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Dr. L. W. Hughes

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London SW1

*Copy to Dr Sanford
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SHB/MJR

25th January, 1980.

Mr. C. D. White,
Brown & Williamson Tobacco Corporation,
P.O. Box 35090,
Louisville,
KY. 40232,
U.S.A.

Dear Dan,

LEAF STEERING COMMITTEE

I enclose a copy of the Minutes which have been prepared
from the Meeting held in Millbank on 22nd-23rd January, 1980.

With kind regards,
Yours sincerely,

S. H. Beamish

S. H. BEAMISH

Enc.

cc: L W H

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LEAF STEERING COMMITTEE

Minutes of a Meeting held in Millbank
22nd-23rd January, 1980

Participants

Mr. R. J. Pritchard - Chairman

Messrs. E. P. Gage	- Imperial Tobacco Ltd., Montreal.
E. Pfennig	- B.A.T. Cigaretten Fabriken G.m.b.H Hamburg.
C. D. White	- Brown & Williamson Tobacco Corp., Louisville.
D. E. Conway	- G.R. & D.C., Southampton.
T. G. Mitchell	- G.R. & D.C., Southampton.
D. J. Wood	- G.R. & D.C., Southampton.
S. H. Beamish	- Leaf Department, Millbank.
J. W. Drummond	- Leaf Department, Millbank.
R. D. Lowe	- Leaf Department, Millbank.

The objective of the Committee is to ensure that B.A.T. can meet anticipated future changes in product requirements by influencing the characteristics of tobacco based raw materials.

Four areas were regarded as having, at this time, the greatest potential to meet these anticipated changes:-

1. Flavour Precursors

Investigations are being undertaken by G.R. & D.C., Southampton, Brown & Williamson, Louisville, and B.A.T. Germany; G.R. & D.C., Southampton, will collate and analyse all available information and suggest further action.

Action: G.R. & D.C., Southampton (D. J. Wood)

2. Flavour Enhancers

G.R. & D.C. Southampton's proposal to proceed with Dr. C. R. Enzell's approach (possible flavour enhancers from Basma Drama flowers) was accepted and the contract will be finalized by 29th February, 1980.

Action: G.R. & D.C., Southampton (D. J. Wood)

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3. Nitrogen based constituents of leaf and smoke
(Nitrates; nitric oxide; nitrosamines; hydrogen cyanide)

Investigations are being undertaken by G.R. & D.C., Southampton, and Brown & Williamson, Louisville, to establish the effect of various cultural practices on certain of these constituents which are regarded as not only extremely important but also inter-related. G.R. & D.C., Southampton, will review all available information and propose the investigations they consider necessary.

Action: G.R. & D.C., Southampton (D. J. Wood)

4. Curing, Processing and Fermentation

These, either singly or in combination, have a significant influence on the characteristics of tobaccos. Amendments to flue curing principles are, currently, impractical. Regimes for curing and handling burley tobacco were considered to be worthy of study; this could lead to improvements of such tobaccos when grown outside the U.S.A.

Action: G.R. & D.C., Southampton (D. J. Wood)

Investigations have been initiated by Mr. Pritchard, through G.R. & D.C., Southampton, into the influences of leaf processing (cleaning and classifying, redrying, primary manufacture) on the characteristics of tobaccos.

Although there is a great deal already known on the effects of fermentation it was considered important to review this knowledge in order to study the possible effects on anticipated changes in product demands.

Action: G.R. & D.C., Southampton (T. G. Mitchell)

No problems were envisaged in the future availability of tobaccos per se although shortfalls might occur in specific types due to unforeseeable circumstances. Sufficient knowledge already exists to allow B.A.T. to produce, in those areas where it has a direct involvement, flue cured tobaccos either with a low or high nicotine level. Investigational work will continue, under the sponsorship of B.A.T. Germany, into low and high nicotine flue cured tobaccos and into the close growing concept. Brown & Williamson, Louisville, will continue investigations into the effects of various cultural practices on the characteristics of flue cured, burley, air cured and oriental tobaccos. Work will also continue on the production of Maryland tobacco in Brazil on behalf of B.A.T. Switzerland.

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Outside organisations (e.g. North Carolina State University, University of Kentucky, Kutsaga Research Station and seed producing companies) offer both access to new knowledge and the facilities for sponsored research activities; it is essential that contacts with these organisations are either improved or established. ?

The main locations for investigations will be the U.S.A. (North Carolina and Kentucky) and Brazil; provisions are already being made to improve facilities in the latter.

All proposals which require the production of tobaccos in the U.S.A. will be prepared by 1st February, 1980. All proposals covering involvement in Brazil will be prepared by 1st April, 1980, although an outline must be with Mr. Pritchard by 31st January, 1980.

Proposals and reports on all investigations and on information arising from contacts with outside organisations will be made available to Mr. S. H. Beamish for circulation to members of the Committee.

The next meeting will be held in Canada during the period 23rd September to 9th October, 1980.

25th January, 1980.

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