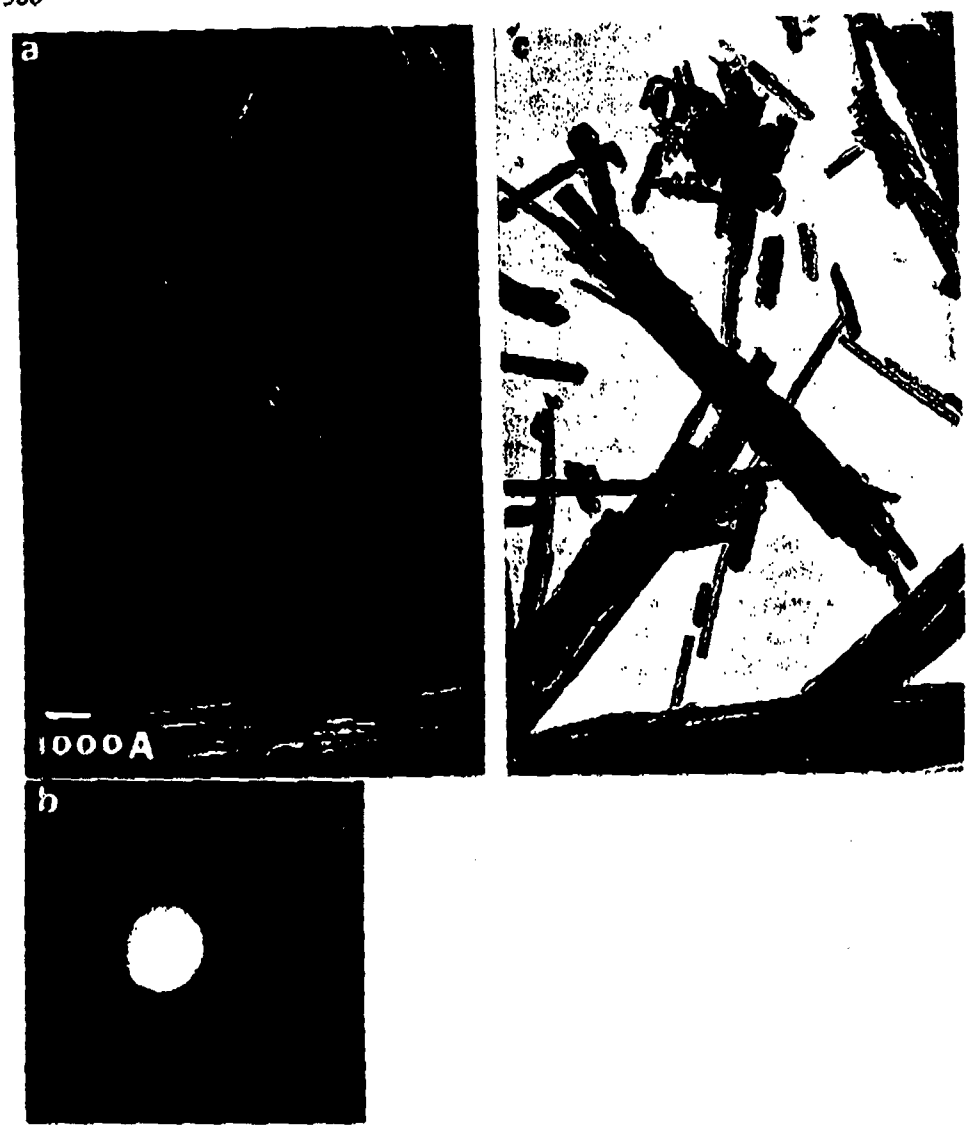

FIG. 3. Sample (A): natural chrysotile. (a) and (b) Dark-field and diffraction pattern. Notice the unusually bright and undamaged internal canals; the crystal is homogeneous and undeformed. A faint outline of the objective aperture is seen in the diffraction pattern of Fig. 3b. (c) Illustrates the blistering as a result of exposure to the beam.

diffraction processes are operative: Notice that the canals are sometimes bright and sometimes dark. In the crystalline part, however, the intensity is uniform and it is clear that these fibers are free of gross deformation.

Chrysotile fibers, like most sheet silicates, are beam-sensitive to 100-keV electrons (Langer *et al.*, 1974; Seshan, 1975). Precaution must therefore be exercised while obtaining the high resolution dark-field images, because upon focusing the