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Mr. E. A. Edmonds,
London Office.

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CONFIDENTIAL

15th February 1967.

I.C.I. Paints Division, Slough

We have been able to get hold of a copy, very confidentially, of a directive issued by I.C.I. Paints Division, Slough, which indicates that the usage in this Division of asbestos-containing material will be discontinued forthwith.

A write-up accompanying the directive concentrates on the lagging systems so that it is not quite clear whether all their purchases of asbestos materials, including, say, packings, jointings, gloves, etc. will be prohibited. If it is only lagging materials, then it is of no great consequence as far as this Division is concerned because Newalls tell me that they are very rarely called upon to supply rope and cloth to this particular Division.

For the moment, it seems as though this directive is confined to the Paints Division, but I should think that there is no doubt that it will be repeated elsewhere in the I.C.I. Organisation and, if so, some of our business at least is in peril. Frankly, I am not sure at the moment whether it would be wise to make probings at other I.C.I. Divisions, and will you have a word with me by telephone as soon as you can as I would like to have your views.

A. C. *Harry*