

PLAINTIFF'S
EXHIBIT

FK-172

**QUEBEC
ASBESTOS MINING
ASSOCIATION**

**SPECIAL WINTER MEETING
GRAND BAHAMA HOTEL**

and

COUNTRY CLUB

MARCH 27-30, 1968

**QUEBEC
ASBESTOS MINING
ASSOCIATION**

ASBESTOS CORPORATION LTD.,
THETFORD MINES, QUE.

BELL ASBESTOS MINES LTD.,
THETFORD MINES, QUE.

CANADIAN JOHNS-MANVILLE CO. LTD.,
ASBESTOS, QUE.

CAREY-CANADIAN MINES LTD.,
EAST BROUGHTON, QUE.

FLINKOTE MINES LTD.,
THETFORD MINES, QUE.

LAKE ASBESTOS OF QUEBEC LTD.,
BLACK LAKE, QUE.

NATIONAL ASBESTOS MINES LTD.,
THETFORD MINES, QUE.

PICOLET ASBESTOS MINES LTD.,
NOBEBSTON, QUE.

1968 looks promising for increased asbestos consumption in the Far East. In the Middle East, as a result of the continuing crisis between Egypt and Israel, no improvement is expected. In Europe a somewhat better market is forecast especially in Germany, U.K., the Scandinavian and "grey curtain" countries. The market in "the emerging" and Latin-American countries should in the long term expand quite substantially. In general, the upward demand for asbestos-cement products in most countries of the world is expected to continue and associated with this increase will be the consumption of asbestos fibre.

Presently, Canada exports asbestos fibre to more than 80 countries. This vast export market is expected to continue to expand despite intensified competition from non-mineral materials, new products and new techniques. 10 years ago Canadian mines shipped \$100 million worth of fibre; in 1967 asbestos shipments will have soared to \$165 million. With rising standards of living and large scale economic developments in many countries of the world, Canada's asbestos mining industry faces a challenging future. In meeting successfully such a challenge, the Canadian Asbestos industry will contribute to maintaining the leading position of Canada's mineral industry as third largest in the world, ranking immediately after that of U.S.A. and U.S.S. R.

RESEARCH IN OCCUPATIONAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Elimination of airborne dust and asbestos fibre particles is a problem that the Canadian asbestos industry has seriously studied over a number of years and has combatted with a considerable amount of success. Because there is universal use of asbestos products, and as there are few aspects of modern life that do not make use of asbestos to some degree, the Quebec Asbestos Mining Association established an Institute of Occupational and Environmental Health to conduct or sponsor research into all facets of

the production, manufacturing and use of asbestos and asbestos products in relation to health.

Arising from recent press publicity, sometimes ill informed and exaggerated, widespread concern has been expressed, suggesting that the use of certain asbestos products might result in hazards to public health, such as lung cancer. These implications are naturally of great concern to the asbestos industry and it would seem somewhat premature, to say the least, to accept theories of this sort, when not corroborated by unequivocal scientific evidence.

So far, in studies of asbestos exposure and human health, research has not shown evidence of any risk to the general public from the use of finished asbestos products. There is no scientific evidence that anyone has ever contracted any disease from exposure to products containing asbestos.

Scientific research to identify and reduce the health risk from asbestos dust exposure is being conducted in many places throughout the world. The asbestos industry both sponsor such research and cooperates in work being done by government agencies and private medical investigators all over the world.

In Canada, medical research teams are presently carrying out extensive epidemiological surveys of past and present employees of all asbestos mines in the Province of Quebec. Preceding studies have shown that the health situation at the centers of asbestos production was as good as in other industrial towns of equal population located in various parts of the Province. It is hoped that the results of the present epidemiological survey will substantiate this fact.

In cooperation and in conjunction with other agencies, the asbestos industry will continue to seek new information about the biological effects of asbestos fiber and to develop ways of assuring maximum possible protection from occupational hazards, for its employees in asbestos mines, mills and plants.

A NOTE OF OPTIMISM

Despite current underlying difficulties the industry is confident that it has not reached its full potential as yet. By keeping abreast of and contributing to technological developments in many countries, the Canadian asbestos producers firmly believe that they are associated with an adaptable industry in a dramatically changing world, with a growing industry in a developing world economy and with a dynamic industry in the increasingly automated world of today and tomorrow.

Paul A. Filteau,
General Manager,
Quebec Asbestos Mining Association.

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