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19th January, 1977

J.P. Simko, Esq.,
Colgate Palmolive Company,
Research & Development Dept.,
909 River Road,
PISCATAWAY,
N.J. 08854,
U.S.A.

Dear Dr. Simko,

Mr. J.M.A. Barker at your London office has asked me to respond to your December 17 memorandum and the covering letter from Dr. De Salva.

Perhaps I may begin with a brief historical note.

The U.K. Talc Working Party first met on 24th November, 1971 as part of the response by major industrial cosmetic talc users to the Tenovus Institute report and ensuing publicity. The aegis of the T.P.F. was accepted early in the following year.

Technical requirements of the situation were subsumed under two headings and pursued severally.

- 1) Talc Toxicology
- 2) Asbestos Control

The need for tighter control of asbestos minerals was accepted immediately, and co-operative studies mounted to extend our practical knowledge of talc composition.

Naturally the viewpoint was that of U.K. Industry, but the Working Party was generally aware of the problem in the U.S.A. and on two occasions I tried on its behalf to make formal contact with your task force via the offices of the C.T.F.A. - but totally unsuccessfully.

In the event, this was of no importance because our informal contacts were good, and American company members of the T.P.F. Working Party were at pains to avoid action potentially embarrassing to their principals. There was full appreciation that the technical and political dimensions of the talc 'problem' were greater in the States than in this Country.

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