

DR. S.J. GREEN

DGF/PS

27th February, 1963

STRICTLY PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL

Sir Charles Ellis, F.R.S.,
Westminster House,
7, Millbank,
LONDON, S.W.1.

Research & Development

Recvd: -7 MAR 1963

Ack:

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LbD

Dear Sir Charles,

The Coresta Congress has drawn to its close and we shall now be starting our second part of the tour with visits to farms and research stations. The Congress was rather uneven and I shall be making a report on it on my return to England; in addition, a number of discussions took place on an informal basis among a small group of people and, as I believe you will be interested in these, I am writing you the following account. The matters discussed may well arise in England before my return and, therefore, I think it important to inform you fully of the background to the talks.

You will recall that after my last visit to Switzerland, I recounted a version of the Coresta Groupe Fumée discussion in Neuchatel and, in this, I said that the idea of the International "Club" had been accepted by the French and Austrian Régies, but that the Italians were rather dubious. This was not wholly correct. Cuzin had been converted, but had been unsuccessful with Grimanelli of the French Régie. Consequently, a rift had opened within the Régie between Grimanelli, Vesperini and Vessereau on the one hand and Cuzin on the other. Cuzin was under severe pressure from Grimanelli and this badly confused the story in its opening stages as Cuzin attempted to convert others, including Bentley and myself, to the Grimanelli view. This was as follows:-

Hitherto Coresta has excluded discussion of health matters, but now it is impossible to do so because all analytical work on smoke has the health problem implicit in it, e.g. phenols, particle sizes, hydrocarbons etc. It was, therefore, proposed that in future health discussion would not be discouraged. Coresta policy would be to accept the position as stated by independent medical experts as a basis for policy decisions. In order to produce a "safer" cigarette, Coresta should cover the following areas.

(1) Biological research to identify the harmful ingredient(s) in smoke. Cuzin puts most faith in short-term tests such as suppression of sebaceous glands etc.

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- (ii) Measures to reduce the risk by e.g. filters, catalysts and other processes.
- (iii) Standardisation of bioassay techniques and definitions.

The intention clearly was that the Schlenker proposals should be met by establishing a Coresta Bioassay study group.

This was discussed by Weber, Walts, Bentley and myself. Having stated my brief that the Schlenker proposals involved primarily commercial aspects, rather than scientific ones, I played very little part in subsequent talks but acted more as an observer. Bentley told Weber that Mr. Roger Clarke had replied to Schlenker's proposals to say that these were considered to be a matter for T.R.C., to whom Mr. Clarke would refer Schlenker's letter with the latter's permission. If Schlenker agreed then Mr. Partridge would try to integrate this into an agreement between British manufacturers on phenols etc. The U.K. manufacturers would be asked to agree to joint action on the following points.

(i) The development of a cigarette shown to be safe for human consumption - at the present, a purely academic question, and therefore premature.

(ii) The development of an "animal-safe" cigarette based on several tests, not merely a "mouse-safe" one. This would be based on carcinogenicity tests and would, undoubtedly, depend on Harrogate and would, therefore, be fully shared in the U.K.

- (iii) Action in fringe areas such as phenols, low tar cigarettes (aldehydes) etc. - the "pseudo-safe cigarette".

These are changes which are made not because of any cogent reason but merely because they are presumptive danger spots. I.T. Co. see the greatest difficulty in obtaining agreement here because of possible commercial advertising claims. Weber was told by Bentley that this was under discussion in T.R.C. and that he could not expect it to be resolved rapidly.

Bentley went on to say that I.T. Co. and T.R.C. would not agree to any international co-operation of the type proposed by Weber, if this were carried out under the aegis of Coresta. T.R.C. could owe no allegiance to Coresta because of the risk of that body taking decisions which could not be controlled.

Cusin joined the discussion later that evening and finally accepted the suggestion that informal exchange of information was preferable to attempts to force this possible scheme into the Coresta mould. It was made clear to Cusin by Bentley, Walts and myself that the major difficulty with the operation of a Coresta study group was that bioassay inevitably involved interpretation. Bentley, in particular, feared that the Régie might be prepared to act on the

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basis of results of short-term tests which T.R.C. (and Bentley in particular) would find unconvincing. Bentley seems more and more unwilling to contemplate any test which does not involve experimental primary carcinogenesis and for this reason does not really consider work on irritation as important, a point on which we disagree violently.

With that as a background, Weber went lobbying among the Heads of the Monopolies. First, he approached Cova of Italy who was strongly in favour of collaboration on health and had so replied to the Schlenker proposals. He was insistent that this should be through Coresta and said that if the free enterprise countries (England, Germany and Switzerland) would not agree with this approach, then Coresta should go ahead alone. Grimanelli, who was approached next, held the same views as Cova and added that he thought the time was approaching when Coresta should make a firm policy statement on health, accepting the R.C.P. report etc. Schramm of Austria appeared to be won over to the views put forward by Weber.

Meanwhile, I was approached by Cuzin who began to tell me of the internal turmoil in the French Regie. He said that a "Black Book" had been produced for internal circulation and that this read like the R.C.P. report. Presumably, this is the Vessereau document of which Todd learned last year. Cuzin said that a reasoned refutation of the "Black Book" had been produced - the so-called "Red Book" and offered to send me a copy on a very confidential basis. He may take a bit of holding to this offer in the light of subsequent events! Cuzin said that Coresta would never be able to make pronouncements on smoking and health as this was explicitly excluded from the constitution as a result of a meeting in Vienna in 1959. At this point, Weber joined us and reported he had made absolutely no progress with Grimanelli. When he recounted Grimanelli's view about Coresta policy mentioned above, Cuzin exploded saying that Grimanelli was a fool. He went on to say that he didn't trust Cova and that he, too, was foolish.

However, after this series of discussions, a meeting was held of the Coresta Scientific Commission, during which, after considerable argument, Grimanelli apparently capitulated. It was agreed that Coresta would not set up a Study Group on Bioassay and, more important, there would be no references to health in Coresta resolutions. The idea of the informal approach had won the day, largely because the Germans and Swiss threatened to withdraw from Coresta otherwise.

Weber now says he will report this to Schlenker on his return to Germany and will warn him that a quick response to his approach is very unlikely. He will propose that Schlenker writes to e.g. the Chairman of T.R.C., suggesting the exchange of letters of intent to pool information along the lines of the three points to be put to the U.K. manufacturers which were mentioned earlier. Each country should set its own house in order first, in order to police the "bad boys", and no attempt would be made to establish a more formal relationship, internationally. Any greater degree of exchange would have to develop naturally from this seed. He said that Schlenker already had the agreement of Mr. Böring and enquired whether this meant that the whole of B.A.T. was in agreement. I replied that I didn't know, but that he should not assume that various B.A.T. units did not act

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unilaterally. Again I stressed that this question showed that the matter was strictly a commercial and not a scientific problem and would have to be answered at the highest levels.

Weber firmly believes the significance of the findings on the Reemtsma product, but wants them checked in other countries. He said that the Harrogate-type of unit which he hopes to see established in Hamburg could be the centre of this collaboration. So far, therefore, things appear to have moved in the direction you thought they might. I asked Weber whom in Switzerland he would approach and it appears that Walts's firm (F.T.R.) would be the only contact.

This brings me to the subject of a second series of talks I have had. When Bentley and I were talking to Walts and Weber, we dealt with the attitude of companies who were prepared to employ indirect health claims for phenol filters, low tar cigarettes etc. in advertising. Walts pointed out that the Swiss Regulation 420 and 420 bis specifically forbade this and that there would be no difficulty in making this stick. Subsequently, I discussed this with Bentley and we found that, independently, we had both formed the conclusion that Walts was probably honest in this. The fear that F.T.R. in Switzerland is trying to circumvent these regulations may, therefore, be incorrect. Weber also apparently believes Walts is honest in his approach.

Whilst I have been here, I have made contact with Dr. Grob, from the F.T.R. Zurich, who acts as scientific adviser to F.J. Burrus & Company. Eberle had asked me to contact him. Grob is a first-rate chemist doing excellent work on the gas-chromatographic analysis of smoke. During the meeting, he rejected an offer to join the Coresta Scientific Commission, because he believes in so doing he would lose his freedom of action scientifically, and he wishes that Burrus had never joined the organisation. Grob distrusts Walts and seemed very dubious about his honesty. Eberle had told Grob of our negotiations on the Scientific Commission of A.S.F.C. and Grob was in full agreement with the line B.A.T. were taking there. He did not know of the proposed visit of Glasson, but fully approved it when I told him. I then went on to ask him if he knew whom Walts may be considering for the post of Scientific Adviser to Glasson and when I learned he had no idea, I told him that we suspected it might be Bättig. Grob knows Bättig, as they are both in Zurich, and thought he might be an excellent choice. On my suggestion he will make an excuse to contact Bättig, when he returns to Zurich and will sound him out to see whether he is likely to be under Walts's influence or whether he will be quite independent scientifically. I mentioned that the next meeting of the Commission was to be towards the end of April, when the question of the Scientific Adviser might be again raised and Grob suggested that perhaps I might visit him in Zurich the day before the meeting in order to learn what he thought of Bättig's attitude. It was left that I would contact Grob following Glasson's visit to England. Grob would be a very good person with whom to maintain scientific contact on smoke analysis and he would be willing to discuss techniques with Kilburn sometime.

One other tidbit of news from Switzerland - Bonnet is leaving the

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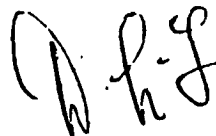
Institute at Lausanne in the near future, to become Head of the Laboratories of Baumgartner, the filter manufacturers at Lausanne (Renens). Neukom has already left Lausanne. I hope to have another talk with Bonnet tonight, before he leaves.

Two very interesting papers have been given on the pharmacology of nicotine by Werle and Schievelbein. As I believe you will find these equally interesting, I enclose the preprints. I would be grateful if you would let me have them back on my return as they are my only copies. Elia Salzman gave two papers in one of which he mentioned an artificial smoking device which he calls a "smokette" or "fannette". This was given a great play in the local press and I suspect will be picked up by the international tobacco magazines at least. Yesterday Bentley, Drummond, Sisney and I had lunch with Salzman at which he enlarged on the idea. He said that he had told you and Mr. Bodde of the concept some six years ago and that some work had been done in Geneva. He didn't trust the laboratories concerned (whom he named) and said that although the idea had never been patented, he had seen identical articles on the desks of the research managers of two U.S. tobacco companies (un-named) - the inference being that the laboratories had tried to sell them the idea of encapsulated smoke. Fortunately, Salzman monopolizes the conversation.

Various attempts have been made to influence Bentley, Drummond and me to persuade our respective companies to join Coresta, but these can be reported on my return.

I am sorry for the extreme length of this letter report; by now you must be tired of reading. The last ten days have been intensely interesting, but somewhat exhausting and I am looking forward to relaxing a little by looking at tobacco farms and research stations instead.

Yours sincerely,



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