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17 November 1998

Dear Alan,

T&GWU OHS Material

Thanks for your letter and the enclosed material.

Your new book 'Safety, Health and the Environmental Hazards at the Workplace' looks like a substantial piece of work. Congrats! I've only just received it, so have not yet had time to read it. I will try to do so with a view to getting our 'ead 'itter to include a review in the next edition of the ICEM 'Global'. I hope he won't balk at this, given that we reviewed the T&G's Safety Reps Handbook in the most recent edition of Global. I just wish we were getting as much for review from our other affiliates. However, I can't see a price on the book. Can you let me know how much it costs, as any review will need to give this information?

Regarding your proposed conference on the chlorine industry, I suggest you talk to Fred Higgs if you haven't already done so. Fred, as you probably know, has represented the T&G at all of the meetings we have so far had at the international level on chlorine chemistry. I am sure he would like the T&GWU to continue to take a lead in this work and your proposed conference seems like a good way to go about it. I don't have much to offer by way of ideas for funding except perhaps to suggest (as Fred invariably does at our meetings) that industry put its hand in its pocket! After all, it is the chlorine chemistry industry that is feeling the pinch from environmental and public health groups, and they stand to gain a lot of credibility by demonstrating a readiness to respond. One way of going about this might be to contact a guy by the name of Barrie Gilliatt (ex-ICI) who is responsible for an outfit here in Brussels called 'Euro Chlor'. Euro Chlor groups together the most significant companies in the chlorine sector at the European level. Gilliatt is also an active participant in the ICEM/WCC Global Forum on Chlorine Chemistry. I'm sure he would be ready to respond to any proposal you may have, but I doubt whether Euro Chlor itself would be a source of funding - it is really only an umbrella organisation with very limited staff and resources. If you think I can be of any help in this regard, let me know.

In case you haven't already seen it, I enclose a copy of the Labour/Management Statement signed by a number of companies and our affiliates around the world at a recent meeting in Montreal. Commitment to this Statement was demanded by the ICEM and its affiliates as the threshold which those companies wanting to talk with us in the Global Forum on Chlorine Chemistry must be prepared to cross. We are expecting to get more signatures as things move ahead. You might also want to have a copy of

another global agreement we have signed with Statoil, the Norwegian multinational (attached). Both contain explicit language about health, safety and the environment.

I think your initiative regarding the plight of Fernanda Giannasi is excellent. I will take this up with our General Secretary to see how best to respond. We almost certainly have members in St Gobain and they should also be made aware of what is going on. The ICEM continues to demand a ban on asbestos - despite the pressure we feel from time to time from Canada. There has been a touring circus of asbestos lobbyists led by Canadians and, regrettably, including a number of 'invited' trade unions which has travelled around Europe (including Central and Eastern Europe) during the course of the year. It's incredible how much influence one industry from one country can wield. I understand Canada (more specifically, Quebec) employs only around 3,000 asbestos workers in total. Federal Canadian sensitivities about their Quebecois population undoubtedly loom large.

Keep the stuff coming.

Regards,



Reg Green
Health, Safety and Environment Officer

Copy for information to:

Victor E. Thorpe, ICEM General Secretary
Fred Higgs, TGWU National Secretary