

00-514-1

John Mason - Brussels

March 9, 1972

Messrs.

H.S. Bergen - St. Louis

P.J.A. Marsh - Brussels

W.B. Papageorge - St. Louis

Mr. W. R. Corey,
ST. LOUIS.

The attached memo from our public relations man in London refers to an article which is being published in EUROPEAN CHEMICAL NEWS this week.

As you will note, there are the usual number of inaccuracies and mis-statements, but we have been unable to obtain any further modifications.

The story as it stands is not unfavorable to Monsanto, but I expect we shall see a somewhat emotional reaction from Bayer and maybe some other European producers.

John Mason

JM/ab
Enc.

MONS 206921

Monsanto

FROM (NAME & LOCATION)

Steve Chantrell - Public Relations - London

DATE

March 7, 1972

CC

SUBJECT

ECN PCB article

REFERENCE

SC/cw

TO

**P.J.A. Marsh - Brussels
J. Mason - Brussels**

PCB file

Following my talk with an ECN journalist
the following article will appear in
European Chemical News on Friday (March 10).

Headline : "Bayer develops PCB substitutes"

**Story : "Bayer has decided to discontinue the
production and sale of PCB for use in unsealed systems -
that is, plasticisers - after substitute products
developed have been evaluated by interested parties.**

"Substitute products developed by Bayer for these
plasticiser applications are known as Leromoll
experimental products 2279 and 2280 and are now
available for evaluation by interested parties.
They are mixtures of entirely synthetic alifatic ?
and aromatic hydrocarbons of medium molecular weight
and have similar persistence, compatibility to the
Clophen products. The substitutes are used for the
production of chemical resistant paints, sealing
compositions, adhesives and printing inks.

Biological effects of PCB products have been causing
anxiety for some time now as a consequence of their
accumulating in animal tissue. Monsanto took the lead
in discontinuing sales in non-controllable applications
when it announced to its customers that such sales in
the UK would stop with effect from March 1, 1971.
These sales were for applications in paints, lacquers
and oil additives and are believed to amount for about
half Monsanto's total PCB sales. Sales for applications
in fire resistant hydraulic fluids where the uses of
PCB cannot be strictly controlled have been reformulated,
for example by phosphate esters in the Pydraul series.

MONS 206922

P.J.A. Marsh
J. Mason

March 7, 1972

In the area of heat transfer fluids, Monsanto has replaced its PCB type containing Santotherm FR range with the Santotherm 55 and 66 series which do not contain PCBs. For plasticiser application replacements, Monsanto is still at the research and development stage and has simply withdrawn from this market.

The main applications of PCB in sealed systems is transformers and, for example, in the containers for fluorescent lighting tubes.

Toxicity of PCBs has been shown to be principally due to the presence of impurities such as chlorinated di-benzosuran products. With Bayers Chophen A60 and a competitive product Phenochlor DP6 being particularly toxic because of the presence of such impurities. Monsanto's Paraclor (sic) 1260 now withdrawn was favourable in these comparative tests although 60% of all PCB product was shown to contain these highly toxic impurities.

Other European producers are Prodelec in France, Flix in Spain. Eastern bloc production is reported in the USSR and Czechoslovakia. The United States and Japan make up most of the other world capacity.

It is not known how the UK and Germany, for example, propose to prevent non-indigenous producers from taking up markets left by Monsanto and Bayer but presumably this could take the form of a special duty or special legislation if the "gentleman's agreement" is broken.

PCB producers have taken the lead in this problem but now the collaboration of the consumers is needed. The concept of a persistent material is itself contrary to environmental considerations and replacements not containing chlorine may only disguise the problem."



MONS 206923