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Dr. S. Holmes

NEWALLS INSULATION & CHEMICAL CO. LTD.

TO PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL.

Mr. K.M. Collier,
Northern Area.

Mr. R.H. Wilson,
Washington.

REF.

OUR REF. KMC/RA

20th October, 1966

I.C.I. - ASBESTOSIS PRECAUTIONS

I would advise you that during a meeting of the Site Liaison Committee which took place in I.C.I. Construction Department's office at Wilton yesterday, the various Contractors' Representatives were subjected to a lengthy address from Dr. Jenkin-Evans, I.C.I. Senior Medical Officer.

This gentleman has recently returned from attending a symposium on the subject of Asbestosis apparently held in the United States and the contents of his talk covered aspects of the disease in general and steps which were being taken, both at home and in the States to combat the disease.

Summarizing the lecture I would say we learned nothing about which we were not already aware, and indeed he indicated as did you your goodself in your recent paper on the subject that the main contribution is being made by British Medical Personnel.

No reference was made to I.C.I.'s recent policy decisions on the matter regarding the use of non-asbestos content materials, except that he did admit that any steps in this direction might quite readily reveal unknown allergies to substitute fibres.

On being asked whether he considered that the present Code of Practice now recommended by the Asbestos Research Council together with the steps which were being taken to try and introduce legislation and record regular medical inspections, were satisfactory and in his opinion adequate, he answered positively and said that he felt everything that could be done was being done.

Whether this represents a change of thinking I would not like to say, but it certainly suggests that he is now tempering his ideas on the subject.

C/tnd...

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The Doctor also mentioned that he hoped in the near future to have the opportunity of visiting the Asbestos Research Council and it may be therefore, that if you are present on such an occasion he will be more receptive to down-to-earth arguments than he has been in the past.

Trusting this will be of assistance.



K.M. COLLIER.