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:TL Copy Letter ABA Wittenoom to Public Health Department *
Claim of employee Mikolajczyk re illness of child
:SO AUTHOR Luke, R.P.
OCCUPATION General Manager
ORGANISATION ABA
PLACE Wittenoom, WA
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:LO ROBINSON COX 8 PC
:CA CASE -Simpson
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:CI ORG -NAME Stitford, H.T.
OCCUP Under Secretary
ORG Public Health Dept
PLACE Perth, WA
:TT IN REPLY PLEASE
QUOTE: GM-75P/4 7th March, 1952

The Under Secretary
Department of Public Health
57 Murray Street
PERTH

Dear Sir,

J. MIKOLAJCZYK - YOUR REFERENCE 5339/51

The abovenamed, an employee of ours, has handed us your two letters to him of 9.1.52 and 3.3.52.

As his English is limited he has asked us to state his case for him.

After a few days observation in Wittenoom his Child's condition had deteriorated to such an extent that on Monday, 27th August, 1951, it became necessary to call the Doctor for him. This Monday was the Roebourne Race day and the charter plane used by the Flying Doctor Service at Port Hedland had been chartered to take Hedland visitors to Roebourne. Dr. Melia was in Roebourne, having driven down by car. It being a holiday in Roebourne, the Pedal air service could not contact the Doctor until the plane was airborne for its return to Hedland. The people who had chartered the plane stood down to permit the plane to come to Wittenoom and take the child to Dr. Melia at Roebourne. This was done late in the evening. Next morning the plane was forced to resume its charter and take the race goers back to Port Hedland. It was also necessary for the child to be transferred to Port Hedland Hospital, and there being no room on the Anson, the child had to travel by ordinary passenger aircraft to Port Hedland.

Mikolajczyk is a contributor to the Flying Doctor Scheme for himself and his family.

He feels that, under normal conditions, his child would have been evacuated direct to Port Hedland at no cost to him. The overnight stay at Roebourne was merely an interruption in the Child's journey to its destination, namely, Port Hedland Hospital.

The circumstances were usual and unfortunate in that for a whole day both the Doctor and the plane were isolated, but it would seem that Mikolajczyk's contention has some merit.

We would appreciate your comments.

Yours faithfully
AUSTRALIAN BLUE ASBESTOS LIMITED

MANAGER
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