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Directors for NAAC [Legal - Tibbs Case Exhibit 42]

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THE CAPE ASBESTOS COMPANY LIMITED

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WORKS
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KENTHRE: UXBRIDGE STIRLING
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REED/JR

13th April 1959

Mr. R.E. Cryor,
North American Asbestos Corporation,
Board of Trade Building,
Chicago, 4,
Illinois,
U. S. A.

PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Rob,

Thank you for your two letters on the subject of further Directors for N.A.A.C. Firstly we should be very happy to have either Herb Brook or Gordon Close. I have discussed this with Mr. Newton and we both feel that the best method would be to approach Lord, Bissell & Brook and to ask them whether they would be kind enough to nominate one or the other in accordance with their own wishes. Mr. Newton, I think, would like to write to John Lord himself asking him to do this, and subject to your reply he will do so accordingly.

So far as the second vacancy goes, both he and I are impressed by your description of Harper Boyd and particularly your assurance that he is the type of man who would fit into our scheme of things. The appointment of a Director, however, is one which above all is the most difficult to undo if one makes a mistake, without causing embarrassment all round, and I am a little concerned at the prospect of taking this step with someone whom you say you have only known for a short time.

Would it be possible, therefore, to hold this vacancy open for some time yet, or if not, then to make the proposal to Harper Boyd in such a way that would enable us to get out of it again if by any chance, which is no doubt unlikely, he turned out to be a disappointment? The sort of thing I have in mind is the possibility

of saying to him that possibly in a couple of years' time we would wish to have a rather higher proportion of English representatives on the Board and therefore, while we did not wish to increase its size we might as a matter of policy be thinking in terms of having two English to three American Directors or something of this kind; would be therefore be prepared to begin his association with us on the understanding that it might well be of a temporary nature and that if for reasons entirely unconnected with himself we wanted to change things round, he would not have too violent an objection to dropping out.

I am sure I need not labour the point, but we have had in the past experiences which lead us to be extremely cautious in this direction.

Perhaps before taking any further steps you would firstly confirm that you are happy for Mr. Newton to write to Lord, Bissell & Brook on the lines suggested, and secondly your view on the other vacancy.

Yours sincerely,

Loraine