AL1022 02480

April 7, 1944

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mr. Douglas Campbell

FROM: R. A. Gordon

Censorship intercepts indicate that Rhodesian asbestos is being exported to various countries other than the U.S. and British Empire from Beira. Having in mind the extremely tight situation of the railway there, I have talked about this with George Emery. I gather that only a portion of the asbestos moving down this railway represents critical grades. The remainder is stuff that could be eliminated or shipped in smaller quantities without direct detriment to the war. The question occurs to me whether it might not be possible to store these less important grades at the mines in order to relieve temporarily some of the pressure on the railways.

There is no desire to interfere with the business of private firms any more than necessary but we have gone to considerable lengths to insure that the maximum movement of chrome, coal and copper be uninterrupted and it does not seem right to give space to non-strategic grades of asbestos if they are moving primarily for commercial reasons.

I wonder if it would be advisable to make a brief investigation indicating the total tonnage of asbestos moving on the railway and indicating what portion of this amount is needed for essential purposes. I am not sure what equipment is involved or what saving might be effected but a study would clear that up also.

I would appreciate your comments on this problem.

RAG:MT

PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT
JM-1235