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MEDICAL
DEPARTMENT

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Suisse

Dear Tom:

I have reviewed the report, "Asbestos As A Health Hazard In The United Kingdom", prepared by I. C. Sayers, and in general I find that it is reasonably accurate. I do not attach very much importance to the data on the incidence of asbestosis and death from asbestosis and cancer because these are merely tabulations of events and do not take into consideration the numbers of people who were subjected to the possibility of the event occurring.

We had been interested in the possibility that the short fiber Coalinga product might have a greater hazard than the more conventional forms of asbestos because sub-micron silica has been known to cause a rapidly progressive silicosis after exceedingly brief exposure. We were concerned about whether the Coalinga material with its exceedingly fine fibril diameter might have a similar effect in causation of asbestosis. We therefore made some preliminary studies in which the material was injected into the belly cavity of guinea pigs, rats and rabbits and also was injected intratrachealy by a method which distributes the asbestos throughout the lungs of rats. The materials injected were the standard fiber, a refined fiber and a long fiber obtained from Johns Manville for purposes of comparison. In the injection study the Coalinga refined fiber produced the most severe reaction in the belly cavity, whereas the

