December 30, 1970

Dr. Leonard E. Olds
Associate Professor
Dept. of Metallurgy
South Dakota School of Mines & Tech.
Rapid City, South Dakota 57701

Dear Dr. Olds:

Your letter dated December 17, 1970 seeking information on polychlorinated biphenyls was forwarded to me for response since I have the responsibility for following closely the PCB environmental problem for Monsanto.

It is unfortunate that in the article you read Monsanto was pictured as being reluctant to take responsible action. Truthfully, Monsanto was well aware of the problem and was actively seeking solutions before Congressman Ryan issued his press release. In fact in early March, 1970 I personally indicated to one of Congressman Ryan's PCB advisors that Monsanto was working on a program to curtail several uses of PCB's to prevent further contamination of the environment.

The execution of such a program in a complex industrial situation cannot be initiated overnight; therefore, we could not announce our intentions until all plans were complete. When we did announce it in late May, Congressman Ryan took advantage of the timing to claim that Monsanto took action because of his charges.

Monsanto does have a desire to be a responsible member of the industrial community genuinely concerned with the welfare of our environment. We prefer to work with established facts and are reluctant to act precipitously to compromise our responsibilities we have to our customers, shareholders, employees as well as society in general.

As you no doubt realize, the PCB problem is exceedingly complex with solutions hampered considerably by a serious lack of information concerning the toxicity,

biodegradability and mode of entry into the environment of these materials. We are actively seeking answers to many questions.

I have enclosed copies of letters to customers, press releases, summaries of studies and scientific literature which are pertinent. I believe this will help you in getting some background on PCB's.

After you have had the opportunity to study this information, will you let me know what additional help I can give you.

Sincerely,

W. B. Papageorge
Manager
Environmental Control

WBP:ms

Encs.