

MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

March 9, 1976

BETWEEN: Dr. Arthur Langer
Mt. Siani School of Medicine
New York, NY

and

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

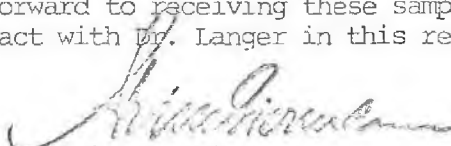
SUBJECT: Asbestos in Talc

I called Dr. Langer early this morning in regard to a statement made by John D. Klein, reporter, Channel 7 News, at yesterday's television interview, that the investigation of asbestos in talc at Mr. Siani School of Medicine was an ongoing study and that samples of commercial talc products selected after 1973 were equally contaminated with Tremolite. Mr. Klein insisted that this information was correct according to his earlier conversation with Dr. Langer.

Dr. Langer confirmed the information that the samples mentioned in the Washington Post article of March 8 by Marion Burros involved samples collected in 1973. However, when asked specifically whether the same results were obtained with samples collected thereafter, he hedged by implying that "some additional samples were collected in 1974 and 1975" and that these samples "when tested by optical microscope showed the same characteristics as the samples collected earlier."

Of primary concern to Dr. Langer was Colgate's Cashmere Bouquet. He could not understand why Colgate could not see the Tremolite fibers in that talc because "it was loaded with fibers." He informed me that the Colgate people would be meeting with him today to resolve this issue. Their point was that their talc did not contain asbestos fibers.

Dr. Langer expressed his willingness to cooperate closely with Dr. Wilson of our division, to resolve controversy concerning the determination of asbestos in talc. Dr. Wilson has already been in contact with him on that issue. Dr. Langer will provide Dr. Wilson with subsamples of the commercial talc samples implicated in the Washington Post article as well as with the method of determination by x-ray diffraction which differs somewhat from the conventional procedure. I suggested that we provide for his evaluation, samples of the same products which we collected in 1975. He thought this would be an excellent idea and indicated that he was looking forward to receiving these samples. (Dr. Wilson will remain in contact with Dr. Langer in this regard).


Heinz J. Eiermann

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