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551-6797

APR 27 1977

April 26, 1977

Mr. Ralph M. Sarla
316 Woodlyn Drive
Collegeville, Pennsylvania 19426

Re: Asbestos

Dear Mr. Sarla:

Mr. Thurber has referred to me for reply your letter of March 7, 1977 in which you ask two major questions, as follows:

1. Does Union Carbide Corporation have any connection with the work now going on in development of early detection techniques at Mount Sinai School of Medicine?

2. Does Union Carbide Corporation have a medical program aimed at monitoring the health of current or former employees exposed to asbestos in the past. (I assume there is a program for current employees now involved in asbestos manufacture).

In response thereto, it is correct to say that we do not have any connection with the Mount Sinai work on early detection techniques. It is also correct to say that we do not have a formal program aimed at monitoring employees previously exposed to asbestos dust. We do maintain such a program for employees currently exposed. As to your specific complaint, there is not enough information contained in your letter to enable us to say that the matter is asbestos related, or indeed to determine what is the cause of such complaint. I do know that asbestos has been found deleterious by inhalation which means that its primary impact is on the lungs. It is not normally considered carconogenic or a problem by ingestion. Because of that business principle, there is not any evidence furnished to us which would enable us to ascertain that your abdominal disturbance is either carcinogenic in nature or in any way related to asbestos. Accordingly, we have no basis for providing you with medical assistance or consultation to determine if your problem is asbestos related.

Very truly yours,

JWW:me

John W. Whittlesey
Senior Labor Law Counsel
Union Carbide Corporation