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March 30, 1972

TO: W. M. Stephenson

FROM: D. G. Brant

SUBJECT: United States Mineral Products Company
Stanhope, New Jersey

CC: D. Ingram
R. L. Plantz
E. E. Rourke

The United States Mineral Products Company produces Cafco Sound Shield 85. Because of our current interest in this type of product, I visited their Stanhope, New Jersey plant.

Mr. Ed Jani, Purchasing Agent, informed me that Don Ingram had been in the day before (March 29). I had been informed that Don would be there on March 30 and had hoped to meet him there. They have purchased a truckload of 4X Quick Plastic Hydrated Lime from Canaan and Mr. Jani said it worked satisfactorily. He was particularly pleased with the freight cost and the ease of obtaining truck shipments. Apparently they have had problems scheduling rail shipments out of Gibsonburg.

I was unable to learn what type of binder (if any) is used in Sound Shield. A similar product called "Blaze-Shield" uses a proprietary binder, and I must assume that Sound Shield does also.

Mr. Jani told me that they do not purchase any pulverized limestone. So we must assume that Sound Shield does not contain such an ingredient.

I was invited to return soon to talk to Frank Stumpf or Frank Newirth in their Research Department. This invitation followed my suggestion that they consider using a plasticized hydrate. Perhaps on my follow-up visit with their Research personnel I can learn more details about Sound Shield.

I was most interested in learning more about the company and its products. Basically they are a mineral wool manufacturer. Mineral wool is of the "spun" type and is made from blast furnace slag. Among their many products are:

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USM Blowing Wool	(pneumatically installed insulation)
Sound Shield 85	(sprayed acoustical ceilings)
Blaze Shield	(sprayed fireproofing insulation)
Heat Shield	(sprayed heat insulation)
Foam-Grid Panels	(suspended ceiling panels)
Suprathane	(urethane foam roof decking)
Cellofoam	(expanded polystyrene shapes)
Power Shield	(thermal insulation with asbestos)

The Blaze Shield material was of particular interest. They claim to have applied over 50,000,000 square feet to structural steel as a fire proofing material. Buildings so treated include the New York World Trade Center and the Sears Tower in Chicago. The material contains no asbestos or any other toxic ingredients. They claim the mineral wool was specifically developed to be biologically inert.

I obtained an Annual Report dated May 20, 1971. The United States Mineral Products Company lists three wholly owned subsidiaries.

Columbia Acoustics & Fireproofing Company
Cafco International Ltd. (Canada)
Columbia Acoustics & Fireproofing Company (Canada) Ltd.

I asked about obtaining samples of mineral wool for experimental work in our own research work. They have one cupola down for repair and will not have any surplus mineral wool for sale until after July.

My visit did not answer all my questions about the formulation of Sound Shield 85, but it did provide information not available to me before. I am impressed with the outfit, and we must not underestimate them in our efforts to develop a competitive product.

D. G. Brant

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