REPORT ON MEETING WITH CAFFARO, MILAN ON JULY 14, 1970

SUMMARY

We visited Prof. Fontana and Dr. Marchetti, the objective being to determine what Caffaro's reaction would be to the idea of a voluntary withdrawal from "uncontrollable" applications by all the West-European PCB manufacturers; and to determine whether they would be likely to fill any void left by the unilateral withdrawal of Monsanto. Caffaro are not convinced of the need for action in Europe similar to that already taken in North-America. However, if agreement were reached amongst the other European producers, then Caffaro would certainly follow.

They wish to defer any decision on accepting business relinquished by Monsanto until after it is seen whether agreement can be reached amongst the European producers on a voluntary withdrawal.

DETAIL

Caffaro sell very little PCB outside of Italy, and over 95 % of their total business is with the electrical industry. Their plasticizer sales are mostly for specialized paints. Since there is not yet any evidence of a PCB environmental problem in Italy, they would prefer to refrain from taking any action such as we have done in North-America.

However, Fontana confirmed that if the other European producers agreed to withdraw from "uncontrollable" applications, then Caffaro would have to follow. If there were any US Government prohibition upon the use of PCB's, Fontana thought the Italian Government would be quick to follow — they quickly banned cyclamates following the US lead and DDT is also banned, though Fontana suggested DDT sales were now higher than ever.

Caffaro have not received any inquiries from the US or Canada following Monsanto's announced withdrawal. Since they are not widely known as a PCB producer and in view of their limited capacity, I would judge them unlikely to be able to pick up business we relinquish either in North-America or the UK.

DS Cameron

Brussels,
August 3, 1970

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