Johnson & Johnson

DOMESTIC OPERATING COMPANY

NEW BRUNSWICK, N. J.
August 2, 1971

Mr. Barry Castleman
Department of Environmental Engineering
Johns-Hopkins University
Baltimore, Maryland 21201

Dear Mr. Castleman:

This is in answer to your letter of July 25:

1. The use of talc as a cosmetic extends far back in historical time. More specifically, Johnson & Johnson has marketed baby powder since 1895.

2. We have no asbestos in our baby powder. To prove this, we have had extensive analytical work carried out by mineralogists at the Colorado School of Mines, by McCrone Laboratories in Chicago and by Professor Fred Pooley at the University of Wales in Cardiff. Professor Pooley is associated with one of the teaching scientific groups studying the relationship of asbestos and other inorganic particles to cancer.

3. We have no meaningful information regarding baby powder manufactured by other companies. We suspect, however, that the "5 to 25" percent quoted by the newspapers is not based on carefully documented scientific evidence.

I hope the above answers your questions.

Sincerely,

T H Shelley

Thomas H. Shelley, Ph.D
Director
Central Research Laboratories

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Johnson & Johnson

NEW BRUNSWICK, N. J.

March 7, 1972

Mr. Barry Castleman
305 W. Biddle Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21201

Dear Mr. Castleman:

First, I must apologize for the delay in replying to your inquiry about JOHNSON'S Brand Baby Powder. Your card was sent in inter-office mail with some correspondence in re-usable envelope. The other mail was taken from the envelope which was then placed in a stack to be used again. Unfortunately, it was not used again until this week, and your card was re-discovered at that time.

To answer your question, Johnson & Johnson takes great care in the formulation and production of all its products. In the case of JOHNSON'S Baby Powder, the talc comes from our own mines, specifically selected for the quality of their talc. This high-grade talc is processed through repeated "washings" in order to free it of impurities. Under careful analysis by independent experts, the finished product has been shown to be free of asbestos.

Thank you for your interest in Johnson & Johnson products and please forgive the delay in replying to your card.

Sincerely,

Steven Sawchuk, M.D.
Associate Director of Clinical Research

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