BC: W. D. Carpenter - G3WC
J. H. Craddock - B3NA
J. F. Hussey - F3EA
G. D. Ingenthron - F3EB
G. Levinskas - G2WF
J. G. Nassif - E2ND
L. J. O'Neill - F3EE
M. C. Throdahl - D1D
W. H. Westendorf - F3EE

Dexed to Phil Fried -- to be sent by messenger

Monsanto

PUBLIC RELATIONS DEPARTMENT

Monsanto Company
800 N. Lindbergh Boulevard
St. Louis, Missouri 63167
Phone: (314) 694-1000

May 23, 1983

To the Editor
THE NEW YORK TIMES
229 West 43rd Street
New York, N.Y. 10036

Dear Sir:

We must take issue with several specific references to Monsanto Company and PCBs, as contained in the May 21 article by Susan Saiter, entitled "3 Manufacturers Ignored Unfavorable Safety Test of Chemical". The article states that a letter filed with the government's exhibits in the trial of IBT officials indicates "that Monsanto asked the laboratory to omit cancer-causing effects of an engine coolant containing polychlorinated biphenyls or PCBs."

There are three things wrong with that statement: 1) The study did not find any "cancer-causing effects," thus there were none to omit; 2) Monsanto made no such request, and 3) The subject of the study, Arochlor 1254, was a dielectric fluid used as an insulator and coolant in electrical transformers and not as an "engine coolant" as the article states.

The article again errs when it states the (PCB) study "was done to win federal approval to market the product." The facts are that Arochlor 1254 was introduced to the market by Swann Chemical Company sometime prior to 1934 following the development of this dielectric fluid by the electrical industry. Monsanto acquired Swann Chemical and its PCB product line in 1935. The government never required any testing of Arochlors "to win federal approval to market the product." Monsanto ordered toxicity testing from IBT on this and other PCB products in the late 1960s strictly for its own edification.

We would very much appreciate your setting the record straight on these fundamental errors in fact.

Sincerely yours,

Dan R. Bishop
Director, Environmental Communications

DRB:sc

CC: Ms. Susan Saiter
c/o THE NEW YORK TIMES – 11 E. Walton Place
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MONS 003831