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June 2, 1965

Mr. H. B. Palm
Plant Manager
Raybestos-Manhattan Inc.
Manheim, Pennsylvania

Dear Mr. Palm:

This is in reference to a research project pertaining to asbestos.

Last October, an international meeting was held in New York on the "Biological Effects of Asbestos", which was sponsored by the New York Academy of Sciences. At this meeting scientific representatives from many countries presented evidence of the association of lung cancer as well as mesotheliomas of the pleura and peritoneum with exposure to asbestos. Most of the evidence was derived from South Africa, England and Ireland, and the United States. The proceedings of this conference will be published some time this summer in book form by the New York Academy of Sciences.

Following this meeting, a three day session was held by the representatives of the International Union Against Cancer who in a series of working party groups developed "Recommendations pertaining to research on asbestos and cancer"... The purpose of this second international meeting was to establish world-wide cooperation pertaining to research on the relationship between asbestos and cancer. The International Union Against Cancer established an International Research Committee on Asbestos and Cancer. I am secretary of that particular committee, therefore am able to enclose a copy of the report which will be published this August in the American Medical Association Archives of Environmental Health. I thought that this would give you some additional background prior to the publication of the book by the New York Academy of Sciences.

The purpose of this letter is to let you know of my interest in carrying out the research pertaining to the relationship of asbestos and cancer and to enlist your assistance and cooperation in the study of your particular population group.

I am aware of the fact that others may have expressed a similar interest but their lines of investigation are completely different. For example, the United States Public Health Service has been conducting atmospheric air sampling and I am not concerned with this phase of the study.

Mr. H. B. Palm

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My interest is purely statistical in terms of an epidemiological study and would be confidential for use only for scientific purposes. The only assistance that I would require would be in obtaining information relative to duration of employment and type of occupation as related to age, sex and race.

I hope that the data that I would like to accumulate pertaining to your plant could be compared with that obtained from other countries. Undoubtedly the exposure levels and the control measures at present are considerably better in our country and I think it is important that we get some idea on a statistical basis as to what the difference may be.

I should like to visit the plant and talk this over with you to see if we can make some arrangements. At this stage, we are not asking for any contribution of funds to carry out this work although this would be welcomed. I am aware, as you must be by now, of what is going on and what ~~are~~ the inherent health problems among the various asbestos industries in the United States. I think that the asbestos industries have everything to gain and nothing to lose by providing assistance in regard to this type of research.

I should appreciate hearing from you. Personal regards.

Sincerely,

Thomas F. Mancuso, M.D.
Research Professor

TFM/c
Enclosure