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TURNER BROTHERS ASBESTOS COMPANY LTD.

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45/2120-3 London	Dr. S. Holmes Health Physics Dept. Rochdale

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8th October 1970

Asbestos and Health: Shell

We had a word on the telephone following receipt of your letter of 25th September and as a result I made an appointment to see Mr. Hawkins and indeed met him yesterday. Mr. Hawkins is the Secretary of the Shell International Safety Committee which, amongst other things, would be responsible for recommendations to the various Shell companies including Shell Tanker and the refineries regarding asbestos and possible substitutes.

Mr. Hawkins was at some pains to explain to me that the Committee only made recommendations and would not instruct anybody to take a course of action, but he agreed that as the technical people in The Hague would have agreed the recommendations, most units would accept them.

The impetus for the alterations to the Shell MESC document came from the Medical Section of Shell in London and at first was rejected by the technical people at The Hague. However, about this time there was some adverse publicity in the Dutch press on the subject of asbestos and health, and one of the medical people at The Hague supported the London recommendation, with the result that alternatives were sought. The procedure is that the alternatives have to have the approval of the technical people in The Hague and I gather that most of the front running in finding alternatives was in point-of-fact again done by the medical people.

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