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Report From Japan

PCB Decomposition Procedure Is Developed by the Japanese Using Radiation With Cobalt-60

A Japanese team of isotope research workers of the Chemical Division of the Isotope Center of the Bureau of Economic Affairs of the Tokyo Metropolitan Government—led by chief Zenji Shinosaki—has succeeded in completely separating into chlorine and other substances the chemical compound pollutant polychlorinated biphenyl, or PCB. This signifies, says the team leader, "the safe breakdown of the PCB," resulting from experiments based on earlier Japanese and American findings that PCB and DDT, its close relative, can be separated by irradiation with radio-active isotopes.

PCB, whose fatal effects on humans, animals and fish, has recently prompted Japanese manufacturing firms to halt their production, is believed to have already widely polluted environments but many industrial products containing this PCB are still on the market internationally, the research team has determined.

Methods Used New

So far, burning such PCB-containing products at 1200 degrees Centigrade or higher temperatures or simply sealing them off in concrete blocks has been regarded as the best known method of disposal of the dangerous chemical.

But the combustion formula is now under attack in some Japanese scientific quarters for the possible danger of scattering into the atmosphere more toxic secondary pollutants including dibenzofuran and chlorides.

The Isotope Center team revealed that by its new formula, the PCB is dissolved in an alcohol-ether alcohol or normal hexane solution and then the whole solution is irradiated by the gamma rays from cobalt-60.

Development of the new method which is reportedly free from the danger of secondary pollution and radioactive contamination, has been reported to the Japan

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Chessie Makes Staff Shifts

Chessie System (the Chesapeake & Ohio and Baltimore & Ohio railroads), Cleveland, Ohio, is restructuring its merchandise traffic sales forces under James H. McCahey, Jr., vice-president, whose

Montecatini Foreign Compete Tec

Montecatini Edison S.p.A. work hand-in-hand with government, and perhaps the state-owned energy too, through there are no latter deal may not materialize.

Eugenio Caffa, president of Montecatini Edison S.p.A., addressed a committee of inquiry into industry in Rome, made a urgent intervention by the. He is particularly concerned with Montecatini's competition relation to large foreign companies.

Problems Said to A

Although Montecatini strengths as an international company which could allow it to raise funds abroad, it is facing many difficulties. There p. Mr. Caffa, cannot be solved many alone, because of its significance in economic planning.

He makes it clear that seeks government intervention to obtain a privileged position in the company's social and performance.

Montecatini meanwhile is research committee under a new with the task of drafting budget, studying the race field down by the national government and to define Montecatini's state priorities so far as res concerned.

Reports in the Italian by since L'Espresso suggests that and ENI, the state-owned action, have reached a secret: the overall future of the steel industry. Under it, E. have agreed to become the of basic petrochemicals with agreeing to devote itself to

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FDA Takes Some S On International Fo

International food stand:

Oliver W. Cardozo, a member for Science. Recently he was Clinical

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ary for the Biology is housed at Uni-Wales, Cardiff, will on the convention into proteins. Said to red investigation on the world, the labor a very wide range of cellulose materials factory, textile wastes, food factory wastes, material from intensive waste cutting fluids, ants, metal processing to sludge.

re will start with a knowledge and new moved to choices of us and facilities for installation and operations for the resulting price trends will

re is to produce im- animal feedstuffs, launched with the and a subscription 200, for each partici- and management is



GREAT LAKES VP: Allen V. Smith, who has been appointed vice-president of development for Great Lakes Chemical Corporation. He will look out for specialization, technology licensing and new ventures.

Aluminum, LNG Ships: New Horizons Glimpsed

Aluminum is going to sea in a big way. More than 500 million pounds of aluminum will be used in the construction of natural gas tankers during the 1970's, which makes the LNG marine market one of aluminum's fastest growing applications. This is the outlook of Kaiser

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