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Wouwe Plantage, 21-5-2014

Hi Barry,

Please find enclosed everything I could find
in your listed boxes at the IISH in the Hague,
referring to Levinson. It's not much; and all
the rest is fairly innocuous and general.

I nearly forgot - I have also included all the
ICEF stuff.

Most documents are complete; others show
the contents, when those appear to be not
interesting.

I doubt it'll help any - even so, hang 'em high!

Hugs,

Yvonne.

ICEF

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH COMMUNIQUE
COMMUNIQUE SUR LA SANTE PROFESSIONNELLE
ARBEITSSCHUTZ - KOMMUNIQUE
COMUNICATO SULLA SANITA PROFESSIONALE
COMUNICADO SOBRE LA SALUD PROFESIONAL
ARBETSMILJÖMEDDELANDE

ICEF

TO ALL ICEF AFFILIATED AND
ASSOCIATED ORGANIZATIONS

Circular Letter No. 22/81

Geneva, 11th March, 1981

Dear Colleagues:

ICEF GERMAN AFFILIATE CALLS FOR THE SUBSTITUTION
OF ASBESTOS BY HARMLESS MATERIALS

Workplaces in which employees are exposed to the risk of cancer or in which products are produced which can cause the user or worker at a later stage of manufacture very serious damage must be changed by the introduction of materials which do not involve any cancer or other health risks. This demand was the main point discussed at a recent working session of the IG Chemie-Papier-Keramik concerning the carcinogenic substance asbestos.

This session was attended by invited representatives of the sciences, Federal and Regional Ministries, Federal Environmental Office, the Federal Bureau for Industrial Protection and Accident Prevention, professional associations and other German Union organizations concerned as well as factory councils from the asbestos industry.

Egon Schäfer, the member of the IG Chemie-Papier-Keramik Central Executive responsible for occupational health matters, called for a policy of sickness prevention rather than one of attacking the damage after it had been caused. This included the substitution of carcinogenic materials wherever risks to health during production and processing and harmful effects on the environment could not be eliminated. Brother Schäfer stressed the fact that results and recommendations made by official scientists strengthened and supported the unions in their call for action to combat the danger of cancer in the working environment. A recent official Asbestos Report of the Federal Environment Office and the statements made at the meeting made it ever more incomprehensible why sectors of industry persisted to this day in claiming that the handling of asbestos is harmless. Despite the dangers which have for decades been well known and despite admissions of the damage which asbestos causes to health, making it a compensatable industrial disease, the production of asbestos products has continued to increase.

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The participants in the asbestos meeting were unanimous that works councils and trade unions - together with the professional associations and the relevant government authorities - had together to step up their common fight against the risks caused by asbestos. The IG Chemie-Papier-Keramik took the initiative to lead the German trade union movement in drawing up a list of demands. These would include, inter alia,

- * the compulsory substitution of asbestos by harmless or less dangerous substances;
- * the inclusion of asbestos under Group I of the Raw Materials Nomenclature as an "extremely dangerous" carcinogenic substance;
- * the placing of danger warnings on all asbestos products.

The Federal Ministry of Labor would be requested immediately to prepare a catalogue of substitutes for carcinogenic substances, and asbestos in particular, which would be distributed to all participants.

The concern of works councils from the asbestos industry that a step-by-step substitution of asbestos by other products would lead to a fall in the number of jobs was countered by the argument that the production of substitutes in the same sectors of industry would create new jobs.

IG Chemie-Papier-Keramik has called for immediate legislative moves to reduce the risk involved in the processing and handling of asbestos to as near zero as is possible. In this connection, it has declared that it is essential for trade unions and works councils to be included in future in the necessary discussions on the measures to be taken.

Yours fraternally,



Charles Levinson
Secretary General