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PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT
JM-1333

ASBESTOS INFORMATION COMMITTEE

Meeting with Associate Members held at Cape Industries Ltd, London W1Y 4AB, on Tuesday, 18th March 1975

Those present:

Asbestos Information Committee

Mr H D S Hardie	Chairman, AIC, Turner & Newall Ltd
Mr M F Howe	Deputy Chairman, AIC, Turner & Newall Ltd
Dr R Gaze	Cape Industries Ltd
Mr C M Fenton	BBA Group Ltd
Mr A A Cross	Cape Industries Ltd
Mr D Wright	BBA Group Ltd
Mr W P Howard	Secretary, AIC, Turner & Newall Ltd
Mr A H Denny	Minutes Secretary, AIC, Turner & Newall Ltd
Mr J Griffiths	MSG Public Relations Ltd
Mr A Masterton-Smith	MSG Public Relations Ltd

Associate Members

Mr D S Wright	Atlas Stone Co Ltd
Mr J D Grieve	Central Asbestos Co Ltd
Mr G Bill	Central Manufacturing and Trading Group Ltd
Mr W R Janes	Johns-Manville (GB) Ltd

Apologies were received from Mr N A Hickman, Central Manufacturing and Trading Group Ltd.

1. **Secretary's Summary of Activity**

Prior to the meeting Mr Howard had circulated a comprehensive summary of AIC and allied activity covering the period September 1974 to March 1975. It was discussed section by section and the following comments were made:-

(a) **Government and Parliament**

The third paragraph on page 1 should be amended by deleting the phrase, "which means that they remain at about the same level as in the past few years".

(b) **The "2 fibre" Standard**

Dr Selikoff was mounting a determined attack on the UK 2 fibre Standard as being based on inadequate information.

(c) **Films**

MSG would ensure that the Associate Members are kept informed on the proposed viewings of "Asbestos at Work" in London and Liverpool and any other viewings which might be arranged in the future.

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(d) Advertising

The current AIC advertising campaign would come to an end at the end of March. The campaign had resulted in more enquiries being sent to the AMC and AIC than ever before.

It was hoped that the greater dissemination of AMC and AIC literature would help to encourage customers not to abandon asbestos indiscriminately. The AIC would provide whatever help they could to Associate Members in situations where customers needed advice on asbestos and health matters.

(e) TV and Press Relations

None of the Associate Members felt that the recent television programmes had had any great effect on their employees.

(f) Literature

Mr Denny would ensure that Associate Members receive copies of new AIC publications as soon as they were published. AIID

2. Overseas Development

Mr Howe explained how the AIC kept in close contact with other information bodies throughout the world and briefly outlined latest developments in the following countries -

(a) USA

The situation with regard to the OSHA Standard would probably become clear in a short time. The current 5 fibres/cc standard was expected to be lowered to 2 fibres/cc in July 1976 as originally intended, though there was still a possibility of that date being brought forward to January 1976.

(b) Holland

Regulations were in draft and expected to become law in 6-12 months. The Dutch Economic Council, to which the Dutch information group had been invited to express comments, were considering the latest draft.

(c) Scandinavia

Regulations would be brought into operation in the next 12 months in Norway, Sweden and Denmark.

(d) Japan

Regulations were expected to be in force towards the end of 1975, with a standard equivalent to 5 fibres/cc. Bags containing asbestos fibre would also have to bear warning labels and possibly secondary asbestos-based products.

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(e) [redacted]

There had been a considerable amount of adverse publicity recently in the Provinces of Quebec and Ontario. In Quebec Dr Selikoff had provided local trade unions with provisional data based on an investigation in Thetford This had been leaked by the trade unions to the press during wage negotiations, which in Thetford had culminated in a strike by the miners.

(f) France

There were no national regulations, but the asbestos textile industry in Normandy was covered by regional regulations.

(g) Germany

Dust measurements in Germany were based on the use of gravimetric methods but there were indications that this might be changed to the UK method of using membrane filters.

If any Associate Members had difficulties in overseas markets or required advice on the asbestos and health situation in a foreign country it was suggested that they should seek the advice of Mr Howe.

3. Plans for 1975

The attitude of the media to asbestos was not expected to be very different and attacks would continue. The AIC would be alert in defending the industry by all possible means.

There were plans to hold conferences in conjunction with the BMA and also industry briefing meetings. The AIC would also be helping the ARC to produce a film on safety at building sites and further regional viewings of the film "Asbestos at Work" were planned.

Reprints of outdated AIC literature would be produced during the year and some new leaflets would also be circulated.

It was expected that the AIC advertising campaign would operate over the same period as previously, starting in the autumn of 1975 and running through to the spring of 1976, but this might be affected by developments concerning the possible labelling of asbestos products, to which the advertising campaign might be keyed.

With regard to the provisions of the Health and Safety at Work Etc. Act, the AIC was proposing to send a letter to all AIC member companies and asbestos associations advising them on the warning notice to be inserted in sales literature, quotations, order acknowledgements or contracts etc. The letter would be circulated as quickly as possible.

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Mr James reported that Johns-Manville had issued instructions to all their divisions about the warning notice and read out their proposed wording, which was very similar to that recommended by the AIC.

Mr Hardie also told the Associate Members of the AIC's policy on the possible introduction of labelling and showed the design of label it was proposed to recommend.

Johns-Manville had also issued their internal recommendations concerning labelling and intended to label all asbestos products, including brake linings, packings and gaskets. Mr James felt that J-M would support the AIC's recommendations on labelling provided they were introduced quickly. Mr James undertook to supply Mr Howe with the wording recommended by J-M for the warning panel and labelling details.

Mr Wright of Atlas Stone expressed some doubt about the wholesale labelling of all asbestos-based products since asbestos-cement sheeting materials could not be considered a hazard in most work situations. Mr Hardie said that the AIC had not finalised its recommendations on labelling but it was essential that industry as a whole was shown to be eager to cooperate with the Government on health matters and future developments seemed to indicate that it must be made clear to both customers and work people whenever a product contained asbestos fibre.

Mr James asked about the situation with regard to the production of products containing blue asbestos in the UK. The AIC knew of one product produced by James Walker which contained blue asbestos but this was produced to the satisfaction of HMFI. As far as the AIC were aware, no blue asbestos fibre had been imported into this country since 1970.

4. Associate Members' Suggestions

It was important that the AIC should be seen to represent as many companies as possible in the UK asbestos industry and it was disappointing that not more companies had decided to become Associate Members. The AIC would welcome recommendations from present members concerning other companies who might wish to join the AIC.

5. Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next meeting would be held in approximately 6 months time in the autumn.

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