FILE NAME: Cape Asbestos (CAPE)

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DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: Comments on the three books written by Jock McCulloch & Geoffrey Tweedale [Magic Mineral, Asbestos Blues, Defending the Indefensible]

Cape Asbestos – notes from Tweedale and McCulloch texts

1. Tweedale "Magic Mineral"

20 med exam of 80 Cape/Barking workers, nearly all had definite evidence of A'sis (Wood, BJ Radiol. 1934)

39 most of Wood & Gloyne's 100 cases were from Cape

54 Cape had a physician after 1946 (145 Wyers)

59 ratting dog reported by Ellman probably was from Cape

78 Cape asbestos worker took Cape to court, awarded 80% disability for A'sis -- 1934

155 Wyers' thesis had endothelioma photo Plate 6

174 Cape involved in forming ARC in 1957

182 Cape represented by Gaze and Smither at 1964 NY conf.

185 N&T neighborhood cases lived within a half mile of Cape's factory

186 Sunday Times Oct. 1965 article on mesothelioma "featured Cape workers in London"

191 Cape involved in forming Asbestos Information Committee 1967 to combat "exaggerated" publicity

214 T&N sold Newalls Insulation contract business, including spray, to Cape 1975

224 Cape's African mines in "Times" 1971

235 Wyers wrote the workers thought blue was worse than white, amosite "utterly pernicious"

239 cites 1971 conf. on A information bodies

238 1971 Grenada "World in Action" on Cape's Acre Mill, Hebden Bridge plant (1939-1970)

251 Alice Jefferson had worked at Cape 2-hr documentary on Yorkshire TV July 1982, incl. a Cape mgr w/A'sis who had a black tie for funerals

255-56 Cape's SA factories' mesotheliomas in 1981 World in Action documentary

2. Asbestos Blues

48-49 By 1950 Cape had 5 plants in England and others in France, Italy, and SA, African work force at Penge was 5000 in 1953. Royalties paid to Anglo's Transvaal Consolidated Land. Most Cape profits were from the mines.

51-52 Anglo's Central Mining officials helped run Penge, superseded by another Anglo subsidiary, Charter

54 Cape's strategy after 1958 was to tell shareholders little about asbestos diseases "and paint a glowing picture of conditions at Casap's mines."

187-189 1960-1962 PRU survey documented A'sis and meso (4 cases) hazard in NW Cape dwellers with no occupational A exposure. Funding by industry and the SA Cancer Assn was cancelled.

191-194 Smither went to SA after the PRU survey and insisted that 10 meso patients in Prieska hospital be moved immediately to Joburg. Advantage to Cape in removing cases "from the area of conflict", and "taken some hundreds of miles away."

197 Wagner visited senior mgmt. at Cape in 1958 and told them that slight A exposure could cause meso.

199 R Gaze spoke at NYAS 1964 conf (682) doubting the link with meso, saying no cases had been found in amosite and croc mines in the Transvaal. Gaze did not mention internal company data on the link. Also noted in next text, at 88, 121 (PRU study supported by the companies, then suppressed).

3. Defending the Indefensible

45-46 Penge employees were 447/1625 juveniles in 1940. Living conditions described in complaint by local minister as 'deplorably despicable' at time of a strike in 1945. Impoverishment led to regular outbreaks of scurvy and pellagra at Cape Asbestos mines in 1960s

68-69 cites Merler (AJIM, 1998) for analysis of 1940 report by Vigliani of A'sis in Cape plant workers in Turin. None of the protective recommendations were implemented.

73 Doll was unable to get Wyers at Cape to assist in an epi study of cancer in A workers

114 (28 Nov 1967) Financial Times article part authored by Smithers (listed only as med consultant to ARC) – no danger of envir. pollution from use of A products

120-122 After Wagner's 1960 report, SA asbestos mining companies incl. Cape "worked hard to keep information about mesothelioma secret." Mining of croc. grew in 1960s-1980s. PRU study of meso in SA 1960-62 confirmed the link. Also found A'sis in town dwellers from only envir. exposure. Industry stopped funding and attacked PRU scientists, the study was so well suppressed that other (NCOH) government docs doing later studies on meso (1974, Drs. Harrison and Talent – Asbestos Blues p. 196) in mining communities did not even know about it. Cape middle managers didn't know about the 1962 study.

181 "Cape Asbestos, itself once a part of the great SA conglomerates of De Beers and Anglo-American Corp., provides a classic example of these tactics." Shell company in Lichtenstein to keep selling A in US.

227 In southern Africa, Cape took advantage of the harsh labor conditions characteristic of minority rule.

268 Cape insisted that payment in UK comp case was dependent on the destruction of all evidence submitted during the hearings. (2004)