PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT CSR-231

(111.)

SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND TROPICAL MEDICINE

(COMMONWEALTH DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH) (UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY)

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THE UNIVERSITY,
SYDNEY, N.S.W.

29th November, 1966.

Dr. J. McMulty,
Physician,
Occupational Health,
Department of Public Health,
57 Murray Street,
PERTH. W.A.

Dear Dr. McMulty,

Mr. G. Major - Visit to Wittenoom

Thank you for your letter of 16th November, 1966. I am most appreciative of the assistance and collaboration of your Department and of the Department of Mines in this project.

Like yourself, Mr. Major and I are concerned that the maximum gain, in terms of improvements at Wittenoom, should be obtained from the time, effort and expenditure involved in the visit and in the laboratory studies yet to be undertaken.

You will appreciate that several months will elapse before the dust investigation is finalised, much of this time being taken up by the compositional analysis of the air borne dust samples, a task which to our knowledge has not previously been done on Wittenoom material and which may require considerable preliminary work.

While most recommendations which arise from this type of work require action of a long term nature, a small number of aspects observed by Mr. Major can, with advantage, be given immediate attention and he has accordingly prepared a short interim report.

I am enclosing herewith two copies of the interim report and of the extract from "Respiratory Protective Devices Manual", and would suggest that one copy of each be sent to the Department of Mines. I have also taken the liberty of sending a copy of each document to the General Manager of Australian Blue Asbestos at Wittenoom since the points discussed by Mr. Major could be given early attention by the management and are not dependent on the results of the dust evaluati ns.

If it is practicable and not inconsistent with government policy in Western Australia, we would like to send copies of future reports to the management of the mine at Wittenoom, and I should be pleased to know what you think about this suggestion. I agree with your proposal for a review of the report (or reports) when the work has been completed.

I shall be most interested in the record of affected asbestos miners and at a future time should like to have an opportunity of studying the medical notes and x-ray films of those involved, if this could be arranged.

With kind regards.

Yours sincerely,

(GORDON C. SMITH)
Principal Medical Officer
Occupational Health Unit.

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