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Legal-Medical Research Program

Mr. Gabrielson said Wendell Alcorn, Special Counsel to the Association, had recently met in Philadelphia with an attorney for plaintiffs in a number of asbestos cases. Alcorn said the attorney maintained a comprehensive, indexed file of asbestos-related litigation cases. Mr. Gabrielson said it was a principal objective of our assignment to Special Counsel to compile and analyze asbestos related litigation cases so that any defense counsel would be appropriately prepared. Speaking to the medical research project he said he did not foresee any pleasant surprises being found as a result of the literature review. He noted increased reference to asbestos and cancer after 1964. Nonetheless, Mr. Gabrielson stated he felt the medical research project would be an extremely valuable reference tool for defense counsel and would add credibility to industry's concerns regarding asbestos-health issues. Special Counsel expects to complete interviewing of physicians who may be candidates as expert witnesses in third party litigation by the end of February. The next meeting of the Legal-Medical Research Committee was announced for Monday, Feb. 28 at the Union League Club, New York City, commencing at noon. As to status of work, Mr. Gabrielson said he considered the medical phase to be on schedule but the legal phase to be behind. The February 28 meeting will provide opportunity to obtain updated status for presentation to directors at meeting.

Association Captive Insurance Company

Mr. Gabrielson reported that Mr. Walter Curtner, manager of insurance, J-M Corp., had written to define the scope of a captive insurance company feasibility study. Letters from Mr. Gabrielson have been sent to three prospective firms to submit proposals. Mr. Gabrielson said that time would probably not permit response for a full report to directors on March 10 as was hoped.

Report on International Asbestos Information Conference

Mr. Marsh distributed a written report of the Executive Committee meeting of the IAIC, held in London on Feb. 1. The report included a review of current developments affecting the industry outside the U.S.A. Mr. Schwarz commented on prohibitive regulations in Sweden as they relate to manufacturing of products as opposed to their use. Mr. Marsh also distributed copies of a communication from Dr. McCullagh, Asbestos Association of Australia, to Mr. Cross, Director General, IAIC, proposing an international workshop on fiber counting techniques. The Executive Director was requested to forward copies to members of the AIA/NA Standards and Technical Committee.

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