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June 4, 1973

Talc

Mr. W. A. Ashton
Dr. R. A. Fuller
Dr. A. Goudie to Dr. R. Rolle
Dr. G. Hildick-Smith
Dr. G. Lord
Dr. W. Nashed
Dr. R. Petterson

Dr. Hildick-Smith and I met with our English cohorts to discuss the talc program. Much of the discussion is outlined in the attached report.

One important point which was covered was that the British Toilet Preparations Federation is drafting specifications for the analysis of "asbestos" in talc. Their methods involve concentration techniques, and will therefore be much more sensitive than our propose : specifications.

Apparently the Italian 00000 talc passes this test, and of course Vermont talc does too, for chrysotile. However, I expressed my concern that Vermont talc may occasionally show traces of tremolite by this procedure. I pointed out to Bob Dean that there was no specific evidence that traces of tremolite in talc posed any hazard, rather that the evidence indicated no toxic problem. Bob agreed to review the tremolite aspects with TPF, and hopefully will be able to limit the analytical method to chrysotile. I have asked Dr. Rolle to send samples of our Vermont talc to Fred Pooley so that he may check them by the proposed British method. I of course pointed out to Bob that in the long term, our Brattelle study will delineate the toxicological properties of Vermont talc.

Dr. Hildick-Smith, Mr. Dean, Dr. Sloan and I visited the BIBRA. We were well received. As of the moment, BIBRA is awaiting samples of Italian 00000 talc to investigate whether such, when placed in the female rat vagina, will migrate into ovarian tissue. They expressed the belief that it will not.

T. H. Shelley

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Attach.

EXHIBIT
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