

STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL

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Notes on BAT/ITL Joint Meeting

held at Southampton on 25th October, 1978

Present: Dr. H. R. Bentley )  
Mr. J. G. Burgan ) ITL  
Dr. R. J. K. Shepherd )  
Dr. S. J. Green )  
Dr. L. C. F. Blackman ) BAT  
Dr. D. G. Felton )

Hunter Committee

The meeting reviewed the progress of the meeting of Company scientists with Dr. F. A. Fairweather and A. Nelmes of DHSS held on 24th October. RJKS listed the following points:-

Para. 13 To be reworded in accordance with the proposal from RJKS.

Para. 14 Mr. Wilson (Gallaher) wanted a discussion on the wording of this. It was recommended that HRB should persuade Gallaher and Carreras to leave this as it currently stood.

Para. 19 Despite Dr. Roe's clarification of the complexities of the carcinogenic process, no change was proposed as there had been no request for comment by TAC.

Para. 20 Detailed consideration was given to the proposed Gallaher redraft. ITL agreed broadly with the Gallaher figures as stated, but attempts to complete the gaps, revealed that the nicotine figures for both plain and filter brands had risen during 1977. It was agreed to leave it to Gallaher to find a way out of the impasse into which they had led the industry.

Para. 21 Delete "manufactured from tobacco stem".

Appendix I: After consultation with Mr. A. Reid, HRB initiated action with Sir James Wilson to get TAC agreement to an approach to the Minister to get the terms of reference of the I.S.C. changed back to the original, viz. "To advise on the scientific .....", thereby leaving it indeterminate as to who would receive the advice.

Appendix III: Minor corrections were mentioned.

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Appendix IV: ITL will reserve their position on the use of hamsters. The industry as a whole are not, therefore, in agreement about this.

HRB would propose to TAC that Dr. Roe's critique on the use of hamsters should be sent to DHSS.

Appendix V: RJKS suggested that the redraft which has been tabled by BAT was unlikely to be accepted by FAF.

Appendix VI: The definition of "additives" was reworded so as to exclude reconstituted tobacco and aqueous extracts of tobacco, including nicotine. The new proposal:-  
"...any substance, other than water and substances manufactured wholly from tobacco, which is added..."

This wording was confirmed with Gallaher and Carreras and telephoned to Mr. Grice to be forwarded from TAC to DHSS.

#### Huntingdon Research Centre

HRB explained that ITL were cutting back their financial guaranteed commitment over three years to zero in 1979/80, when they would finance each project ad hoc. Currently, they had a large scale monkey inhalation experiment directed at cardiovascular diseases and entailing combinations of atherogenic and normal diets with exposure to smoke, carbon monoxide and nicotine vapour. Residues of the NSM programme involving rat inhalation and a mouse-skin crossover experiment awaited analysis. Other investigations, e.g. on PVA adhesives were reassuring in the short term and long term studies would only be undertaken if there was firm demands from production for clearance. A teratology experiment involving fluorocarbon residues was still unfinished. The aim in the future was to keep the inhalation toxicology section a viable entity by ad hoc studies.

Meanwhile, HRC were to be asked to forecast the future pressures from Smoking and Health, e.g. Passive Smoking, the Pill, Smoking and the Menopause, etc.

#### ICOSI

HRB explained the change in name and terms of reference of MBRG to Scientific and Technical Advisory Group (STAG). He saw the tasks as responding ad hoc to the questions put to it by ICOSI/EC.

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Current problems were:-

1. Continue the methodology for study of ambient atmospheres for e.g. carbon monoxide, nitrosamines.
2. Recommend what work need be undertaken to assess the importance of tobacco vs. other sources of non tobacco-specific nitrosamines.
3. Recommend how best to discover why people smoke in the ways that they do, e.g. smoking behaviour, butt length, etc.

In the future, STAG will not be asked to comment on lawyer's papers, nor undertake joint research.

It was agreed BAT would table the BIBRA review on nitrosamines at the Belfast STAG meeting.

HRB said that, according to Ed Jacob, the Gori paper raised problems in the USA and there was an urgent need to discredit league tables. The book of the BAT Chelwood conference was discussed in this context.

HRB also reported that ITL had objected strongly to the last redraft of the paper to the EC/CCC produced by Finnigan and had apparently blocked its submission.

#### TAC Research Committee

The meeting reviewed the Agenda for the forthcoming meeting of the TAC Research Committee.

SJG said BAT's policy was to end TRC research as soon as possible and not to start any new work. HRB confirmed that this was ITL's view as well, but warned that Sir James Wilson had been lobbying for support for the programme of research proposed by Roe and Lee, on the grounds that it was worth undertaking for various reasons, e.g. relations with Government, facing future challenges, etc.

The BAT/ITL view was that this would have been correct under the independent umbrella of TRC but, once TRC was closed for financial and other reasons, the programme lost credence.

The proposals were premature. It was first necessary to discuss what role research would play in TAC.

HRB explained the complex reasons behind the ITL refusal to support Warburton. At ICOSI, Ed Jacob advised a total embargo on all work associated with the pharmacology of nicotine and the benefits conferred by smoking for three reasons

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- (i) The pending Californian lawsuit which indicted nicotine as an addictive substance.
- (ii) T.I., C.T.R. and ICOSI were only exempt from anti-trust proceedings as long as they were concerned with work on smoking associated diseases. Benefits were expressly excluded from collaborative studies.
- (iii) In the USA, ASH, GASP and ACS have started suit against Califano to show cause why tobacco should not be brought under the powers of the FDA. Califano was resisting on the grounds that there was no evidence of personality alterations by nicotine nor of pharmacological benefits. Therefore, no individual company should work on benefits.

ICOSI had agreed with this policy and Jacob had been sent to stop the Verband programme on nicotine. ITL, as the ICOSI "leader" in the UK, therefore determined that there should be no support to Warburton to work on "benefits". Now Warburton is to be supported by Gallaher and Carreras.

SJG made the point that BAT only investigated the effects of smoke and/or nicotine. Whether effects are a benefit involves a value judgement.

#### Next Meeting

This was arranged for 8-9th January, 1979, at Bristol.

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25th October, 1978

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