

\*\*\*\*\* JULY 27 1994  
0507  
030127102BUSH3W029 05 31 94  
BUSINESS INFO CENTER  
MILLER B /RENOYLD TABACCU244  
303 REYNOLD BLDG  
WINSTON-SALEM NC 27102

# The New York Times

Copyright © 1994 The New York Times

NEW YORK, SATURDAY, MAY 7, 1994

Thabo Mbeki

Continued on Page 4, Column 3

The judge said the government is on a

## Tobacco Company Was Silent on Hazards

By PHILIP J. HILTS

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, May 6 — Internal documents from a major tobacco company show that executives struggled with whether to disclose to the Surgeon General what they knew in 1963 about the hazards of cigarettes, at a time when the Surgeon General was preparing a report saying for the first time that cigarettes are a major health hazard.

The executives of the company, the Brown & Williamson Tobacco Corporation, chose to remain silent, to keep their research results secret, to stop work on a safer cigarette and to pursue a legal and public relations strategy of admitting nothing.

In more than 100 documents, letters and cables from the 1960's and 1970's that provide a rare look at the internal discussions among tobacco executives, the officials

### Manufacturer Debated Disclosure in 1963, Documents Show

spoke of the hazards of cigarettes and stated plainly to one another that nicotine is addictive.

In one document, the company's general counsel said Brown & Williamson's research had found that cigarettes caused or predisposed people to lung cancer, contributed to heart disease and might cause emphysema. The statements contradict the tobacco industry's contention over the last three decades that it has not been proved that cigarettes are harmful or that nicotine is addictive.

The question of addiction has taken on importance in recent months after the Food and Drug

Administration said for the first time that it would consider regulating cigarettes. To establish control over cigarettes, the F.D.A. said, it must show that nicotine is addictive and that tobacco companies intentionally exercise control over the amount of nicotine in cigarettes to maintain smokers' addiction.

Officials of Brown & Williamson, which makes Kool, Viceroy and other brands, refused to comment on the documents but sent a letter to The New York Times today suggesting that the documents had been "stolen by a former employee of a law firm doing work for Brown & Williamson." The company said the documents should not be disclosed because some of them may be subject to attorney-client privilege and may be covered by an injunction forbidding their release. The injunction was issued by Judge Thomas B. Wine of Jefferson Cir-

Continued on Page 11, Column 1

In I  
tration  
cials t  
rape  
payme

Con

Br

STU  
Displa  
presse  
outdoo  
from 1  
Wedne  
Connec  
was fo  
dense,  
tired b  
Suri  
tioned  
sust

Progress, Not Victory, on Great Lakes Pollution

TIMN 0036029