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From Macassar
To Batavia-Centrum

Letter R-490
Nov. 28. 1937
File 46

MACROBERTSON AIR RACE
KOEPANG

While Mr. Tonckens was at Koepang, he had our pump mechanic Mr. Kuen do the transferring of Stanavo Ethyl Aviation Gasoline from 70-liter drums to 200-liter drums, during which Mr. Kuen was most careful to use rubber gloves, etc. However, he used no protection for his face and breathed in the fumes. The result was that he became sick and had to return to Macassar prematurely arriving here November 21st. We sent him to Dr. Goedbloed and this doctor confirms that Mr. Kuen has lead poisoning. We have advised Dr. Goedbloed to test his blood, etc., and now Mr. Kuen is taking injections.

Mr. Tonckens was most negligent in allowing people to handle this gas without using cloth masks and we have advised our Koepang agent again to use cloth masks and rubber gloves, and to wash the skin promptly with kerosene should this gasoline spill on to their body or hands, etc.

We think there is a distinct danger in Koepang, with ignorant natives and our Chinese agent handling this gas in future, and we enquire if just ordinary gauze is all right to put over the mouth against fumes of Ethyl gas.

Mr. Kuen will be O.K. in a few days.

Mr. Tonckens had specific instructions on this problem and has read the correspondence by Mr. Tracy (letter Hongkong/Batavia No. 1986 of July 25), Dr. Schoenleber's letter of May 2 addressed to Mr. G. G. Walden, of which we have a copy, as well as Mr. May's letter No. 705 of June 1st on the question of handling Ethyl Gas and its dangers.

S. W. Fadden - Attorney.

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