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READING FILE
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Confidential

7th March, 1977.

Dr. F.A. Fairweather,
Department of Health and Social Security,
Hannibal House,
Elephant and Castle,
LONDON SE1 6TE

Dear Frank,

You will have received the separate letter from Sir Clifford Jarrett about the constitutional questions which we have identified in considering the confidential guidelines enclosed with your letter to him of 25th October, 1976 about arrangements for monitoring health effects after the introduction of cigarettes containing substitutes. This present letter is concerned with the design of whatever studies may be appropriate.

What we did on first receiving the confidential guidelines was to ask the TRC staff to give us their technical advice and this is contained in the enclosed memorandum. On the technical plane we would support what they have said.

We desire to emphasise that we are anxious that the Hunter Committee should settle as rapidly as possible what it wants to be done by way of studies of the human population. We do not know, of course, how far the Committee feels it is already committed to a long-term study on the lines envisaged in the guidelines; we are, however, impressed by the fundamental questions which the TRC staff have raised in their last section, headed "Alternative approaches" and regard them as so important that we should wish them to be considered simultaneously with the details of the long-term epidemiological study. We feel that a very early meeting is needed, firstly, to thrash out answers to these fundamental questions and, secondly, if the sort of study envisaged by the guidelines is confirmed, to settle its main parameters:

I should make it clear that B.A.T. have not yet decided what views we will take on substitutes or what part we would wish to play in any human study or indeed whether we would be willing even to share the cost of such a study.

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In our special position we cannot so decide until the questions raised above have been answered. However, on this understanding that we have no commitment at this stage we are anxious to take part in any discussions which may help you, the industry and the Hunter Committee in the resolution of some of these problems.

With kind regards,
Yours sincerely,

S.J. GREEN

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