Medical Department, A2SA

February 14, 1973

DIPHENYL POISONING IN FRUIT PAPER PRODUCTION

Mr. W. B. Papageorge - B2NK

S. Turover - 5040
H. S. Bergen - B2SL
W. R. Corey - B2SL
E. V. John - B1NC
J. S. Metcalf - E1SF
W. R. Richard - T3A
J. F. Stapleton - B2SA
R.P.W. Kup - 5470
J. Mason - 5040

You have received Mr. Wheeler's memorandum of February 13 on the subject matter together with a reprint of the publication from Finland which appeared in an American medical magazine. Analysis of the paper shows that one man died and several developed toxic reactions in the liver and presumably the central nervous system. While the evidence may not be considered clear cut, I have no doubt but that diphenyl very probably was the causative agent of these workers conditions. It seems obvious what we have to do now.

2o The first is to advise all our customers who use diphenyl for impregnating paper, cartons, etc., of the hazard involved when the threshold limit of 1 mg/cubic meter is greatly exceeded.

1o Secondly, we should examine all our bulletins, brochures, etc., and see that cautions are inserted and statements like "laboratory and practical investigations have shown that diphenyl is completely harmless in quantities several times greater, etc., etc., etc." are removed.

Already, the Medical Department has received one communication from an investigator in Seattle and our San Francisco Office has been queried by OSHA. There is no question but that we will get quite a bit more of these inquiries and comments.

R. Emmet Kelly, M. D.

REK/ln

DSW 345765