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DIET
NOTES ON DISCUSSION HELD IN GR&DC
ON 2 FEBRUARY 1981

PRESENT: Mr R M Gibb Mr N E Willis
 Mr R W Hedge Dr T J Hirji

1. The emphasis in the GR&DC Programme on DIET as an expansion process resulted directly from a BAT Tobacco Executive Committee Minute dated 3 March 1977, which required that an alternative to a Freon based process be available for future uses. Therefore, all proposals for expansion Plants have been made in the light of this Minute, and product and cost comparisons have been used solely to ensure that the "premium" was within acceptable limits.
2. The attached Note was prepared in September 1980, as a best attempt at a Capital Cost and Operating Cost comparison between DIET and G-13 (G-13C). It should be noted that while every effort was made to compare like with like - for example, up-to-date quotations were obtained from Arjay, together with their latest operating information - the figures should be regarded as comparative and not definitive.
3. The product opportunities and characteristics of products using expanded tobacco have been examined in Project POET. Within this work G-13 material has been examined alongside DIET samples.

The timing of the exercises required that the DIET samples were processed by Philip Morris on their development Plant, in consequence, we did not have control over the process conditions used, and in the event, the DIET samples were subjected to conditions no longer recommended by Philip Morris to the Licensees. This major examination has given rise to useful information and important guidelines, but caution must be exercised in the interpretation of specific results.

4. The availability of the 400 lb/hr DIET Plant in Southampton has enabled sample processing to be carried out and this work is subsequent to anything reported in (3). A strong interest has been shown by a number of Associates, such as Germany and samples have been processed on their behalf. In addition, BAT has agreed to process samples at an appropriate fee for Gallaghers and the Austrian Monopoly. Most of the work, however, has involved BAT UK&E. Two distinct programmes have been implemented, one seeking to define the most beneficial way of operating the Plant to produce a product for use with existing UK&E Brands, the other involving smaller scale sample preparation for product design exploratory studies.

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5. In addition to the above work for BAT UK&E, their tobacco has been used for a statistically designed experimental programme which has established the relationship between product properties and changes in Plant conditions nearest to the design settings of the 400 lb/hr DIET Plant.
6. Airco have supplied five 400 lb/hr DIET Plants to Rothmans which are based on the design currently installed in Southampton. Three of these are being commissioned in the North East of England, one we believe is intended for Northern Ireland, and the fifth is destined for installation in Malaysia.
7. Recently BAT have set up a team to assist appropriate Associates in the introduction of the DIET process.
8. A detailed design proposal and final quotation of a 1200lb/hr DIET Plant is being prepared by Distillers/Dickinsons under the supervision of the team mentioned in (7), for installation in Malaya.
9. Gallaghers in the U.K. are in the early stages of developing their own proposals for a DIET Plant.
10. Philip Morris have a major Plant, (we believe comparable to that installed in Richmond) planned for installation in Holland. Our information is that the long lead time items for this Plant are already on order.
11. BAT Germany are engaged in product and process studies using samples from their own HAG equipment operating under DIET conditions, as well as using samples from the Southampton Plant. There is a belief that they can successfully challenge the Airco Patent in Germany and an action has been started.
12. In addition to the public relations aspect of Freon, which was the main driving force for the Minute referred to in (1), experience since 1977 has indicated that there are real operational problems with Freon which should be borne in mind.
 - a) In Germany monitoring of competitors' products has shown that difficulties are being experienced in keeping the Freon residues below the regulated level. The most recent AMATIL progress report records that considerable effort has been put into the reductions of Freon residues with limited success and they see the need for increased effort being sustained for some time.
 - b) Freon losses in excess of those claimed by Arjay have been experienced.

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- c) Freon discharges in the working area are not unknown. These could cause industrial relations difficulties, even although the levels were well below those regarded as tolerable from a statutory point of view.
- d) The requirement to restrict the retained level of Freon on the product requires prolonged storage of the treated material. Cases of up to five days' storage have been reported.

13. Mr. Gibb drew to our attention the possible introduction of expanded uncut lamina into Philip Morris products. It was agreed that GR&DC would examine samples of the material which had been separated from cigarettes by the Canadians in order to assess the likely initial particle size. Arrangements would then be made for reasonable quantities of such materials to be made available from the Green Leaf Threshing Plant in Canada for expansion in the DIET Plant at Southampton.



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