

HFF-400

MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION
March 23, 1976

BETWEEN: Dr. Thomas Chalmas
Mt. Sinai Medical Center
New York, N.Y.

and

Heinz J. Eiermann, Director
Division of Cosmetics Technology
Food and Drug Administration

PHF

SUBJECT: Asbestos in Talc

Dr. Chalmas called to find out whether or not adequate contact had been established between Dr. Langer and the FDA in regard to the asbestos in talc issue. I informed him that Drs. Shapiro and Wilson and myself had many telephone conversations with Dr. Langer. Most of which have been documented in the form of memorandums. In addition, I pointed out that Dr. Langer had offered his services to us and that Dr. Wilson and Mr. Yates were visiting with him on this date to review questions of analytical methodology of the determination of asbestos and that samples of talc products that we and Dr. Langer had evaluated had been exchanged.

We also talked about the issue of the article in the Washington Post, and I informed him that Dr. Langer had reaffirmed to the reporter prior to the publication of the newspaper article that the samples in which he found asbestos were collected in 1973. This was confirmed in a memorandum of telephone conversation between Dr. Shapiro and Dr. Langer. When asked about prior contact with the Mt. Sinai group, I informed Dr. Chalmas that the cooperation between the Mt. Sinai researchers and the FDA date back to 1971 where a seminar was held at the FDA which was attended by Dr. Selikoff and Dr. Langer. In addition, I pointed out that Dr. Shapiro had been in contact with Dr. Langer on various occasions according to verbal information received from Dr. Shapiro.

When asked in what way the Mt. Sinai people could be of assistance to the FDA, I told him that any assistance in the development of analytical methodology for the determination of asbestos in talc for routine quality control would be appreciated.

Heinz J. Eiermann
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