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PLAINTIFF'S
EXHIBIT

1966-01

Mr. A. C. Mann

*I hope this is all
acceptable to you. I am
sharing this with
Mr. E. on the
SAF course.*

Mr. John Waddell

Mr. E. A. Edmonds,
London Office.

JW/BW

Copies to: ACM/JFK/SH

16th February, 1966

Confidential

Asbestos and Mesothelioma

Surgeon Captain James was not at the Conference at Belfast last week, so we are no nearer the source of things at the Admiralty. Dr. Knox did, however, meet a young Surgeon-Commander who knew enough about the subject to say that Devonport Dockyard is now using (or is about to institute) very stringent precautions involving the use of helmets with an air supply; this will, presumably, very soon mean that asbestos will cease to be used.

It is, therefore, of great importance and urgency that we find out who is or are making the operational decisions at the Admiralty. It is possible, for example, that this behaviour at Plymouth results from local action by the District Inspector of Factories; alternatively, it may be due to directives from above which would apply also at Portsmouth and all other naval dockyards.

Our approach must be, of course, that we realise there is a problem but we have a great deal of experience and would like to be of some help, if we could only find the right people to give advice to.

I would suggest that you arrange for further enquiries to be made in London and at Portsmouth, with a view to arranging an appointment for yourself and Dr. Knox with someone at a suitable level of authority. Surgeon Captain James may be too high up and, in any case, Dr. Knox's informant at Belfast said that Captain James will be retiring soon.

*Re Mr
Daniell*
You might usefully have a word on the phone with Mr. Daniell about all this, and I am also sending a copy of this note to Mr. Mann, in case he wants to follow up in the Devonport area, where it would seem

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that urgent action is also necessary.

I am sending a copy of this to Dr. Holmes, not only because of his expertise in asbestos matters but because I believe he knows Portsmouth dockyard.

John Wadsworth