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R. E. Thornton (Dr.)

RET/LAP/46D

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Mr. B. Simpson,
Secretary General,
Infotab,
Rue Montoyer 10,
Boite 2,
B-1040 Brussels,
Belgium.

Dear Brian,

Infotab Passive Smoking Working Group

Following our recent telephone conversation I am writing to confirm that having given the proposed programme detailed consideration, BAT would be unable to support an epidemiological study as discussed in Washington.

Briefly our difficulties relate to the knowledge that there are several large studies currently underway (e.g. Gartinkci has a very large study in the US), the time-scale and enormous cost of any worthwhile study and difficulties in interpretation of the results whatever they show.

Instead, we should consider devoting some time to looking at weak points in current epidemiological studies in this area. These could include accurate assessments of smoke intake and some assessments of possible confounding factors. Knowledge of such matters might be useful in refuting some of the weak scientific studies currently being used by anti-smoking groups.

I hope this does not cause too many problems but, as you know, some of these points were made in Washington which was the first time that I had detailed knowledge of the proposals.

With kind regards.

Yours sincerely,



R. E. THORNTON

cc Mr. E. A. A. Bruell,
Mr. H. A. Morini,
Mr. R. L. O. Ely,
Dr. L. C. F. Blackman,
Mr. P. Short.

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