

WFB
Noted Archives

BOARD OF ECONOMIC WARFARE

Asbestos
In reply refer to:
OI-12188

8040

R. D. Fennelly, Esq.
British Raw Materials Mission
501 The Bradford
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Fennelly:

As I suggested at our very satisfactory discussion on Friday, September 25, I am writing in an effort to clear away some of the pending details concerning the asbestos negotiations. I informed you and Mr. Archer then, that it was contemplated that the Board of Economic Warfare and the Metals Reserve Company would send a representative to London to negotiate the purchase of 1943 supplies of asbestos with Turner-Newall Company and the Cape Asbestos Company under the guidance of the Ministry of Supply.

We expressed a desire at that time to complete the transmission of a cable to the Cape Asbestos Company which we had previously sent to you under date of September 11. The point of discussion in that cable was the matter of the disposition of the reserve stocks after the war. As I explained to you and Mr. Archer at our discussion, the Board of Economic Warfare is unable to furnish any positive assurances concerning disposition of these stocks after the war. This inability, however, would not of course extend to a free discussion of the question, at any time, within limits, of legislative control, and our national policy. Accordingly I would appreciate it if you would strike from the cable the next to last sentence which reads: "The United States Government, as a matter of fixed policy, cannot furnish any assurance as to the disposition of such of these stocks as might remain after the war" - and substitute the following: "The United States Government would, of course, be prepared to discuss with the British Government the disposition of surplus stocks of asbestos after the war".

You also have transmitted to us through the Combined Raw Materials Board a cable from the British Ministry of Supply raising certain questions with regard to asbestos. Without replying to your cable paragraph by paragraph, I am furnishing you the following information, which you may feel free to incorporate in a reply:

1. So far as chrysotile asbestos is concerned the U. S. authorities should have separate figures for each of the grades, C & O 1, 2, 3, and 4. This breakdown should inform the authorities just how much of each grade will be made available before the end of the year, over and above existing, unfilled contracts with private persons, taking into consideration (1) the recent diversion by the Combined Raw Materials Board, (2) the amounts to be made available, under ordinary circumstances during the balance of 1942, and (3) the additional amounts to be made available (see para-

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2 - R. D. Fennally - October 1, 1942

graph 4^b of your cable) by the milling of certain existing stocks of ore. In this connection, it is assumed that the company will replace sinkings under existing contracts. If not, this should be expressly stated. After these figures have been furnished to the United States authorities, grade by grade, the company will be informed to whom the goods should be shipped. It is intended that contracts for the balance of 1942 will be made by the individual private users in this country, and to the extent to which these companies are not prepared to take up extra amounts to be made available, the Metals Reserve Company will be instructed to purchase.

b. So far as paragraphs 1 and 2 are concerned, the American representative who will negotiate in London will negotiate for these grades, and the quantities will be purchased by him for the account of the Metals Reserve Company. So far as paragraph 6, 7, and 8 are concerned, as I expressed to you at our meeting, this question should be placed before the Combined Raw Materials Board for action by the appropriate War Production Board Branch. In any event these considerations will be taken to London by our representative and discussed there as part of the overall negotiation.

c. Sharpstone's report referred to in paragraph 10 is simply the two cables to Dr. Bateman which were transmitted to you upon their receipt. Copies are attached for your ready reference. I am asking Mr. Gardner, Chief of the Asbestos Branch of the War Production Board, to furnish actual consumption figures to you.

I assume you will transmit the cable of September 11. If there is further information I can give you, call upon me.

Sincerely yours,

Arthur Paul
Chief of Office
Office of Imports



EXHIBIT

NUMBER DESCRIPTION

JM-1312 Progress Report dated June 3, 1941 for the two weeks ending May 31, 1941. Names found on top include: George Moffett, and R.J. Lund. Contains a paragraph on asbestos and the amount of shipments and need for stockpiling at that time.

JM-1313 Document titled Asbestos, African Fibre, all figures in short tons, Outline and Purpose of Recommendations, dated August 4, 1943.

JM-1314 Prepared Article titled Asbestos, dated November 23, 1944, with sections on the Occurrence of Asbestos, Grading of Asbestos, Production, Use, and supply and Demand.

JM-1315 Letter filemarked October 6, 1942, sent from Arthur Paul, Chief of Office, Office of Imports, to R.D. Fennelly, British Raw Materials Mission.

JM-1316 Memorandum from Fred W. Gardner, Cork - Asbestos Branch, dated September 18, 1942, sent to Dr. W.Y. Elliott, Stockpile and Shipping Branch, regarding the Combined Raw Materials Board Decision.

JM-1317 Letter from Morris Rosenthal, Assistant Director filestamped Aug. 26, 1942, sent to R.D. Fennelly British Raw Materials Division, regarding asbestos production from Africa.

JM-1318 Memorandum from W.Y. Elliott, Chief, Stockpile & Shipping Branch, dated August 7, 1942, and sent to Fred Gardner, Chief, Cork and Asbestos Branch.

JM-1319 Memorandum from Document Security Section, dated August 4, 1942, and sent to Thomas Brockway, Liaison Officer, Department of State, regarding the Cable for Dispatch

EXHIBIT

NUMBER DESCRIPTION

- ~~JM-1320~~ Memorandum from Fred Gardner, Chief, Cork-Asbestos Branch, dated June 30, 1942, and sent to Dr. W.Y. Elliott, Chief Stockpiling and Shipping Branch, regarding the revised stockpile recommendations for Asbestos fibre from South Africa.
- JM-1321 Memorandum from Fred Gardner, dated December 2, 1941, and sent to H.G. Sykes, regarding South African Asbestos.
- JM-1322 Memorandum from Fred Gardner, Chief Cork-Asbestos Branch, dated October 8, 1942, and sent to Dr. W.Y. Elliott, Chief, Stockpile and Shipping Branch, regarding the requirements necessary to achieve a stockpile of African Asbestos.
- JM-1323 Memorandum from W.T. Meloy, Director Cork, Asbestos & Fibrous Glass Division, dated July 1, 1943, and sent to A.B. Tatistcheff, Combined Raw Materials Board, regarding the substitution of other Rhodesian Chrysotile Asbestos Fibres and C & G grades.
- JM-1324 Memorandum from A.B. Tatistcheff, dated July 2, 1943, and sent to A. McDougall, regarding Asbestos -- substitution of the Rhodesian Chrysotile Grades for C & G
- JM-1325 Memorandum from Utley Smith, Chief, Asbestos Section, dated July 22, 1943, and sent to A.B. Tatistcheff, Combined Raw Material Board, regarding Asbestos
- JM-1326 Memorandum, parties unknown, dated August 4, 1943, regarding Asbestos and the substitution of other Rhodesian Chrysotile Grades for Grades C & G, also includes information on tests run on Asbestos.
- JM-1327 Memorandum from J.J. Chetwynd, dated August 11, 1943, and sent to A.B. Tatistcheff, regarding Asbestos and the substitution of other Rhodesian Chrysotile grades for Grades C & G.