

NOTE ON TELEPHONE CONVERSATION WITH
DR. A.J. NEIMES OF D.H.S.S. ON 4.1.1978

FROM:

SRE indicated that he was ringing to find out whether the secretariat needed any further information in respect of our submission on cocoa and whether it was possible to arrange a meeting to discuss any outstanding aspects prior to the Hunter Committee meeting on 17th January.

AN said that there were further complications which had arisen because the Under Secretary of State had not contacted the new members of the Committee in time for them to attend the January meeting. It was now expected that the full Committee would meet in February but no date has yet been fixed although one had been proposed.

From the general conversation it was clear that the secretariat has been studying the problem in that AN raised questions relating to the type of cigarettes smoked in U.S.A. and the types of blend used in the B.A.T studies compared with the ICI experiments. He also mentioned that the American blended cigarette which we examined was the only one which had a filter: SRE reminded him that we were considering specific varieties and that normal filters had no effect. SRE agreed to look out a reference relating to the effect of filters and also to remind him of the epidemiological studies which we would still like to see included in the submission relating to cocoa.

TO:

From a telephone conversation with Dr. Sheppard of I.P.J. in relation to his visit here in January, SRE had understood that the Hunter Committee appeared to be changing their position

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in relation to cellulosic gums in cigars. SRE tackled AJN on this point and he confirmed that the secretariat have now agreed that, since information on gums used at low levels had not been requested by the Committee, their use in this type of application should not be considered as additives. Cellulosic materials employed as adhesives or binders in sheet materials would still be subject to scrutiny by the Committee. AJN went on to say that although companies would be able to use these materials as gums they would not expect to have them included on the list of additives. SRE then asked whether it was still necessary for us to provide the background information which had been discussed previously. AJN said that they would very much like to have this information because it was largely on the arguments which we had presented that it has now been agreed that such materials used as gums would be excluded and, further, that the technical information would be useful if the problem was raised by the Hunter Committee.

cc: Dr. D.G. Felton
Dr. C.I. Ayres

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