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PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT

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The Frequency of Lung Cancer in German Asbestos Workers
by H. Bohlig and G. Jacob

Since the links between lung asbestosis and lung cancer have become known (Gloyne, Lynch and Smith), there were also in Germany, from 1938 on, observations of lung carcinoma with a simultaneous asbestosis (LKA)-lung cancer asbestosis-. (Nordmann, Lintbach, and Wedler, Welz, Boenke, Jacob and Bohlig). Since then, the LKA is assumed by the German literature to be the most frequent complication (Holstein) of asbestosis. In spite of this, till 1954, there were only 16 cases of malignant tumors in the chest cavity with a simultaneous asbestosis published for Germany (Jacob and Bohlig).

In 1956, a 5. LKA (man, 63 years old, asbestosis I, small-celled carcinoma on the right lower lung) was dissected in Dresden (Scheid, written notification 1956). A further LKA was observed by Bohme, Bochum, written notification 1957) and dissected by diBiasi, but was not published, so that from 1938 till 1956, 18 LKA were observed in Germany. This is not a large number for a time span of almost 20 years and an overall number of presently around 4000 German asbestos workers.

The frequent occurrence of the LKA which was assumed up to now, had been calculated solely from dissection statistics of the literature (Behrens). The statements vary from 12 to 17% (literature in Bohlig and Jacob). The most frequent occurrence is reported time and again from England (Doll). Cartier (Canada) observed in ten years eight lung cancers in asbestos workers, three of which did not have asbestosis. Only few cases were published in the U.S. In Italy, the first LKA was not published until 1955 (Rombola). Wegelius (copy almost illegible) and Noro did not observe any LKA among the asbestosis patients up to 1947 in Finland. Drost (?), George and Miller did not find any case up to 1956 among the Danish asbestosis patients; the same, there have been no reports so far about LKA's from the Soviet Union or South Africa. Therefore, the correctness of the frequency value of about 13% that was calculated from the dissection statistics has to be seriously doubted. Up to 1956, the world literature overall lists, together with Doll's cases and our own 5 LKA's approximately 80 cases (literature in Bohlig, Jacob, and Kallabis). This low number reinforces the opinion of the authors, that the statements about the frequency especially from the English dissection statistic, cannot be generalized, since the dissection material does not represent selection-free material.

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