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RPC 21

RESEARCH POLICY COMMITTEE

9th Meeting held at Millbank
on 18th November, 1975

Present: Mr. C. H. Stewart Lockhart (in the Chair)
Mr. P. Sheehy
Mr. B. P. Garraway
Dr. S. J. Green
Dr. D. G. Felton

1. The Minutes (RPC 19) of the previous meeting were considered and the following matters were raised:-

Para. 3: Dr. Green corrected his estimate of ITL expenditure on smoking and health research to £1.5-2m, out of a total expenditure on R & D of £3m.

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Para. 4: Dr. Green emphasised that, while the development work on PRT-71(B) at Glory Mill would be completed successfully by 31st March, 1976, the biological research programme on samples of normal and hybrid PRT materials would be continuing for 2-3 years.

The Glory Mill plant would be kept if IED decided to use PRT as a waste utilisation process (subject also to Counsel's opinion on infringement of a Kimberly-Clark patent). If IED's appraisal was that it was only marginally attractive, consideration might be given to a small subsidy to keep the pilot plant available for further development experiments. If the appraisal was unattractive to IED, the plant would be sold to Wiggins Teape, but consideration would be given to retaining the key man (on secondment to GR & DC) until Brazil were able to come to a firm decision. Indications are that the cost of leaf in Brazil would make PRT profitable by the time a plant could be constructed.

The question of possible interest by B & W would be considered at a PRT Steering Committee meeting early in 1976.

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Para. 6: Mr. Sheehy asked that the next Group Research Conference should consider the need to undertake further work on the effect of Pressure Drop on smokers' behaviour and preference.

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Para. 3: Dr. Green reported that Brazil were not interested in undertaking the exploitation of solanesol and he would take the matter up with B & W and/or Canada.

2. Group Research Objectives, Expenditure and Finance

The R & D Budget had been considered at an earlier meeting, at which Mr. Garraway and Dr. Green had been asked to write a joint paper on costs, cost-sharing and a Group Research programme for discussion at the next Group Research Conference as a basis for a paper to the Chairman's Conference at Hot Springs in 1976.

Dr. Green suggested that the Tobacco Division Planning meeting would logically lead to the establishment of Research Objectives around which a Group Research programme could be formulated. Mr. Sheehy stressed that this should be interpreted not merely in terms of current costs (as in RPC 18), but should give forward estimates over 3 years with a 5-year projection.

Dr. Felton was asked to revise RPC 18 for the next meeting, in the light of the then-current programme and to enquire from the overseas research centres whether they had found the presentation helpful.

3.(a) Hunter Submissions

Dr. Green explained that a Phase 1 submission on BATFLAKE was being made to the Hunter Committee as an insurance safeguard against possible questions from overseas countries in which it might be introduced. The RPC endorsed this policy and approved the idea of "piggyback" submissions on 'Cytrel' and 'NSM' at minimum cost.

(b) "Cross-over" experiment

Dr. Green outlined the thinking behind this concept and reported that an experimental plan was being prepared and costed. It would be discussed at the Group Research Conference.

4. Appraisal of RD Reports

The Secretary had circulated a paper (RPC 20) outlining an internal appraisal of reports which had received a secondary circulation. In view of the cost of producing and mailing reports, Mr. Stewart Lockhart and Mr. Sheehy asked whether all reports should be circulated or whether only summaries would be adequate for the Research centres. Dr. Green and Dr. Felton

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were asked to raise this at the Group Research Conference, but it was made clear that the whole report is required in most research laboratory situations.

5. Policy on Patents

Dr. Green sought the advice of the Committee on the coverage to be sought for patents relating to filters and other product modifications. It was suggested that patents might be offered to a wider list of territories than at present on the basis that the territories bear the cost of patenting individually and that, if the patent is worked, a royalty could be payable to the Centre. Dr. Green said Mr. Morini was at present preparing such proposals.

6. There was no other business

7. Next Meeting - Tuesday, 2nd March, 1976 at 10 a.m. at Southampton.

Distribution:

Mr. C. H. Stewart Lockhart
Mr. P. Sheehy
Mr. B. P. Garraway
Dr. S. J. Green

Mr. B. G. Pearson (2)

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24th November, 1975

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