FILE NAME: Asbestos Sacks and Bags (ASB)

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174-331
CRD

PERMANENT SECRETARY

174-331
PM

TELEPHONE VICTORIA 7611

TRANSPORT & GENERAL WORKERS UNION
REGISTERED TRADE UNION No 1 1934

REGISTERED OFFICES,
Transport House, Smith Square,
WESTMINSTER,
LONDON, S.W.1.

Gen. Secretary
FRANK COUSINS

Asst. Gen. Secretary
H. R. NICHOLAS, O.B.E.

CHIEF OFFICE COMMUNICATION

PLEASE QUOTE
HL/MH/Ph7/A

29th October, 1965.

Ministry of Labour
~~St James's Square, London, S.W.1~~
Baynards House,
1-13 Chepstow Place,
Westbourne Grove, LONDON, W.2.

27th October, 1965.

.. urray,
cial Insurance Department,
s Trades Union Congress,
ogress House,
at Russell Street,
.C.1.

Dear Dr. Murray,

Asbestos - London Docks

I thought you might be interested to see the attached copy letter today received from the Ministry of Labour.

Yours sincerely,

J. O'Leary

NATIONAL SECRETARY,
Docks Group.

their investigations into the
in hand following complaints in
sel in the London docks. The
then obtained medical advice from
Middlesex Hospital, to the effect
eded to wear a mask in order to
f vacuum suction to remove any
The Inspectorate do not disagree
probably necessary in the
on, as asbestos was being unloaded
ackaging are used, the
described below, is that masks are
to maintain satisfactory conditions

appreciated for many years. The
trolling Regulations since 1931.
os or materials containing
the use of such materials are
rate. The Inspectorate knows,
employment in the docks unloading
e been diagnosed by the

ionally exposed to asbestos, but
ere such as to make the development
length of exposure, a series of
os has now been undertaken by the
d be understood that the signifi-
apable of penetrating to the
to the amount visible to the

The outcome of these tests is to indicate that the amount of air-borne dust of respirable size has been below the published upper limit of safety where hessian sacks with an impervious lining or laminated paper bags or other impervious bags have been in use and it has also been below the limit when unlined hessian sacks were used and a slow rate of working has been in operation. The limit has been exceeded where unlined hessian sacks were used and the rate of working was normal. The Inspectorate's opinion is that with the normal intermittent exposure likely to be experienced by dockers, the risk of a docker developing clinically recognisable asbestosis is slight, provided impervious sacks are used. As they are unlikely to develop asbestosis, then they are no more liable to develop a lung cancer than the rest of the population.

/Discussions