

COPY.

N.V. NEDERLANDSCHE KOLONIALE
PETROLEUM MAATSCHAPPIJ

GEBOUW PETROLEA
DEN HAAG.

Mr. C. Van Vliet,
Building.

February 11, 1932.

Dear Mr. Van Vliet:

I have your letter of February 8 in regard to an enquiry from the Government Authorities in the Dutch East Indies for Ethyl Aviation Gasoline. Considering the small quantity of tetraethyl lead used for mixing with Gasoline and the fact that the Ethyl Gasoline Corporation specifies that not over 3 c.c. of lead per gallon of Gasoline shall be used in any case, I believe that the enquiry is for 30,000 L. or approximately 188 barrels of leaded gasoline rather than for 30,000 L. of Ethyl Fluid which would be sufficient for treating in the neighborhood of 10,000,000 gallons of Gasoline. I do not think that there is much doubt but that this assumption is correct and if so, we would not be interested in following up this matter in view of the small quantity involved and the remote possibility of being able to quote on the business. We have had up with the Ethyl Gasoline Corporation several times the question of introducing Ethyl Gasoline in the Dutch East Indies and it was finally decided by mutual agreement of the Ethyl people, as well as our own Directors that this should not be done. We had in mind using Tetraethyl Lead to improve the knock rating of our Gasoline output at the Palembang Refinery and when the proposition was rejected it was, of course, on the basis of public distribution since it was felt that the danger of serious accident to natives and others handling the product was not warranted.

If there were a sufficient demand, possibly the Ethyl Gasoline Corporation would sanction the use of lead in the Dutch East Indies for private consumption providing the mixing and handling could be done at one central point and close supervision exercised to prevent lead-poisoning. However, before being able to do anything towards developing this business it would be necessary for us to first obtain the approval of the Ethyl Gasoline Corporation since I presume it would be necessary for us to take out a license and possibly install a mixing plant meeting with the approval of the Ethyl Gasoline people.

In view of the above I would suggest that the matter be dropped and will do nothing further, unless you feel otherwise. I am however, sending copy of your letter, as well as copy of this letter to Mr. Harper for his views and will advise you further upon receipt of his reply if he feels that any further action should be taken.

Yours very truly,

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