if paid double time rate plus 2/-d. per hour per man for wearing masks.

Branch 3 of the Stevedores Section was having a meeting on the following Monday evening, and if by then the issue had not been resolved a 'walk-off' might result. The only way he could see to restore the position was to concede to the men's claim.

The Chairman indicated his surprise that in the same breath Mr. Hegarty could recount all the risks to health and then turn to claiming monetary compensation.