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DAG

J. Shaw, Esq.,

Washington Station.

HH & GW

JLC/JMW

9th November 1950.

Dear Mr. Shaw,

Draft Shipbuilding Regulations

With reference to our discussion on this subject last week, I enclose herewith a copy of the draft letter to the Factory Department of the Ministry of Labour which I have prepared. You will appreciate that this is only a preliminary draft intended largely to serve as a basis for discussion; it is clear that the form of the letter will require careful consideration both by N.I.Co.Ltd. and J.W.R.Ltd. and I anticipate that substantial alterations to the draft will be necessary.

So far as N.I.Co.Ltd. are concerned, I am sending further copies of the draft letter and of this letter to you, to Mr. Hanson and Mr. Wilson. Similarly, I am writing to Mr. Pehrson with the draft letter for consideration, with copies to Mr. Soothill.

The two major points appear to be the vital necessity of excluding Finished Articles from the operation of these Regulations so far as asbestos is concerned, and secondly, the equally important question with regard to the use of respirators by others working in the "vicinity".

After I have received suggestions from the Directors to whom the draft letter is now being sent, I will make appropriate alterations to the draft, and it may be that a meeting between us and Mr. Pehrson will prove desirable and would probably save time and correspondence.

Yours faithfully,

JLC

Secretary.

Enc.

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of underwriting, it seemed advisable to accept participation to the extent of £15,000; the offer to participate to that extent had therefore been accepted. The Board confirmed the action taken and also agreed that if we are required to take up any of this stock it should not be held permanently but should be sold as soon as this can be done at a profit.

No.9157. Declaration of Preference Dividend and Closing of Preference Stock Transfer Books

It was resolved that the half-yearly dividend on the 7% Cumulative Preference Stock to 30th September 1950 be paid on Saturday, 16th December 1950, less Income Tax. It was further resolved that the Preference Stock Transfer Books be closed from 27th November to 9th December 1950, both days inclusive. The Secretary was instructed to issue the usual notices to the Press and the Stock Exchanges.

INSULATION GROUP

No.9158. Draft Shipbuilding and Ship-Repairing Regulations

Mr. Wilson reported that N.I.Co.Ltd. had recently received a draft of the proposed new Regulations for Shipbuilding and Ship-Repairing. He drew attention to the definition of asbestos contained therein, asbestos being defined as meaning "any fibrous silicate mineral and any admixture containing any such mineral", and to the provisions of the draft Regulation No.70 as to the use of respirators in connection with "the manipulation, application (either by means of a spray or otherwise), taking down or removal of asbestos"; he also referred to draft Regulation No.71 as to no "young person" being employed in the manipulation, application, etc., of asbestos, as mentioned above.

Mr. Wilson said that it appeared desirable for representations to be made by N.I.Co.Ltd. jointly with J.W.R.Ltd. as to revising these draft Regulations, and said that a copy of the draft had been sent to Mr. Collins for consideration. Mr. Hanson agreed that this question, which is of primary importance, should be dealt with by N.I.Co.Ltd. and J.W.R. Ltd. jointly, and that the present form of the draft Regulations should be opposed, pointing out that the wording would apply not only to asbestos spray but to other products such as magnesia plastic and sections.

Mr. Collins said that he had received the draft Regulations from Washington the previous day and considered that they appeared to have been prepared by someone whose knowledge of the asbestos industry was slight. He also mentioned the fact that when the Asbestosis Regulations were originally drafted in or before 1931 we had an opportunity of making representa-

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tions, and that in consequence the draft Regulations were substantially altered; he also referred to his correspondence with the Principal Factory Inspector as regards the use of spray on shipboard some four years ago, and thought that the present draft Regulations were probably intended in the main (so far as asbestos is concerned) to apply to the spray process, though the wording as it stood at present would have a far wider effect.

Mr. Soothill agreed with Mr. Collins's remarks and considered that contact should be made with Dr. Merewether without delay, and said that he would ask Mr. Pehrson to get in touch with Mr. Shaw, as a question like this should be dealt with at Directorial level by the Unit Companies concerned. Mr. Collins said that he would send to Mr. Shaw and Mr. Pehrson copies of his previous correspondence with the Principal Factory Inspector as to the use of spray on board ship and would also obtain additional copies of these new draft Regulations and send them to Mr. Soothill.

It was agreed, on Mr. Hanson's suggestion, that this important question should be dealt with by the Boards of N.I.Co.Ltd. and J.W.R.Ltd. and reports made to this Board in due course.

MINES GROUP

No.9159. Havelock Concession M.41

9130/9199

Proposed Formation of Prospecting Syndicate

Mr. Collins reported that he had now considerably revised the draft Syndicate Agreement and also the draft Articles of Association and that such revised drafts had been approved both by Mineral Holdings in this country and by Mr. Starkey and our African Solicitors. He said that he had still heard nothing further from Mr. Penhale and was proposing, therefore, shortly to send these finally revised drafts to Mr. Penhale and ask him to cable if he had any further alterations to suggest. The drafts have also been seen and approved by Mr. Weiss with whom Mr. Collins had had an interview in London the previous week.

The position as reported was noted and approved.

No.9160. PENSION SCHEMES

9131/9240

Amendment to the Male Staff Pension Scheme
and
Institution of a Female Staff Pension Scheme

Mr. Collins reported that the Senior Principal Inspector of Taxes at Somerset House had refused to withdraw his requirement that the Rules should state that no pension is to exceed