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19 DECEMBER 1980

R E S T R I C T E D

At the Board yesterday morning, it was agreed that we should continue the change of stance outlined in my paper to the Board, (copy attached), but with the following qualifications:

- 1) The stance can be based on three factors outlined on page 2 when talking with selected audiences.
- 2) That in the wider context of open dealing with the Public, we should at the moment not overtly bring in the factors 3 regarding epidemiological evidence.

The reason for the latter restriction is that we must be absolutely sure of our ground from the Legal stand-point. It is vital, therefore, that we discuss this in great detail and it was agreed that an appropriate forum would be the two of us, plus Ernie Pepples, Wilson Wyatt and probably Richard Haddon to represent the wider view of Industries

A short while ago I spoke with Ernie Pepples and he confirmed that he is very anxious to proceed on the proposed lines. We both agree that a prime issue concerns Legal and Public Affairs - and that it does not revolve around technical details. It is for this reason that we do not propose to increase the numbers by including Geoff Felton, Bob Sanford and others.

Ernie tells me that he will be joining the Gary Huber party and we decided together the following itinerary which closely resembles that outlined by Michael Leach in his telex of yesterday, ie:

1. Huber, Pepples and Wyatt report at Millbank first thing Monday, 19 January for Huber presentation

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plus discussion as appropriate.

2. Huber leaves for GR&DC Monday evening or Tuesday morning for discussions with Ray Thornton and others through Tuesday and Wednesday morning.
3. Huber and I meet up at Heathrow Wednesday afternoon/evening to fly to Hamburg for meeting with Seehofer et al Thursday.
4. On the Tuesday and Wednesday morning, Popples, Wyatt, Blackman, Ely and perhaps Hedion, should take ourselves off somewhere quiet to have a thorough discussion of the critical issue on a medified stance.

My view is that we should try to arrange this in a near-by hotel rather than in Millbank with all its inevitable distractions. Perhaps on the evening of Tuesday we could arrange a meeting in the flat with Mr Stewart Lockhart present (Mr Sheehy is away).

All this is very rushed - perhaps we can meet and talk about it.

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