FILE NAME: Asbestos Sacks and Bags (ASB)

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TURNER BROTHERS ASBESTOS COMPANY LTD.

Mr. John Waddell.	To Mr. A.D.N. Jones, Turner & Newall Ltd.

Your Ref:- 57/1303-4

JW/JHC
ADNJ
JFK/JCTF

12th August, 1965

Asbestos in Bags

I have discussed your letter of 10th August with Dr. Knox and I find that Dr. Smither of Cape has already been in touch with him about the same matter, so presumably Cape have also heard from the Ocean Ship Owners Group.

This is clearly a matter of the utmost gravity, and Dr. Knox entirely agrees that Dr. Smither is the best man to give advice to the Ocean Ship Owners Group Joint Committee. Dr. Hunter is well known to both Dr. Knox and Dr. Smither.

In the short term, it is going to be extremely difficult to get round the rather extreme opinion given by Dr. Hunter, and now that the Dockers have got hold of this they will never let it go. In the long run impervious bags should help a great deal but of course there will always be a certain amount of spillage due to torn bags, and this could best be dealt with by damping.

With regard to our experience of the risks to bag carriers it is difficult to be categoric, since in the old days at Harridge Mill the bag carriers who did the stacking and unstacking of crude were also employed to some extent in the manufacturing areas in the same building, which were always fairly dusty. You may well be right that there is only one recorded asbestosis case in the T. & N. Group of a man who was never

Cont'd...

employed on anything except bag handling but I am afraid that this is not very convincing evidence that the handling of dusty bags is not dangerous.

If you have written to Mr. Dent, as I suggested, I think it would be useful if Mr. Bateman or I had a word with him tomorrow. I am quite willing to do so, and of course I know Mr. Dent quite well through the Asbestosis Research Council, but possibly Mr. Bateman might prefer to deal with the matter himself.

Since this was dictated I have spoken to Mr Sutcliffe, who advised me to ring Mr Dent.

Perhaps I should confirm here what I mentioned to you on the phone about Dr. Knox, namely that he is still convalescing and will probably not be fully operational again until about the end of September. He is going on holiday next Monday for two weeks, so it will be inconvenient for me to consult him even informally, as I have been doing in the last week or two.

John Waddell JW

P.S. Mr Fell rang my secretary today & asked to be put on the circulation of my correspondence with you; this has been done but I have not sent him copies of the letters you sent me.

JW.

FROM

TURNERS ASBESTOS FIBRES LIMITED

Telegrams
Vulbeston, Manchester

Telephone
Central 0334

Telex 66560

FAULKNER HOUSE
FAULKNER STREET
MANCHESTER 1

TO

57/1519-20

MR. A.D.N. JONES,
Turner & Newall Limited.

Copy to: MFH/WPH

12th August 1965.

Dust-Proof Bags

Following our recent conversation, thank you for sending copies of the letter dated 29th July which you received from Mr. Bennett, Secretary of the Ocean Ship Owners Group Joint Committee in the Port of London. As T.A.F.Ltd. are very closely involved in the troubles in unloading asbestos in London docks, would you please keep us informed of this correspondence as it develops.

We have been singularly fortunate so far in that our difficulties with the dockers have not been ventilated publicly, especially as they would make excellent material for a feature on radio, television or in the press. I think it is only a matter of time before publicity overtakes us, especially if a reporter gets hold of Dr. Donald Hunter. In that event, someone is bound to contact T.& N.Ltd. as the largest English commercial interest in asbestos. Accordingly, I have sent a copy of this note to Mr. Howard and suggest that he is briefed on what he has to say if he is contacted.

Since shipments to Erith are made through London and they are having difficulty now in unloading one of their shipments, I suggest that you ask T.A.C. to let you know if they are approached.

J.C.T. FELL

JCTF/AW

DATE: 12/04/91 TIME: 03:56:00

PAGE: 630

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Bedwell, R.M.

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Advice about the grinding of asbestos and possible health risks

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Telex 66560

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