

COPY.

From Batavia-Centrum
To Hongkong

No.10
Dec.5, 1934
File 46.

LEADED GASOLINE

Our Macassar office reports that their pump mechanic who was at Koepang, during the MacRobertson air race, personally transferred Stanavo Ethyl Aviation Gasoline from 70-liter to 200-liter drums. He was ill when he returned to Macassar and a local doctor confirmed that he had a mild case of lead poisoning.

Macassar reports that this man was careful to use rubber gloves and other precautions as per your No.1986 of July 25, 1934, and the theory is that the lead poisoning was contracted by breathing the vapor from the gasoline during the transfer from the small to the large drums. If such be the case, it would appear that similar ill effects would result from fueling planes with leaded gasoline, since considerable vapor will be present. We have asked the N.K.P.M. to give us the opinion of their laboratory people and medical advisor on this subject and will send you a copy of their reply, but in the meantime it might be well to warn other stations handling leaded aviation gasoline of the possibility of employees contracting lead poisoning through vapor being breathed.

As we understood your No.1986 and its attachments, it appeared that gas masks were required only when handling the tetraethyl lead fluid itself and that such precautions as rubber gloves, kerosene for washing and avoiding spilling on the clothing or body, were sufficient when handling leaded gasoline.

A. H. Elliot - PRESIDENT DIRECTEUR

HCD/cs

cc Singapore

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