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NEW

Imperial Tobacco Group Ltd.
FEB 1971

SIG/TA

10th February, 1971.

Dr. H.R. Bentley,
Imperial Tobacco Group Ltd.,
Bodminster,
BRISTOL 3. BS99 7JR.

Dear Herbert,

In the normal way, we have been informed in a letter from Mr. Freeman to Mr. Davies (B-A.T. Legal Department) of your U.K. Patent Application 3550/71 (dated 1. 2.71.). Particularly in view of our recent discussions with respect to co-operation between yourselves and Cigarette Components I am writing to you directly. I believe the I.T.G. application is almost entirely covered by a prior B-A.T. provisional application made in the middle of 1970. It would not appear sensible to allow both applications to proceed independently as most of the I.T.G. application might well be frustrated by our application. Our objectives, I believe, coincide with yours and are to establish the strongest patents we can in the U.K. and overseas covering what we think is an important filter development and to further the development of the filter as expeditiously as possible.

I propose therefore that we should get the relevant people together and after making a full disclosure of all the results establish the technical position. After that we could ask one of our respective patent agents to advise us how best to achieve our patent objective and plan any work required jointly. My own quick interpretation of the patent position is that we may be able to improve the B-A.T. final application to meet your requirements and proceed from there, possibly with other patents if desirable.

If you agree, I should like to invite your party to Southampton and should like to be present not only because of my concern with patents and R. & D. but also because I think it is most important to establish ways of working together in this rather tricky area.

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Dr. H.R. Bentley, Bristol.

10th February, 1971.

In view of this, I think our Legal Department would prefer to delay answering Mr. Freeman's letter about foreign protection.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,


S. J. GREEN

c.c. S.D. Freeman, Esq.
c.c. T.E. Davies, Esq. ✓
c.c. Dr. F. Haslam. ✓

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