

Miss M.E. Williams,  
Woking.

Mr. R.G.T. Knight.

RGTK/JJ/6A

30th July, 1987.

Project 'CONVENT'

As was agreed at the meeting held in R&D on the 31st July 1986, 300kg of the filler grade used in the manufacture of "Three Nuns" was sent to Henri Wintermans. After Primary process Wintermans would produce, on their Cigar makers, 'Three Nuns' type rope of two diameters (10mm and 15mm).

They did in fact produce cut cigars of 120mm maximum length which were received by R&D at a mean moisture of 12.3%.

The cigars were reconditioned to 20% and 25% moisture content, the bundles laid in a honey comb pattern in the small Legg cutter and a reasonable cheese formed. All cutting was carried out at 14.5 cuts per inch.

As we had no experience of cutting cigars in this manner many permutations were considered and tried resulting in the formulation of the best overall method, and the one likely to give us a finished product closest to the traditional one. The method used was to form a cheese six cigars deep at a moisture of 25%, cut at 14.5 cpi. This gave platelets of an oval shape beginning to break up at the edges (sample enclosed).


In conclusion it seems that if this project is to continue a number of factors must be considered.

Even at 25% moisture the cigar binder is still extremely brittle and the knife tends to smash through instead of cutting. This seems to be one of the major causes of the breakup of the tobacco discs.

Another factor was the absence of any casings or top dressing which would have helped to bind together the discs.

One final point, if we had been presented with 'ropes' 1 metre long, would cutting on the rotary have given a better result.

If any further work or information on this project is required, I will be very happy to respond.

  
R.G.T. KNIGHT

cc. Mr. D.J.L. Heather.  
Mr. T. Hill.  
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Mr. R.W. Hedge, for information.

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