

THE ASSOCIATED ETHYL COMPANY LIMITED

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OUR REF. SM/1/311

YOUR REF.

11th May 1949

Dr. Robert A. Kehoe,
University of Cincinnati,
College of Medicine,
CINCINNATI, Ohio.

Dear Bob,

Many thanks for your letter of May 5th.

We will check up on the sailings from New York during the early part of August 1950 and make one or more tentative reservations with the Cunard Company. I am sure there will be no difficulty in cancelling any such reservations should you find the dates inconvenient.

The date of my visit to the United States is still most uncertain. Bill Carlisle and others are at present here in London, and the solutions to the problems we have under discussion are proving no less difficult than we had anticipated. I doubt very much whether we shall be through with our present series of meetings before some time in early June, and it may take some little time thereafter to reach agreement with the Exchange Control Authorities and various other Government bodies with whom we have to consult. I shall certainly let you know as soon as my plans are fixed, but doubt whether I shall get to New York before the early part of July.

We are all looking forward to seeing Oscar Lewis, and will take the opportunity provided by his visit to discuss in detail the particular point to which you refer. As a matter of interest, it is a point which I have stressed previously to our friends in New York, but I think they look to us to ensure that any fluid originating with them in the United States and shipped overseas is properly handled. We do our best to see that this is the case, regardless of the origin of the fluid.

The DuPont Company, as you may know, are shipping fluid to a number of overseas points and, to the extent that we know the destination, it is treated by us insofar as its handling at destination is concerned in exactly the same manner as if the shipment had been made by Associated.

To Dr. Robert A. Kehoe

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DATE 11.5.49.

The overall picture is a complicated one, and I am afraid may tend to get more so as time goes on since, with currency, political and other difficulties, we may be faced with numerous small manufacturing units such as the one now operated by S.L.O.I. in Italy, about which we recently sent you a confidential report.

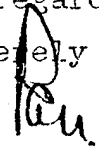
We do our best to keep ourselves fully informed on what is going on, but in some instances the problems are rather too much for us to cope with; for instance, some 4,000 odd drums of fluid have recently come to light in Japan. The origin of the fluid and its quality are unknown to us, but I assume that it was manufactured in a Japanese plant. The material is all under the control of the occupying forces in Japan (U.S.A.) and they are somewhat at a loss to know how to deal with it. We considered the possibility of taking it over from them for use in refineries in the Far and Near East, but the general complications of currency, transportation etc., have proved too much for us, with the result that we have had to recommend to the Military Authorities in Japan that they contact Washington with a view to making some arrangement with Ethyl Corporation to return it to Baton Rouge. Whether they will be able to do this is doubtful in view of the international complications which arise. Naturally, we have advised them of our willingness to assist to the best of our ability, and have recently had a man in Japan for this purpose.

Odd supplies of fluid keep cropping up all over Europe, and it is impossible to say how much displaced German Army stocks have got into the hands of people who have no knowledge of how to deal with the material. The recent serious mishaps in Poland, about which I think Davison wrote you, indicate the sort of thing that happens. In those countries we are able to visit freely, the position, taken by and large, is, I think, fairly satisfactory, but it cannot be said that we have the same measure of control on a world-wide basis that we had in the pre-war years.

I am looking forward with great pleasure to seeing you some time within the next two or three months, and all of my associates here are delighted at the prospect of a visit from you next year.

With kind regards,

Sincerely yours,


T.R.A. BEVAN

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