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with Handling Asbestos

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February 3, 1981

Dr. S. F. McCullagh
James Hardie & Co. Pty. Ltd.
Box 219
Granville, New South Wales 2142
Australia

Dear Terry:

Re your letter of November 13, 1980 to Sir Neville Stack:
Yes, we are still friends! I can understand your frustration with us since we have not been as involved as we should have in the activities of the Asbestos International Association. And I would probably agree it is a presumption on our part to make revisions to proposed AIA documents at the last minute. Dr. William Paul, our Corporate Medical Director, will be serving on the Medical Advisory Panel and attending meetings from now on, so future conflicts should be minimal.

However, I do want to say that J-M and particularly the Health, Safety and Environment Department staff have not had the luxury enjoyed by our colleagues in the asbestos industry elsewhere, especially outside the United States, of time to plan and to contemplate the asbestos situation and appropriate approaches to it. We have been too busy fighting fires and keeping business alive on a day to day basis. My experience over the past few years is typical of most of my staff: one third or more of my time has been spent either in Washington or in preparing material necessary for federal regulations or proposed regulatory actions; at least another third has been spent being deposed, testifying or answering numerous interrogatories in thirdparty litigation (we have pending now over 5000 cases); whatever time remained had to be allocated for everything else necessary to running our programs. In sum, there has been very little opportunity to meet on a regular basis with organizations like the AIA, however much we may have desired to do so.

I regret if our lack of participation has appeared to be the result of either nonchalance or arrogance. We simply have had to allocate most of our resources to meeting governmental and legal needs. Now that we have established a more methodical way of handling these areas, I am certain that we will be able to be more active in the AIA.

All good wishes.

Cordially,

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