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Johnson & Johnson

New Brunswick, N.J.
July 29, 1971

**Subject:** Talc/Asbestos

Mr. L. Foster

Please refer to your memo of July 26, 1971.

The talc used in JOHNSON'S Baby Powder is obtained from a selected mine in Vermont where the ore consists mainly of platy talc with only trace amounts of fibrous minerals (tremolite/actinolite). It is free of chrysotile fibers which may be called "pure asbestos" by the layman.

The ore undergoes a careful purifying process which includes a 36-step washing process to maximize its content of high lubricity platy talc and to remove or substantially reduce any traces of fibrous minerals which may be present in the unrefined ore. The resulting talc has been shown by three independent consulting laboratories* to contain negligible traces of fibrous minerals and no chrysotile fibers.

We will be receiving sometime next week a report from our consultant, Professor F. D. Pooley of the University College of Wales, Mineral Exploitation Section, Cardiff, Great Britain. He has completed an exhaustive examination of a sample of baby powder by electron microscopy and other sophisticated techniques. His oral report is that it contains no asbestos.

W. Nashed

WN/cw

* 1. Colorado School of Mines Research Institute (CSMRI):

a) June 30 report on JOHNSON'S Baby Powder sample Lot 344-L and 6 monthly samples of purified talc from the Vermont mine.

b) July 7 report on ore sample, tailings removed in the processing and finished purified talc.

The CSMRI analyses are based on standard petrographic and X-ray testing technique.

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2. Report from McCrone Associates, Inc. (July 27, 1971)

   reporting on their findings by electron microscopic and electron diffraction analysis of a Baby Powder sample.

3. Report from the Dartmouth College Geology Department (June 28, 1971)

   reporting on their findings of no tremolite, garnet, or asbestos in a sample of purified talc from the Vermont mine.

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