SPAID THE SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF ASBESTOSIS AND INDUSTRIAL DISEASES

FROM THE SECRETARY

The Advisory Committee on Asbestos has recommended that :-

1) new 'control limits' should be :

0.2 fibres/ml. crocidolite - no change

0.5 fibres/ml. amosite
1.0 fibres/ml. chrysotile } the present standard is 2 fibres/ml (Recommendations 6 to 8

2) there should be a statutory ban on the import of raw crocidolite fibre and products containing it. (Recommendations 1 - 4)

3) any person who produces specifications for, or carries on a process involving the use of asbestos, should be obliged to consider the use of alternative materials * (Recommendations 5 and

4) for the first time, the social costs of asbestos should be taken into account (Recommendation 7)

5) the provision of protective clothing and washing facilities should be extended; the cleaning of protective clothing in workers' homes should be prohibited. (Recommendations 75 - 8

6) access to areas where control limits are likely to be exceeded should be restricted (Recommendation 86)

7) those exposed to asbestos dust should be advised to stop smoking (Recommendation 87)

8) responsibility for the medical examination of those working with asbestos should be transferred from [illegible] to [illegible] (Recommendations 88 - 9

Other proposals to protect the general public refer to factory emissions, environmental monitoring, transport, waste disposal and labelling. (Recommendations 98 - 4

* This recommendation should be very useful, in the long-term. S.P.

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PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT
JM-2101

SPAID THE SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF ASBESTOSIS AND INDUSTRIAL DISEASES

From the Secretary

The 41 recommendations made in the Final Report of the Advisory Committee on Asbestos : 'New Proposals for Legal and Administrative Controls in the Workplace' have reached the Secretary, who comments :-

SPAID regrets that the proposed 'control limits' for asbestos dust in the workplace are not equally strict for each type of asbestos : white, brown and blue. The proposed controls imply that white (chrysotile) is five times safer than blue (crocidolite), but this is mistaken.

The theory that white asbestos is much safer than blue is widely held in this country, but is generally rejected abroad.

One of the chief reasons why this theory has been officially accepted in the U.K., and is still now accepted by the government Advisory Committee, is that official statistics under-estimate the level of disease caused by white asbestos.

These statistics are primarily based on the number of successful claims for benefit made to the DHSS. Such claims are approved or dismissed by DHSS Pneumoconiosis Board In reaching their decisions, the Boards examine samples of tissue by a technique that is bound to identify the presence of blue asbestos and overlook the presence of white.

Because a different control limit is proposed for each type of asbestos, the recommendations will make the work of the Factory Inspectorate even more difficult in future. Their enforcement of existing and past Regulations has been severely criticised.

The Committee has ignored many of the recommendations of the TUC and the new controls will not prevent Asbestosis and cancer.